

Schedule

Christians and the Disinherited: Toward the Next 100 Years of Ecumenical Ministry

FRIDAY

September 6

8:30 a.m. Registration

Gallery

9 a.m. Welcome and opening worship
See separate opening worship bulletin

Alford Centrum

10:15 a.m. Opening plenary

Alford Centrum

Speaker: Sarah Lancaster, professor in the Werner Chair of Theology, MTSO

Responders: Bishop Abraham D. Allende, Northeastern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Dan Clark, director, Ohio Faith in Public Life; Marcia Dinkins, executive director, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light; David Long-Higgins, transitional conference minister, Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ; Bishop Marvin F. Thomas Sr., Second Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and president of the Ohio Council of Churches Governing Board

Noon Lunch A/Breakouts B

1:15 p.m. Lunch B/Breakouts A

All three workshops listed below will be offered at both noon and 1:15; please choose one session to attend in Gault Hall and join others in Dunn Dining Hall for lunch at the opposite time.

**Howard Thurman's Footprints of a Dream:
How to Fellowship with All Peoples**

Gault Hall 140

Tejai Beulah, coordinator of educational partnerships and Black Church and African Diaspora specialization, MTSO

**Ancient Christian Resources
for Confronting Mass Incarceration**

Gault Hall 133

Ryan Schellenberg, associate professor of New Testament, MTSO

The Interrelatedness of Patriarchal Language and Racism
Amariah McIntosh, pastor, Phillips Temple Church

Gault Hall 145

- 2:15 p.m. Spiritual practices, respite, farm and campus tour
- If you are interested in a tour of the farm, please meet Tim Van Meter in the Gallery (where registration took place). Otherwise, feel free to walk the paths, sit by the pond, read in the library area, network with others or just rest.*
- 3:15 p.m. Workshops
- Breaking the Chains of Slavery and Racial Bias** Gault Hall 145
 Bill Wayson, professor emeritus, Department of Educational Policy and Leadership, Ohio State University;
 Cheryl Cattledge, CEO, CopyCat Productions
- Sanctuary Churches, Sanctuary People** Gault Hall 140
 Joel Miller, lead pastor, Columbus Mennonite Church
- Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival** Gault Hall 133
 Erica N. Williams, national social justice organizer,
 Repairers of the Breach
- 4:30 p.m. Regathering Alford Centrum
- Convener: Valerie Bridgeman, dean and vice president for academic affairs, MTSO
- Proclamation: State Rep. David Leland
- 5 p.m. Dinner on your own
- 7 p.m. Ohio Council of Churches 100th Anniversary Alford Centrum
- Welcome: Jack Sullivan Jr., executive director, Ohio Council of Churches
- Awards: The Ecumenical Flame
 Given to those whose ecumenical “fire in their bones” is leading them to give bold, impactful ecumenical leadership while witnessing for justice and peace
- Amy Gopp, pastor, United Church of Kent
- Jason Thompson, senior pastor,
 West Park United Church of Christ
- 7:30 p.m. Keynote address by Leonard Pitts Jr. Alford Centrum
 Ann Fisher, moderator
- Being Woke in a White World:
 Things People of Color Wish Other Americans Knew**



Bios

Christians and the Disinherited: Toward the Next 100 Years of Ecumenical Ministry

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Leonard Pitts Jr. has worked as a columnist, a college professor, a radio producer and a lecturer. But those are just the job titles. If you ask him what he does – what he is – he'll tell you he is a writer.

Millions of people are glad he is. They read him every week in one of the most popular newspaper columns in the country. Many more have come to know him through a series of critically acclaimed books, including his latest, a novel of race, faith and World War II called *The Last Thing You Surrender*.

Pitts' stubborn devotion to the art and craft of words has yielded many awards, chief among them the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

But that was only the capstone of a career filled with prizes for literary excellence. In 1997, Pitts took first place for commentary in division four (newspapers with a circulation of over 300,000) in the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors' Ninth Annual Writing Awards competition. He is a three-time recipient of the National Association of Black Journalists' Award of Excellence, and was chosen NABJ's 2008 Journalist of the Year. He is a five-time recipient of the Atlantic City Press Club's National Headliners Award and a seven-time recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists' Green Eyeshade Award.

