



# CandlerNEWS



SEPTEMBER 2025

## **Candler Welcomes Largest Incoming Class in 10 Years**

Candler officially celebrated the start of its 111th academic year on August 28 with Fall Convocation in Cannon Chapel. In his opening remarks, Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean **Jonathan Strom** welcomed new faculty, staff, and students—noting that the incoming class is Candler’s largest in over a decade. [Learn more about the school’s innovative and intentional work to make a world-class theological education accessible to more students.](#)

## **Candler Exceeds 2036 Campaign Goal, Raises \$107.8 Million**

Candler School of Theology has raised over \$107.8 million as part of Emory University’s 2036 fundraising campaign, well exceeding the school’s original goal of \$85 million and helping to propel the university past its total overall goal. Candler’s fundraising efforts aimed to influence the school’s future by expanding financial aid offerings, augmenting faculty support, funding research initiatives, and establishing new pathways to theological education. [Learn more about the impact of the campaign.](#)

## **Foundry 'Back in the Classroom' Series Geared Toward Alumni**

Candler's public theological education initiative, The Candler Foundry, is partnering with the Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement to host "Back in the Classroom," a new series of short online courses taught by Candler faculty and emeriti professors. The slate includes courses by **Teresa Fry Brown** (October), **Noel Erskine** (February), and **Luke Timothy Johnson** (May). Candler alumni can receive \$15 off the course fee by entering the discount code CANDLER15 at checkout. [Learn more about the three courses offered.](#)

## **BRIDGE 'Mini-Grants' to Support Young Adult Ministry in Atlanta**

Candler's BRIDGE Young Adult Innovation Hub will launch a new "mini-grant" program this fall designed to foster innovative ministry for and with young adults. Applications are open through November 7 for metro Atlanta churches interested in developing new approaches to engage community members in their 20s. [Learn more about the new BRIDGE mini-grant program.](#)

## **Candler to Celebrate 'Nuestra Herencia,' Hispanic-Latine Heritage Month**

The Candler community will celebrate Hispanic-Latine Heritage Month with events in September and October, beginning with a [Sept. 18 chapel service](#) with distinguished guest preacher **Lydia Muñoz**, director of The United Methodist Church's National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries. [Stay tuned for more information on additional events](#) celebrating "Nuestra Herencia" ("Our Heritage") during Hispanic-Latine Heritage Month.

## **Sarah Coakley to Probe Mysticism in October McDonald Lectures**

**Sarah Coakley**, Anglican priest and Norris-Hulse Professor Emerita at Cambridge University, is Candler's 2025-2026 Alonzo L. McDonald Family Chair on The Life and Teachings of Jesus and Their Impact on Culture. In this role, Coakley will present two public lectures on October 15 and 21. The

lectures take as their collective theme "Re-thinking 'Mysticism' and 'Mystical Theology' in Turbulent Times." [Learn more and register to attend the McDonald Lectures in person or online.](#)

## **Josef Sorett to Present 2025 Thurman Lecture**

Candler's Black Church Studies program will host **Josef Sorett**, dean of Columbia College and Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor and Vice President for Undergraduate Education at Columbia University, as the speaker for this year's Howard Thurman Lecture on Oct. 16. [Learn more and register to attend the Thurman Lecture in person or online.](#)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Please note that events are subject to change. Click on the event title to see more details and registration information. [See a full listing of upcoming Candler events here.](#)*

**September 4–25:** [Course in the Community: "Faith in the Wild."](#) Online.

**September 9:** [PUBLICATIONS Webinar: "Assembling Futures: Economy, Ecology, Democracy, and Religion" with Jennifer Quigley.](#) Online.

**September 15:** Candler's 2026 application for admission opens. Prospective students are invited to join our Admissions team for an [online Application Launch Party!](#)

**September 18:** [Hispanic and Latine Heritage Month Chapel Service with the Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz.](#) In person and online.

**September 18-October 2:** [Course in the Community: "Hebrew Insights: 12 Words That Will Transform Your Understanding of the Old Testament."](#) Online.

**Sept. 24-25:** [Lectures: "Pastoral Leadership in a Time of Christian Nationalism."](#) In person and online.

**October 7:** [Catholic-Orthodox Lecture: "Faith in History: Nicaea at 1700."](#)In person.

**October 8–29:** [Course in the Community: "The Preacher and the Word."](#) Online.

**October 9:** [Black Seminarians Day 2025: "Planted, Rooted, Anchored."](#) In person.

**October 9:** [Lecture: "Guadalupe: An American Pentecost," with Nancy Pineda-Madrid.](#) In person.

**October 15:** [McDonald Lecture: "Revisiting Modern Christian 'Mysticism': What Did the 20th Century Mean by It, and Why Does It Still Matter?"](#) In person and online.

**October 16:** [Howard Thurman Lecture: "The Art and Politics \(and Afterlives\) of Afro-Protestantism."](#) In person and online.

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NOTES

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