

Ryan Burge

Political scientist, author, and data journalist on religion in American life

Professor of Practice, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis



Ryan turns the biggest surveys in America into clear, surprising stories about where faith is headed and what that means for congregations, communities, and democracy.

5

books, with two more under contract

35K+

readers of the *Graphs About Religion* newsletter

20+

peer-reviewed articles

20+

years as an American Baptist pastor

The data behind America's changing faith

Ryan Burge is a Professor of Practice at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis, after thirteen years in political science at Eastern Illinois University.

Using the nation's largest surveys, he shows audiences what is actually happening to faith in America, one clear graph at a time.

He is the author of five books, most recently *The Vanishing Church* (2026), and writes the *Graphs About Religion* newsletter for more than 35,000 subscribers.

A pastor in the American Baptist Church for more than two decades, Ryan speaks to congregations as someone who has stood in the pulpit, not just studied the pews.

CORE DATA SOURCES

General Social Survey · Cooperative Election Study · Pew Religious Landscape Study · Baylor Religion Survey · original national surveys

SHORT BIO · READY TO USE

Ryan Burge is a Professor of Practice at Washington University in St. Louis and author of *The Vanishing Church* and *The Nones*. He writes the *Graphs About Religion* newsletter and is a frequent source for national media on faith and politics in America.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. & M.A., Political Science
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale

B.A., History & Political Science
Greenville University

Postdoctoral Fellow
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

“ SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION

Our speaker has spent his career counting what most of us only guess about. A political scientist at Washington University in St. Louis, a longtime pastor, and the author of *The Vanishing Church*, he's here to show us what the numbers say about faith in America. Please welcome Ryan Burge.

Four talks, each built on the data

Every talk is tailored to the room, from denominational leaders and pastors to university audiences, donors, and civic groups.

01

The Vanishing Church

Moderate and mainline congregations are emptying while the pews that remain sort by politics. Ryan shows how that hollowing out happened, and why losing churches where people of different views sit together hurts faith, community, and democracy.

Best for denominational gatherings, mainline and moderate congregations, civic forums

02

The Great American Church Migration

Americans aren't just leaving religion; they are moving between traditions in huge numbers. Drawing on new original survey data from his forthcoming book, Ryan maps who switches, where they land, and what churches can learn from the flow.

Best for church planters, pastors and staff, denominational strategy teams

03

The Nones

About one in three Americans now claims no religion. Who are they, where did they come from, and are they ever coming back? A clear-eyed portrait of the fastest-growing group in American religion, and what it means for everyone else.

Best for colleges and campus ministries, youth and young-adult leaders, general audiences

04

Faith and the Ballot Box

Evangelicals, Catholics, the nones, and the parties that court them. Ryan separates myth from measurement on religion and American politics, and explains how the God gap reshapes elections and public life.

Best for universities, policy and media audiences, election-year events

FORMATS Keynote · Breakout or workshop · Panel or fireside chat · Podcast or interview · Virtual

BOOKS

The Vanishing Church

Brazos Press, 2026

The American Religious Landscape

Oxford University Press, 2024

The Great Dechurching

with Jim Davis & Michael Graham · Zondervan, 2023

20 Myths about Religion and Politics in America

Fortress Press, 2022

The Nones

Fortress Press, 2021

FORTHCOMING

The Great American Church Migration

with Michael Graham · Zondervan, 2027

FEATURED IN

The New York Times

The Wall Street Journal

The Washington Post

POLITICO

60 Minutes

The Tavis Smiley Show

RECENT STAGES

Irresistible Church Conference, North Point Ministries

Alleluia Conference, Baylor University

Word on Fire Institute

Yale Divinity School

Book Ryan for your event

WHEN YOU REACH OUT, INCLUDE

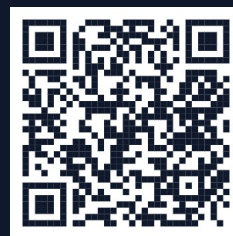
Event date and location

Audience size and who they are

Format and length (keynote, workshop, panel, virtual)

The topic or question you want addressed

Speaking fees vary by format and travel. Contact for a quote.



SCAN TO BOOK

Check dates and send a request

drburge-speaking.netlify.app/booking

BOOKED THROUGH

Graphs About Religion LLC