The John Templeton Foundation ("JTF") has awarded a $4.2 million grant to the Yale Center for Faith and Culture (the "Center") to fund the Center’s “Theology of Joy and the Good Life Project.” The grant includes funds to support a project on “Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing” ("JAFF") which will be managed by the Center’s Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Program ("AFF") in partnership with the Yale Youth Ministry Institute at Yale Divinity School ("YMI"). YMI has committed an additional $400,000 in co-funding to support an expansion of the activities funded by JTF.

The centerpiece of the JAFF program is a three-year collaboration generating lectures, scholarship, publications, online and hybrid education and curricular materials in two complementary series:

- **Empowering Youth I: Laying Foundations for Joyful Flourishing Lives**
- **Empowering Youth II: Nurturing Joy and Flourishing in the Midst of Affliction**

YMI/AFF will present “Empowering Youth I” in a series of 24 monthly lectures and will present Empowering Youth II in three week-long summer symposia, all at Yale Divinity School. As the lectures and symposia are completed, YMI/AFF will post the lectures and associated video interview clips on its websites and social media outlets, publish collaborative writing projects by the participating scholars and practitioners, develop related curricular materials for youth groups, and offer online and hybrid education courses for leaders working with youth in and beyond church settings. In addition, YMI/AFF will publish a book-length synthetic monograph on joy and adolescent faith and flourishing written by Professor Andrew Root of Luther Seminary and 7-9 book-length monographs and related curricular resources generated by leading scholars receiving $25,000 sub-grants from YMI/AFF.

**Set out below** are flyers describing the scholars YMI/AFF has invited to participate in its Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing program. The first pages describe the completed or contemplated monthly lectures of the Empowering Youth I: Laying Foundations for Joyful Flourishing Lives series. The final pages describe the completed or contemplated summer symposia of the Empowering Youth II: Nurturing Joy and Flourishing in the Midst of Affliction series.
Dr. Amanda Drury on Testimony - January 6, 2016
Indiana Wesleyan University
Dr. Drury will be speaking on the importance of Testimony: cultivating community and individual flourishing through telling our stories and listening to the stories of others. Dr. Drury is Assistant Professor of Theology at Indiana Wesleyan University and her teaching interests include Youth Ministry, Christian Education, Homiletics, Pastoral Care, and Spiritual Formation. She is author of Saying is Believing: The Necessity of Testimony in Adolescent Spiritual Development.

Dr. Rodger Nishioka on Resilience - February 3, 2016
Columbia Theological Seminary
Dr. Nishioka will be speaking on Resilience: nurturing attitudes, practices, and virtues, which facilitate recovery from - even flourishing in the midst of - mistakes and misfortunes. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is the director of Adult Educational Ministries at the Village Church congregation. Rodger has been teaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta for the past 15 years. In that ministry, he has been teaching pastors to be teachers and leaders in the church’s educational ministry, specializing in particular on youth and young adult ministry. His publications include Sowing the Seeds and Rooted in Love.

Dr. Frederick Edie on Worship - March 2, 2016
Duke Divinity School
Dr. Edie will be speaking on Worship: forming individuals through Eucharist, song, praise, and other liturgical practices through which they connect with transcendent reality. Dr. Edie is Associate Professor of the Practice of Christian Education at Duke Divinity School. His research interests include exploring relationships between Christian worship and Christian identity, and creating rich contexts for the formation of Christians. He is the author of Book, Bath and Table and Time: Christian Worship as Source and Resource for Youth Ministry.

Dr. David White on Beauty - April 6, 2016
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Dr. David White will be speaking on Beauty: inspiring engagement with the transcendent through attention to and creation of beauty; illuminating the beautiful in the ordinary. Dr. White is the C. Ellis and Nancy Gribble Nelson Professor of Christian Education and Professor in Methodist Studies at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. His recent publications include Dreamcare: A Theology of Youth, Spirit, and Vocation and Awakening Youth Discipleship in a Consumer Culture.

