

The McPherson Lectures - March 23 & 24

First Presbyterian Church Durham

McPherson Lectureship 2025

Sunday, March 23 9:45 Faith and Community Class
11:00 Worship Service
4:00 Community Gathering

Monday, March 24 9:00 am Clergy Breakfast



Robert Williamson, Jr., PhD
Professor, Chair of Religious Studies,
Hendrix College, Theologian in Residence,
Canvas Community, Little Rock, AR



Amy Cooper Robertson, PhD
Director of Lifelong Learning and Music,
Congregation Or Hadash, Sandy Springs, GA

Join us for the annual McPherson Lecture on Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24. Our speakers will be **Dr. Robert Williamson, Jr.**, and **Dr. Amy Cooper Robertson**. Their theme will be “Loving Your Neighbor in a Fearful World.” Together Drs. Williamson (Christian) and Robertson (Jewish) produce **BibleWorm**, a weekly podcast in which they consider a passage of biblical text from their respective faith traditions. The BibleWorm podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and other podcast apps. Please join us – and invite friends – for any

or all of the following events:

Sunday, March 23

9:45 am: “The Economics of Loving Your Neighbor” in the Faith and Community Class

11:00 am Sermon: “The Limits of Neighborliness” (Luke 10:25-37)

4:00 pm: “Trusting God, Trusting Neighbor: The Vulnerability of Interdependence”
(please RSVP to the church office for childcare)

Monday, March 24

9:00 am: “Spiritual Leadership in a Fearful World” *Clergy & Religious Leader Breakfast*

(Continued on next page)

Here is more information about our speakers:

Amy Cooper Robertson, PhD, is Director of Lifelong Learning and Music at Congregation Or Hadash in Sandy Springs, Georgia. She studied Jewish texts and language at Harvard Divinity School and later at Emory, where she earned a PhD in Religion/Hebrew Bible. In Atlanta and in Cambridge, MA, Dr. Robertson has taught Tanakh, Judaism, Biblical Hebrew, and critical thinking and writing to undergraduates and graduate students. She is the author of several articles, including "Kohelet Teaches Us to Live for Today: Unexpected Wisdom for the Real World from Ecclesiastes."

Robert (Bobby) Williamson, Jr., PhD, is Margaret Berry Hutton Odyssey Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church, USA, he was the founding pastor of Mercy Community Church and currently serves as Theologian in Residence at Canvas Community, both welcoming all people, especially those living on the streets, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Emory, a post-graduate diploma in Jewish Studies from Oxford, a master's of divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, and a bachelor's degree from Clemson. He is the author of *The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today* (Fortress Press, 2018).