



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns Online

December 14, 2022 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

Lilly Endowment Grant to Union will provide a bridge for early career preachers.

*The \$1 million grant will address the unique gap
between formal theological education and the early years of preaching ministry.*

Richmond, VA—Pastors in their first years of ministry face steep challenges. The week-to-week work of preaching requires significant time. Congregants and communities are shifting in their members' ages and cultural demographics. The rise of digital technologies raises questions about how ministers can best meet the needs of their church in worship. Addressing social issues from the pulpit is difficult. Studies show that within the first five years, ministers drop out at a high rate. How do we continue forming leaders and transforming the church?

With a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., Union Presbyterian Seminary will fill the unique gap between formal theological education and the early years of preaching ministry. As part of the Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative, a new program will offer a path to nurture and support 120 early career pastors over five years to develop their voices for faithful, imaginative, intelligent, energetic, and loving proclamation. *Continued*



Lill Endowment Grant, *continued.*

The Bridge is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative. Union Presbyterian Seminary is one of 32 organizations receiving funding in an invitational round of grants for the initiative, which is designed to help Christian pastors strengthen their abilities to proclaim the gospel in more engaging and effective ways.

By providing multiple levels of support to navigate the changing congregational dynamics faced by new religious leaders, the Seminary's 210 years of service will be strengthened by the Bridge program. According to Richard W. Voelz, Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary, "The Compelling Preaching Initiative will help us provide focused support for leaders who are in their early years of preaching ministry."

What makes preaching resonate? The Bridge will help early career preachers by focusing on four key areas. First, a *compelling message*, which involves diverse listeners. Early career ministers desire to know their congregation and community so they can preach a relevant message. *Compelling momentum*, which addresses how people are moved to action on significant social issues, is far different in congregations than in classrooms. Thirdly, *compelling media* includes fostering digital engagement before, during, or after sermons. Finally, *compelling mentoring* relates to professional coaching and peer groups to build supportive relationships.

The Bridge will include a new 24-person cohort annually over five years. Programs include quarterly half-day workshops for busy pastors juggling multiple responsibilities. Small group peer coaching, along with professional consultations on building robust engagement via digital technology, will further develop personal relationships for those in their critical first years of congregational ministry. Cohort members will gather for an annual conference. Regular webinars will engage a wider public audience beyond those who participate in cohorts. Through the Bridge, participants will find new resources and a community that seeks to sustain them beyond their first years in ministry.

OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS



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calvin and hobbes



MUSIC NOTES FOR DECEMBER 18

This Sunday, we will sing the beloved hymn *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*. The tune, known as "Est ist ein Ros entsprungen," was composed by an unknown author before the 17th century, and was first published in 1599. A decade later, German composer, organist and musical theorist **Michael Praetorius** (1571-1621) composed the now familiar harmonization.



Members of the Seneca Nation.

As noted by the professional men's choir **Chanticleer**, the familiar carol juxtaposes the warm joy of the miraculous birth against the cold austerity of the simple manger scene. As for the Virgin Mary herself, scripture tells us that she is the tender root from which the 'spotless rose' has come. The poem draws upon biblical imagery that pictures the newborn Christ growing forth from the "stem of Jesse" (the father of King David), as foretold in Isaiah 11. (In metaphorical writings of the Middle Ages, the patriarchal figure of Jesse was often depicted as a rose bush.)

The text was translated by **Theodore Baker**, an American musicologist who published the first scholarly work on the music of Native Americans. To research his book, Baker lived with the Seneca tribe in New York state, where he was initiated as a member of the tribe and given unprecedented access to resources for his study.



Chanticleer.

WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE: MICAH 5: 2-5

PSALM 80:1-7

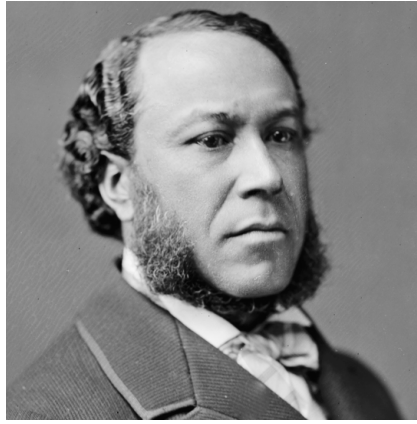
ROMANS 1:1-7

SERMON: THE GIFT.

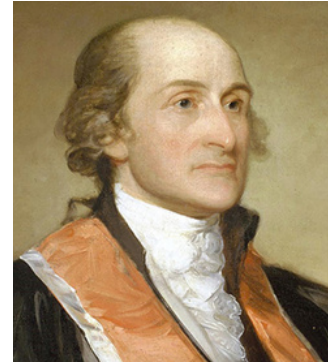
This Week in History.



The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England to St. John's, Newfoundland.
December 11, 1901



Joseph Hayne Rainey of Georgia becomes the first African-American in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected to fill a vacant South Carolina seat, he would serve until 1879.
December 12, 1870



John Jay is born in New York City. He was a diplomat, co-authored *The Federalist Papers*, and served as the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.
December 12, 1745



The Council of Trent is convened by Pope Paul III to address the rise of Protestantism, and institutional corruption within the Church.
December 13, 1545



Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, consort of Queen Victoria, dies of typhoid at Windsor Castle. The Queen was so devastated that she entered into a deep state of mourning, wearing black for the rest of her life
December 14, 1861



European Union leaders announced their new common currency would be known as the *Euro*.
December 15, 1995



Oliver Cromwell is declared Lord Protector of England, following the defeat of King Charles I by Parliamentary forces in the English Civil War.
December 16, 1653



Pope Paul III excommunicates King Henry VIII after he declared himself supreme head of the Church in England.
December 17, 1538