



SPECIAL | HPE

The Rev. Dr. Chris Franks, chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at High Point University, will moderate the panel during the fall Faculty Lecture Series virtually on Oct. 1.

## HPU religion faculty to host virtual discussion

BY ENTERPRISE STAFF

HIGH POINT — The chairman of High Point University's Department of Religion and Philosophy will host a virtual lecture and panel discussion next week on the topic of church leadership in a time of crisis.

The Rev. Dr. Chris Franks also will moderate the panel discussion on what the multiple crises of today — the global pandemic, political and social polarization, racial unrest and economic instability — are teaching us about the necessities, failings and future of the church.

"We are lucky to be able to tap into a range of wisdom from church leaders in the wider HPU family," Franks said. "This panel will bring diverse perspectives to pressing issues facing churches today."

Members of the panel include

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, resident bishop of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church; the Rev. Dr. Michael Brown, adjunct instructor of religion and philosophy, and author and preacher; Sydney Richards, a 2020 graduate of Duke Divinity School and currently a teaching assistant in the Divinity School; and the Rev. Kyle Thompson, senior pastor of South Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte.

"Leading the Generations: Ecclesial Leadership in a Time of Crisis" will be presented online on Oct. 1 at 11 a.m.

All members of the community are invited to participate in the free event, but registration is required. Space is limited to 500 participants. To register, visit <http://www.highpoint.edu/religion/leading-the-generations-panel/>.

## U.S. death toll from coronavirus hits 200,000

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus topped 200,000 Tuesday, by far the highest in the world, hitting the once-unimaginable threshold six weeks before an election that is certain to be a referendum in part on President Donald Trump's handling of the crisis.

"It is completely unfathomable that we've reached this point," said Jennifer Nuzzo, a Johns Hopkins University public health researcher, eight months after the scourge first reached the world's richest nation, with its state-of-the-art laboratories, top-flight scientists and stockpiles of medical supplies.

The number of dead is equivalent to a 9/11 attack every day for 67 days. It is roughly equal to the population of Salt Lake City or Huntsville, Alabama.

And it is still climbing. Deaths are running at close to 770 a day on average, and a widely cited model from the University of Washington predicts the U.S. toll will double to 400,000 by the end of the year as schools and colleges reopen and cold weather sets in. A vaccine is unlikely to become wide-

ly available until 2021.

"The idea of 200,000 deaths is really very sobering, in some respects stunning," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious-disease expert, said on CNN.

The bleak milestone was reported by Johns Hopkins, based on figures supplied by state health authorities. But the real toll is thought to be much higher, in part because many COVID-19 deaths were probably ascribed to other causes, especially early on, before widespread testing.

Trump said it was "a shame" the U.S. reached that number but argued the toll could have been much worse.

"I think if we didn't do it properly and do it right, you'd have 2.5 million deaths," Trump told reporters at the White House before leaving for a campaign rally in Pittsburgh. He added that the United States is now "doing well" and "the stock market is up."

He also gave his often-repeated broadside that China was at fault for the pandemic. In a prerecorded speech to the U.N. General Assembly, he demanded that Beijing be held accountable for having

"unleashed this plague onto the world." China's ambassador rejected the accusations as baseless.

On Twitter, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said, "It didn't have to be this bad."

"It's a staggering number that's hard to wrap your head around," he said. "There's a devastating human toll to this pandemic — and we can't forget that."

For five months, America has led the world by far in sheer numbers of confirmed infections — nearly 6.9 million as of Tuesday — and deaths. The U.S. has less than 5% of the globe's population but more than 20% of the reported deaths.

Brazil is No. 2 with about 137,000 deaths, followed by India with approximately 89,000 and Mexico with around 74,000. Only five countries — Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Spain and Brazil — rank higher in COVID-19 deaths per capita.

"All the world's leaders took the same test, and some have succeeded and some have failed," said Dr. Cedric Dark, an emergency physician at Baylor College of Medicine in hard-hit Houston. "In the case of our country, we failed miserably."

## United Way of Davidson County names interim leader

BY ENTERPRISE STAFF

LEXINGTON — Kristie Hege was named interim president of the United Way of Davidson County earlier this month, according to its board of directors.

Hege, who has been campaign director, will be the acting president of UWDC through the end of 2020, when the executive committee will review her performance with the intent of naming her permanent president, United Way of Davidson County board chair John Clowney said in a press release.

Brittany Pruitt-Fletcher, the organization's former president, announced in March she would be assuming the position of chief of staff for United Way of Forsyth County.

Kirsten Jones, the community impact administrator, will be shadowing the campaign director role with the intent of advancing into this position.

Hege is a native



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Kristie Hege was named interim president of the United Way of Davidson County.

of Davidson County and graduate of Ledford High School who earned her bachelor of science degree in education at Western Carolina University. She has been the campaign director for the UWDC since joining the organization in 2002. She and her family live in the Arcadia community of Davidson County. The United Way of Davidson County's 2021 fundraising campaign is underway with a goal of \$1.35 million to support work of its 23 partner agencies throughout Davidson County. Last year, UWDC raised \$1.2 million. For more information about donating or being involved with the campaign, contact the United Way office at 336-249-2532.

## Jennings, founder of Biscuitville, dies

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENSBORO — Maurice Jennings, the founder of the fast-food breakfast chain Biscuitville, has died at the age of 86.

Executive consultant Al Lineberry Jr. of Hanes Lineberry Funeral Home in Greensboro confirmed on Tuesday that Jennings died last Saturday at a Greensboro retirement home of natural causes.

After the former flour broker opened

two stores in Burlington in 1966, Jennings opened several pizza restaurants the next year, eventually expanding it to include biscuits in the morning in 1975, the News & Record of Greensboro reported.

He opened the first dedicated Biscuitville in Danville, Virginia, in 1975 and expanded quickly throughout North Carolina. Beginning in the 1980s, Biscuitville restaurants opened only for breakfast and lunch and closed at 2 p.m.

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