

October 4, 2023 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

Grants will support innovative programs to strengthen preaching

Lilly Endowment Inc. has approved \$95 million in grants to 81 organizations

Indianapolis — Lilly Endowment Inc. has approved grants to 81 organizations through its Compelling Preaching Initiative to help Christian pastors strengthen their abilities to proclaim the gospel in more engaging and effective ways. The initiative's aim is to foster and support preaching that inspires, encourages and guides people to come to know and love God and to live out their Christian faith more fully.

The grants, which total more than \$95 million and range from \$275,400 to \$1.25 million each, were awarded in a competitive second round of the initiative to organizations that represent a broad spectrum of Christian traditions in the United States. They include mainline Protestant, evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox, Anabaptist and Pentecostal faith communities. Many organizations are rooted in the Black Church and in Hispanic and Asian American Christian traditions.



Grant-funded programs will strengthen preaching in a variety of ways, including:

- Helping preachers reach and engage increasingly diverse audiences both within and beyond congregations.
- Hosting educational opportunities for preachers to learn and share best practices for effective communication.
- Supporting pastors and lay leaders as they preach about issues of growing importance to younger generations.
- Helping pastors and others in ministry acknowledge and navigate polarization within congregations and communities in their preaching.
- Helping congregations develop feedback groups to provide preachers with ongoing insights about how their sermons are being received.
- Inviting young people into experiences of preaching that may help them discern potential callings to ministry.
- Helping preachers communicate effectively with audiences through digital technologies and new media.
- Developing and curating resources about effective preaching.

continued

Lilly Endowment, continued

“Since the earliest days of Christianity, preaching has played a key role in communicating the good news of God’s love and nourishing the spiritual lives of Christians and their communities,” said Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment’s vice president for religion. “Throughout history, preachers often have needed to adapt their preaching practices to engage new generations of hearers more effectively. We are pleased that the organizations receiving grants in this initiative will help pastors and others in ministry engage in the kinds of preaching needed today to ensure that the gospel message is heard and accessible for all audiences.”

Grant-funded organizations include theological schools, faith-affiliated colleges and universities, congregations, media organizations, denominational agencies and other church networks. Find a list of the organizations [here](#).

In 2022, the Endowment made grants to 32 organizations across the nation in an invitational round of the initiative. Also in 2022, the Endowment made a grant to Calvin University in support of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, which leads a coordination program to encourage shared learning and collaboration among organizations funded through both rounds of the initiative.

The Compelling Preaching Initiative reflects the Endowment’s longstanding interest in supporting projects that help nurture the religious lives of individuals and families and foster the growth and vitality of Christian congregations in the United States.

About Lilly Endowment

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. In keeping with the founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. A principal aim of the Endowment’s religion grantmaking is to deepen and enrich the lives of Christians in the United States, primarily by seeking out and supporting efforts that enhance the vitality of congregations and strengthen the pastoral and lay leadership of Christian communities. The Endowment also seeks to improve public understanding of diverse religious traditions by supporting fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the United States and across the globe.

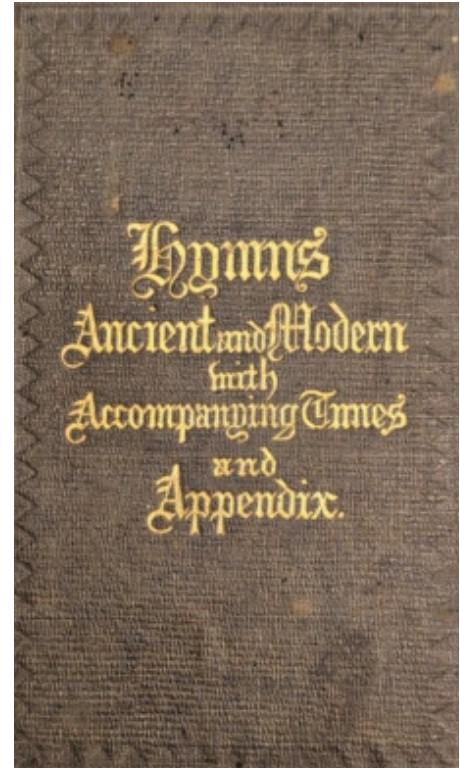
OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS

CLICK ON THE LOGOS



Music Notes for October 8

The opening hymn for this week's Pentecost XIX service is *When Morning Gilds the Skies*, known by the tune name LAUDES DOMINI. Joseph Barnaby (1838-1896) composed the music for the hymn, which was published in 1868 in the Appendix to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Barnaby held his first position as organist/choirmaster when he was but twelve years old. Barnaby developed choral program at various churches, performing monumental works including both the St. John Passion and St. Matthew Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach. Queen Victoria knighted Barnaby in 1892 for his musical service to the British Empire.



