A FUTURE WITH HOPE

JEREMIAH 29:11

A YMI SERIES OF FREE LUNCHES AND LECTURES AT YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL ON BUILDING AND SUSTAINING TRANSFORMATIVE YOUTH MINISTRIES

OCT. 2014 THROUGH MAY 2015

YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL NEW HAVEN, CT

THE SERIES IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL*

RSVP now to allison.vanhee@yale.edu

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OUR YOUTH have God-given yearnings: for community characterized by unconditional love and acceptance; for ecstatic experiences that lift them out of the regrets and anxieties of daily life; for constructive ways of reflecting on existential questions; and for guidance on the ways of life that lead to authentic human flourishing. How can we learn to be the leaders who our kids will trust to walk with them on this path?

The very survival of our particular Christian traditions, not to mention the fulfillment of our Christian mission, demands that we attend urgently and passionately to the Christian formation of our young. For our young people to be the future of the church, we must fully welcome adolescents into the present of the church as well. This requires that we reflect deeply and act urgently on the theological foundations, the cultural contexts, and the best practices of exemplary youth ministries. This year the free YMI Lunch and Lecture Series continues with a series of lectures focused on the principal elements of youth ministries that transform lives and help establish the foundations of “a future with hope.” We invite you to join the conversation as we listen and learn from one another.

—The Rev. Skip Mashback, YDS ’94
Managing Director, Yale Center for Faith and Culture

faith.yale.edu

facebook.com/youthministrynow

youthministryinitiative.org
OCTOBER 1, 2014
Dean Evelyn Parker
Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University

The Elephant in the Room: Conversations about Race with Youth
What’s on a youth pastor’s list of tough topics to talk about with teenagers? Teen suicide? Sex? Violence in dating relationships? This lecture will focus on ecclesial, anthropological, and practical ways to tackle the tough topic of race with youth.

OCTOBER 22, 2014
Special Event:
The Yale Divinity School Ensign Lecture
Dr. Christian Smith
Professor Smith specializes in the sociology of religion and social theory. He joined the Notre Dame faculty in fall 2008, where he served as the Stuart Chapin Distinguished Professor of Sociology.

Parents, the REAL Pastors: The Absolute Centrality of Parenting in Passing on Religious Faith and Practice to the Next Generation

NOVEMBER 5, 2014
The Rev. Dr. David C. Mahan
Director of the Rivendell Institute at Yale University and a Lecturer in Religion and Literature at Yale Divinity School.

The Youth Minister as [Cultural] Diagnostician
The difficulties of connecting young people with faith requires every minister to become an able diagnostician of contemporary culture. This talk will offer a new model for understanding generational “faultlines” that will help us not only to make faith relevant, but resonant with young people today.

DECEMBER 3, 2014
Tim Walsh
Tim Walsh is an addictions professional and educator with 20 years of experience, most recently as executive director of the Mountainside Rehab Center.

Awareness, Prevention and Empowerment: A Discussion on the Role of Ministry & Teenage Substance Abuse
In a time when substance abuse is being declared an “epidemic,” let us gather to learn more about the facts, the fallacies, and most importantly, the role youth ministry plays as a part of the solution.

JANUARY 7, 2015
Dr. Matt Croasman
Director of Research & Publication at the Yale Center for Faith & Culture and Staff Pastor at the Elm City Vineyard Church (ECV).

Engaging Music in Youth Ministry
Music is an important component of the lives of our youth and of our congregations. And yet, music is often a point of disconnect for youth in our churches. Matt Croasman describes practical ways that music can become a powerful nexus of connection through corporate worship, songwriting, and mentorship.

FEBRUARY 4, 2015
The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel
Senior Minister and author of When Spiritual But Not Religious Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church.

Rigorous, Reasonable, and Real: Youth Ministry
With the rise of the “nones” and the “spiritual but not religious,” it often seems that the church is answering questions no one is asking. In an age of individualism and personal choice, how do we make a claim for religious community that is respectful of other paths but compelling enough to warrant a young person’s time and attention?

MARCH 4, 2015
Dr. Nadja Reilly and Kate Hyde
While working at Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard University with the Swensen Depression Prevention Initiative, they developed the “Break Free from Depression Program.”

Nurturing the Emotional Lives of Adolescents: Identifying and Ministering to Youth at Risk for Depression
Youth ministers are critical sources of early identification and support for adolescents dealing with mental illness. During this lecture, participants will learn about adolescent depression, how to identify symptoms, and how to access services.

APRIL 1, 2015
The Rev. Dr. Tony Jones
Teacher at Fuller Theological Seminary and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and is the author of Did God Kill Jesus?

Teaching Atonement to Teens
Middle school and high school kids want to know why Jesus died — what his death accomplished, and how exactly his death atones for our sin. Join Tony Jones, author of Did God Kill Jesus?, to explore some fresh perspectives on the atonement, and just in time for Holy Week.

MAY 6, 2015
Dr. Anne E. Streety Wimberly
Professor of Christian Ethics at Interdenominational Theological Center, where she also serves as the Director of the Youth Hope-Builders Academy.

The Church’s Role in Reaching Disconnected Black Youth
This session will include an overview of meanings assigned to the term “disconnected youth,” also called “unchurched youth,” and will highlight profiles of disconnected youth, internal and external relational challenges churches face in reaching these youth, and examples of effective ministry paradigms.