

European Methodist Lecture Program (EMLP) 2026

Methodist-related Schools in Europe (MTSE)

Wesley House Cambridge (GBHEM LEAD Hub Britain) | Reutlingen School of Theology (GBHEM LEAD Hub Europe)

supported by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church (UMC)

Blessed are the Peacemakers? Struggling for Peace in Uncertain Times

The 6th series of the European Methodist Lecture Program (EMLP) will explore the role of the church and the responsibility of each Christian in democracy and peace building. In these uncertain times where war, violence, intense nationalism, and authoritarianism are tearing at the social fabric, the need for intentional democracy and peacebuilding is urgently required. These lectures offer an opportunity for us to reflect theologically, practically and from a Methodist perspective upon how we can be a people of peace in a divided world. These lectures will explore a variety of themes including reconciliation, democracy, and the need for intercultural communities who embody an alternative narrative within a xenophobic landscape. Join us in the struggle to build hope and long-term frameworks for peace in these violent times.

The European Methodist Lecture Program is an online program. Speakers from various continents, Methodist traditions, theological expertise, and ecumenical contexts will give their insights and present their perspectives and research on peacebuilding and democracy from a Methodist theological perspective. The lectures are followed by discussions in groups and in plenary sessions.

The EMLP brings together students, theologians, clergy, and lay persons from all over Europe and beyond – from different backgrounds and cultures. It offers an international and intercultural learning space.

1	October 13, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CEST)	Inderjit Bhogal [Methodist Church in Britain]	Church of Sanctuary: Challenging Hostility with Hospitality
2	October 20, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CEST)	Paul Tsuchido Shew [Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan]	Educating for Peace in the Age of AI: Cognitive Science, Moral Agency, and Digital Responsibility
3	October 27, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Aboseh Ngwana [Staple Hill Methodist Church, Bristol/UK]	Let go of Violence, Embrace Justice and Peace
4	November 3, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Alan B. Cabas [Wesley Divinity School, Philippines]	Weaving Indigenous Filipino Wisdom into a Pedagogy of Relational Harmony
5	November 10, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Jörg Barthel [Reutlingen School of Theology, Germany]	Ploughshares into Swords? The Biblical Message of Peace in Times of War and Imperialism
6	November 17, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Grace and Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman [Northampton, United Kingdom]	Being Church Together in a Divided World
7	November 24, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Young Min Paik [University College, Yonsei University, Korea]	Resilience for Peace: South Korean Case
8	December 1, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Wan-Yin Lim [Wesley House Cambridge, United Kingdom]	Forming Moral Imagination: Integrating Peace Studies and Theology
9	December 8, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Dion Forster [Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands]	Public Theology from a Methodist Perspective and Its Contribution to Peacebuilding
10	December 15, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	David Scott [General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, USA]	"Intercultural Connectionalism" and its Contribution to Peace through Understanding

The sessions take place on the dates indicated from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. (CEST/CET) via video conference. The language of the lectures and the discussions is English. The link for the video conferences will be provided to those registered shortly before the beginning of the program. To register, please follow these steps:

1. "Create new account" (first time users) or "Log in" at OpenCampus | Reutlingen School of Theology:
<https://th-reutlingen.opencampus.com/user/login> (select your preferred language on the top right side).
2. Register for the "European Methodist Lecture Program" (1. Add your contact address; 2. Register for the course):
<https://th-reutlingen.opencampus.com/de/node/70354>.

For any questions, please contact Prof. Dr. Stephan von Twardowski | LEAD Hub Europe: stephan.twardowski@th-reutlingen.de.

1	October 13, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CEST)	Inderjit Bhogal [Methodist Church in Britain]	Church of Sanctuary: Challenging Hostility with Hospitality
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In this lecture Rev. Dr. Inderjit Bhogal calls upon Church, in a context of rising hatred, to be Church by living out the gospel of Christ, and in practical terms to be Church of Sanctuary. He will unpack the meaning of Church of Sanctuary and the challenge of being church today.



