



## *From the President's Pen*

As I write this, we are in our final week of classes for the Spring Semester of 2024. As the Spring Semester draws to a close, I reflect back on what God has done. I'm grateful for all of our students this past semester—even in small classes it's delightful to have students who are highly motivated to dig deep into God's Word. I continue to find the experience of teaching deeply gratifying, whether in being able to explore and keep learning myself as I prepare, in finding new areas to explore to understand what our Lord is saying in the Bible, and in interacting with growing students.

We anticipate what God has in store for the future. Summer Sessions will begin soon, followed by a new Fall Semester. Training through Travel is about to launch its 2 trips for 2024—the *Reformation Trip* in Europe with Dr. Joe Thomas and the *Inklings Tour* in England with Dr. Melody Green. I'll be back on the road again in 2025 with *Biblical Turkey*. Plus, this summer we will have another tent at the Audiofeed music festival to engage with

attendees and present teaching, and another *Ancient Israel in Chicago* trip to the ISAC Museum at the U of Chicago.

God has brought together such an excellent team and Faculty here. We continue to track the rapid changes in our broader culture, as well as within the church. We desire to sense God's leading for the future, to take hold of exactly the role he wants Urbana Seminary to play in the growth of his Kingdom as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century keeps unfolding. Pray for creative wisdom and discernment of the voice/leading of the Lord! We deeply desire to address developing needs for the years ahead in new and relevant ways that will have impact for the Kingdom!

Ken Cuffey  
President

*The Hearth often highlights a student or Alum and the impact that studying at Urbana Seminary has had on their lives. In this issue, we want to recognize donors who make that impact possible and allow our programs to remain affordable for students. Our Director of Engagement, Tom Krawczyk, recently sat down with three of our long-term recurring donors to chat about their experiences and advice.*

### **The Tale of Three Donors**

**Mary Long (MAR, 2006)** said she began donating to Urbana Seminary years ago because "I was so grateful to my alma mater, and I wanted to give back to help ensure many more students can benefit from the wonderful and caring professors."

Why does she keep donating monthly, even today? "I keep that recurring donation going because I want to do my little part to help the Seminary continue to form people in their faith so they can be ambassadors for Christ in their churches, in their homes, in the community."

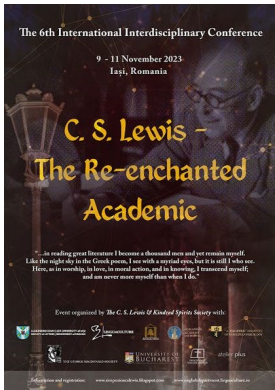
**Nathan Lenstra (MDiv, 2009)** remembers how much he appreciated the small class size, which enabled him to interact more with the faculty. "I was blessed during my time at the Seminary, and I want to be able to give back. I had a great experience, profitable for life and for ministry, so I enjoy helping the seminary invest in future students."

Why choose monthly donations? "My classes on fundraising after Seminary taught me the importance of regular recurring donations to ensure the health and longevity of an organization. I want to help make that happen at Urbana Seminary."

**Buulinh Quach (GCCS, 2009; MAR, 2011)** started donating occasionally while attending Urbana Seminary as a student and volunteering at the UTS Library. The Seminary was launching a fundraising calling campaign, so while working at the library, Buulinh decided to help with calling donors. She participated again the following year, during which Dr. Cuffey asked her "Have you ever considered being a recurring donor?"

*Donors continued on pg 4...*

# Dr. Green Speaks on C.S. Lewis in Romania



This last November, Dr. Melody Green had the opportunity to speak at the the sixth International Interdisciplinary C. S. Lewis conference in Iasi, Romania. Called “The Re-Enchanted Academic,” this conference featured C. S. Lewis scholars from twelve countries, speaking on new and exciting Lewis-related research they are engaging in. Dr. Green spoke on some interesting and important connections between C. S. Lewis and Jacques Derrida, two philosophers who are often viewed as opposites.



While there, Dr. Green also had the opportunity to speak alongside of Dr. Karen Coats of Cambridge University to a variety of primary schools and grade schools. The students were taking English and had read, or had had read to them, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The schools varied from government-run institutions to private schools for the children of government workers, and the school adventures included lectures, discussions, games, and even a sampling of real Turkish Delight from Turkey.

