

Past Hamilton Series Keynote Speakers and Composers

April 19, 2026: “Let’s Talk Neurodiversity and Faith”

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, minister for disabilities and mental health justice for the United Church of Christ and senior pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Indianapolis. She is also the author of “Blessed Minds: Breaking the Silence About Neurodiversity.” Her sermon was entitled “Resurrected Minds.”

Keynote Speaker: Daniel Bowman, Jr., autistic author of the acclaimed memoir “On the Spectrum: Autism, Faith, and the Gifts of Neurodiversity,” and associate professor of English at Taylor University.

Special Music: Jubilate of the Indianapolis Children’s Choir. Its members are singers with special needs in grades three through nine (or equivalent). They sang the African-American spiritual “Peace Like a River” and L.A. Starkey’s “When I Sing.”

Nov. 16, 2025: “Minority Women’s Health”

Guest Preacher: Bishop Tracy Smith Malone of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Katey Zeh, an ordained Baptist minister and the chief executive officer of the Religious Community for Reproductive Choice.

Special Music: The women of the Cathedral Singers and members of the Indianapolis Women’s Chorus presented the world premiere of “The Song She Is Singing” by local composer Penny Rodriguez. The offertory anthem, “Song of Miriam” by Elaine Hagenberg, was sung by members of the Indianapolis Women’s Chorus.

Nov. 10, 2024: “The Front Porch Factor: Let’s Talk Housing”

Guest Preacher: Rev. John Edgar, author of “A Front Porch for All People,” former executive director of Community Development for All People in Columbus, Ohio, and founding pastor of the United Methodist Church for All People in Columbus, Ohio.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Fran Quigley, Indiana University McKinney School of Law.

Panelists: Professor Quigley, Rev. Edgar and David Bacon (interim ceo of the Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corp.), moderated by John Hamilton (mayor of

Bloomington, Ind. and former secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration).

Nov. 11-12, 2023

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jeremy Begbie, Duke Divinity School and the University of Cambridge, "Why Should *Music* Matter to People of Faith?"

Composers:

- * Craig Courtney, "You Make the Sun to Rise"
- * Reginal Wright, "Canticle of Praise!"

Oct. 8-9, 2022

Keynote Speaker: Timothy Eberhart, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, "Paganus Christianity: Recovering Our Spiritual Ties to the Land."

Composers:

- * Justine Koontz, "The Waters of Isaiah"
- * Mark Hayes, "River of Peace"

2021: No program due to COVID-19.

2020: No program due to COVID-19.

May 5, 2019

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Serene Jones, Union Theological Seminary, "What's Grace Got to Do With it?"