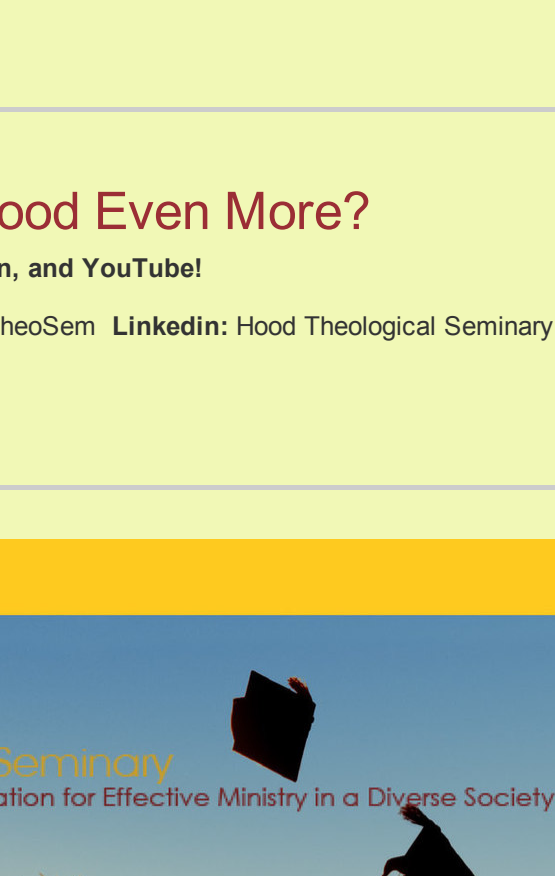


Highlights

- Details about Hood's Virtual Commencement
- Encouragement from Hood Staff
- How the The Center for Chaplaincy is Playing a Part in the COVID-19 Pandemic



Want to Connect with Hood Even More?

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube!
 Facebook: @hoodseminary Twitter: @HoodTheoSem LinkedIn: Hood Theological Seminary
 YouTube: Hood Theological Seminary

HTS Hood Theological Seminary
 Theological Preparation for Effective Ministry in a Diverse Society

2020 Virtual Commencement

Saturday, May 16, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Go to Hood Theological Seminary's FACEBOOK page for a live viewing.
 Click on the button below to go to Hood's FACEBOOK Page.

Dr. Lattimore will share the 2020 Commencement as a Livestream online. He will present the diplomas and awards by announcing the full name of each person on the same day and time that Commencement is scheduled to occur.

The Commencement recording will also be on Hood's YouTube Page.
 Click on the button below to go to Hood's YouTube Page.

[CLICK HERE FOR HOOD'S FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR HOOD'S YOUTUBE PAGE](#)

SGA Election Results: Congratulations to All!

The results were as follows: Paula McCullough (President), Cindy Stafford, (Vice President), Rona Williams (Secretary), Deborah Love (Treasurer). We thank Tina Cowan and Mark McRanken for offering themselves as candidates. For the specific results see the galtrics document on myHood in the Campus Life announcement Portal.

Encouragement from Hood Staff

Though we are going through some hard times in the world right now, remember to always have faith! The devotional below is by Patricia Marie Commander, MLIS, Library Director/Writing Center Coordinator at Hood Theological Seminary.

Devotional: The Mindfulness of Our Silence
 Patricia Marie Commander, MLIS, Library Director/Writing Center Coordinator

Who knows the difference between mindfulness and meditation?

Mindfulness begins in our stillness. In an evermoving world, it can be difficult at times to stand still and just be.

What does your stillness look like? What is found in your silence? After our silent moments do we come away with anything other than self?

