

SCHAFF LECTURES 2025

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DAVID S. SCHAFF LECTURES

How are preachers called to meet this moment in American history? Prioritizing some persons and communities at the expense or erasure of others stands in direct conflict with the Christian affirmation that all persons have sacred and inherent worth as beings created in God's image. This year's Schaff Lectures will help preachers of all backgrounds examine this challenge.

APRIL 22, 2025 AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, PITTSBURGH, PA. | IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Lecture "Called to Preach the Totality of American History: The Prophetic Imperative to Embrace DEI" with Debra Mumford

Since the beginning of Trump's presidency 2.0, the administration has launched an all-out assault on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion otherwise known as DEI. In her lecture, Dr. Mumford will make the case that preachers are called in this moment to affirm the dignity and worth of all of God's people by preaching the totality of American history.



APRIL 23, 2025 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO | IN PERSON

Workshop "The Enduring Power of the Folk Homiletic and Ethic in the Practice of African American Preaching" with Jennifer Carner

Since the beginning of Trump's presidency 2.0, the administration has launched an assault on everything that does not support or affirm a monolithic vision of America. Thus, it can be argued that an attack has been launched on African American thought, history, and identity. Dr. Carner will make the case that current and past practices in African American preaching, incorporating a Folk Homiletic or Ethic, help communities in crisis fashion hope toward self-preservation and flourishing.

See the full schedule below for details about each day's events.

REGISTRATION

The Schaff Lecture is free and open to the public. There may be costs associated with additional programming related to the lecture.

Registration for Schaff Day #1, April 22 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Registration for Schaff Day #2, Clergy Only Workshop, April 23 at First Presbyterian Church, Youngstown, Ohio

Registration for Schaff Day #2, Community Dinner, April 23 at First Presbyterian Church, Youngstown, Ohio

ABOUT DEBRA MUMFORD AND JENNIFER CARNER

SCHEDULE

QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE SCHAFF LECTURES

The Schaff Lecturers are named for David S. Schaff, who taught church history for 23 years at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is best known as co-editor of the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia*. The lectures, which are intended to be academic in nature, occur over a two- or three-day period. A unique feature of the series is that some of the presentations take place in nearby Youngstown, Ohio, in collaboration with the Mahoning Valley Association of Churches.

The late Jane Booth Schaff (Mrs. Philip H. Schaff), 1894-1981, came from a family with historic ties to theological education. For 23 years, her father-in-law, Professor David S. Schaff, taught church history at Western Theological Seminary. Western is one of the antecedents of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Before beginning his teaching duties in 1903, he held two pastorates.

In her will, Mrs. Schaff provided for the completion of the endowment of the previously established David S. Schaff Lectureship at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, with an important stipulation and addition that the Schaff Lecturer(s) would deliver one address in Youngstown. This was a unique concept, bringing a world renowned lecturer to the Mahoning Valley for religious and cultural enrichment. For this reason, representatives of the finest scholarship of the theological world visit Youngstown annually to participate in this program. This educational experience is open to people of all denominations and faiths and celebrates the power of words shared to create, support, and thus nurture and strengthen community. The faculty of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary select the Schaff lecturer, rotating among nine academic disciplines in theological education.

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