Another adventure Dr. Green found herself involved in was organizing and leading a teen-oriented event at the first ever Christian Children’s library in Romania. Called The Aslan Library, this library is housed at the European Headquarters of Child

Evangelism Fellowship in Iasi. And while it is still illegal to directly proselytize in Romania, all children are welcome to come in and check out Christian books and read them on their own. The teen event had more than 60 students show up to play a game about the Narnia books before taking turns reading different characters in an unrehearsed reader’s theater of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in Romanian.



Dr. Green’s conference presentation is available on YouTube. Search for Session 8 - CSLKS International Conference - The Re-Enchanted Academic 6th edition – Iași. Dr. Green’s talk starts about 26 minutes in. A revised version of it will also be published in *LINGUACULTURE*, a peer-reviewed academic journal published by Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Press.



**UPCOMING!** Training Through Travel 2025

# Biblical Turkey!

March 8-20, 2025

# Training through Travel



## September 17-28

Join us as we visit the locations where C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the other Inklings lived and worked. This will be an unforgettable tour through the heart of England! Dr. Melody Green, who teaches classes on Tolkien, Lewis, and the Inklings at Urbana Seminary and has extensive experience speaking and publishing on them, will be leading the tour.

### Schedule:

**Fly out of Chicago O'Hare on September 17th**

#### One night in Birmingham

Highlights include:

- Visit sites connected with Tolkien's childhood, including Sarehole Mill and Moseley Bog, where Tolkien and his brother played as children

#### Four nights in Oxford

Highlights include:

- An afternoon bus tour of Inklings-related sites
- A Tour of the Kilns, C. S. Lewis's home and the C. S. Lewis Nature Center
- Addison's walk, where Tolkien and Lewis walked
- Tours of Merton College, where Tolkien taught
- The Oxford Botanical Garden, which Tolkien loved to visit
- Evensong at Magdalen college
- Attend a service at C. S. Lewis's Church
- Visit the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, where C. S. Lewis preached "The Weight of Glory," and climb its tower to see an amazing view of Oxford

#### Two nights in Cambridge

Highlights include:

- Visit the historic Crusader Round Church to watch a documentary about C. S. Lewis in Cambridge
- A tour of C. S. Lewis sites in Cambridge, and Historic Punt rides

#### Three nights in London

Highlights include:

- C. S. Lewis's memorial stone at Westminster Abbey
- Tour Shakespeare's Globe
- See G. K. Chesterton's papers

**Fly back to O'Hare on September 28**

### Cost (includes airfare):

Double, sharing a room: \$4300 per person  
Single with no roommate: \$5255  
Down payment of \$255 due by June 1  
3% charge will be added on for credit card payments

### Refund Policy:

90 - 61 days prior to departure 85%  
60 - 31 days prior to departure 50%  
30 - 3 days prior to departure 20%  
72 hours prior or no show no refund

**To Register:** [urbanatheologicalseminary.org/event/inklings-tour/](http://urbanatheologicalseminary.org/event/inklings-tour/)

**For more information, contact Dr. Green at:**  
[mgreen@urbanatheologicalseminary.org](mailto:mgreen@urbanatheologicalseminary.org)



## Ancient Israel in Chicago



Come explore Ancient Israel with us without the long flight! We'll dive into the world of the Old Testament at the *Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC) Museum* (formerly known as *The Oriental Institute*), where artifacts from Ancient Israel, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Canaan await our discovery.

Dr. Ken Cuffey, Professor of Biblical Studies, will lead us on a three-hour tour of the museum, explaining the connections between the items on display and the Old Testament.

We'll be gathering at the front door of the museum at 12:45, ready to enjoy this insightful tour together.

### Event Details:

**Date:** June 8th

**Meet:** 12:45 on the front steps of ISAC

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** ISAC Museum, University of Chicago, 1155 E 58th St. Chicago, IL

**Cost:** \$25 (includes admission)



**Registration:** [urbanatheologicalseminary.org/event/ancient-israel-in-chicago-2024/](http://urbanatheologicalseminary.org/event/ancient-israel-in-chicago-2024/) or use the QR code above

For those needing transportation assistance, the registration form includes an option to indicate if you require a ride. Alternatively, if you're interested in driving, feel free to sign up, and we'll coordinate arrangements.