In 2001, he received the American Society of Newspaper Editors prestigious Award For Commentary Writing and was named Feature of the Year in the column writing division by Editor and Publisher magazine. In 2002, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists awarded Pitts its inaugural Columnist of the Year award; in 2016, it named him to its Hall of Fame. In 2002 and in 2009, GLAAD Media awarded Pitts the Outstanding Newspaper Columnist award. In 2017, he was awarded the prestigious Missouri Honor Medal for "distinguished service to journalism." He has received four honorary doctorates.

Pitts' work has made him an in-demand lecturer. He maintains a rigorous speaking schedule that has taken him to colleges, civic groups and professional associations all over the country. He has also taught at a number of institutions of higher learning, including Hampton University, Ohio University, the University of Maryland, and Virginia Commonwealth University. In the fall of 2011, he was a visiting professor at Princeton, teaching a course in writing about race.

Twice each week, millions of newspaper readers around the country seek out his rich and uncommonly resonant voice. In a word, he connects with them. Nowhere was this demonstrated more forcefully than in the response to his initial column on the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Pitts' column, "We'll Go Forward from This Moment," an angry and defiant open letter to the terrorists, circulated the globe via the Internet. It generated upwards of 30,000 emails, and has since been set to music, reprinted in poster form, read on television by Regis Philbin and quoted by Congressman Richard Gephardt as part of the Democratic Party's weekly radio address.

Leonard Pitts was born and raised in Southern California. He was awarded a degree in English from the University of Southern California at the age of 19, having entered school at 15 on a special honors program. Since 1995, he and his wife have lived in Bowie, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

Ann Fisher is host and executive producer of *All Sides with Ann Fisher* on WOSU. Fisher joined WOSU in 2009 after nearly 30 years in the newspaper business. A native of Michigan, she earned a B.S. in journalism at Michigan State University. She has covered politics, public affairs, culture, media and business over the course of her career.

Fisher started out at her hometown newspaper, *The Grand Rapids Press*, before moving to Ohio in 1987 to join *The Blade* in Toledo as a feature writer. In 1989, she transferred to *The Blade's* Columbus bureau to cover state government and politics. In 1997, Fisher joined *The Columbus Dispatch* and covered the Appalachia region of the state for a year before joining the newspaper's editorial board. She returned to news in 1999 as state editor. In 2005, she became the *Dispatch* metro columnist.

Fisher moved to Ohio for work. She stayed because she loves Central Ohio and its people.

SESSION LEADERS

Tejai Beulah is the coordinator of educational partnerships and the Black Church and African Diaspora Studies specialization at MTSO, where she teaches courses in African American religious history. She earned her Ph.D. from Drew University and is co-chair of the Anti-Racism Task Force at MTSO.

Valerie Bridgeman is dean, vice president for academic affairs and associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible at MTSO. She has a Ph.D. in biblical studies with a concentration in Hebrew Bible from Baylor University (2002), M.Div. from Austin Theological Seminary (1990; Distinguished Alumna Award, 2018), and a BA from Trinity University (1986). She is founder, president and CEO of WomanPreach! Inc.

Bridgeman has taught preaching/homiletics, liturgy and biblical studies for over 20 years. Licensed in 1977 and ordained in 1985, she is a dedicated preacher, biblical scholar, visionary and artist. Her experience includes decades of preaching, pastoring, leading workshops, mentoring, writing, and creating art that has inspired generations of clergy, community leaders and artists.

Cheryl D. Cattledge is the co-leader of the African American Heritage Institute Ministry at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Columbus. She is also CEO of CopyCat Productions LLC, a Christian entertainment and educational company organized for children's spiritual development. She has retired from federal government employment as a civil rights worker with 25 years of experience.

Cattledge held the positions of fair housing investigator for Housing and Urban Development and civil rights program manager for Federal Highway Administration. Additional employment included two municipalities in her native state of Indiana. In Muncie, she held the positions of neighborhood planner and personnel director, and for the town of Munster, she was the administrative assistant to the town manager.

