



Incarnating Love:

The Sacred Work of Loving Others

MINISTRY WEEK 2026
February 9-11

PLENARY SESSIONS



The Wells Sermons

Dr. Donyelle McCray

Donyelle McCray serves as Associate Professor of Homiletics at Yale Divinity School. A teacher, writer, and Episcopal layperson, her scholarship focuses on the spirituality of preaching. She is the author of *The Censored Pulpit: Julian of Norwich as Preacher* (2019) and a volume on sermon genre, *Is it a Sermon?: Art, Activism, and Genre Fluidity in African American Preaching* (2024). She is currently writing a book on the preaching and spirituality of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray. Before becoming a homiletics professor, Donyelle served as an attorney focusing on wills, trusts, and estates. This work raised existential questions that led her to seminary and then into ministry as a hospice chaplain. Human finitude and compassion remain central theological concerns in her scholarship.



The Scott Lecture

Dr. Christine Hong

Christine J. Hong is Associate Professor of Educational Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. Her research includes anti-colonial and decolonial approaches to religious and interreligious education. Hong's research interests include Asian Diasporic spiritualities, reindigenizing Christian spirituality and practices, and the spiritual and theological formation among BIPOC communities. She is the author of four books: *Youth, Identity, and Gender in the Korean American Church*; *Decolonial Futures: Intercultural and Interreligious Intelligence for Theological Education*; *Waking Up Ghosts: Making Peace with Ancestors* out in 2026; and a co-authored book with Dr. Anne Walker called, *Candidly Speaking Dialogues for the End of Empire*, also out in 2026. She is a frequent conference speaker and workshop leader on decolonizing religion and spirituality.



The McFadin Lecture

Rev. Dr. Amey Adkins-Jones

Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones is Assistant Professor of Theology and Africana studies at Candler School of Theology (Emory University). A graduate of the University of Virginia and Duke Divinity School, she received her Ph.D. in Religion from Duke University in 2016 with a Certificate in Feminist Theory. She was the first Black woman to graduate from the doctoral program in Christian theology and ethics. Her first book, *Immaculate Misconceptions: A Black Mariology*, centers the Black Madonna to examine how Christian theologies of purity influence who and what we deem to be sacred. She is at work on a second book project, *See No Evil*, which explores how visual technologies and AI impact public perception of violence and Black death. Outside of academia, Adkins-Jones is an ordained Baptist minister who frequently preaches around the country and brings pastoral sensibility to her work centering social justice. She shares life with her beloved spouse and their four children in Atlanta, GA.

LIGHTNING LECTURES



The Davis Workshop

Brite Divinity School Faculty

“Can theologically and historically complex ideas be compressed into comprehensive points?”

Lightning Lectures explores this possibility: educating people one mini-lecture at a time! During “Lightning Lectures,” Brite faculty will take turns offering abbreviated talks from their area of expertise around a central subject. In the spirit of Incarnating Love for Ministry Week 2026, numerous Brite faculty will offer thoughtful, consolidated takes on “Who Is My Neighbor?” exploring the range, meaning, and form love can take around neighborliness from biblical, theological, historical, and spiritual perspectives.

WORKSHOPS

T1. Love Made Known: The Spiritual Heart of Mental Health Care

Dr. Trina Armstrong, LMFT

Caring for the psychological and spiritual well-being of others reflects the heart of God's compassion for humanity. It is love that listens, stays, and provides comfort amid suffering. Mental health care is a sacred expression of love demonstrated through compassion, patience, and attentive care to human needs, recognizing persons in the fullness of their humanity. This workshop invites participants to deepen their awareness of how embodying this love more completely allows it to be expressed through their presence and practice, bringing renewed meaning and depth to the care they offer.

T2. Cultivating Communities of LGBTQIA+ Belonging and Justice

Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders

LGBTQIA+ rights are under attack across the country, and places of deep belonging and justice-seeking for and with LGBTQIA+ people are critical spaces for the wellbeing and flourishing of queer and trans people across their lifespans. This workshop will present an overview of concerns that impact the livability of life for LGBTQIA+ people at present, discuss the role of faith communities in cultivating communities of belonging for queer and trans people, and draw on the wisdom of queer and trans ancestors to help congregations imagine faith praxis and ministry leadership in times of turmoil. Participants will encounter trauma-informed care practices that attend to the spiritual woundedness many LGBTQIA+ people experience, and move along a continuum of what comes after the decision of a congregation to become affirming of LGBTQIA+ people to imagine how that commitment becomes integrated into the arts of ministry and the overall mission of a congregation.

W1. Blessed Minds: Celebrating Neurodiversity in the Church

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund

As more and more people self-identify with the Neurodiversity movement, churches can embrace ways of designing inclusive and loving communities and spaces. Through storytelling, examples, and resources, we will learn how to make congregations more neuroinclusive. God loves all of us and we can celebrate the diversity of ways we think, learn, and experience the world through our blessed minds.

W2. Communion Behind the Curtain: Learning Christ-like Love in a Post-Christian World

Panel discussion including Dr. Leah Jordan, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Dr. Philip Butler – moderated by Rev. Dr. Gary F. Green II

We know that Christianity has never been the only religion in the United States. For a growing number of previously identified Christians, however, Christianity is no longer an option. Post-Christianity is a growing movement that is widening and raising new theological questions for Christian communities to confront: What should the relationship be between Christian morality, peace-making, and the work of justice? What new religious frameworks are being constructed among communities who have moved on from Christianity? How can we love like Jesus when "Christ" no longer captures our cultural imagination? Come join an esteemed panel conversation as Dr. Leah Jordan, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Dr. Philip Butler – moderated by Rev. Dr. Gary F. Green II – respond to these questions, and raise new ones about love and what it looks like behind the curtain.

