

# 2025-2026

# WITTENBERG SERIES

*Enlightening Campus and Community*



## Opening Convocation

**"Hope"**

**Christian M. M. Brady, DPhil (Oxon.)**  
**President, Wittenberg University**

**Wednesday, August 27, 2025**  
**10 a.m., Weaver Chapel**

## **PROCESSIONAL**

*Please stand.*

“Menuet Gothique from Suite Gothique, op. 25”

by Léon Boëllmann (1862–1897)

David Weimer, Chapel Organist

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## **INVOCATION**

The Rev. Tracy Paschke-Johannes,

The Rev. David P. and Carol Matevia Endowed University Pastor

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## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER**

Dr. Brian D. Yontz,

Provost and Professor of Education

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## **ADDRESS**

“Hope”

Christian M. M. Brady, DPhil (Oxon.), President

A transformational administrator, respected scholar, author, and ordained Episcopal priest, Dr. Brady began his tenure as the 16th president of Wittenberg University on June 1, 2025. The former T. W. Lewis Dean of the Lewis Honors College at the University of Kentucky, who also previously led the Schreyer Honors College at The Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Brady brings a wealth of executive leadership experience and a deep commitment to student success.

An expert in Hebrew and Jewish literature, Dr. Brady holds a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University, a master’s degree from Wheaton College Graduate School in Illinois, and a doctorate from the University of Oxford.

Elizabeth Brady, Christian’s wife, is an author, an associate teaching professor of communication arts and sciences at The Pennsylvania State University, and a public relations consultant for Penn State Global. Their daughter Isabel is completing her doctorate in Medieval Art History at Florida State University. Their son Mack died unexpectedly in 2012, just two weeks shy of his 9th birthday. Together, they continue to participate in the bereaved parent community through service and writing.

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## **INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT LEADERS**

Joi Garrett Scales,

Vice President and Dean of Student Engagement

**RECOGNITION OF FACULTY PROMOTIONS**  
**RECOGNITION OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD COLLEGIUM**  
**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Dr. Brian D. Yontz, Provost and Professor of Education

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**BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Tracy Paschke-Johannes,  
The Rev. David P. and Carol Matevia Endowed University Pastor

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**ALMA MATER**

*Please see below for lyrics.*

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**RECESSIONAL**

*Please remain seated until the platform party and faculty  
have left the chapel.*

“Grand Partita on Ein Feste Burg”  
by Martin Luther (1483–1546), setting by Karl Osterland  
David Weimer, Chapel Organist

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**ALMA MATER**

Robert H. Miller

Wittenberg, dear Wittenberg,  
Once again to thee  
We, thy grateful children, pledge  
Love and loyalty.  
We shall always love thy groves  
And thy classic halls;  
Mem'ry, like the ivy twines  
Round thy hallowed walls.

Wittenberg, dear Wittenberg,  
Time flies fast away;  
Soon our happy college days  
Will be gone for aye;  
But in all life's storm and stress,  
Whate'er we may do,  
To our Alma Mater dear  
We will e'er be true.

Now celebrating its 41st season, the Wittenberg Series offers a selection of cultural activities available to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community. For more information about the 2025–2026 schedule, please visit [www.wittenberg.edu/wittseries](http://www.wittenberg.edu/wittseries).

## PREVIOUS OPENING CONVOCATION SPEAKERS

**1982–1983** Robert C. Williams, Professor & Dean, Washington University, St. Louis

**1983–1984** Martin Marty, Professor, University of Chicago Divinity School

**1984–1985** Peter Stansky, Professor of History, Stanford University

**1985–1986** Daniel Walden, Professor, Pennsylvania State University

**1986–1987** William Wiebenga, Provost, Wittenberg University

**1987–1988** Norman A. Graebner, Emeritus Professor, University of Virginia

**1988–1989** Richard Reeves, Author, Columnist & Political Correspondent

**1989–1990** Michel C. Oksenberg, Professor, University of Michigan

**1990–1991** Frances Moore Lappe', Director of Food First

**1991–1992** Sammye C. Greer, Provost, Wittenberg University

**1992–1993** Terence Hardy Waite, Hostage Negotiator

**1993–1994** Bernice R. Sandler, Women's Rights Advocate

**1994–1995** Cornel West, Author, Philosopher, & Scholar

**1995–1996** Baird Tipson, 12th President of Wittenberg University

**1996–1997** The Honorable William A. McClain '34, Judge, Attorney, & Community Leader

**1997–1998** Arnold Rampersad, Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature, Princeton University

**1998–1999** Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Professor, University of Chicago

**1999–2000** Eric Booth, Actor, Author & Educator

**2000–2001** Manning Marable, Educator, Author & Journalist

**2001–2002** Paul Rogat Loeb, Author

**2002–2003** Donald McCabe, Educator & Specialist in Organization Management

**2003–2004** The Hon. Jennette Bradley '74, Ohio Lieutenant Governor

**2004–2005** Gus Lee, Ethicist & Author

**2005–2006** Mark H. Erickson, 13th President of Wittenberg University

**2006–2007** Dan P. McAdams, Psychologist

**2007–2008** The Rev. Dr. Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop

**2008–2009** Max J. Roberts, President, Barnes & Noble College Booksellers Inc.

**2009–2010** David Rusk, Urban Policy Expert

**2010–2011** Linda Stuntz, Environmental Attorney

**2011–2012** Christopher M. Duncan, Provost, Wittenberg University

**2012–2013** Laurie M. Joyner, 14th President of Wittenberg University

**2013–2014** Kenneth Cukier '91, Data Editor, *The Economist*

**2014–2015** Jeremy Hunter '94, Management Philosopher

**2015–2016** Sandy Dukat '94, Paralympian

**2016–2017** Christal Morehouse '98, Senior Program Officer, Open Society Foundations

**2017–2018** Michael Frandsen, 15th President of Wittenberg University

**2018–2019** Shakeer Abdullah '99, Diversity Scholar-Practitioner

**2019–2020** Michelle Mattson, Provost, Wittenberg University

**2020–2021** Julius Bailey, Assoc. Professor of Philosophy, and Brian Yontz, Assoc. Professor & Chair of Education (pre-recorded video due to COVID-19 pandemic)

**2021–2022** John Schumate '99, Global Marketing Expert & Wittenberg University Board of Directors Member

**2022–2023** Sally Brannan, Professor of Education & 2022 Recipient of the Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Teaching

**2023–2024** Brian Yontz, Wittenberg University Provost and Professor of Education

**2024–2025** Amy R. McGuffey '95, 2024 Recipient of the Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Teaching