

ANIMATE 2018

GUEST ARTISTS



David Bowden // spoken word

David Bowden is an author, preacher and spoken word poet from Oklahoma City. He is the author of *When God Isn't There: Why God Is Farther than You Think, but Closer than You Dare Imagine*. David is the co-founder of Kleer Series (kleerseries.com), a video curriculum for post-church young people in the UK. He has produced three poetry albums, three DVDs and one book of poetry. He is the founder and president of The Poetic Inc., a non-profit dedicated to creating gospel-centered artistic content (www.spokengospel.com). David has been married to his wife Meagan for seven years and serves as the Artist in Residence at Bridgeway Church.



Joe Cory // visual artist

Joe Cory is a visual artist and an Associate Professor of Art and Design at Samford University, where he also serves as a faculty fellow for Samford's Center for Worship and the Arts. He exhibits his artwork throughout the United States and is on the Board of Directors of CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts). In 2013, he traveled to South Africa to participate in "Project R5: South Africa," where he learned about the role the visual arts played in the post-apartheid reconciliation process. This experience continues to have a significant influence on his work. Joe holds a B.A. from Central College (Iowa), a B.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and an M.F.A. from the University of Chicago. He and his wife Sara have four children and are members of Shades Valley Community Church (EFCA) in Homewood, Alabama.



Meg Lacy // preacher

Meg is a writer and yogi from Nashville, TN. She serves as an Associate Pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. Meg is passionate about listening closely to the truth of Scripture and helping people find their deepest selves within God's story. She enjoys strong coffee, porch-sitting, and spending time with her rambunctious pup, Olive.



Ken Medema // musician

For four decades, Ken Medema has inspired people through storytelling and music. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with heart and mind. His ability to capture spirit in word and song is unparalleled. One of the most creative and authentic artists performing today, Ken custom designs every musical moment of his performance with brilliant improvisation that defies description. Ken's vocal and piano artistry and imagination have reached audiences of 50 to 50,000 people in 49 United States and in more than 15 countries on four continents. Today, Medema performs in a widely variety of venues, from local congregations to charity fund-raisers, to high school and university campuses, to denominational youth gatherings, to universally televised religious programs, to corporate conventions.



Bradley Patton // preacher

Bradley grew up in Alabaster, AL just south of Birmingham. He received a Bachelor's degree in History from Samford University and has a Master of Divinity from Beeson Divinity School. While at Beeson, he was awarded the James Earl Massey Student Preaching Award. Bradley has been on staff at Shades Mountain Baptist Church for five years and hopes to start a PhD in August to further equip him for pastoral ministry in a local church. In his spare time, Bradley enjoys reading, playing softball, watching Alabama football, and drinking coffee.



Abigail Visco Rusert // adult leader

Abigail is the Director of the Institute for Youth Ministry (IYM) at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, where she oversees programs that prepare church leaders and pastors for the theological task of ministry with young people. She is an ordained PC USA pastor, and has worked with youth on three continents and in six churches. She worships at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown Pennsylvania, where her husband, Thomas, serves as Pastor. Abigail and Thomas have two daughters, Dorothy and Solveig, who daily inspire dance parties in their kitchen.



Paul Ryan // worship leader

Paul is the Associate Chaplain for Worship at Calvin College, leading Chapel and LOFT and serving as a resource for worship around campus. Paul is a graduate of Indiana University School of Music (BM, vocal performance) and Calvin Theological Seminary (MDiv) and is an ordained pastor in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. When not leading worship or mentoring students, Paul enjoys spending time with his wife Sheila, sons Connor and Sean and dog Nelson. He is frequently caught talking about the latest Dr. Who episode, checking the score of a Tiger's baseball game, reading J.R.R. Tolkien or running around Calvin's campus training for his next race.



Urban Doxology // guest artists

Urban Doxology is a ministry that writes the soundtrack of reconciliation in the racially diverse and gentrifying neighborhood of Church Hill, Richmond, VA. The band evolved out of the Urban Songwriting Internship Program that is a partnership with Arrabon and East End Fellowship. An "urban doxology" is any liturgy, preaching, or music and arts that crosses boundaries in ethnicity, race, and class that prepares God's people for the city of God.