Rev. Dr. Inderjit Bhogal was ordained as a Methodist Minister in 1980 and formally retired in 2018. Since then he has been working with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to develop and promote the idea of Church of Sanctuary. Inderjit was President of the British Methodist Conference in 2000. He is a recipient of the World Methodist Peace Award. Inderjit is a former Leader of Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. He is married to Kathy and is a grandfather. Inderjit has a passion for justice in housing, immigration, and interfaith relationships. He is the Founder of City of Sanctuary. His publications include "Hospitality and Sanctuary for All".

2	October 20, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CEST)	Paul Tsuchido Shew [Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan]	Educating for Peace in the Age of AI: Cognitive Science, Moral Agency, and Digital Responsibility
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Generative AI can write our essays, answer our questions, and solve our problems in seconds. So, what is left for human beings to learn? This lecture argues that the answer matters now more than ever, especially for schools committed to forming people who can build a more peaceful world.

Drawing on cognitive science, the Methodist educational tradition, and decades of research on technology in the classroom, Dr. Shew shows that the real danger of AI is not that machines will start thinking like us, but that we will stop thinking for ourselves. When students let AI do the hard mental work, they quietly lose the creativity, judgment, empathy, and moral courage that peacemaking requires.

The lecture offers a hopeful and practical path forward, presenting five principles, grounded in how the human brain actually learns, for using AI as a partner that strengthens thinking rather than replacing it, along with a framework to help institutions adopt these tools wisely and justly. At the heart of his message is a renewed case for the liberal arts and the formation of the whole person in mind, heart, and spirit.

This lecture offers a thought-provoking exploration of how education can shape "responsible knowers" who guide technology toward human flourishing, justice, and peace.



Dr. Paul Tsuchido Shew is Professor and University Chaplain (Director of Religious Affairs) at Aoyama Gakuin University (Tokyo/Japan). He is Deputy Director of the Aoyama Gakuin History Research Institute, Deputy Director of the Aoyama Gakuin Museum, and Research Fellow at the Institute for Innovative Technology and Social Co-creation, Aoyama Gakuin University. After studying abroad at Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School as an exchange student, he went on to Earlham College, studying during that time at both Waseda University and Tohoku Gakuin University. He earned an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary. After serving as a pastor in Boston and Los Angeles, he served as associate pastor of Omori Megumi Church, Tokyo, (United Church of Christ in Japan) and as full-time lecturer at the Research Institute of Seigakuin University. Since 2004 he has served at Aoyama Gakuin as faculty member of the College of Literature, University Chaplain and many other roles. His fields of specialization are modern and contemporary Christian history, Christian education, and religious studies. He serves on the boards of several international educational organizations and Japanese school corporations, and in recent years his primary research has focused on issues in school education, including especially the use and role of advanced technologies in education.

3	October 27, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Aboseh Ngwana [Staple Hill Methodist Church, Bristol/UK]	Let go of Violence, Embrace Justice and Peace
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Without question, the world is marked by persistent violence and deepening injustice. In such uncertain times the Methodist Church is challenged to bear credible witness to God's reconciling work through its commitment to justice, peace, and the dignity of all people, as articulated in the Methodist Social Principles. This paper argues that authentic Methodist peacemaking requires a deliberate letting go of violence and a renewed embrace of justice. Drawing on Wesleyan theological ethics and the doctrine of social holiness, it examines how the separation of justice from peace has sustained coercive and violent responses to conflict, including within Christian practice. By retrieving the Methodist understanding of the Church as a justice-seeking community shaped by grace, accountability, and public discipleship, the paper reframes justice as the necessary gateway to peace, and peace as the telos toward which justice is directed. It concludes by calling for renewed Methodist intentionality in embodying justice-oriented, nonviolent peacemaking as faithful Christian witness.



Rev. Dr. Aboseh Ngwana is an ordained minister, theologian, and educator whose work bridges faith, scholarship, and social engagement across Africa, the United Kingdom, and the global community. Born in Bamunkumbit (Mankong), Cameroon, he has dedicated his career to advancing theological education, ethical leadership, and community transformation. He holds a PhD in Hebrew Bible from the University of Aberdeen, a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary (USA), and bachelor's and diploma qualifications in theology from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Kumba. His academic formation is complemented by a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the University of Buea and advanced certifications in Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic from the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies, in collaboration with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research interests include the Hebrew Bible, ecological theology, and the intersection of faith, justice, and social responsibility.

