

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

“We are no longer abandoned, homeless, lonely... God is living among us,” wrote German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer nearly one hundred years ago. What good news this is for us today – now, as we struggle to find sustaining connection and move forward?

In a recent article entitled, “The world is reopening. So why are more people lonely?” researcher David Lazer reports that levels of emotional isolation are even higher than they were in 2020.

And don't we, as individuals and a society, pay a painful price? Malice and disdain are current sicknesses of the soul (David French, 2021). Lower levels of interpersonal trust are linked to increased anxiety, depression and loneliness (Pew Research, 2021).

Theological Horizons: charting a path from here

Now more than ever, Theological Horizons addresses the very real spiritual and personal needs of our intergenerational, global community.

Wherever we witness struggle — in the lives of people: believers and seekers, students, parents, scholars, community and church people — we stand alongside, answering the deep collective longing for meaning, purpose, relationships, and a future. We cultivate this truth: God's grace is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12).

Surely God has prepared and fully equipped Theological

Horizons to offer the cool water of God's uniting presence to fiercely thirsty people.

Theological Horizons creates conversations, connection and community at the intersection of faith, thought and life.

Through dialogues, lectures, Bible studies, mentoring, fellowship, prayer and meditation, and everyday exchanges, Theological Horizons opens channels of trust,

understanding, closeness and renewed faith in one another – and in the God who is here, now, living among us.

But what a gift to know and to proclaim that I am never alone because the living God is present. “Jesus is Lord of the ages and is always with his own, even when things are difficult, and will abide with us; that is our comfort.” (Bonhoeffer)

As a friend of Theological Horizons, you give voice to our community of connection and hope.

Your financial gifts and your prayers bind us together, empowering each and every work, quite literally.

I want you to know that we are truly blessed through you. Because you stand with us as a beloved member of our community, the loneliness of our age subsides and our hearts are warmed by your presence, whether near or far.



With Overflowing Gratitude and Thanksgiving,

Karen Wright Marsh, Executive Director
Karen@theologicalhorizons.org



AUTUMN ABUNDANCE // FALL 2021

OUR MISSION

Theological Horizons supports Christians and seekers by providing a welcoming community for engaging faith, thought and life.

“We are nearly overwhelmed by the outpouring of God’s blessings, by the many mighty miracles discerned wherever we look. How can we fail to turn in praise and thankfulness to God, since God is truly the author of all blessings? Indeed, we make the best use of God’s continually streaming blessings when we praise God continually and give God thanks!”
(John Calvin, 16th century)

The season of Thanksgiving is upon us – even amidst moments of grief, anxiety or loneliness – with a call to recognize God’s streaming blessings, poured out continually for us. The newsletter you hold in your hands is evidence of the “many mighty miracles” we experience each day through Theological Horizons. YOU are one of God’s gifts to us – and so we give thanks!

Karen Wright Marsh, Executive Director
karen@theologicalhorizons.org



Growing in Wisdom: Vintage Lunch

theologicalhorizons.org/vintage

Each Friday 50+ students stream to the large white tent near the Rotunda, hungry for a nourishing lunch and the wisdom of faithful “Vintage” Christian guides. Thomas Merton, for one, teaches us the Wisdom of Gratitude: “We live in constant dependence upon the merciful kindness of the Father – so our whole life is a life of gratitude: a constant response to His help which comes to us at every moment.”

As you pray and provide for these meals, hear the words of gratitude from Victoria, a Fourth Year: “It is wonderful to reflect on brave and insightful men and women from history. I am refreshed by the probing, helpful questions about personal struggles, as well as your redirection to the hope we have in Christ. This is what Christian camaraderie looks like at all ages of life.”

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR YOU AND YOURS

theologicalhorizons.org/dialogues

Seeking inspiration for your Thanksgiving table? Gather friends and family to watch a recent Spark Talk from our Deeper Dialogues @UVA series – with topics ranging from HOPE and RESILIENCE to INSPIRATION and FORGIVENESS — then begin your own conversation about the things in life that matter.



“UNFINISHED: The Wisdom of the Generative Self” with Dr. Kate Bowler

theologicalhorizons.org/katebowler

“So often the experiences that define us are the ones we didn’t pick,” writes Kate Bowler in her new book, *No Cure For Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, wise and wry reflections on living in the face of uncertainty. Bowler debunks the hollow clichés that she has heard too often: to seize the day, live in the present, work on a bucket list. “Facing the past,” she counters, “is part of facing the future.”

Bowler brings her hard-won insights to UVA’s Old Cabell Hall with the inaugural Scoper Lecture in Christian Thought, “UNFINISHED: The Wisdom of the Generative Self,” at 4:00pm on Sunday, April 3rd, 2022. On Monday morning, April 4th, we will convene a panel of local medical, faculty and pastoral leaders for a conversation with Dr. Bowler on Wisdom and Wellness.

