

Guest Speakers



Christopher Feryo *MS Thanatology, CT*

Christopher is a graduate of Marian University with an M.S. degree in Thanatology and Mount Saint Mary's College with a B.S. degree, majoring in Economics and Fine Arts. He is also a graduate of Northampton College where he majored in Funeral Service Education. Chris is a Certified Funeral Celebrant and Certified End of Life Doula holding proficiency badges in After Death Care Education and Death Doula from National End of Life Doula Association. Chris is also Certified in Thanatology: Death, Dying, and Bereavement by the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC).



Niharika Ganta *MD, MPH, FAAHPM*

Dr. Niharika Ganta, M.D., M.P.H., is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Ganta completed her medical and public health training at Temple University, followed by residency in Internal Medicine at Yale University and a fellowship in Integrated Geriatrics and Hospice & Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She currently serves as Chief of the Penn Palliative Care Program and Medical Director for Penn Home Palliative Care Program. Nationally, Dr. Ganta is recognized for her leadership in palliative care education and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Her scholarly work includes peer-reviewed publications in palliative care communication, caregiver engagement, and system-level innovation. She has interests in team effectiveness, program development, and equity in serious illness.



Elyse Seidner-Joseph

Elyse Seidner-Joseph is a retired gastroenterologist and rabbi living in West Chester and Aspen. Elyse was the founder and spiritual leader of Makom Kadosh: The Jewish Fellowship of Chester County (2010-2022), an independent congregation geared towards adult spiritual seekers. She remains vitally committed to increasing the vibrancy of contemporary Jewish life. Elyse enjoys practicing the piano, reading modern fiction and complicated masterworks, cooking (especially soups in winter), learning Torah and Zohar and a variety of volunteer commitments, including several non-profit board positions, chaplaincy weekly at the local hospital, and serving the poor and hungry at the St. Agnes Day Room.



Abdul Mughees

I am a volunteer with the Islamic Society of Chester County, where I serve as President of the Executive Committee and as a member of the interfaith team. Over the past 25 years, I have held various leadership roles within the organization, including leading philanthropic initiatives focused on addressing food insecurity and supporting humanitarian causes such as March of Dimes, World Health Organization hunger relief efforts, refugee resettlement, the Rohingya crisis, The Salvation Army, and local soup kitchens. I have also helped establish a Muslim burial process in the community and serve as a funeral director, and I remain actively engaged in interfaith efforts, educating and presenting about Islam to diverse religious groups



Martina Martin

Martina Martin is an International Attorney currently practicing in cross-border matters, with a strong foundation in corporate and commercial real estate law. In addition to her legal work, she operates as a Mobile Notary, providing flexible, on-demand services for individuals and businesses. Her background also includes experience as a Real Estate Agent, Title Insurance Agent, and Insurance Agent, offering a comprehensive perspective on real estate and financial transactions.



Bradley Flamm *PhD*

Bradley Flamm has been the Director of West Chester University's Office of Sustainability since 2017 and works with the large and diverse community of students, faculty, staff, and community partners who are active in WCU's Sustainability Council. He holds a doctorate in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in Regional Planning from Cornell University and brings to this work the knowledge and skills he has developed as a professional transportation planner, a researcher and teacher, a food security analyst and community development worker, and an environmental advocate.



Evan Duncan

Rev. Evan Duncan serves as the Pastor of the Baptist Church of West Chester, a community of faith connected to American Baptist Churches, USA, The Alliance of Baptists, and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, a Master of Divinity from Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, and is currently a PhD candidate at Eastern University researching the implementation of diverse and collaborative preaching toward the decolonization of the historical white American church. Evan and his partner, Brittany, have three kids and a husky.



Sophia Garcia-Jackson

Sophia Garcia-Jackson is currently the elected Coroner for the Chester County Coroner's Office. She was sworn in for a second term on January 5, 2026. She oversees the entire function of the office, with direct supervision of administration, investigations, transportations, and morgue related services consisting of autopsy technicians and contracted forensic pathologists. Her background includes over 12 years of experience as a Medicolegal Death Investigator. She earned a Forensic Medicine master's degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology.



Liz Dreibelbis *ATR-BC, LPC*

Liz Dreibelbis, ATR-BC, LPC, is an experienced Art Therapist and Licensed Professional Counselor who co-founded A Haven (www.ahaven.org) to provide compassionate support for grieving children and their families. Her background spans hospice care, pediatric programs, and trauma-informed mental health services. She is dedicated to making grief education approachable and practical for students, caregivers, and professionals. Liz's contributions to the field earned her recognition as a VISTA 2026 Next Gen Superstar 40 Under 40.



Jonathan Ragonese

Jonathan Ragonese, composer-arranger-saxophonist, is the Director of Jazz Studies and Saxophone Professor at the Wells School of Music at West Chester University. As a saxophonist he has performed and recorded with a wide array of musicians including Steve Wilson, David Liebman, Jon Faddis, The Sirius Quartet, Gideon Alorwoyie, the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Tim Warfield, Steve Rudolph, The Cavatina Philharmonic, The Havana Chamber Orchestra, Kristin Lee, and Emmet Cohen. As a composer his works have been commissioned and premiered by The New York Film Festival, saxophonist Steve Wilson, Jazz @ Lincoln Center, The Museum of Modern Art, the Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Harrisburg Symphony, the The Righteous Girls, Bucknell University, Messiah University, West Chester University and the Harrisburg Youth Symphony. Since 2013, he has released six titles under his own name, and his works and playing have been featured on many more. For more information, visit: www.jonathanragonese.com