



**Westdale United Church
Contemporary Spiritual Voices
2001-2018**

The Distinguished Visiting Speaker Program began in 2001. The program enriches spiritual perception and relates it to salient issues of our time and place. It is funded through the Harold and Lilojean Frid Endowment Fund. The program began receiving additional funds in 2015 from the Florence Meiler Heritage Fund. In 2017, the program name changed to Contemporary Spiritual Voices.

Westdale United Church is an inclusive and progressive Christian Community

Seeking, Affirming, Caring and Acting

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Speakers 2001 - 2018

- 2001 **Douglas John Hall**, Protestant theologian, Professor Emeritus, McGill University, Montreal, PQ
Topic: The End of Christendom

- 2003 **Mary Jo Leddy**, CM, Canadian writer, speaker, theologian and social activist
Topic: Liberating Gratitude and Radical Powerlessness: Christians and Transformational Politics in an Age of Imperial Power

- 2004 **Lyakatali Takim**, Islamic scholar, and **Bruce Gregersen**, Secretary for Interfaith Dialogue, United Church of Canada
Topic: Islam: The Challenge of Modernity

- 2005 **J. Phillip Newell**, poet, peacemaker, minister and scholar, former chaplain at the Iona Community, Scotland.
Topic: Listening for the Heartbeat of God: Recovering Celtic Christian Spirituality

- 2006 **Stan McKay**, first United Church of Canada Moderator of Aboriginal descent, 1992-1994
Topic: Creation and the Land: Aboriginal and Judeo-Christian Spirituality on Turtle Island

- 2007 **Rosemary Radford Ruether**, American eco-feminist scholar and Catholic theologian, Claremont University, Los Angeles
Topic: Men, Women, and the Divine Feminine in Western Religious History
- 2008 **Bernard Baskin**, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Anshe Sholom, Hamilton, Ontario
Topic: From Abraham to Bin Laden: Deceptions and Misconceptions about Islam
- 2009 **Matthew Fox**, spiritual theologian advocating for a creation-centred spirituality
Topic: Spirituality and Survival in the 21st Century
- 2010 **Bill Phipps**, Moderator, United Church of Canada, 1997-2000
Topic: Risky Discipleship in Disturbing Times
- 2011 **David Adams Richards**, CM, Canadian writer and novelist
Topic: Beauty and Human Greatness
- 2014 **Margaret Somerville**, medical ethicist, McGill University, Montreal, PQ
Topic: Death and Dying in the 21st Century: Is Euthanasia an Ethical Response?
- 2015 **Bruce Sanguin**, speaker in fields of evolutionary spiritual and ecological Christianity
Spring Topic: Evolutionary Spirituality: The End of Religion?
- 2015 **Gary J. Dorrien**, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics, Union Theological
Fall Seminary, New York
Topic: Social Ethics for Social Justice: Renewing an Ecumenical Tradition
- 2016 **Losang Samten**, former Buddhist monk, sand mandala artist, and spiritual director of the Tibetan Buddhist Centre, Philadelphia
Topic: Buddhism in the 21st Century – Ancient Teachings for Modern Times
- 2017 **Diana Butler Bass**, historian and author, focusing on history of Christianity and a leading voice in progressive Christianity
Topic: Grounded: Finding God in the World
- 2018 **Daniel Coleman**, author, Professor, English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
Topic: What is the Land Saying?