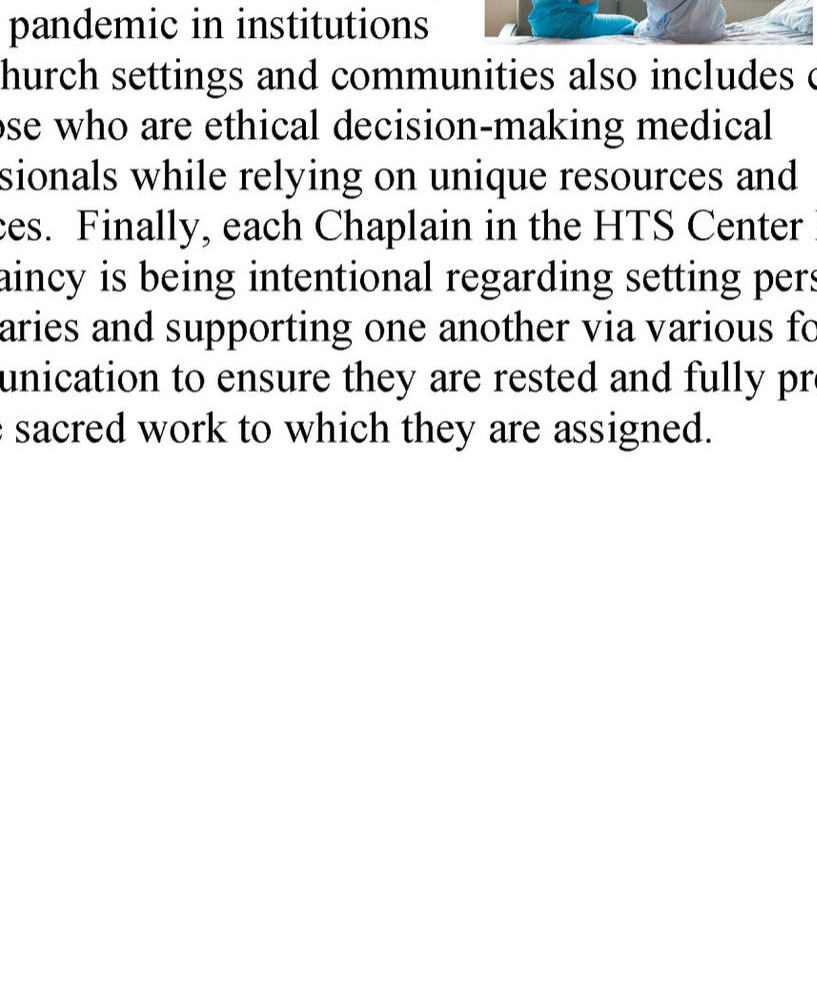
I've come to realize that in our silence we first have to become mindful in order to successfully meditate.

We must see, feel, hear, and actively, or mindfully appreciate life around us. We can then meditate actively by going to God and saying thank you, Father, for it all.

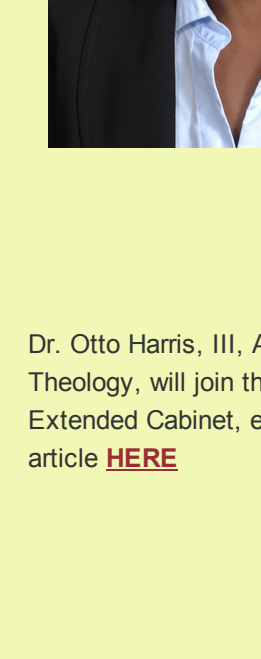
As we go through the chaos of the world around us, let us remember God is in the silence.

1 Kings 19:11-12

11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.



Chaplain Activities and Stories Connected with the Hood Theological Seminary Center For Chaplaincy During the COVID-19 Pandemic



In the wake of the novel COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the HTS Center For Chaplaincy Director, Dr. Karen L. Owens and the Chaplain Advisory Board members, Rev. Bettyanna Bremer, Rev. Emily Viverette, Rev. Maureen Palmer, and Rev. Dr. Swindell Edwards, are providing care in unprecedented ways. Levels of immediate grief, anticipatory grief, fear, anxiety, acute clinical depression, etc., are at an all-time high, which become cause for increased, ongoing spiritual care that includes authentic listening and maintaining the courage to hear. Remaining compliant with social distancing regulations, each Chaplain is delivering care and comfort by way of social media and tele-chaplaincy (video/phone) processes in their designated work spaces. Online chapel services for hospitalized individuals are occurring; newsletters for individuals in corporate settings are being created and distributed emphasizing ways to provide self-care and soul-care. Counseling sessions and memorial services for medical professionals whose loved ones are ill or have died due to COVID-19, but whose work schedules do not allow time to pause and process their grief,

are also being conducted. Daily prayers at system-wide meetings and maintaining system-wide social media channels where prayers are posted include ecumenical, diverse spiritual practices. As needed, the Chaplains are also reaching out to community clergy to offer levels of spiritual care.