Dr. Anne Streaty Wimberly on Hope - May 4, 2016
Interdenominational Theological Center
Dr. Wimberly will be speaking on Hope: grounding a sense of the possibility and reality of joy and flourishing in the midst of the challenges of this life, as well as in the life to come. Dr. Wimberly is Professor Emerita of Christian Education at the Interdenominational Theological Center and Executive Director of the Youth Hope-Builders Academy, a youth theology program funded by the Lilly Endowment. Her publications include In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church and Soul Stories: African American Christian Education.
Dr. Pamela Ebstyne King & Dr. Steven Argue on Vocation - October 5, 2016
Fuller Theological Seminary
Dr. King and Dr. Argue will deliver a lecture entitled: “Joy on Purpose,” offering insights and practical suggestions for enabling youth ministers to nurture a sense of purpose through discovering one’s place in God’s story. Dr. King is Associate Professor of Applied Developmental Science in the School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. She is co-author of *The Reciprocating Self: A Theological Perspective of Development*. Dr. Argue is the Assistant Professor of Youth, Family, and Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary and Applied Research Strategist for the Fuller Youth Institute. Steve researches, writes, and speaks on topics surrounding adolescent and emerging adult spirituality.

Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean & Wes Ellis on Friendship - November 2, 2016
Princeton Theological Seminary
Dr. Dean and Wes Ellis will deliver a lecture entitled: “The Joy of Untamed Friendship: Rescuing Youth Ministry from The Little Prince.” This session dives headlong into the practice of holy friendship with teenagers, and whether being “tamed” by another is what Jesus had in mind. Dr. Dean is the Mary D. Synnott Professor of Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her publications include *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* and *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*. Wesley Ellis is Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Toms River, New Jersey.

Dr. Mark Gornik & Miriam Acevedo on Sacred Narrative - December 7, 2016
City Seminary of New York
Dr. Gornik and Miriam Acevedo will deliver a lecture entitled: “Sing for the Joy of the City,” discussing the role of “singing the sacred story” in learning and transmitting Christian faith across generations and cultures. Mark Gornik is the Director of City Seminary of New York and pastor of the Community Church of St. Luke in Harlem. Miriam Acevedo is a Licensed Minister and directs children’s programs at Damascus Christian Church in Hunt’s Point, the South Bronx, and Director of Operations at City Seminary of New York.

Dr. David Rahn & Ebonie Davis on Sabbath Rest - January 4, 2017
Huntington University
Dr. Rahn and Ms. Davis will deliver a lecture entitled: “Gritty Sabbath Rest: Shaping a Keystone Habit for Adolescent Faith & Joy,” Learning to live with Jesus is joyfully transformational, but it takes deliberate practice. Gritty Sabbath rest, shaped as a keystone habit that works for spiritually unsophisticated adolescents, may be just what we need to learn how to flourish with Jesus in joy. Dr. Rahn is Senior Vice President and Chief Ministry Officer for Youth for Christ USA and taught and directed the Graduate Program in Youth Ministry Leadership at Huntington University. Ebonie Davis is the Associate Pastor of Youth at Trinity Baptist Church.
Dr. Courtney T. Goto & Lakisha Lockhart on Playfulness - February 1, 2017
Boston University School of Theology

Dr. Goto & Ms. Lockhart will deliver a lecture entitled, “Holding Lightly: Cultivating Playfulness in Youth.” In this presentation, playfulness is explored as holding lightly, a spiritual practice that is both purposeful and necessary for the faith and flourishing of adolescents. Dr. Goto is an Assistant Professor of Religious Education and a Co-Director of the Center for Practical Theology at Boston University School of Theology. Lakisha Lockhart is the Director of the STREAM Youth Theology Institute at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and a doctoral candidate at Boston College in Theology and Education.

Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean & Abigail Visco-Rusert on Purpose - March 1, 2017
Princeton Theological Seminary

Dr. Dean is the Mary D. Synnott Professor of Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her publications include Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church and Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church. Abigail is ordained in the PC (USA), she served most recently as the Associate Pastor at Carmel Presbyterian Church in Glenside, Pennsylvania. Abigail is a graduate of Valparaiso University (music/theology) and Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dr. Andrew Root & Christian Gonzalez on Self-Sacrificial Love - April 5, 2017
Luther Seminary

Dr. Root and Mr. Gonzalez will deliver a lecture entitled, “The Youth Worker as Kenotic Guide: How Ministry Passes on Faith More than Doctrine.” Dr. Root is Associate Professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. He is a member of the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry and the International Bonhoeffer Society. Christian Gonzalez is the Young Adult Ministries Coordinator for the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Department of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America.