The closing hymn will be *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*. The American folk tune, titled LAND OF REST, was known throughout Appalachia due to the 1844 publication *The Sacred Harp*. When Annabelle M. Buchanan (1888-1983) was a child, she heard her grandmother sing the song. Buchanan harmonized the melody and published it in 1938 in her collection, *Folk Hymns of America*. Buchanan studied at the Landon Conservatory, Dallas, Texas, and the Guilman Organ School in New York City. She taught at several colleges, including Stonewall Jackson College in Abingdon, Virginia. Buchanan was a renowned musicologist of American folk music. She published numerous articles on folk traditions of Appalachia and gave lectures on and recitals of folk music.

[Click on the pic!](#)



First Fridays, which showcases a historic pipe organ, returns to First Presbyterian...

Mark your calendars, First Fridays is returning to First Presbyterian Church in October after its summer hiatus.

WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

PSALM 80: 7-19

MATTHEW 21: 33-46

SERMON: 'THE GOD WHO NEVER GIVES UP.'



The poster is framed by various watercolor illustrations of autumn-themed elements. At the top left are several large, vibrant orange and red leaves. To their right are smaller yellow leaves and a cluster of dark red berries. Further right is a branch with two acorns. At the top right is a cluster of bright orange berries. On the left side, there are more clusters of purple and red berries. On the right side, there is a single large orange leaf and a cluster of orange mushrooms. At the bottom, there are more autumn leaves, including a large orange maple leaf, and clusters of purple berries and yellow leaves.

BETTER TOGETHER

Bible Study

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 9**

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

1:00-2:00 p.m.

**COME OUT AND JOIN
WESTMINSTER'S DCE, JOHN TINDALL,
AND EXPLORE TOGETHER
THE GREAT STORIES
AND THEMES OF THE BIBLE.**

This Week in History.



The Ford Model T, generally regarded as the first mass-affordable automobile, goes on sale. By 1927, at least fifteen million Model Ts had been produced.

OCTOBER 1, 1908



President Gerald Ford welcomes Japanese Emperor **Hirohito** to a State Dinner at the White House, his first visit to the United States.

OCTOBER 2, 1975



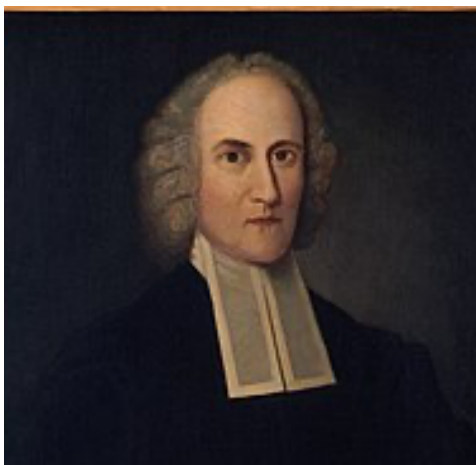
Frank Robinson is hired by the Cleveland Indians, becoming Major League Baseball's first African American manager.

OCTOBER 3, 1974



Pope Gregory XIII issues a decree declaring Thursday, October 4, 1582, would become Friday, October 15, 1582, correcting the 10-day discrepancy caused by the ancient Julian Calendar. Originally implemented only in the Catholic countries of Europe, the **Gregorian Calendar** would be widely adopted over the next 300 years; Britain and the American colonies adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1752.

OCTOBER 4, 1582



Theologian Jonathan Edwards is born in East Windsor, Connecticut. He led the "Great Awakening" religious revival in the American colonies and later became president of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University.

OCTOBER 5, 1703



The Jazz Singer, starring Al Jolson opens in New York - the first full-length feature film using spoken dialogue.

OCTOBER 6, 1927



The German Democratic Republic came into existence in East Germany. Dominated by Soviet Russia, it lasted until German reunification in 1990.

OCTOBER 7, 1949