

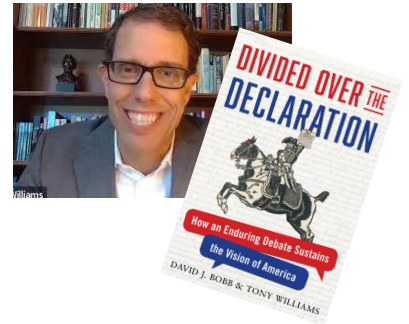
# Historic Christ Church & MUSEUM

## SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

(Please see back for complete program descriptions)

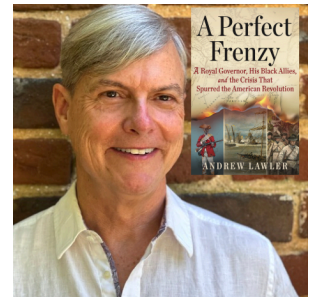
**TH**  
**6/11**

**Tony Williams - June 11 - 5:00 PM**  
**"ALL Men are Created Equal:" The Declaration of Independence and Black Freedom Suits & Freedom Petitions"**



**W**  
**7/8**

**Andrew Lawler - July 8 - 5:00 PM**  
**A Perfect Frenzy:**  
**A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis That Spurred the American Revolution**



**TH**  
**8/20**

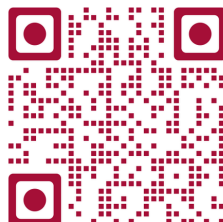
**Jane Kamensky - August 20 - 5:00 PM**  
**"You and I have passed our Lives in Serious Times": Learning from Jefferson and Adams**



Tickets: \$50/presentation, \$95 couple/presentation, or \$140/series. Pricing includes wine & cheese reception with speaker



Scan for details



420 Christ Church Rd, Weems, VA

## **Tony Williams - June 11 - 5:00 PM**

"ALL Men are Created Equal:" The Declaration of Independence and Black Freedom Suits & Freedom Petitions

The Declaration of Independence asserted that "all men are created equal" and have natural rights and the right of self-government by consent. Slavery contradicted these core principles of the Declaration of Independence as America's creedal document. In part one of HCC&M's 2026 Summer Speaker Series, Tony Williams, a Senior Fellow at the Bill of Rights Institution, shows how enslaved people were the first to make a claim on those principles of liberty, equality, and self-government to fulfill the unrealized promise of America. Using the Declaration of Independence as their "North Star," they launched "freedom petitions" and "freedom suits," making a claim on natural rights with unexpected and surprising outcomes. Williams will also sign copies of his new book *Divided Over the Declaration: How an Enduring Debate Sustains the Vision of America*.

## **Andrew Lawler - "A Perfect Frenzy" - July 8 - 5:00 PM**

As the American Revolution broke out in New England in the spring of 1775, dramatic events unfolded in Virginia that proved every bit as decisive as the battles of Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill in uniting the colonies against Britain. That June, following his raid on the powder magazine in Williamsburg in April and increasing tensions with patriots, Virginia's last royal governor Lord Dunmore fled the capital and built a stronghold in Norfolk. In November, Dunmore issued a proclamation promising freedom to enslaved people and indentured servants owned by patriots who joined the British war effort. Several hundred enslaved people joined Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment, which saw combat in late 1775 and into 1776. Join author Andrew Lawler as he traces these momentous events that helped push Virginians towards independence.

## **Jane Kamensky - August 20 - 5:00 PM**

**"You and I have passed our Lives  
in Serious Times": Learning from Jefferson and Adams**

Join Monticello President and American historian Jane Kamensky to explore the past, present, and future of civic friendship and its ongoing relationship to our constitutional democracy. The talk centers on the relationship of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, founding friends in the 1770s who became factional foes in the 1790s, and distant enemies for over a decade thereafter. The remarkable rebuilding of their friendship, via letters, in the 1810s offers a compelling model of frank disagreement navigated through shared commitment to the American project. Kamensky discusses the ways Monticello is sharing their complex history to nourish the civic knowledge, skills and dispositions of its audience, and invites us to consider the ways that museums, historic sites, and other community learning partners can help revitalize the ties that bind Americans as a people.

A leading historian of early America and the United States, Dr. Kamensky appeared throughout the recent Florentine Films/Ken Burns documentary *The American Revolution*, on which she also served as a scholarly advisor.

**All 420 Christ Church Rd Weems, VA  
ChristChurch1735.org**