

WHY YOUTH MINISTRY?

# NURTURING JOY IN AN UNCERTAIN AGE



Yale Youth Ministry Institute

Yale Center for Faith & Culture  
at Yale Divinity School

LUNCH & LECTURE SERIES  
2017-2018

## 2017-18 Lunch & Lecture Series

The mission of the Yale Youth Ministry Institute at Yale Divinity School is to promote adolescent faith and flourishing in a diverse and changing world by conducting scholarship, equipping leaders, and resourcing collaborative communities in and beyond Christian churches. The Yale Youth Ministry Institute is pleased to announce the 2017-18 schedule of free lectures with leading practical theologians and youth ministers presenting on belonging, gratitude, community, wisdom, praise, imagination and creativity, grace and agency.

### FALL 2017

OCTOBER

4<sup>th</sup>



#### DR. KENDA CREASY DEAN & MR. JUSTIN FORBES ON BELONGING

*Princeton Theological Seminary; Flagler College*  
Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean and Mr. Justin Forbes will deliver a lecture entitled, *Trace My Hand: Joy and Belonging in Youth Ministry*. Dr. Dean is an ordained elder in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference (United Methodist) and professor of Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, where she works closely with the Institute for Youth Ministry. Her publications include: *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church*. Mr. Forbes serves as the director of the Youth Ministry program at Flagler College and has been involved in youth ministry since 1998.

NOVEMBER

1<sup>st</sup>



#### DR. ROBERT EMMONS & MR. MARC AFSHAR ON GRATITUDE

*University of California at Davis; University of the Pacific*  
Dr. Robert Emmons and Mr. Marc Afshar will deliver a lecture entitled, *God, Grace, Gifts and Gratitude: Foundations for Joy*. Gratitude comes from the recognition that gifts are not rights, privileges, or accidental outcomes

but emerge when the mind is turned toward contemplation of God's incomprehensible goodness. Youth ministry contexts can actualize gratitude's role as a social glue that binds people together, boosting joy in settings where flourishing often remains a potentiality rather than a reality. Dr. Emmons is the world's leading scientific expert on gratitude. He is a professor of psychology at UC Davis, founding editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, and author of several books including, *Thanks! How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier*. Mr. Afshar is a college minister serving at the University of the Pacific and Delta College in Stockton, CA.

DECEMBER

6<sup>th</sup>



#### DR. KARA POWELL & MR. MIKE PARK ON COMMUNITY

*Fuller Theological Seminary; Hope Church NYC*  
Dr. Kara Powell and Mr. Mike Park will deliver a lecture entitled, *How Your Church Can Grow Young*. Based on a landmark investigation on congregations who love and are loved by young people, this lecture will explore community's relationship to joy, and offer a host of practical ideas to help our young people grow, and our church to "Grow Young". Dr. Powell is the Executive Director of the Fuller Youth Institute and a faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary. She is the author of several books including: *Growing Young*. Mr. Park has led student ministries for 12 years in churches in California and New York. Currently, Mr. Park is a pastor at Hope Church NYC.

### SPRING 2018

JANUARY

10<sup>th</sup>



#### DR. MARY ELIZABETH MOORE & MS. YARA GONZALEZ-JUSTINIANO ON WISDOM

*Boston University School of Theology*  
Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore and Ms. Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano will deliver a lecture entitled, *Youth Speaking to*

**SPRING 2018 (CONTINUED)**

*Joy: Fiesta, Resilience, and the Wisdom of Youth.* The lecture draws from 70 youth interviews, exploring portraits of joy in young people and analyzing the relationship between celebration and resilience in their stories. Their narratives are placed in dialogue with traditions of fiesta in Latinx communities and theologies of hope. Dr. Moore is Dean of the School of Theology and Professor of Theology and Education at Boston University. Her books include: *Teaching as a Sacramental Act*, among many others. Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano is a PhD student in Practical Theology at Boston University.

**FEBRUARY**

**7<sup>th</sup>**



**DR. DAVID F. FORD & REV. CANON CHRIS RUSSELL ON PRAISE**

*University of Cambridge; St Laurence Church*  
Dr. David F. Ford and Rev. Canon Chris Russell will deliver a lecture entitled, *Praise: Being Transformed in Joy*. The lecture will try to do some justice to what it means to live a life of joyful praise today. Dr. Ford is Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge and is Founding Director of Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme in the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies. He is the author of numerous books including: *The Future of Christian Theology*. Rev. Russell has been the vicar at St. Laurence Church in Reading since 2001 working to build a multi-generational community, with a particular mission amongst young people.

**MARCH**

**7<sup>th</sup>**



**DR. STEPHANIE PAULSELL & MS. VANESSA ZOLTAN ON IMAGINATION & CREATIVITY**

*Harvard Divinity School*  
Dr. Stephanie Paulsell and Ms. Vanessa Zoltan, MDiv will deliver a lecture called *Matches Struck in the Dark*:

*Imagination and the Joyful Life.* Drawing on a range of religious and literary resources, this lecture will explore the creativity at the heart of the life of faith as well as practices that help us cultivate it. Dr. Paulsell is the Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies at Harvard Divinity School, and Ms. Zoltan is the co-host of the popular podcast, "Harry Potter and the Sacred Text."

**APRIL**

**4<sup>th</sup>**



**DR. TONY CAMPOLO & MR. SHANE CLAIBORNE ON GRACE**

*Eastern University; Red Letter Christians*  
Dr. Tony Campolo and Mr. Shane Claiborne will deliver a lecture entitled, *Abounding Joy: Grace and Its Consequences*. This lecture will explore how grace not only creates joy through mystical conversion experiences but will also examine the joy that arises when young people engage in evangelism and social justice efforts. Dr. Campolo is professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University and a former faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Claiborne writes and speaks around the world about peacemaking, social justice, and Jesus, and is the author of numerous books including *Executing Grace*. He is the visionary founder of The Simple Way in Philadelphia, and director of Red Letter Christians.

**MAY**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**



**DR. ALMEDA M. WRIGHT & MR. NYLE FORT ON AGENCY**

*Yale Divinity School; Princeton University*  
Dr. Almeda M. Wright and Mr. Nyle Fort will deliver a lecture entitled, *Young, Active and Faithful: Exploring Joy and Agency in Adolescence*. This lecture explores both the necessity of empowering youth to be active agents in their own lives and communities, as well as examples of how to promote this type of active faith. Dr. Wright is Assistant Professor of Religious Education at Yale Divinity School.

**2017-2018 Lunch & Lecture Series  
12pm Lunch, 12:30pm Lecture  
Yale Divinity School**

Lunch is served at noon, lectures begin at 12:30pm. All lectures take place in the Common Room of Yale Divinity School. Lectures are free and open to the public.

**RSVP**

Please visit our website to RSVP:  
[youthministryinitiative.org](http://youthministryinitiative.org)  
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our Communications Coordinator: [madeleine.ranges@yale.edu](mailto:madeleine.ranges@yale.edu).

All Lectures are available on Livestream:  
[livestream.com/yaledivinityschool/YMI](http://livestream.com/yaledivinityschool/YMI)  
and will be shared, along with interviews with guest lecturers on our YouTube channel: Yale Youth Ministry Institute.

For more information, please visit [youthministryinitiative.org](http://youthministryinitiative.org)

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