

Summer Institute of Theology at Hartwick College

July 27th thru August 1st, 2025



- ◆ Please mail this completed form (all pages) to:
Hartwick Seminary Summer Institute of Theology
506 Dewar Hall, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY 13820
- ◆ Make checks payable to Hartwick Seminary Institute of Theology
- ◆ Completed forms and payment are **due by Friday, July 18th, 2025.**

Contact Information

Name: _____
Address: _____ - City: _____ - Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Congregation Information

Congregation's Name: _____ Location: _____
Pastor/Clergy Names: _____ (If Applicable)

Housing Information

Housing Need: All Week []
Only on: Sunday [] Monday [] Tuesday [] Wednesday [] Thursday []
Indicate special housing requests: _____ (We do our best to accommodate)
Roommate Preference: _____ (We do our best to accommodate)

2025 Registration Fees and Meal Prices

***All participants may use the college library, museum,
physical education center (pool, etc) campus store, and computer access***

Please select ONE—no other configuration of fees is offered.

- [] Resident \$390/week housing, all meals, courses and seminars
[] Commuter \$290/week all meals, courses and seminars—no housing

(Pre-paid meal cards provided for all meals in options 1 and 2)

- [] Overnight \$145/day any courses/seminars, 1 night's housing
[] Seminars \$65 each afternoons or evenings
[] Courses \$95 each daily sessions offered all week

(No meals are included in these options. Individual meals may be purchased at the cafeteria)

Breakfast \$9.50 p/meal - Lunch \$12.50 p/meal- Dinner \$16.50 p/meal

- [] Dietary restrictions: _____
[] Enclosed is a check for my registration: \$ _____ Check# _____
[] Additional donation \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

If finances are an issue for your participation, please contact us regarding possible arrangements.

Summer Institute of Theology at Hartwick College

July 27th thru August 1st, 2025



Reminders and Suggestions

- ♦ Towels and bed linens are *not* provided. Bring your own for a twin bed (long) or a sleeping bag.
- ♦ Mattress pads are recommended. Mattresses are firm and have vinyl covers.
- ♦ Waste baskets are *not* provided in rooms. Bring something for your personal disposal items.
- ♦ The dormitory is not air-conditioned. Fans are helpful.

Completed forms and payment due Friday, July 18, 2025

Class Registration

Name: _____

List the Course/seminar number and title

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

[] I am willing to accompany one or more worship services
I play the Guitar [] Piano []

Summer Institute of Theology at Hartwick College

July 27th thru August 1st, 2025



General Information

- ♦ Check-in and room assignment: Sunday, July 27th, 4-7pm, at Wilder Hall.
- ♦ Sign-up to carpool for daily rides to classes.
- ♦ Check for signs and directions. Campus traffic patterns may change from one year to the next.
- ♦ Name badges must be worn at all times for classes and meals.
- ♦ If you are staying overnight in the dorms, you must bring: bed linens (twin-XL) or sleeping bag (no rental linens), towels, toiletries. We recommend you bring lamp, fan, garbage bags, window screen, and other creature comforts. This is college dormitory living. We encourage casual clothing, comfortable shoes, and sweaters for upstate New York summer weather: warm/hot days, cool nights.
- ♦ Arriving later in the week? Please report to the Institute office, Clark Hall 252, for your name badge and packet.
- ♦ Orientation for the week is Sunday, 7:30pm in Shineman Chapel.
- ♦ Welcome reception for all participants is Sunday, 8:30pm on the patio of Shineman Chapel.
- ♦ The annual Tuesday night party in the dorm will take place after worship-bring snacks to share. Look for announcements on the traditional Thursday Late Night Out on the Town, after evening worship, at a local restaurant
- ♦ **Smoking is not allowed inside any Hartwick College building.**
- ♦ Meals are served in Dewar Hall Commons Cafeteria.

Breakfast: 7:30-8:30am.

Lunch: 11:30am-12:30pm.

Dinner 5:00-6:30pm.

(Weekly overnight and commuter registrants use a meal card)

Costs for the Institute are partially underwritten by a subsidy from the founding congregations. Congregations or individuals who wish to support this ministry are -- welcome to do so in any amount at any time including a check with your registration.

Session Information

- ♦ Seminars: All Seminars are 2 ^{1/2} hours, afternoon or evening, Monday-Thursday
- ♦ Courses: One hour each day, Monday-Friday
- ♦ All classes meet in Clark Hall unless otherwise noted. A study Bible is useful.
- ♦ Study Bibles and *The Book of Concord* are available for purchase at the Institute office in Dark Hall.