This event is a rare opportunity to deepen your understanding of Ancient Israel while staying close to home. Invite friends interested in learning more about ancient cultures! We look forward to seeing you there!

## Provision for Pastors' Spiritual Life Forum



**“Humble, honest, transparent, defined by biblical truth & examples – I think the best leadership thoughts I have ever heard. It was not a list of things to do. It was more how to ‘be.’ But it was so much more than that.”**

Forum Attendee

On February 5, 2024, we at Urbana Seminary were excited to gather for the first Spiritual Life Forum since the pandemic. We had the honor of hosting Dr. Mel Lawrenz as our guest speaker, addressing the topic of *Seeking Wholeness in a Broken World*.

Dr. Lawrenz, the author of 18 books, including *A Chronicle of Grief: Finding Life after Traumatic Loss*, seeks to foster the spiritual growth and health of pastors and leaders in the community. At Urbana Seminary we can honestly pray the ancient pastoral prayer Dr. Lawrenz shared with us:

*“Come Holy Spirit, shepherd him who is to shepherd; guide him who is to guide; discover to him [the scriptures] who is to discover them to others, give to him who is to give to others. Lord Christ, have mercy upon us!”*



*Donors continued from pg 1*

Why does Buulinh continue to donate all these years later? “I came to understand the importance of our Seminary in the local community. As a student, I saw the dedication and sacrifices of the teachers and administrators. As a fellow classmate, I connected with a lot of students who were passionate about serving God in the future. And personally for myself, UTS was a great investment to help me go deeper in my faith and study the Word of God correctly.”

Does she have any advice for people considering it? “Yes! Please seriously consider donating to Urbana Theological Seminary, as it has a great impact for the Kingdom of God here in Champaign-Urbana! If you are already donating, please consider making your donation recurring, and/or increasing your donation, if you are able to. God bless you!”

***If you aren't currently donating to the Seminary, you may want to consider the convenience of monthly recurring donations.*** They are easy to set up, easy to budget, and you don't have to remember when to donate. They're guaranteed to provide much-needed support during the slower months, and recurring donations provide financial stability and predictability while also planting the seeds for growth. With dedicated monthly supporters, the Seminary is better able to be available for whatever God has in store for us.

As Nathan Lenstra says, “I like to think of it as an investment in the Kingdom of God. I can see that God is using the Seminary to train and equip people so His Kingdom continues to grow and expand.”

# 2024 Summer Courses

As we anticipate the changing pace of summer, we invite you to join us for deep explorations into the Bible and Christian thought! Alongside our traditional eight-week summer classes, we are embarking on a new adventure with one-weekend classes. So, whether you have time for traditional classes every week or just enough time to dedicate one weekend to your learning, we have you covered!

## | One Book | One Weekend | One Credit |

These summer courses are designed to seamlessly integrate into your seasonal schedule. They are one credit, one book, and one-weekend courses—squeeze a little learning and reading into your busy summer!

### Here's how it works:

- **Preparation:** Read the selected book before class to immerse yourself in its timeless wisdom.
- **Friday Evening:** Get an understanding of the context and background of the book, shedding light on its author and significance.
- **Saturday:** Immerse yourself in discussions and lectures as we explore the depths of the book itself, uncovering its themes and wisdom.
- **For Credit Students:** Take your exploration further with a final assignment that allows you to delve even deeper into the heart of the text.

### John Bunyan and *Pilgrim's Progress*

First published in 1678, for more than 200 years John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* was the second most popular book to find in English-speaking homes, just after the Bible. This class will look at the context it was originally written in, the text itself, as well as what has happened with it since. We will look at how it has influenced Christian fiction and media, as well as discussing retellings and film and radio interpretations of the text.