Dr. Almeda M. Wright & Dr. Anne Streaty Wimberly on Memory - May 3, 2017
Yale Divinity School; Interdenominational Theological Center

Dr. Wright and Dr. Wimberly will deliver a lecture entitled, “Memory and Joy.” The lecture will provide historical material and pedagogical perspectives on nourishing youths’ joy by connecting them with the past in ways that foster truth-telling, communal and personal identity formation, agency, lament, and a vital life of faith and hope. Dr. Wright is Assistant Professor of Religious Education at Yale Divinity School. Dr. Wimberly is Professor Emerita of Christian Education at the Interdenominational Theological Center and Executive Director of the Youth Hope-Builders Academy, a youth theology program funded by the Lilly Endowment.
Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean & Justin Forbes on Belonging - Fall 2017
Princeton Theological Seminary

Kenda Creasy 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 and Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church. Justin Forbes serves as the director of the Youth Ministry program at Flagler College and has been involved in youth ministry since 1998.

Dr. Kara Powell & Mike Park on Community - Fall 2017
Fuller Theological Seminary

Kara Powell, PhD, is the Executive Director of the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) and a faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary. She is the author or co-author of: Growing Young, The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family, Sticky Faith Curriculum, Can I Ask That?, among others. Mike Park is a pastor at Hope Church NYC, a diverse family of churches in New York City. Previously Mike led student ministries for 12 years in churches in California and New York. He is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and UC Berkeley (B.A).

Dr. Robert Emmons on Gratitude - Fall 2017
The University of California at Davis

Robert A. Emmons, Ph.D., is the world's leading scientific expert on gratitude. He is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, and the founding editor-in-chief of The Journal of Positive Psychology. He is the author of the books Thanks! How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier, Gratitude Works!: A 21-Day Program for Creating Emotional Prosperity, and The Little Book of Gratitude.

David Anderson Hooker on Peace-Making & Reconciliation - Spring 2018
University of Notre Dame

David Anderson Hooker, J.D. is professor of the practice of conflict transformation and peacebuilding at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies within the University of Notre Dame’s Keough School of Global Affairs. For more than 30 years, Hooker has practiced conflict transformation by serving as mediator, community builder, scholar, and advocate. Prior to his appointment at Notre Dame, he was a senior fellow for community engagement strategies at the University of Georgia. He has also represented the State of Georgia as an assistant attorney general.
David F. Ford & Rev. Chris Russell on Praise - Spring 2018
University of Cambridge

David F. Ford is Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge. Professor Ford is Founding Director of Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) in the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies (2002-). He is the author of numerous books including: The Future of Christian Theology (2011), The Modern Theologians Reader (ed. 2011), Wording a Radiance: Parting Conversations on God and the Church (2010), Christian Wisdom: Desiring God and Learning in Love (2007), Jubilate: Theology in Praise (with Daniel W. Hardy) and many more.

Almeda Wright on Agency - Spring 2018
Yale Divinity School

Dr. Almeda Wright will deliver a lecture entitled, “Young, Active and Faithful: Exploring Joy and Agency in Adolescence.” This lecture explores the role of agency, or active communal participation and empowerment, in adolescent spirituality and realizing a vision of the good life. Almeda Wright is Assistant Professor of Religious Education at Yale Divinity School. Her research focuses on African American religion, adolescent spiritual development, and the intersections of religion and public life. Professor Wright’s publications include a book she coedited with Mary Elizabeth Moore, Children, Youth, and Spirituality in a Troubling World, and an issue of Practical Matters Journal that she edited.

Tony Campolo on Grace - Spring 2018
Eastern University

Tony Campolo is professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University and a former faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania. For 40 years, he led the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, an organization which he founded to create and support programs serving needy communities. More recently, Dr. Campolo has provided leadership for the progressive Christian movement, Red Letter Christians as well as, for the Campolo Center for Ministry, a program which provides support to those the church has called to full-time ministry. He has written more than 35 books and can be found blogging regularly on tonycampolo.org and redletterchristians.org.

Stephanie Paulsell & Vanessa Zoltan on Imagination & Creativity - Spring 2018
Harvard Divinity School

Stephanie Paulsell is Associate Dean for Ministry Studies at Harvard Divinity School. Paulsell studies the points of intersection between intellectual work and spiritual practice, between the academic study of religion and the practices of ministry, and between the contemplative and active dimensions of the vocations of minister and teacher. She is the author of Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice and co-editor of The Scope of Our Art: The Vocation of the Theological Teacher. Vanessa Zoltan is the Assistant Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University.
**Frank Rogers, Jr. & Christopher Carter on Compassion - Fall 2018**

Claremont School of Theology

Frank Rogers is a Professor at Claremont School of Theology. He is Co-Director and Founder of the Center for Engaged Compassion in Claremont, CA. He is the author of three books — a novel, a description of the CEC’s Compassion Practice, and an exploration of the role of the narrative arts in the formation of wellbeing in teenagers and abused and marginalized children. Dr. Christopher Carter is Assistant Professor at the University of San Diego and teaches courses in Christian theology and ethics, Black and Womanist theology, and Christianity and environmental justice.