Cattledge is a 1980 graduate of Ball State University with a BS in political science. She successfully completed numerous trainings related to civil rights and nondiscrimination, including Titles VI, VII and VIII and the Americans with Disabilities Act. She is a licensed real estate broker and investor. Currently, she is spearheading the Ohio Council of Churches initiative "Breaking The Chain of Slavery And Racial Bias!" to assist churches in addressing America's original sin of slavery.

She can be reached at ccattledge@insight.rr.com.



Sarah Lancaster is a professor in the Werner Chair of Theology at MTSO. She has been a faculty member teaching theology at MTSO since 1997. She earned her Ph.D. and the M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Lancaster is also an elder in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. She has served the United Methodist Church ecumenically as a participant in the bilateral dialogue with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and on the World Methodist Council bilateral dialogue with the Anglican Communion. From 2006 to 2014 she was a member of the Standing Commission of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. During her time on the commission, she served as co-moderator of the working group that produced the convergence text *The Church Towards a Common Vision*. This past summer, Lancaster has been finishing a project for the critical edition of John Wesley's Works on Wesley's materials that were written in response to the Moravians in England.

Amariah McIntosh has committed her life to ministry over the past 37 years, 27 as pastor. She has pastored CME congregations in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. She is currently the pastor of the Phillips Temple Church in Toledo.

McIntosh has always been involved in the communities in which she's pastored. She served as president of the Campbellsville, Kentucky, Ministerial Alliance and as a board member of the Paducah NAACP, and was involved in interfaith and ecumenical circles in Kentucky and Indiana. She also served as an executive board member of the Kentucky Council of Churches and the chair of the Council's Justice and Advocacy Commission.

McIntosh is currently a Governing Board member of the Ohio Council of Churches. A Louisville Seminary alum (M.Div. '01, D.Min. '14) McIntosh was the first African-American to serve as the seminary's student body president. Her work with Louisville Seminary also includes service on the Strategic Planning Committee, Alum Board and Presidential Search Committee. She is currently a member of the Black Church Studies Advisory Committee and the President's Roundtable.

Joel Miller is the lead pastor of Columbus Mennonite Church. He is a graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and previously pastored in Cincinnati. Along with Columbus Mennonite's sanctuary efforts with Edith Espinal, he currently serves on the Mennonite Jewish Relations Task Force for Mennonite Church USA and is active in BREAD, an interfaith justice ministry of Franklin County.

Miller and his wife, Abbie have three school-age daughters: Eve, Lily and Ila. He enjoys running and biking around Columbus and remodeling old houses.

Ryan Schellenberg is an associate professor of New Testament MTSO, where he has been a faculty member since 2015. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, his Master of Arts in New Testament at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, and his BA at Canadian Mennonite University.

Schellenberg has conducted extensive research on Paul's life and work. His areas of expertise also include the social history of early Christianity, the books of Luke and Acts, and the parables of Jesus. He has been published in *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Journal of Theological Studies* and *New Testament Studies*. His current book project, under contract with Oxford University Press, is titled *Abject Joy: Paul, Prison, and the Art of Making Do*.



Jack Sullivan Jr. is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). On Jan. 1, 2019, he began ministry as executive director of the Columbus-based Ohio Council of Churches, the 100-year-old ecumenical agency linking 17 denominations in Ohio as a sign of Christian unity, mutual support and shared public witness.

An internationally known speaker, social justice advocate, ecumenist and death penalty abolitionist, Sullivan is president of the Governing Board of Ohioans to Stop Executions; co-president of the Disciples Justice Action Network; a member of the National Action Network; and a member of the governing bodies of the national men's ministry EcuMentors; the Ohio Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); the Ohio Poor People's Campaign, and Journey of Hope: From Violence to Healing, a national anti-death penalty organization. His anti-death penalty activism stems from his interest in ending cycles of violence, a concern he has known all too well after the 1997 murder of his sister, Jennifer, in Cleveland.