Instructor: Dr. Melody Green      1 Credit Hour  
Time: Friday 6:00 – 9:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Location: Tech Classroom and Online  
Dates: June 14-15

### Francis Schaeffer's *How Should We Then Live?*

Amid a divisive culture in constant flux, we might often ask how we got here. Francis Schaeffer's *How Should We Then Live: The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture* takes a deep dive into this question, shedding light on history's implications for the present moment. By exploring one of the most influential works from one of the essential Christian thinkers of the last century, we will reflect on where we've been as a culture and where we're headed.

Instructor: Dr. Pearce Durst      1 Credit Hour  
Time: Friday 6:00 – 9:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Location: Tech Classroom and Online  
Dates: July 19-20

### C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*

C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* is often described as one of the most influential books of the twentieth century, and just as often can be found on lists of the most influential books in the history of Christianity. This class will explore the context in which the book was written, its influence and impact, as well as working through the text itself.

Instructor: Dr. Melody Green      1 Credit Hour  
Time: Friday 6:00 – 9:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Tech Classroom and Online  
Dates: July 12-13

*Please note: Auditing a one-credit-hour class now costs \$125, while auditing a two-credit class costs \$250. Tuition for credit classes remains \$325 per credit hour.*

## Traditional 8-week Summer 2024 Courses:

### The Composition of the Book of Psalms

A study of the book of Psalms with an emphasis on its unity as a single book. The student will learn to look for compositional strategies used in the final assembly of the book of Psalms in order to recognize its overarching themes.

Instructor: Mike Shea      2 Credit Hours  
Time: Mondays 5:15 pm – 7:15 pm  
Location: Online  
Start Date: June 10, 2024

### Silence and Solitude

A study of solitude and silence for communion with God, deep reflection, personal prayer, and Christian spiritual formation. Examination of the need for solitude and silence in light of the noise, demands, and hurry of contemporary life and culture. Consideration of biblical foundations, contemporary and historical literature, and personal and group experiences for developing a practical theology of solitude and silence.

Instructor: Dr. Peter Spychalla      2 Credit Hours  
Time: Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Location: Online  
Start Date: June 4, 2024

Register here!

For more information or to register, please visit us at [urbanatheologicalseminary.org](http://urbanatheologicalseminary.org) or use the QR code to the right.



# 2024 Fall Courses

## BIBLICAL STUDIES

**Old Testament Survey**      Dr. Kenneth Cuffey      3 Credit Hours  
Tuesdays 6:00 - 9:00 pm      Online

**Genesis 1-11 and Origins**      Dr. Kenneth Cuffey      3 Credit Hours  
Wednesdays 6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Emmanuel Memorial: Tech Classroom and Online

**New Testament Greek I**      Dr. Chi-ying Wang      3 Credit Hours  
Wednesdays 6:00 - 9:00 pm      Online

## CHRISTIAN HISTORY & THOUGHT

**Theology I**      Dr. Todd Daly      3 Credit Hours  
Mondays 6:00 - 9:00 pm      Online

**Redeeming Politics**      Dr. Todd Daly      3 Credit Hours  
Modular: September 6-7, October 4-5; November 1-2; December 6-7  
Fridays 6:00 - 9:00 pm      Online  
Saturdays 9:00 am - 4:00 pm      Online

**Imaginative Apologetics**      Dr. Melody Green      3 Credit Hours  
Thursdays 6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Emmanuel Memorial: Tech Classroom and Online

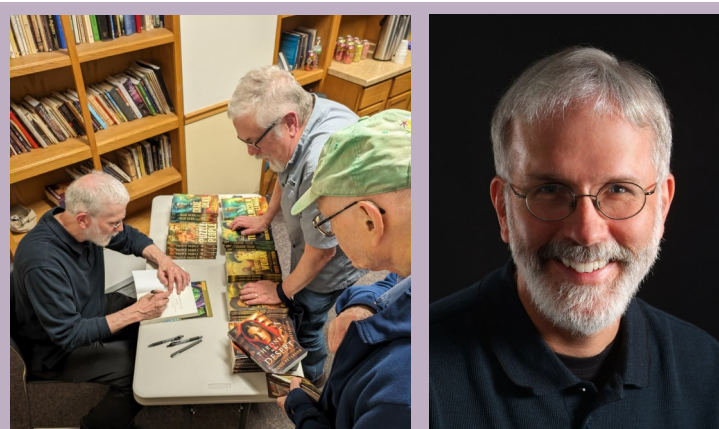
## STORY EXPERIENCE

**The Story of God's People**      Dr. Joseph Thomas      2 Credit Hours  
Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 pm      Online  
Part of the sequence in the *Story Experience* Certificate program.