Dr Aboseh brings extensive leadership experience within church and educational institutions. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon in 2000, he has since served in a range of pastoral, chaplaincy, and senior administrative roles. Since 2019, he has been a Recognized and Regarded Minister in Full Connexion with the Methodist Church in Britain. His professional contributions also include university governance, curriculum development, public education, and media engagement.

Beyond academia and ministry, Dr Aboseh has been actively involved in initiatives promoting environmental stewardship, public health awareness, youth development, and cultural engagement. His work has been recognized through multiple awards for academic excellence, pastoral leadership, and community service.

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November 3, 2026
6:15 p.m. (CET)

Alan B. Cabas
[Wesley Divinity School, Philippines]

**Weaving Indigenous Filipino Wisdom into a
Pedagogy of Relational Harmony**

This lecture discusses how to turn conflict into a shared healing journey, transform dialogue from debate into cooperation, and build a justice that heals relationships. The paper argues that by weaving together Filipino indigenous and theological (Wesleyan) wisdom, peace education itself can become a sacred practice that helps communities restore balance and heal together.

Filipino Indigenous Belief Systems (IBS) offer deep wisdom for building peace, but this wisdom is often missing from modern peace education. Using a chant about malipayon (joyful) and makabibido (sorrowful) days as a starting point, this paper explores the indigenous worldview. It shows how IBS understands peace as a living balance among people, ancestors, and nature. This view is built on ideas like cyclical time, interconnectedness, and community harmony. However, this indigenous framework is not well-connected to current efforts in peacebuilding. To bridge this gap, this paper brings the Filipino IBS into conversation with Wesleyan Christian theology. Wesleyan tradition sees broken relationships as a sickness that needs healing, much like the IBS view of imbalance (hagu). Together, these traditions create a strong, cooperative model for peace education. This model is not just a theory. It provides a practical, step-by-step path for communities. It shows how to turn conflict into a shared healing journey, change dialogue from debate into cooperation, and build a justice that heals relationships. Ultimately, this paper argues that by weaving together indigenous and theological wisdom, peace education itself can become a sacred practice that helps communities restore balance and heal together.)



Rev. Alan Cabas is an academician and theologian, born in Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines. His extensive educational background includes a Ph.D. in Religious Studies with distinction from Philippine Christian University, a Master of Theology with distinction, and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, Philippines. With a career spanning over two decades, he has served as a faculty member at both Union Theological Seminary and currently at Wesley Divinity School, Wesleyan University – Philippines, where he formerly also heads the Doctor of Ministry program. His expertise encompasses a wide range of theological disciplines, including Christian Theology, Indigenous Belief Systems, and Feminist Theology, making him a respected voice in religious scholarship.

Beyond his academic and pastoral roles, Rev. Cabas is a prolific speaker and an active participant in national and international forums. He has presented on diverse topics, from weaving indigenous wisdom into a pedagogy of relational harmony to achieving peace in complex socio-political contexts. His commitment to community development is evident through his past work in health programs, environmental initiatives, and human rights and peace advocacy. Rev. Cabas's life and work are characterized by a profound synthesis of theological insight, practical ministry, and a dedication to fostering harmony and understanding through education and community engagement.

5	November 10, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Jörg Barthel [Reutlingen School of Theology, Germany]	Ploughshares into Swords? The Biblical Message of Peace in Times of War and Imperialism
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"If you want peace, prepare for war" – for a long time, this Latin proverb seemed outdated. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the wars in the Middle East, however, it has come to shape politics and public opinion in most European countries. Many churches, too, advocate arms deliveries and rearmament to promote peace and security. Yet lasting peace and real security are further away than ever. On the contrary: Neo-imperialism and open disregard for international law are the order of the day. Even a global nuclear conflagration no longer seems out of the question. In this oppressive situation, what of the biblical vision of a peace in which nations beat their swords into ploughshares? What of Jesus' call to love one's enemies and renounce violence? Do these biblical statements have any practical political relevance? Or must we recognize that the time has now come to turn ploughshares into swords? In the lecture we will consider these pressing questions by exploring the biblical notion of shalom and several biblical approaches to reducing and overcoming violence. Finally, we will ask what significance the biblical message of peace holds for our time.