The 34th Summer Institute of Theology

at Hartwick College
Oneonta, New York
July 27–August 1, 2025

1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, 325 CE

Faith-based education for laity and clergy

Greetings and Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. The Institute of Theology (formerly the Hartwick Seminary Institute of Theology) was established in 1991 by a group of Lutheran congregations in eastern Upstate New York, for two primary purposes:

- to provide significant and appropriate education for those engaged in intentional lay ministry in Christian congregations and other faith communities and to support them in this work
- to provide continuing education and growth in faith for clergy, other rostered church leaders, laity, and personal enrichment for anyone—in an environment of worship and fellowship.

The Institute continues to be ecumenical in the Christian faith tradition and endeavors to offer interfaith learning opportunities.

Daily Worship

Morning Prayer—Monday–Friday 7:30am

Evening Prayer—Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs 9:15pm

Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 30 7:30pm

Pre-Service Music 7:15pm

All services are held in Shineman Chapel.

All are welcome, including
those not taking classes.

Curriculum

Seminars. Two and a half hours, afternoon or evening, Monday–Thursday

Courses. One hour each day, Monday–Friday

All classes meet in Clark Hall unless otherwise noted. Register for classes by completing and returning the registration form in this brochure by **Friday, July 18** to guarantee your selection. Register for a single class or seminar or for the entire week. A study Bible is useful.

General Information

Check-in and room assignment: Sunday, July 27, 4–7pm, Oyaron Hall. Sign-up to **carpool** for daily rides to classes.

Check for signs and directions. Campus traffic patterns may change from one year to the next. A new traffic circle is being constructed at the intersection of the four-lane Lettis Hwy (off I-88) and Main Street—follow detour signs to get to campus. **Name badges** must be worn at all times for classes and meals.

If you are staying overnight in the dorms, **you must bring**: bed linens (twin-long) or sleeping bag (no rental linens), towels, toiletries. We **recommend** you bring lamp, fan, garbage bags, window screen, and other creature comforts. This is college dormitory living. We encourage casual clothing, comfortable shoes, and sweaters for upstate New York summer weather: warm/hot days, cool nights.

Arriving later in the week? Please report to the Institute office, Clark Hall 252, for your name badge and packet.

Orientation for the week is Sunday, 7:30pm in Shineman Chapel. **Welcome reception** for all participants is Sunday, 8:30pm on the patio of Shineman Chapel.

The annual Tuesday night party in the dorm will take place after worship—bring snacks to share. Look for announcements on the traditional Thursday Late Night Out on the Town, after evening worship, at a local restaurant.

Smoking is not allowed inside any Hartwick College building.

Meals are served in Dewar Hall Commons Cafeteria. Breakfast 7:30–9:00am. Lunch 11:30am–1:00pm. Dinner 5:00–6:30pm. **Weekly** overnight and commuter registrants use a meal card.

See registration form in this brochure for the class and meal fee schedule. Information regarding required or suggested readings is in class descriptions.

Costs for the Institute are partially underwritten by a subsidy from the founding congregations. Congregations, judicatories, or individuals who wish to support this ministry are welcome to do so in any amount at any time by sending a check to the address on this brochure—still payable this year to Hartwick Seminary Institute of Theology (HSIT).

Courses | Monday—Friday

9:00am

100 Introduction to the Old Testament

Wheatley. A survey of the major themes and categories of the Hebrew Scriptures.

201 Introduction to Christian Theology

Hoffman. Examine Christian faith in light of the church's creeds, canons and confessions, and theological debates across the ages. Hear the creeds, biblical texts, and hymns that express the faith of Christians in every time and place.

405 The Art of Preaching Resurrection

Wolling. Ways to approach preaching about Jesus' resurrection and our own—the heart and soul of the Christian witness.

10:30am

150 Introduction to the New Testament—Gospels and Acts

Silvernail. Historical, theological, and literary themes in the ministry of Jesus and the early church.

145 Jesus: The Jew

Wolf. Well, he certainly wasn't a Christian. What was Jesus' own faith?

400 Introduction to Proclamation

Wolling. Explore the role of the sermon moving from biblical texts to proclamation. Address theological themes as well.

1:15pm

152 Introduction to the New Testament—Letters

Silvernail. Examine themes and theological perspectives of these early Christian documents that shaped the formation of the church. Course 150 is not a prerequisite.

300 Worship in the Christian Tradition: An Introduction

Hoffman. An overview of the theology, history, and practice of Christian worship with an emphasis on the Western church. Bring your congregation's primary worship book/s and a Bible.

