

# News & Events

## 2026 AFTE John Wesley Fellows

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A Foundation for Theological Education (AFTE) John Wesley Fellowships have been awarded to three doctoral students.

The John Wesley Fellows program is designed to promote the renewal of theological education by supporting promising scholars in the Wesleyan tradition who are committed to the classical Christian faith, a robust Wesleyan understanding of Christian doctrine, and spiritual renewal of the Church and its people in service to the world. Scholarships are awarded to doctoral students to help them complete their studies. Recipients also participate in the Fellowship, which includes an annual Christmas Conference where fellows engage in scholarly conversation in service to the Church.

### The 2026 Fellows are:



**Eric Diewald**

Eric is a 2013 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a B.S.Ed. and graduated from Wesleyan Seminary with a M.T.S. in Wesleyan Theology in 2024. In addition, Eric did a post graduate fellowship at Manchester Wesley Research Centre. He currently is enrolled at the University of Manchester, Nazarene Theological College where he is pursuing his PhD in Wesleyan Systemic Theology. Eric currently serves as an elder at Awaken Church in New York. He aspires to be a Pastor-Scholar through leadership, teaching, and discipleship.

Eric and his wife, Elizabeth, and children, Oliver and Addison, currently reside in Schenectady, New York.



**Thomas Hallman**

Thomas is a 2021 graduate of Houghton University with a BA in Theology and a graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary with a MDiv in 2025. He is currently earning his PhD at Asbury Theological Seminary with a focus on hermeneutics and methods of Biblical interpretation. Following the PhD, Thomas hopes to teach the Bible/theology at a college or seminary, to pastor, or to edit and write.

Thomas and his wife, Savannah, currently reside in Wilmore, Kentucky.



**Lauren Palmer**

Lauren is a 2012 graduate of Thomas Edison State University with a BA in Social Sciences and graduated from Dallas Baptist University with an MA in 2015. She also earned an MA at University of Manchester/Cliff College in 2021 where she is currently enrolled pursuing her PhD in Theology. Lauren's major field of study is Wesleyan/Practical Theology. Her vocational goals are teaching and developing Wesleyan resources and curriculum for churches and the average layperson.

Lauren resides in Carrollton, Texas.