Dr. Jörg Barthel is Professor Emeritus of Old Testament and Biblical Theology at Reutlingen School of Theology. His areas of expertise include creation theology and ecology, Old Testament prophecy and biblical hermeneutics. He was involved in the revision of the Luther Bible 2017 and translated the Book of Isaiah for the BasisBibel. He is actively engaged in various church and political initiatives aimed at ensuring that the biblical message of peace is taken seriously amidst the heated conflicts of the present day.

6	November 17, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Grace and Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman [Northampton, United Kingdom]	Being Church Together in a Divided World
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In this lecture, Grace and Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman share insights from their experience of intercultural ministry in Italy. Inspired by the vision of Essere Chiesa Insieme – an Italian initiative that reimagines what it means to be church in a diverse world – this webinar explores what it means to be a truly inclusive church. The rise in xenophobia across the world makes these questions all the more important. How can the church embody a different narrative of inclusion in a world which is becoming increasingly exclusive.



Revd. Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman have a background in cross-cultural ministry. In Cameroon they were lecturers at a theological college in Kumba in the South West region where Grace taught New Testament and Missiology and Daniel taught African Philosophy and Hermeneutics. In Italy they worked for several years with diverse congregations. During this time Grace composed Sunday school materials for the federation of Protestant Churches Servizio Istruzione ed Educazione and Daniel served on the churches liturgy commission. In Uganda their work centred upon training and support. This included enabling lay people who play such an important role in the Church to take up leadership roles and to become preachers.

7	November 24, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Young Min Paik [University College, Yonsei University, Korea]	Resilience for Peace: South Korean Case
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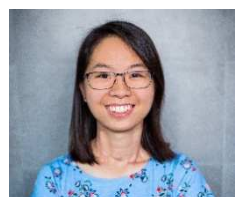
This presentation examines South Korea's democratic resilience during the 2024–2025 political crisis, focusing on the brief declaration of martial law and its peaceful resolution within hours without casualties. It argues that Korea's capacity to "make peace peacefully" is grounded in both intellectual and spiritual foundations. On the one hand, sustained investment in education and advanced technology has fostered a mature civic consciousness and enabled real-time digital solidarity among citizens. On the other hand, spiritual traditions—such as Minjung Theology and John Wesley's concept of social holiness—have shaped a collective ethic in which suffering (Han) is transformed into empathy, solidarity, and nonviolent action. The Korean case demonstrates that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the outcome of deeply formed citizens who combine critical reasoning with moral imagination. Historical experiences—from democratization movements to recent candlelight protests—have reinforced a culture of creative, nonviolent resistance, where protest becomes an expression of communal care and even celebration. This model offers a compelling vision for a polarized global context: education must move beyond the transmission of knowledge to nurture global citizens capable of empathizing with suffering and acting in solidarity. In this way, the integration of education, technology, and faith becomes a powerful pathway toward sustainable peace.



Rev. Dr. Paik was born in South Korea and earned his B.A. from Yonsei University, his M.Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University on Systematic Theology. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, he served multicultural and Korean immigrant congregations in the Chicago area for 12 years and taught at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary for 7 years. Since returning to Korea in 2012, he has been teaching at Yonsei University (The United Graduate School of Theology and University College), serving as Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Hub of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), and serving as Senior Pastor of Songdo Global Church. He also serves as an AI consultant for UMC agencies, focusing on integrating theology, education, and emerging technologies for the future of global ministry.