375 Death, Dying, Grief, and Lament

Wheatley. Define and describe these important processes and discuss helpful tips and pastoral implications.

Seminars

Monday / 2:30pm

S310 Pronouns and the Name of God: Liturgical Language Today

Messner. How the language we use in worship affects the faith we profess.

S725 The “Burned over District”

Welch. In the mid-19th century, central New York was a center of spiritual activity. Survey some of the movements that occurred and their outcomes.

S950 How Can the Church Change and Shift?

Garis. How church structures and institutions affect ministry.

Monday / 6:30pm

S375 ‘Feathers of Grace’

Wheatley. Using Pastor Wheatley’s recently published book *Feathers of Grace*, experience the use of some of the devotions in beginning faith discussions.

S755 Christian Nationalism

Hoffman. The church faces recurring yet unique challenges of nationalist fervor, which call on us to reexamine our own faith. How can the church respond with a faithful witness that draws us to the crucified and risen Christ?

Tuesday / 2:30pm

S265 The Everyday Disciple

Velez. Examine what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the 21st century.

S909 Immigration: Issues and Realities

Walton-Leavitt. Throughout human history we have moved from place to place around the earth. What are some realities and challenges of such migration in biblical times and today?

Tuesday / 6:30 pm

S225 Nicaea

Dahulich. The first gathering of the world's bishops was 1700 years ago this year. This is the second in a three-year cycle of seminars on this foundational council of the church and of Christian theology since.

S901 What Are Those 9 People Doing?

Henry. The Supreme Court of the United States has been under intense scrutiny since the Dodd decision. How divided are the justices really?

Wednesday / 2:30 pm

S315 Basics of the Eucharistic Liturgy

Sperti. The Eucharist (mass, divine liturgy, Lord's supper) is the central worship service for most Christians. What are the basic components of this liturgy and how are they enacted?

S381 Visiting the Sick and Dying

Helstrom. Visiting the sick has been a pastoral duty since the time of Jesus. Examine the mechanics and psychology of visitation and practical supports.

S905 Christian and Citizen: Navigating Tough Times

Henry. Our world and our politics can be pretty chaotic these days. We are overwhelmed with information, misinformation, and intense partisanship. We will try to sort out what is really happening and think about how we respond to our charge to be good neighbors in difficult times.

Wednesday Service of Holy Eucharist

7:15 Pre-Service Music

7:30 pm – Shineman Chapel

Thursday / 2:30pm

S115 Wives and Mothers of Old Testament Kings

Wheatley. Observations and implications about these biblical characters who had a lot of influence and power.

S160 The First Christians—Right after the Apostles

Breland. What happened after Pentecost and the Apostolic age. Who were these early Christians and how did they live the faith?

S875 Church Finances

Eames. Is the church a business? How can we be faithful stewards while still keeping Jesus at the center of congregational life?

Thursday / 6:30pm

S385 Death and Taxes

Messner. A conversation about life choices and inevitabilities, from birth to death. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14, Luke 1-2, 1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 21-22.

S975 Christian Imagination in the World of Harry Potter

Sperti. Fantasy and faith are not mutually exclusive.

Faculty

Leslie Bauer. Organist, First United Methodist Church, Oneonta, BMus, Texas Christian University; Colleague in American Guild of Organists.

Micah Breland. Priest, Saint Innocent Orthodox Mission, Oneonta; BA Idaho State University; MBA Idaho State University; MDiv Saint Tikhons Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Michael Dahulich. Archbishop, New York-New Jersey, Orthodox Church in America; Rector, Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary; PhD, Duquesne University.

Todd Eames. Mission Developer, Journey of Faith; BS SUNY Oneonta; Director of Municipal Audits (Ret.), NYS Office of the State Comptroller; United Lutheran Seminary TEEMinarian.

Greg Garis. Lead Presbyter, Transformation for the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley; BA California State Polytechnic University; MDiv Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; DMin McCormick Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Bruce Helstrom. Pastor, Meridale Community Church; Chaplain, Catskill Area Hospice and Palliative Care; BA Wheaton College; MDiv Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, BCC Association of Professional Chaplains.

Tom Henry. High School Civics teacher (Ret.); BA Robert's Wesleyan College, MS SUNY Geneseo, doctoral student Syracuse University.

Dan Hoffman, sts. Pastor (ret.), MDiv Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; DMin Graduate Theological Foundation, Bristol, IN.

Paul Messner, sts. Pastor, Otsego County Lutheran Parish; BA American University, MDiv Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Peg Serra-Lima. BA Saint Olaf College, MEd SUNY Oneonta.