Dr. Swindell Carolina Public Safety has been coverage to the institutions

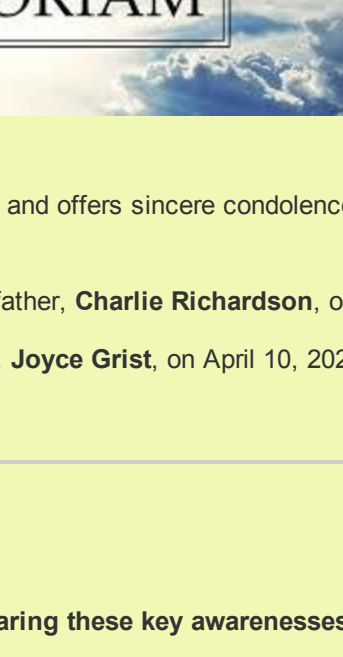


Edwards, North Carolina Department of Prison Chaplain, assigned particle areas of for thirty-day periods and is remaining within those areas during that time to prevent transporting potential cases and to manage contact of particular personnel. In his discipline, they are offering radios for offenders to listen to inspirational channels, which include bible stories, prayer time, and music.

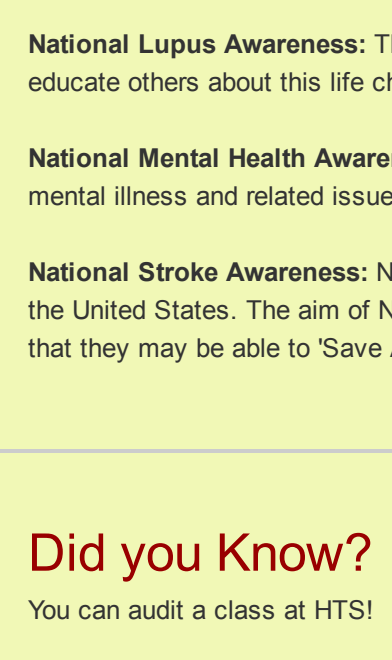
Moreover, they have offered pastoral care and referrals for mental healthcare to offenders who experience crises during the loss of loved ones, in which they are not allowed to make personal viewings. With the loss of loved ones, families may video the service, send an obituary and video to the institution for the offender to watch privately, and then return the video to the family in an effort to assist in consoling the offender in their process of grief and mourning. Chaplain Swindell also provides prayer at designated times during the day for institutions to pause

for silent prayer as well as fulfilling requests for specific, comforting literature.

Developing meaningful creative processes for providing spiritual care to those who are vulnerable during global pandemic in institutions as in church settings and communities also includes caring for those who are ethical decision-making medical professionals while relying on unique resources and practices. Finally, each Chaplain in the HTS Center For Chaplaincy is being intentional regarding setting personal boundaries and supporting one another via various forms of communication to ensure they are rested and fully prepared for the sacred work to which they are assigned.



