

A STORY WORTH TELLING

Justin Lee is gay. He's also a conservative Christian. For many years he thought the two were mutually exclusive. But they're not. And he's coming to West Side on **March 17** to talk about his journey as a devout evangelical who discovered himself to be gay.

"Over the years, a lot of LGBT folks have asked me for a book to help their Christian friends and family understand them better," Justin has said. "Others have asked me for a book to help them understand *themselves* and make sense of their own struggles as Christians who began to suspect they were LGBT. Most books on this subject either don't understand LGBT people or don't understand conservative Christians, so I set out to write one that understands both."



At West Side, Justin will talk about his groundbreaking book—*Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate*—as well as take questions from the audience and moderate a panel discussion with three experts:

Rev. Dr. Shari K. Brink, president and CEO of the Blanton-Peale Institute and Counseling Center in New York City and a founding co-president of Room for All, a nonprofit working for full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the Reformed Church in America

Mark Miller, associate professor of church music at Drew University and minister of music at Christ Church in Summit. He lives in Plainfield with his husband of 20-plus years and their two teenage children.

Chris Warren-Dickins, a licensed professional counselor who specializes in working with members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community. He lives in Ridgewood with his husband and two daughters.

The event will wrap up with refreshments and a "meet and greet" in the Narthex, where Justin's books will be available for purchase and signing.

We hope you'll join us for this engaging conversation...and invite your friends.

Is This Your First Time Visiting West Side?

Welcome! We're so glad you're here. We look forward to helping you connect with others, grow more deeply in your faith and enrich your own life by serving others. Wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you at West Side.

Please stop by the visitor table located just inside the front doors, fill out a Let's Connect card and pick up a visitor bag. And please stay after the service to enjoy coffee/tea and refreshments and meet the pastors and members.

Have a question? Our staff is here to help:

Rev. Marc Oehler, pastor, moehler@westside.org

Rev. Penny Hogan, associate pastor, phogan@westside.org

Rev. Liz Junod, pastoral associate, ljunod@westside.org

Deborah Holden-Holloway, minister of music, dholden-holloway@westside.org

Pat McGlade, R.N., faith community nurse, pmcglade@westside.org

Esmé Elkins, children's ministry coordinator, eelkins@westside.org

Anne Lee, executive administrative assistant, alee@westside.org

Rescheduled Brahms Concert Today

Noted pianist and member Paul Van Ness will perform at West Side **TODAY** at 3:00 pm as part of the 43rd season of the West Side Concert Series. He'll be joined by colleagues Melissa Macy and Rachel Crozier (violin), Mitsuru Kubo Hunter (viola), SinHwa Lee (cello) and Apryl Helder (mezzo soprano) in a recital devoted to the music of Johannes Brahms. Admission, as always, is free. Come early...and bring your friends!



Thank You, All!

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting and Congregational Brunch this past Sunday and to everyone who volunteered to set up and clean up, shop, cook and serve—John Barr, Laurent Junod, Dennis Williams and the rest of the Men's Ministry; Marion Strauch; our confirmands; and youth. You all make it look so easy, but we know that a tremendous amount of work takes place behind the scenes. Thank you for all you do and all you are. ❤️

Sunday Night Live

Sunday Night Live is happening **TODAY** at the Barn from 7:00 to 8:30 pm with host Pastor Penny and musical guest Eric Hufschmid. Drop off your middle school/high school kids for 90 minutes of fun, fellowship and awesome music. Future dates: March 10, April 14, May 5 and June 9. To sign up for youth emails, please contact Pastor Penny (phogan@westside.org).



Blood Pressure Screening

Need to get your blood pressure checked? Stop by the Library **TODAY** after worship and see Pat McGlade, our faith community nurse. She'll be using her sphygmomanometer after all three services.

John the Baptist Book Discussion

Drop by the Conference Room at **9:00 am on Sundays** to explore *John the Baptist* by F.B. Meyer. Each week, the group reads an excerpt from the book (which is supplied) and discusses this fascinating prophet and teacher. Come when you can for coffee, crumpets and community. No preparation is necessary. Questions? Please reach out to Mark Babunovic (babunovic@yahoo.com) or Jim Horton (jim@galleryofgraphicartsnyc.com).

Living with Contradiction

Do you find yourself struggling to balance the demands of life and experiencing little satisfaction, peacefulness or joy? Join Pastor Marc's group of early risers in the Pulsifer Chapel at **7:30 am on Tuesdays** to explore *Living with Contradiction: An Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality* by Esther de Waal. You can pick up a copy of the book in the church office for \$14. No need to stop at Starbucks first. Coffee is always available.

New Jersey Devils Game

We're heading to the Prudential Center to watch the New Jersey Devils face off against the Ottawa Senators on **February 21** at 7:00 pm. The \$40 ticket price includes a post-game photo on the ice and a Devils drawstring bag. Interested in joining the fun with the Third Thursday Men's Group? Please RSVP to Gib Warren (gmwr5@gmail.com).



Juilliard Chamber Orchestra

The Juilliard Chamber Orchestra returns to West Side on **February 24** at 3:00 pm as part of the 43rd season of the West Side Concert Series. The exciting program will include works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn (featuring a violin solo by Ludvig Gudim), Ravel and Prokofiev. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Please visit www.westside.org for more information about our programs.

TODAY AT WEST SIDE

8:00 am—Little Lambs Child Care - Room 202	11:15 am—Prayer Circle - Chapel
8:15 am— Chapel Worship - Chapel	11:30 am—Health Ministry Reimagination Meeting - Conference Room
9:00 am— Contemporary Worship - DePhillips Hall	11:30 am—Mission and Social Concerns Meeting - Serenity Room
9:00 am—Sunday School - Rooms 206, 306, 311, 312 and Serenity Room	3:00 pm—An Afternoon with Brahms - Sanctuary
9:00 am—Blood Pressure Screening - Library	4:00 pm—Emotionally Healthy Relationships - DePhillips Hall
9:45 am—Centering Prayer - West Side Room	5:00 pm—Gang of Eight Meeting - Conference Room
10:15 am— Traditional Worship - Sanctuary	7:00 pm—Sunday Night Live - Barn
10:15 am—Sunday School - Rooms 206, 306, 311, 312 and Serenity Room	
11:15 am—Coffee Hour	
11:15 am—Sermon Talk Back - Chapel	

COMING UP AT WEST SIDE

February 16 - New York Classical Players Concert in the Sanctuary at 8:00 pm

February 18 - Church closed in observance of Presidents' Day

February 21 - Third Thursday New Jersey Devils Game at Prudential Center at 7:00 pm

February 24 - Juilliard Chamber Orchestra Concert in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm

March 2 - New Jersey Choral Society Concert in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm

March 3 - Welcoming Prayer Workshop in the Serenity Room at 11:30 am

March 3-10 - Family Promise guests are hosted in the Barn

March 6 - Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 am, 12:15 pm and 7:30 pm

March 8 - Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra Concert in the Sanctuary at 8:00 pm

March 10 - Ars Musica Concert in the Sanctuary at 4:00 pm

March 17 - Justin Lee Talk and Panel Discussion in the Sanctuary at 4:00 pm