**Miroslav Volf on Forgiveness - Fall 2018**

Yale Divinity School

Miroslav Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School and the Founding Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. He is author or editor of 20 books and over 70 scholarly articles, including *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation* (1996), which received the 2002 Louisville Grawemeyer Award.

**Mary Elizabeth Moore on Wisdom - Fall 2018**

Boston University School of Theology

Mary Elizabeth Moore is Dean of the School of Theology and Professor of Theology and Education, Boston University. Her passion is to journey with others to cultivate deeper faith, compassionate humanity, and a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world. Her books include: *Teaching as a Sacramental Act; Ministering with the Earth; Covenant and Call*, among many others. She has engaged in interreligious relationship-building in local, professional, and academic settings and is presently working on a project to develop interreligious approaches to practical theology.
Sarah Farmer, Yale Divinity School

Sarah Farmer is on the faculty of Yale Divinity School as an Associate Research Scholar at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Her emphasis is on Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing. She is finishing her Ph.D. in Religion at Emory University, having earned her M.Div. there from the Candler School of Theology 2008. Her dissertation is entitled, “Hope in Confinement: Moving toward a Pedagogy of Restorative Hope.” She has worked with youth in a number of contexts, including as an executive staff member at Youth Hope-Builders Academy in Atlanta, GA and as co-director of the Youth Arts Peace Camp in Chester, PA. Farmer has also served as the co-director of a Certificate of Theological Studies Program in a state prison during her time in Atlanta.

Angela Gorrell, Yale Divinity School

Angela Gorrell is on the faculty of Yale Divinity School as an Associate Research Scholar at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Her emphasis is on Evaluation, Field Development and Public Engagement. She is finishing her Ph.D. in Practical Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, having earned her M.Div. there in 2010. She also has a B.A. in Youth Ministry. Her dissertation is entitled, “Social Media, Churches, and Christian formation.” Angela specializes in helping organizations use new forms of media and technology for educational and relational purposes. She is also an ordained pastor in the Mennonite Church USA and has 14 years of ministry experience at churches and parachurch organizations. Twitter: @angelagorrell

Got Joy? Nurturing Joy & Flourishing in the Face of Adversity

June 6th -10th 2016

This weeklong course is designed for pastors, seminarians, lay leaders, and youth ministers. We will gather for evening fellowship dinners, lectures, and workshop breakouts to name, explore, and discuss concrete ways to respond to adversities youth face in order to nurture the foundations of joyful, flourishing lives. Yale Divinity School’s standard charge for a Summer Study course is $400. The Youth Ministry Initiative is providing each registrant for this program a $350 scholarship, reducing the tuition for each registrant to $50 for the entire weeklong program.

COURSE SUMMARY

Monday June 6th: Social Media: What You Need to Know (part one): Addressing the Negative Effects of Social Media with Youth Struggling with Bullying, Marginalization, Anxiety and Low Self-Esteem
Tuesday June 7th: Social Media: What You Need to Know (part two): Using the Positive Potential of Social Media to Engage and Build Community with Youth Struggling with Isolation and Alienation
Wednesday June 8th: Burnout in the Gap: Youth Ministry in the Midst of Adversity
Thursday June 9th: Youth on Lockdown: Ministry to Youth on the Pipeline to Prison
Friday June 10th: Trauma-Informed Expressive Arts: Using Art to Heal the Effects of Trauma
Rev. Dr. Gregory Ellison & Georgette Ledgister on Fear - June 2017  
Candler School of Theology

The Rev. Dr. Gregory C. Ellison, II is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Emory’s Candler School of Theology. His teaching draws primarily from his work with the organization he founded called Fearless Dialogues, a non-profit organization that creates unique spaces for unlikely partners to have hard, heartfelt conversations on taboo subjects like racism, classism, and community violence. Georgette Ledgister is a PhD Candidate in religion, and social and theological ethics at Emory University.