Faculty and Staff News



Professor Dora R. Mbuwayesango, Dean of Students and George E. and Iris Battle Professor of Old Testament and Languages, attended Theology for Social Justice Advocacy Conference via zoom that was initially scheduled to take place in St. Louis, MI, April 20-22; she facilitated a Contextual Bible Study on the "Construction and Justification of Unjust Systems (Genesis 21:1-21)". She is serving as the 2020 Senior Warden of the vestry at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Dr. Otto Harris, III, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, will join the UMC Western North Carolina Extended Cabinet, effective July 1, 2020. Read the entire article [HERE](#)



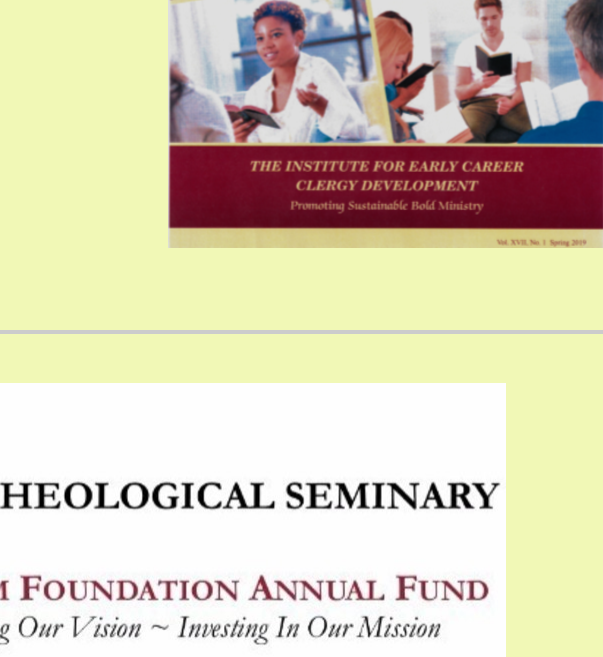
CDC: Resources for Community and Faith-Based Leaders

Find some helpful resources from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website [HERE](#)

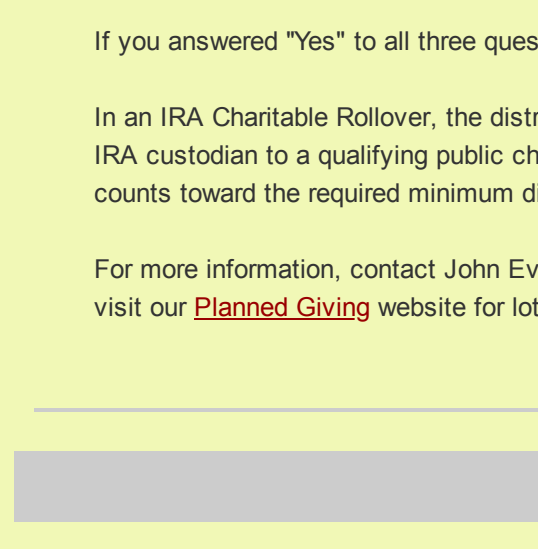


Helpful COVID-19 and Church Resources

Here are some COVID-19 and Church Resources:



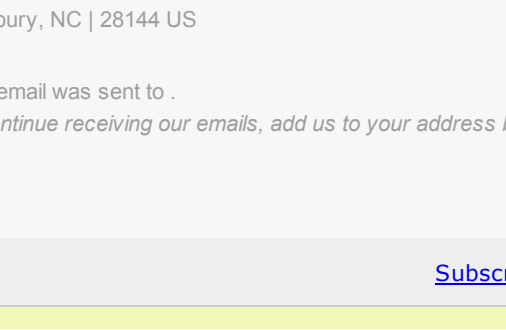
- [CDC and COVID-19](#)
- [Understanding the CARES Act](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Church Leaders](#)
- [Creating a financial plan for your church during the outbreak](#)
- [Larger churches urged to help smaller ones survive during pandemic; \(RNS\) -- An application process opened Monday \(April 6\) for small churches to apply for \\$3,000 grants.](#)
- [Learn 20 Ways To Grow Your Church In 2020](#)
- [How to help Children Understand COVID-19](#)



Upcoming Online Conference

Pushpay presents Church Disrupt, an online, interactive conference experience happening at 9am PT / 12pm ET on May 13, 2020. Church Disrupt is a free digital conference for churches who know that while the Gospel is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, the methods we use are anything but unchanging. Technology is moving faster than ever—and a brave new group of church leaders is embracing it. They're using technology to know their people better, to maximize participation, and to grow generosity like never before. Click on the button below to register.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Join Our Online Community!

