



THE E. MORRIS AND LEONE
SIDER INSTITUTE FOR
ANABAPTIST, PIETIST AND
WESLEYAN STUDIES

One University Ave
Mechanicsburg PA 17055

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sponsored by The E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for
Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University



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siderinstitute@messiah.edu, or visit the Sider Institute
website at messiah.edu/siderinstitute.

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THE 2026
ANNUAL

SCHRAG
LECTURES

Dr. Jesse P. Nickel

MAKING PEACE WITH JESUS IN A VIOLENT WORLD

February 16-17, 2026

THE 2026 ANNUAL SCHRAG LECTURES

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

"Making Peace with Jesus in a Violent World"

Monday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

Parmer Cinema, Boyer Hall, Messiah University

Violence is pervasive in human history. As the people of God in Jesus the Messiah, we are called to live as citizens of the kingdom of heaven and to contribute to the work of that kingdom here on earth. What do Jesus's words and deeds suggest about how violence—whether received or enacted—fits into that calling? What place ought violence to have in the life and identity of the followers of Jesus?

"The Lamb at the Center of All Things"

Tuesday, February 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Brubaker Auditorium, Messiah University

These events are open to the Messiah University community and the general public. No tickets are required.

ABOUT THE 2025 SCHRAG LECTURER



Jesse P. Nickel (PhD, University of St Andrews) is on the faculty of Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada, where he teaches in the biblical studies program. His research and writing focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus, the Synoptic Gospels, the world of first-century Judaism, and the place of nonviolence and peacemaking in Christian discipleship. In his teaching, speaking, and writing,

Jesse hopes to contribute to the continued breaking-in of the already/not-yet, *shalom*-centered Kingdom of God.

Jesse is the author of two books—*A Revolutionary Jesus: Violence and Peacemaking in the Kingdom of God* (Fortress, 2024) and *The Things that Make for Peace: Jesus and Eschatological Violence* (de Gruyter, 2021); co-editor of *It's About Life: The Formative Power of Scripture* (Regent College Publishing, 2023); and author of numerous articles. As a teacher and preacher, Jesse loves to help others come to know Jesus more fully, and love Jesus more deeply, with both their minds and hearts.

PREVIOUS SCHRAG LECTURERS

2025 John D. Roth	2012 James Forbes
2024 Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Jim Amstutz	2011 Ronald J. Sider
2023 Richard T. Hughes	2010 Nathan Emerson Yoder
2022 Marie Mutsuki Mockett	2009 June Alliman Yoder
2021 Virtual Anabaptist Book Festival	2008 Martin Mittelstadt
2020 Meghan Larissa Good	2007 Barry L. Callen
2019 Donald B. Kraybill	2006 Keith A. Graber Miller
2018 Duane C. S. Stoltzfus	2005 Ben C. Ollenburger
2017 Greg Boyd	2004 Susan L. Biesecker-Mast
2016 Molly Worthen	2003 Nancy R. Heisey
2015 J. Nelson Kraybill	2002 Tom Yoder Neufeld
2014 David R. Swartz	2001 Alan and Eleanor Kreider
2013 David W. Shenk	2000 Myron S. Augsburger
	1999 John D. Roth

ABOUT THE SIDER INSTITUTE FOR ANABAPTIST, PIETIST AND WESLEYAN STUDIES

The Schrag Lectures are sponsored by Messiah University's Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies. Named in honor of professor emeritus E. Morris Sider and his wife Leone, the Sider Institute facilitates the exploration and interpretation of Anabaptism, Pietism and Wesleyanism through a variety of educational opportunities and scholarly programs. These three theological traditions have long shaped the personality of Messiah University's founding denomination—the Brethren in Christ Church—and continue to inform the University's educational mission.

Messiah University has created endowments to support the work of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library and Archives, the Sider Institute and the Schrag Lectures, and to provide scholarship assistance to Brethren in Christ students at Messiah University.

Persons interested in contributing to any of these endowments should contact:

Messiah University
Office of Development
One University Ave.
Mechanicsburg PA 17055
717-691-6019

IN HONOR OF THE SCHRAGS



The Schrag Lectures are named to honor Martin Schrag (1919–2002), professor emeritus of church history at Messiah University, and his wife Dorothy Schrag (1918–2017), assistant professor emerita of music. Both were also active in the Brethren in Christ Church.

Martin Schrag was an outstanding scholar of Anabaptist history and theology. His best-known publication was "The European History (1525–1874) of the Swiss Mennonites from Volhynia" (1974), in which

he traced his ancestors' journey from Switzerland to Russia and then to the United States. With co-author John K. Stoner, he also wrote "The Ministry of Reconciliation" (1973). His last book, "Christian Leshner: Nineteenth-Century Brethren in Christ Bishop" (2003), was in press at the time of his passing. His biography is one of three that is featured in "Embracing Scholarship, Piety and Obedience" (2009), published by the Brethren in Christ Historical Society.