To learn more and receive an invitation to these events, email:
katebowler@theologicalhorizons.org.

About Kate Bowler

Kate Bowler, PhD, is a New York Times bestselling author, and podcast host, and professor at Duke University. After being unexpectedly diagnosed with Stage IV cancer at age 35, she penned the memoir *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I’ve Loved)*. She lives in Durham, North Carolina with her family.



**ALL ARE WELCOME.
ALWAYS.**

theologicalhorizons.org

We are heartened to see Theological Horizons evolve in wonderfully unexpected ways during the pandemic. Our view of ministry expanded online, to embrace anyone anywhere, around the globe -- including *you*.

Weekly Vintage Lunches are livestreamed and archived at facebook.com/theologicalhorizons, with readings at theologicalhorizons.org/vintage.

Join a Saints of the City gathering or participate in a virtual Deeper Dialogue@UVA at UVA. Start your own *Vintage Saints and Sinners* book club with our small group guides. Watch on social media for impromptu events, too.

Celebrating Emerging Theologians

theologicalhorizons.org/goodwin-prize

The Louise and Richard Goodwin Writing Prizes for Excellence in Theological Writing are generously funded by Carey and Frank Louthan and recognize upcoming scholars in the theological field who demonstrate creative theological thinking, excellence in scholarship, engagement with the Christian tradition, and commitment to the well-being of the church. We are proud to announce the 2021 winners:

- Clare Kemmerer of Yale Institute of Sacred Music studies medieval tapestry to illuminate questions of culture and belief;
- Ryan Duerr of the University of Dayton constructs a unique approach to eco-theology;
- Chengyuan (Rene) Guo of Yale Divinity School writes on the theology of First Generation Chinese Americans.

Meet the winners and learn more about their essays on our website.



COMING UP

theologicalhorizons.org/events

- November 4 @ 6pm | "A Sojourner's Truth: Choosing Freedom and Courage in a Divided World" with Natasha Sistrunk Robinson | live in the Dome Room of the Rotunda, livestreamed on Facebook and post-event video available
- Each Friday @ 1pm | Vintage Lunches | in person and livestreamed
- Nov 28 - Dec 25 | Advent with Theological Horizons | weekly email series
- February 10 @ 12:30pm | Faith & Work Forum with Nicole Thorne Jenkins, Dean of the UVA McIntire School of Commerce | in person
- Feb 17 @ 5:30pm | Deeper Dialogues @UVA with Ian Solomon, Dean of the Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy | in person
- March 1 @ 12:30pm | Kate Bowler Book Club | on Zoom
- March 1 @ 8:00pm | Kate Bowler Book Club | on Zoom
- Apr 3 @ 4:00pm | "UNFINISHED: The Wisdom of the Generative Self", Scoper Lecture in Christian Thought with Kate Bowler | in person and livestreamed

To learn more and join us, email info@theologicalhorizons.org

FOLLOW OUR CALENDAR AT:
[WWW.THEOLOGICALHORIZONS.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.theologicalhorizons.org/events)

Faith & Work Forum with Dr. Nicole Jenkins

theologicalhorizons.org/faithandworkforum

Save the date: February 10, 2022! Meet Nicole Thorne Jenkins, Dean of the UVA McIntire School of Commerce, as she investigates the interplay between her own faith, work, and life in conversation with Fourth Year Commerce School student Alice Opiyo. This longstanding series of powerful exchanges presents thought leaders from across a wide range of vocations with an invitation to share their most authentic stories about the pursuit of a meaningful, purpose-driven life. We have seen fruitful mentoring and networking relationships come out of these gatherings. To allow for the utmost candor and vulnerability, these events are in-person only (not recorded).

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GIVING

Growing in Gratitude

Support Theological Horizons this season of giving with an impactful gift to our ministry. Now more than ever, your generosity equips us for the critical work of creating connection and community at the intersection of faith, thought and life. While this has been such a challenging time, especially for nonprofits, by the grace of God our ministry continues to soar and grow. We thank you for your sustaining provision.

Theological Horizons (EIN 581594037) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit ministry. All donations are tax deductible.

WAYS TO GIVE GENEROSITY'S FINEST HOUR

ONLINE

www.theologicalhorizons.org/giving

UVA FUND

Online at www.theologicalhorizons.org/giving
or make a check out to the "UVA Fund" and mail it to:
PO Box 400314, Charlottesville, VA 22904
(Write "#FAA288 Theological Horizons" in the memo.)

MAIL

Make a check out to "Theological Horizons" and mail it to:
1841 University Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903

VENMO

@theological-horizons

STOCK/MUTUAL FUND SHARES

Transfer stock electronically to the Theological Horizons account. For further instructions, email info@theologicalhorizons.org

PLANNED GIVING

Let us know of your intentions by emailing info@theologicalhorizons.org

WWW.THEOLOGICALHORIZONS.ORG/GIVING



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