We are excited to announce that Hood Theological Seminary now has its own online community as part of the 360Alumni platform. We decided to launch the online platform to enhance engagement across the Hood community. This resource will provide our alumni and supporters a place to network with one another and with the Hood community, to share resources, and to generate community conversations on topics relevant to particular areas of work.

This platform will allow those involved to create a dialogue with colleagues on a range of topics in theological education through an open forum—all within a live online environment. You will be able to join a group and get connected to events on and off-campus, see available jobs posted by various members, and join in great discussions. Members will also have the availability of great resources and will have the opportunity to join groups such as early clergy, chaplaincy, and alumni, just to name a few.

Here is the link to join and create a login:
[Click Here](#)

Job Opportunities

- Senior Pastor**, First Baptist Church, Burlington, NC, for more information, go [HERE](#).
- Pastoral Vacancy**, Christian Faith Baptist Church, for more information, go [HERE](#).

The entire Hood Seminary community joins together in prayer for and offers sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

- Angela Richardson and her family on the death of her father, **Charlie Richardson**, on April 3, 2020
- Kerri Rigdsbee and her family on the death of her aunt, **Joyce Grist**, on April 10, 2020

Key Awarenesses in May

Thank you to Dr. Dora R. Mbuwayesango for sharing these key awarenesses in May with us:

- ALS Awareness:** The aim of ALS awareness month is to raise awareness about ALS, gather support for those affected by this condition and to encourage funding and research into a treatment or cure. See details [here](#)
- Cystic Fibrosis:** Cystic Fibrosis Month raises awareness about cystic fibrosis (CF). This month is sponsored by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). Raising funds for future research is a priority; people are made aware of progress being made towards a cure. See details [here](#)
- Hepatitis Awareness Month** is a month-long campaign which aims to raise awareness about hepatitis. See details [here](#)
- High Blood Pressure Education Month** raises awareness about the impact high blood pressure can have on health. See details [here](#)
- National Lupus Awareness:** The aim of Lupus Awareness Month is to raise awareness and educate others about this life changing disease. See details [here](#)
- National Mental Health Awareness:** National Mental Health Month raises awareness about mental illness and related issues in the United States. See details [here](#)
- National Stroke Awareness:** National Stroke Awareness Month is an annual event held within the United States. The aim of National Stroke Awareness Month is to make Americans aware that they may be able to 'Save A Life' of a person experiencing a stroke. See details [here](#)

Did you Know?

You can audit a class at HTS!

Learning is a lifelong process; continue the journey with us. For clergy, church professionals and laypersons. All denominations welcome! Read more [here](#).

Submit News/Events

Do you have any news or events to share? Please submit them to marketing@hoodseminary.edu to share with the monthly Hoodlines newsletter.

Hood's Herald - Spring 2019

Read the latest edition now available [online!](#) This annual publication includes highlights of the past year, articles of interest, and the Honor Roll of Donors for 2018.

It's so easy to [donate securely online!](#) Or mail your check to the Seminary at 1810 Lutheran Synod Dr., Salisbury, NC 28144. Your gift to the Annual Fund is essential in promoting the mission of the Seminary and in helping keep tuition as low as possible for our students. Every gift, small and large, is greatly appreciated and stewarded responsibly.

Create Your Legacy with a Planned Gift

- ~ Do you have an IRA?
- ~ Are you at least 70 1/2 years of age?
- ~ Would you like to help HTS in its mission to prepare women and men for bold and creative leadership for the Christian church for a diverse world?

If you answered "Yes" to all three questions, please consider an IRA Charitable Rollover.

In an IRA Charitable Rollover, the distribution of up to \$100,000 annually made directly from the IRA custodian to a qualifying public charity, such as HTS, is excluded from gross income and counts toward the required minimum distribution.

For more information, contact John Everett at jeverett@hoodseminary.edu or (704) 636-6545, or visit our [Planned Giving](#) website for lots of helpful information.

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