GALLERY ARTISTS

"Choke," whose name stands for "Creating her own kinetic energy": Her work explores themes of self-consciousness, and spiritual evolution through meditative geometry and cosmic symbolism.

Avery Kelly: Her art centers on the beauty, energy, and mystery of the natural world.

Brian Dickson: His work reveals the spiritual warfare that comes with maintaining self-love in a hateful world and visualizes healing from traumatic experiences through the lens of Black culture and Christian spirituality.

Jennifer Olivia: Her artwork reflects her faith and hope in Yeshua, whose overflowing love and grace forever changed her perspective on life and what it means to truly live.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Locations and Parking

All lectures, workshops and worship services will be held at

University Christian Church

2720 S. University Dr., directly across from TCU

Building Access

The doors to UCC remain locked throughout the day. Please use the buzzer system to gain access. Please be aware that access is limited before 8:30 am.

Parking with Ministry Week Parking Pass

- 1) SW corner of Rogers and McPherson (Lot D)
- 2) Accessible parking is located in front of the church. For all others, please do not park in the lot immediately adjacent to UCC or any other unmarked lot.

ALL OTHER PARKING LOTS ARE RESERVED. PARKING IN AN UNAUTHORIZED PARKING AREA MAY RESULT IN TICKETING WITH FINES UP TO \$100.

Accommodations

TCU Hyatt Place is the preferred hotel for Ministry Week 2026. Ministry Week guests will receive 20% off the standard online rate when using the code CR157770.

Wireless Access

Access to UCC's wireless network is available throughout the church. No password required.

Hearing Assist

UCC offers an assisted hearing solution through the Listen Everywhere app for iOS and Android. Information cards with more detailed instructions are available at the Sanctuary entrances.

Child Care

UCC will provide a complimentary nursery for children five and under for evening worship services.

TCU Campus Bookstore

A representative from the TCU Campus Bookstore will be at UCC during the plenary sessions if you wish to purchase speakers' books.

Installation of Rev. Dr. Shonda R. Jones Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. University Christian Church



Join us in celebrating the Installation of Rev. Dr. Shonda R. Jones as the Academic Dean and Executive Vice President of Brite Divinity School. Before joining Brite in 2025, Jones previously served as the Assistant Dean of Academic Programs at Wake Forest University School of Professional Studies, where she spearheaded the strategic and academic leadership for the school's comprehensive graduate degree and certificate portfolio. Prior to joining Wake Forest, Dr. Jones was an Associate Dean at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Her career also includes positions at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Dr. Jones's work is consistently informed by her faith and her commitment to fostering inclusive and thriving faith communities.

SCHEDULE

Monday, February 9

- 4:30 p.m. Registration opens, Brite Divinity School, 2925 Princeton Street
- 5:00 p.m. Welcome Gathering, Brite
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service: Wells Sermon I - Rev. Dr. Donyelle McCray, University Christian Church, 2720 S. University Drive

Tuesday, February 10

- 8:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship, University Christian Church
- 9:15 a.m. Scott Lecture - Dr. Christine Hong, *Incarnational Justice for Such a Time as This*
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Break (lunch will be provided)
- 1:00 p.m. Davis Lecture - Brite Faculty Lighting Lectures, *Who is My Neighbor?*
- 3:15 p.m. Workshops
 - 1. Dr. Trina Armstrong, *Love Made Known: The Spiritual Heart of Mental Health Care*
 - 2. Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders, *Cultivating Communities of LGBTQIA+ Belonging and Justice*
- 5:15 p.m. Women in Ministry Reception, University Christian Church (Requires pre-registration)
Flourishing Reception, University Christian Church
Beyond Brite Reception, offsite
Admissions Reception, offsite
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service: Wells Sermon II - Rev. Dr. Donyelle McCray

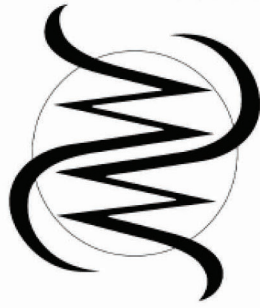
Wednesday, February 11

- 8:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship, University Christian Church
- 9:15 a.m. McFadin Lecture - Amey Adkins-Jones, "*Would you like to see in her how you are loved?*"
Mary, Consent, and the Call to Care
- 11:30 a.m. Retired Ministers Lunch (Requires pre-registration)
- 1:30 p.m. Workshops
 - 1. Panel with Dr. Leah Jordan, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Dr. Philip Butler, moderated by Rev. Dr. Gary F. Green II, *Communion Behind the Curtain: Learning Christ-like Love in a Post-Christian World*
 - 2. Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, *Blessed Minds: Celebrating Neurodiversity in the Church*
- 5:00 p.m. Pre-Installation Dinner (Requires pre-registration)
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service: Wells Sermon III - Rev. Dr. Donyelle McCray
**Installation of Rev. Dr. Shonda R. Jones as
Academic Dean and Executive Vice President of Brite Divinity School**

ART GALLERY

Recognizing the arts as a powerful way to express our understanding of God and humanity, we have created a Ministry Week Art Gallery. The art will be on display for the entirety of Ministry Week. The artists will be available to discuss their work with participants on Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and on Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For updated information on worship and reception locations,
please refer to **www.brite.edu/MW**



Presented by:
Brite Divinity School
University Christian Church

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Register now at www.brite.edu/MW

