



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



For more information, contact the Sider Institute at  
[siderinstitute@messiah.edu](mailto:siderinstitute@messiah.edu), or visit the Sider Institute  
website at [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute).

25.1104



**Dr. Jesse P. Nickel**  
**MAKING PEACE WITH JESUS IN A VIOLENT WORLD**  
**February 16-17, 2026**

# 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  
 2024 Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Jim Amstutz  
 2023 Richard T. Hughes  
 2022 Marie Mutsuki Mockett  
 2021 Virtual Anabaptist Book Festival  
 2020 Meghan Larissa Good  
 2019 Donald B. Kraybill  
 2018 Duane C. S. Stoltzfus  
 2017 Greg Boyd  
 2016 Molly Worthen  
 2015 J. Nelson Kraybill  
 2014 David R. Swartz  
 2013 David W. Shenk

2012 James Forbes  
 2011 Ronald J. Sider  
 2010 Nathan Emerson Yoder  
 2009 June Alliman Yoder  
 2008 Martin Mittelstadt  
 2007 Barry L. Callen  
 2006 Keith A. Graber Miller  
 2005 Ben C. Ollenburger  
 2004 Susan L. Biesecker-Mast  
 2003 Nancy R. Heisey  
 2002 Tom Yoder Neufeld  
 2001 Alan and Eleanor Kreider  
 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 Lesher: 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.