All class times are in Central Time

# Snapshots of Past Events

Urbana Seminary has been privileged to engage in a number of special events over the past few months! Clockwise from top left: **Christmas at the Movies** with Dr. Pearce Durst; Pascal Study Center and Urbana Seminary engaging students at **U of I All Campus Worship** where Dr. Cuffey was also the guest speaker; **post-movie discussion group** following the screening of *Cabrini*; and a **Book Launch and talk by Doug Peterson**, author and Urbana Seminary board member. Watch our website for upcoming events!





## New faces at Pascal Study Center

Pascal Study Center has a new staff member! Mary Sievers joins Urbana Seminary's mission to UIUC as Operations Manager. Mary has been an indispensable volunteer with PSC for almost a year, providing extensive support for communications, events, administration, and more. She brings to this position approximately thirty

years of experience in ministry and Christian education, and we are deeply grateful to have her contribute her time and talent to build up PSC.



A highlight of the semester, PSC's dinner discussions provide an opportunity to consider how we live in light of what we believe as Christians. Over a dozen university students, faculty, and community members gathered in March and April for shared meals and conversation on the theme of "The Precarious Good Life."



PSC also relaunched its student book study this Spring, reading *No Greater Love* by Rebecca McLaughlin. Meeting weekly, students join Director Wenneborg to consider the question, "What makes a distinctly *Christian* friend?" This group draws together students across majors and class years to share their experiences with friendship and encourage one another to be a friend like Jesus.

Through your gifts and your prayers, Pascal Study Center continues to pursue a faithful Christian presence at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. For more information or to get involved with PSC, contact Dr. Wenneborg at [ewenneborg@urbanatheologicalseminary.org](mailto:ewenneborg@urbanatheologicalseminary.org).

## Pray for Urbana Seminary

Would you pray for us? Pray now, or better yet, put this list where you'll see it (tape it to a mirror, on your fridge, in your Bible, etc.) and be reminded to intercede regularly for this ministry.

### Praise:

- For God's gift of students this semester.
- For those who faithfully continue to pray for and financially give to Urbana Seminary.
- For the new staff we've welcomed to our team.

### Pray:

- For the new students that God will have join our classes this Summer and Fall—that we could serve the church through equipping ever more followers of Christ.
- For our current students and their growth, for classes, the instructors, God's Holy Spirit to work within each person and in all their interactions.
- For broadening our base of support in prayer and financial giving.

### How can YOU help the Seminary fulfill its mission?

Here's some tangible ways you can share in our mission to equip God's people to love, know, and serve God better:

- **Make a commitment to pray regularly for the Seminary.** We cherish those who commit to lifting the Seminary up in prayer on a regular basis. Would you join the **Seminary Prayer Team**? Pray with the guide in this Hearth, but also send your name and email to Elaine Chaille at ([echaille@urbanatheologicalseminary.org](mailto:echaille@urbanatheologicalseminary.org)). As needs arise, we will periodically send you emails with prayer needs. (Don't worry, we won't flood your inbox!) Let us know and we will add you to the list. Thank you!
- **Make a commitment to give to the Seminary on a regular basis.** Join our circle of financial supporters and give on a monthly or quarterly basis.



JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>- 7<sup>TH</sup>  
URBANA x ILLINOIS

**AUDIOFEED**

ORDER TICKETS:  
[AUDIOFEEDFESTIVAL.COM](http://AUDIOFEEDFESTIVAL.COM)

**Urbana Seminary will once again be hosting a variety of speakers and activities at this year's Audiofeed Festival in Urbana, IL, July 4-7. Come out to the Champaign County Fairgrounds for a time of great music, art, worship, exposition, and community!**

**Info and tickets may be found at [audiofeedfestival.com](http://audiofeedfestival.com)**

## Faculty and Staff Speaking Engagements

### Ken Cuffey

- Jan 20 "Attentively Reading the Bible," Nehemiah 8, Men's Breakfast First Baptist Church, Savoy, IL
- Jan 28 "Where do You Rank Jesus?" Matthew 16:13-20, Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, IL
- Feb 4 "Glorious Costs," Matthew 16:21-28, Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, IL
- Feb 11 "Strategic Choices to Live Out the Gospel," Matthew 4/Mark 1/Luke 4, Training in Missions Sunday School Twin City Bible Church, Urbana, IL
- Mar 1 All-Campus Worship Evangelical Christian Union (of campus ministries) Foellinger Auditorium, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Mar 10 Matthew 17:1-8, University Baptist Church, Champaign, IL
- Mar 24 (Palm Sunday) "Pulling Back the Curtain," Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, IL
- Apr 14 "Keep Going," Revelation 2:1-7, River of Life Church, Urbana, IL

### Todd Daly

- Dec 31 "The Empire Strikes Back," Matthew 2:13-23, Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, IL
- Jan 21 "Begotten, Not Made—On Christological Heresies," Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church, Champaign, IL
- Feb 9 "A Theological Bioethics of Sleep: Can There Be Such a Thing?" Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL
- Mar 10 "Passing on Passing Judgment," Matthew 7:1-6, Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, IL
- Mar 17 "Shaped for Significance: Learning to Abide in Christ" John 15:1-8, Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, IL

### Pearce Durst

- Dec 31 "Recognizing God In That Day By Knowing God In This Day," Luke 2:22-40, Cornerstone Fellowship, Urbana, IL
- Mar 10 "King of Ages: In the Beginning and the Fullness of Time," Cornerstone Fellowship, Urbana, IL
- Apr 7 "A Promise of Protection," Psalm 91, Cornerstone Fellowship, Urbana, IL

### Melody Green

- Feb 2 "Faith and Story," InterVarsity Christian Fellowship large group, University of Illinois.
- Feb 10 "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" Cornerstone Fellowship Church, Urbana, IL
- Feb 16 "The History of Christianity and Children's Literature," InterVarsity Publishers staff training.
- Apr 21 "Christianity and Harry Potter," Chinese Christian Church, Champaign, IL

Apr 28 "Christianity and Fantasy," Chinese Christian Church, Champaign, IL

### Tom Krawczyk

Feb 25 "Acceptance and Judgment in Romans 14-15," Cornerstone Christian Church, Effingham, IL.

### Joe Thomas

- Mar 5 Spoke at the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course at New City Church (Champaign) on "Pioneer Mission Leaders."
- Mar 28 Guest on Brian Barnhart's radio program "Penny for your Thoughts." Spoke on Good Friday and Easter.
- Apr 15, 17, 22, 24 Church Gap Program. Teaching on the book of Ephesians

## Faculty and Staff Publications

### Todd Daly

"A Response to Bill Cheshire's, 'What Difference Does It Make? A Neurologist's Perspective on What it Means to Be Human,'" *Dignitas Journal*, forthcoming.

Book Review of Will Willimon, *Aging: Growing Old in Church* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020), in *Ethics and Medicine: An International Journal of Bioethics*, forthcoming.

"Christian Ethics and the Ethical Ambiguities of Aging," *Ethicentre Newsletter* No. 24 (March 2024), Sydney, Australia. <https://www.ethicentre.com/>

### Joe Thomas

"Rugged Revival: Revivalism and the Cementing of Christian Identity on the American Frontier," *Christian History* magazine, Spring 2024. Available at christianhistoryinstitute.org

## URBANA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Want to find a Seminary event you missed or catch all the latest updates? Subscribe to Urbana Seminary's YouTube channel by visiting [youtube.com/@urbanaseminary7804](https://youtube.com/@urbanaseminary7804)

Our channel is a space for sharing talks from our recent events. Whether you missed the talks from this year's Spiritual Life Forum, All Campus Worship, or a recent Book Launch hosted by Urbana Seminary, we encourage you to visit our YouTube channel and subscribe.

When you subscribe and get notifications, you will be alerted when we post new content from our upcoming events. Check it out today!