Jeff Silvernail. Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church, Central Bridge; BS University of Albany, MDiv Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Carmel Ann Sperti. Director, Initiation and Pastoral Care, Church of Saint Mary, Oneonta; MA/DMin, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception..

Randy Velez. Ordained Deacon, Saint Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Cherry Valley, NY. Counselor, Jail Ministry of Otsego County, BBA Manhattan College, JD Fordham University, Diaconate Formation Program at Saint Joseph Seminary.

Cynthia L. Walton-Leavitt. MDiv, DMin. Pastor, First United Presbyterian (the “Red Door” Church), Oneonta.

Chris Welch. Priest, Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany; Pastor/Sacramental Minister of Saint Mary’s, Oneonta, and Holy Cross, Morris.

Diane Wheatley. Pastor (ret.); MDiv Fuller Theological Seminary; MEd Stanford University. Author of forthcoming book *Feathers of Grace*.

Gail Wolling. Retired pastor, B/MA University at Albany; MDiv/STM Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Mary Wolf. BS Buffalo State College; Synodically Authorized Minister, Upstate New York Synod (ELCA); Bible study and worship leader.

Continuing Education Retreats

None scheduled currently for 2025–2026.

Helpful Hints and Requests

Register for all courses and seminars by returning the **registration form** in this brochure, whether for the week or just one course or seminar. Please use *only* this registration form to guarantee your selections. Timely registrations are appreciated. Walk-ins welcome.

If you do not check-in on Sunday afternoon and arrive later in the week, go to the Institute office, Clark Hall 252 as soon as you arrive. Receive your name tag, meal card (if applicable), and packet, which includes a class schedule and room assignments.

Prepare for your courses. Do reading in advance.

Study Bibles and *The Book of Concord* are available for purchase at the Institute office in Clark Hall for \$45 each.

If a hymnal is required for a course, students must bring their own. Hymnals should not be removed from the chapel.

Please give us your feedback: course/seminar evaluations and general evaluations are read and taken seriously. Suggestions have led to many improvements over the years. Fill them out and return them before you leave or mail them back.

Printing/postage costs prohibit us from filling requests for extra copies of this brochure. Share yours with others and make as many copies as needed. A printable PDF of the brochure is available from Pastor Paul Messner—prpaul_theoinst@hotmail.com.

Theology Institute website

sitschc.org

And check us out on Facebook

Institute Staff

Rev. Paul R. Messner, *Administrator*

prpaul_theoinst@hotmail.com
607.287.4534

David Forbes, *Treasurer and Registrar*

Sandra Shear, *Staff Assistant*

Robin Bush, *Administrative Assistant*

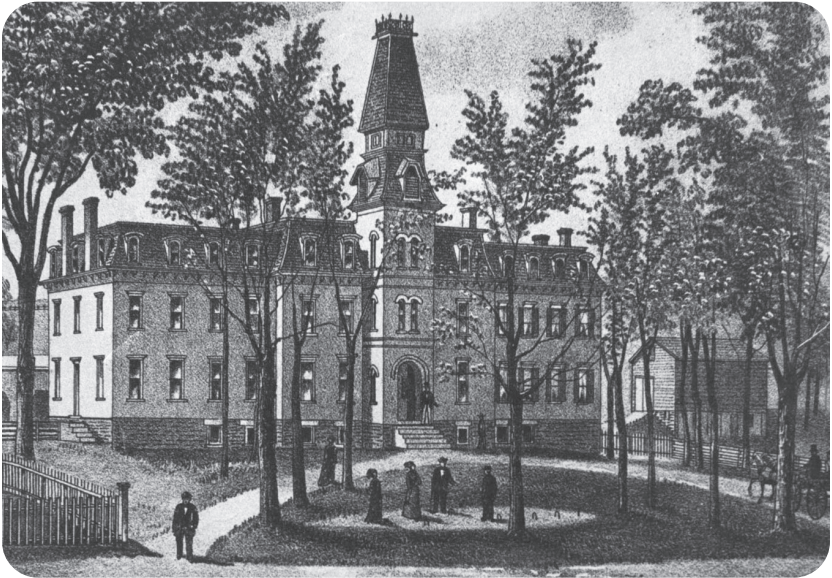
Institute of Theology at Hartwick College

607.431.4599

Campus Switchboard (always available)

607.431.4000

35th Institute of Theology at Hartwick College July 26-31, 2026



Historical illustration of Hartwick Seminary provided by the Paul F. Cooper Jr. Archives, Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York.