8	December 1, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Wan-Yin Lim [Wesley House Cambridge, United Kingdom]	Forming Moral Imagination: Integrating Peace Studies and Theology
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This lecture aims to develop a theological account of moral imagination as a critical bridge between peace studies and theology, focusing on how moral imagination functions as a constructive lens for peacebuilding. Engaging with the peace studies concept of positive peace alongside the biblical concepts of "shalom" and "eirene", it argues that moral imagination is formed by God's life-giving intention. By integrating analytical insights from peace studies with theological reflection, it proposes a theologically grounded and contextually attentive approach to peacebuilding in plural societies.



Wan-Yin Lim is originally from Malaysia and is currently pursuing a PhD in Theology at Wesley House, Cambridge. Growing up in the multiethnic, multicultural, and multireligious context of Malaysia, she developed her sense of vocation through active church involvement and deliberate political and social participation in democracy. She holds a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Malaysia and a Master of Arts degree in Peace Studies from Indonesia. Her current doctoral research engages peace studies and peace theology, with a particular focus on developing an interdisciplinary, contextually grounded Malaysian Chinese Methodist peace theology. During her time in the UK, Wan-Yin has actively participated in academic and ecclesial life. She has attended and presented papers at conferences, including the Society for the Study of Theology (SST), the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (SSCE), the Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF), and the 15th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, and served as Postgraduate Convenor for the SSCE from 2023 to 2024. Most recently, she co-organised a multi-faith Peace Conference in collaboration with the Centre for Faith in Public Life at Wesley House in Cambridge.

9	December 8, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	Dion Forster [Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands]	Public Theology from a Methodist Perspective and Its Contribution to Peacebuilding
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This lecture proposes that John Wesley's doctrine of Christian perfection, understood as love perfected by grace, constitutes both the theological heart of Wesleyan identity and a mandate for public theology in the present moment. This "grand depositum" entrusted to the people called Methodists is not a private spirituality but a distinctively structured account of salvation as healing, in which grace restores the divine image, perfects love and necessarily presses outward into social holiness and public witness. Drawing on Wesley's primary sources and relevant Wesleyan scholarship, we will consider that the move from personal sanctification to social engagement is not a secondary application of doctrine but an intrinsic feature of the Wesleyan grammar of grace. We will show how this theological grammar comes to bear on one of the major crises of our time, namely war and the normalization of violence. In this case the Wesleyan framework of perfecting love offers an orientation that protects the vulnerable, pursues justice, and wages peace.



Rev. Dr. Dion A. Forster is University Research Chair and Professor of Public Theology and Ethics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Extraordinary Professor of Systematic Theology and Ethics at Stellenbosch University, and a Fellow of Wesley House, Cambridge. He holds two doctorates, a PhD in Systematic Theology and a PhD in New Testament Studies, and he works at the intersections of belief, identity, and justice. As a Methodist minister and scholar, he serves on the Board of the Wesley Works Project and the editorial boards of Wesley and Methodist Studies (University of Manchester) and The Methodist Review (Emory University), and as Chairman of the Editorial board of the International Journal of Public Theology (Brill). His research focuses on public theology, reconciliation, and social ethics, in an African Methodist perspective.

10	December 15, 2026 6:15 p.m. (CET)	David Scott [General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, USA]	"Intercultural Connectionalism" and its Contribution to Peace through Understanding
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Methodism thinks of itself as a "connectional" (or "connexional") church. Reframing this conviction as a commitment to "intercultural connectionalism" highlights the ways in which Methodism connects people across difference in local congregations, regional networks, and worldwide denominational bodies. This lecture argues that through the intentional cultivation of intercultural skills and relationships, the church can contribute to peace by cultivating understanding among those from different backgrounds, even (and perhaps especially) at a time when political and other forces seek to divide us.



Dr. David W. Scott is Executive Director of Theology and Strategic Planning at the General Boards of Global Ministries and Higher Education and Ministry. A lay theologian and church historian from Iowa, USA, he earned his PhD from Boston University. He is the co-editor of the book *Methodism and American Empire: Reflections on Decolonizing the Church* and has also edited or authored several other books and numerous articles and book chapters on mission and worldwide Methodism. He has taught mission, church history, world religions, and leadership at Ripon College, Eden Theological Seminary, Wesleyan University-Philippines, and through the United Methodist Course of Study.