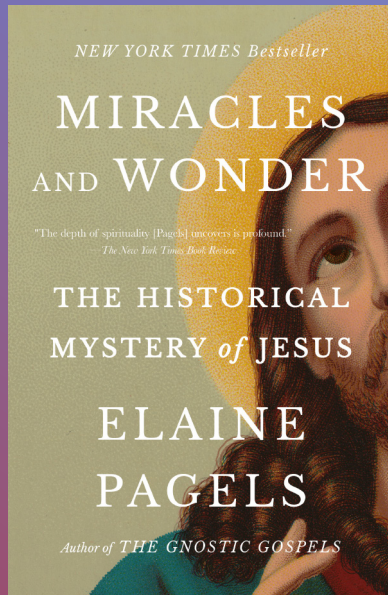


A B E T T E R W A Y

An Evening with
Elaine Pagels

April 20, 2026 | 7pm



WASHINGTON
NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL

Program

WELCOME

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith

Dean, Washington National Cathedral

EVENING CONVERSATION

Dr. Elaine Pagels, Ph.D.

Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at
Princeton University and Bestselling Author

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith,

Moderator

Dean, Washington National Cathedral

AUDIENCE Q&A

Virtual audience members are invited to submit questions before and during the conversation by scanning the QR code.



BOOK SIGNING

Immediately following in the Cathedral's Gift Shop, copies of *Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus* will be available for purchase.

This evening forum is presented by the Cathedral College of Faith & Culture as part of the Cathedral's **A Better Way** programming, a series of events designed to help Americans live together, learn from each other and find a way forward as a nation in polarized times.

The College of Faith & Culture convenes people from all walks of life to find connection and common ground. We are committed to building bridges through education, conversation and compassion.



Elaine Pagels

Elaine Pagels is the Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at Princeton University. In 2015 she received the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama, and earlier in her career was awarded a Rockefeller, Guggenheim, and MacArthur fellowship in consecutive years. As a young researcher at Barnard College, she changed the historical landscape of the Christian religion by exploding the myth of the early Church as a unified movement. Her findings were published in the bestselling book *The Gnostic Gospels* (1979), which won both the National Book Critics Circle Award and the National Book Award. Her subsequent books include *Why Religion? Revelations, Reading Judas, Beyond Belief, The Origin of Satan*, and *Adam, Eve, and the Serpent*. She has been profiled in *Time*, *The Atlantic*, *Vogue*, *The New Yorker*, and *Newsweek's* issue "Women and Power."



The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith

The Very Rev. Randolph "Randy" Marshall Hollerith has served as Dean of Washington National Cathedral since 2016, prioritizing hospitality and welcome for all visitors and worshippers. He developed a five-year Strategic Plan focused on Welcoming, Deepening, Convening, and Serving, and launched a \$150 million campaign for mission engagement. He previously served as rector of St. James's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA.



AFTER HOURS IN *THE TOWERS*

Thursday evenings June 11 – August 27



A BETTER WAY

Understory Uprising

An Evening of Music, Story, & Defiant Hope

May 29 | 7:30pm



Washington National Cathedral is a house of prayer for all people, conceived by our founders to serve as a great church for national purposes. We strive to serve God and our neighbors as agents of reconciliation, a trusted voice of moral leadership and a sacred space where the country gathers during moments of national significance.

The Cathedral receives no operating support from the federal government or any national church body. Every service, concert and public program is made possible by the incredible generosity of individuals like you.

