



Pastor Paul may have begun his ministry in a small storefront church but now, twenty years later, he's the leader of a grand megachurch of devoted parishioners. Yet now he stands on the brink of a theological earthquake. He's had a revelation. In a late night talk with God he has come to the understanding that Hell, as he had been preaching, is not a physical place with fire and brimstone. Instead, Hell is the misery mankind makes on earth.

When he shares this "aha moment" with his flock, they are shaken. From the tumult a new leader and other congregants emerge to confront and question this shift of faith.

Lean Ensemble Theater's production of "The Christians" by Lucas Hnath explores how religion can bring us together and tear us apart. The playwright hopes that by listening to different points of view we can understand how others think and why they think the way they do — "a good basis for creating a conversation out in the world, beyond the play."

Directed by Jay Briggs, the show features Marcus D. Harvey, Sean Hinckle, Tai Verley, and Ensemble members Peggy Trecker White and Jenny Zmarzly. Talkbacks with the cast after performances.

Performances are 7:30 pm on Jan 23-25 and Jan 30-Feb 1. Matinees 2 pm on Jan 26 and Feb 2. HHPS Main Street Theatre, 3000 Main Street, Hilton Head Island 29926. Tickets: \$40. Students and Active Military \$15. Preview night (Jan 23 only) \$25. Group rates available. For tickets and information call 843.715.6676 or go to leanensemble.org