Sullivan is a native of Cleveland and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in interpersonal communication from Ohio University; a Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary, where he is an adjunct professor; and a Doctor of Ministry degree in economic and social justice from United Theological Seminary, where he studied with Otis Moss Jr. and the late Samuel DeWitt Proctor. In recognition of his social justice and anti-death penalty efforts, Sullivan was given the 2018 African American Liberation Award from the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Bill Wayson is chairing a Conversation for Racial Justice at Liberty Presbyterian Church in Delaware, Ohio. He is also professor emeritus in the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership at Ohio State University. He constantly searches for practices and processes that characterize good schools that serve all students.

Wayson's post-retirement professional consultation experience includes coordinating continuing assessment for 600 schools funded by the Ohio Department of Education; leading a team working with Kankakee, Illinois, schools to develop capacity to teach self-discipline; and providing technical assistance and evaluation for nine schools funded by the Melville Corp. and 11 schools funded by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation to better educate at-risk students.

A graduate of the University of Chicago (Ph.D. '66) and Miami University (M.A. '57; B.S. '56), Wayson has been a teacher, twice a principal, a parent of five children and a niece, a department chairperson, a candidate for school board membership in Columbus, Ohio, a project director (several times), director of urban education, director of personnel and organization development, a researcher, an author, a radio talk-show guest, host of a televised science class, and a lecturer and workshop director in over 300 venues.

He can be reached at wwayson@columbus.rr.com.

Erica N. Williams is an international faith leader, organizer, scholar-activist and community leader who serves with head and heart. She is a 2016 graduate of the Howard University School of Divinity. Currently, Williams serves as a national social justice organizer for Repairers of the Breach, a social justice organization founded William J. Barber II. She is also serving as one of the lead organizers for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Rev. Erica has dedicated her life to liberating those that are marginalized and oppressed, and her life's mission is summed up in the Social Gospel passage of Luke 4:18-19.



Opening Worship

Christians and the Disinherited: Toward the Next 100 Years of Ecumenical Ministry

Prelude

Danny Russell

Welcome

Jay Rundell
President
MTSO

Jack Sullivan Jr.
Executive Director
Ohio Council of Churches

* Morning Worship Song

"As the Deer"

FWS 2025

*Call to Worship

Valerie Bridgeman
Dean
MTSO

One: Holy one of all the Universe,

All: We come to worship today longing for your kin-dom.

One: In this hour of worship, enlighten us with your word.

All: Inspire us with stirring songs that enfold us in your community.

One: Renew our commitment to peace, justice and service.

All: Fill us with a vision so strong that we will go from here dedicating ourselves anew to building up Christ's body in gentleness, with patience and love.

* Morning Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

UMH 64

Morning Prayer

Cassie Oliver, MTSO student

Unison: Eternal God, it is your voice we long to hear thundering into our lives, mighty and powerful. Your voice of wisdom, instructing us. Your voice of justice, inspiring us. Your voice of hope, encouraging us. Your voice of love, calling for our response. Still small voice, speak to us this hour that we might become makers of peace in our homes, in our communities and in our broken world. Inspire those who seek your wisdom. Energize those who are weak. Fill our hearts with your praise and lead us in holiness this hour and all the hours to come.

Scripture Reading

John 17: 20-21
Luke 10: 17-19

Brandi N. Slaughter
Public Policy Associate
Ohio Council of Churches

Sermon

May They Also Be In Us

Jake Cunliffe
Student
Yale Divinity School

Prayers of Intercession

Amariah McIntosh
Pastor
Phillips Temple CME Church

Sending Song

“Song of Hope”

FWS 2186

Benediction

Jake Cunliffe

Postlude

*Stand in body or spirit.

FWS denotes The Faith We Sing.

UMH denotes The United Methodist Hymnal.

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Jake Cunliffe is the winner of the Ohio Council of Churches sermon/essay contest specifically designed to celebrate today, the 100th anniversary of the Ohio Council of Churches. Cunliffe is a lifelong Anglican who grew up in the United Kingdom and is now a seminarian at Yale Divinity School preparing for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. He has worshiped at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus for nearly four years and has a Masters in Theology from the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh. Until recently, he was head of community ministry at Trinity and chair of the (Episcopal) Diocese of Southern Ohio’s Death Penalty Taskforce.

