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
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our Communications Coordinator: madeleine.ranges@yale.edu.

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

April 4th

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 2nd

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. Her research focuses on African American religion, adolescent spiritual development, and the intersections of religion and public life. Mr. Fort is a Ph.D. Student at Princeton University in African American Studies, a preacher, activist and organizer, and former youth pastor.

For more information, please visit youthministryinitiative.org
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.

2017

OCTOBER

4th

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

1st

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 contemplating God’s incomprehensible goodness. Dr. Emmons is the world’s leading scientific expert on gratitude. He is a professor of psychology at UC Davis, and the founding editor-in-chief of The Journal of Positive Psychology. He is the 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

6th

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. 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.

2018

JANUARY

10th

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 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 many books include: Teaching as a Sacramental Act. Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano is a PhD student in Practical Theology at Boston University.

FEBRUARY

7th

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. 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. His numerous books include: 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

7th

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

Harvard Divinity School
Dr. Stephanie Pauells 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. Pauells is the Susan Shalcross 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.