Chap Clark & Sharon Ketcham on Family Instability - June 2017  
Fuller Theological Seminary

Chapman “Chap” Clark is professor and chair of the Youth, Family, and Culture Department in the School of Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. He serves as the School of Theology’s representative on the executive board of the Fuller Youth Institute. Among the books he has authored, coauthored, and edited are Adoptive Youth Ministry (forthcoming), Youth Ministry in the 21st Century (2015), and more. Sharon Ketcham is Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Ministries at Gordon College in Wenham, MA.

Dr. Nadja Reilly & Kate Hyde on Depression & Suicide - June 2017  
Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology

Dr. Nadja Reilly is a clinical psychologist specializing in children, adolescents, and families. Dr. Reilly is the Associate Director of the Freedman Center for Child and Family Development at William James College. Kate Hyde Katherine Hyde is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in mental health psychotherapy for children, adolescents, and families. She completed her graduate work at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, and held a Clinical Fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital, a teaching hospital of the Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Kate Ott & Lorien Carter on Sexual Dimensions - June 2017  
Drew University Theological School; Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Kate Ott is Assistant Professor of Christian Social Ethics at Drew University Theological School in Madison, NJ. She holds a doctorate in Christian Social Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in the city of New York and a Masters of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School. Lorien Carter is an associate professor of practice at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Patrick B. Reyes on Violence - June 2017  
Forum for Theological Exploration

Dr. Patrick B. Reyes is a Salinas, California raised Latin@ practical theologian, activist, writer, and popular educator. He currently is the Director of Strategic Partnerships for Doctoral Initiatives at the Forum for Theological Exploration. For the last 15 years his work with gang-affiliated, farmworker, and religious communities has focused on compassion and spiritual based practices for healing. He is the author of the book, Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Survival (2016). The work explores the role of narrative and trauma in vocational discernment.
Allan Cole on Anxiety - June 2018
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Allan Cole is a Professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and author of Be Not Anxious: Pastoral Care of Disquieted Souls (2008), a book that draws on narrative approaches to theology and counseling to suggest how pastoral caregivers may minister to anxious persons. Cole focuses both on cognitive-based methods of counseling and on common faith practices: church membership, frequent worship, prayer, Bible reading, service, and confession, showing how these may provide relief from anxiety. By addressing the roles of both psychiatry and ministry as co-liberators from anxiety, he leads the pastor and the faith community in helping disquieted souls find rest.

Joyce Mercer on Substance Abuse - June 2018
Virginia Theological Seminary
Joyce Ann Mercer is a scholar-researcher, teacher, writer, retreat leader, and professor of practical theology at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Joyce teaches courses in pastoral care, conflict transformation, theologies of childhood, feminist theology, youth ministry, and practical theology. She is the author of Welcoming Children: A Practical Theology of Childhood (2005), Lives to Offer: Accompanying Youth on Their Vocational Quests (2007), and most recently, Girl Talk, God Talk: Why Faith Matters to Teenage Girls—and Their Parents (2008). Joyce is a licensed clinical social worker with experience in community-based health care and addictions.

Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier & Rev. Ruben Ortiz on Poverty - June 2018
Eastern University
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier is Academic Dean and Vice President of Education at Esperanza College of Eastern University. Previously she was professor of religious education at the Claremont School of Theology and taught Hispanic Latino/a theology at the Latin American Bible Institute. Rev. Ruben Ortiz is Director of National Programs & the Executive Director of the Barrio Youth Initiative at the non-profit organization, Esperanza.

James K. A. Smith & Kyle David Bennett on Idolatry - June 2018
Calvin College
James K. A. Smith is professor of philosophy at Calvin College, where he holds the Gary and Henrietta Byker Chair in Applied Reformed Theology and Worldview. The author of a number of influential books, Smith also regularly writes for the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Slate, First Things, Christianity Today, Books & Culture, and The Hedgehog Review. He serves as editor-in-chief of Comment magazine. Kyle David Bennett is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Spirituality and Leadership Institute at Caldwell University.

Dr. Lisa Miller on Spirituality - June 2018
Columbia University, Teachers College
Lisa Miller, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology and Education at Columbia University, Teachers College and is Founder of the Spirituality Mind Body Institute. Dr. Miller is a foremost scientist on spirituality across the lifespan. Her innovative research has focused on quantifiable effects of spirituality in health, resilience and thriving, and an overall sacred and joyful life. Her clinical and consultation work focuses on spiritual awareness and spiritual growth, for individuals, families, groups and organizations. Dr. Miller is the author of: The Spiritual Child; The New Science of Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving.