



January 11, 2018

An Invitation to Shabbat from our Jewish Neighbors

All are warmly invited to a Shabbat service, reception, and conversation to connect with some of our Jewish neighbors in Pittsburgh.



Congregation Beth Shalom
5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

In the wake of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting, some suggested they would like to learn more about Judaism in an effort to interpret the anti-Semitic violence, understand more about Jewish beliefs and practices, and to connect in-person as friends, neighbors, listeners, and allies. To that end, the leaders at Congregation Beth Shalom in Squirrel Hill have invited all members of the entire Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to visit a Shabbat service.

The service begins at 10:30 a.m. in the main sanctuary. This particular service will include a special reading and celebration of the Ten Commandments. After the service there will be a small reception (called kiddush), after which Rabbi Seth Adelson, Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, and Bishop Dorsey McConnell will lead an introduction to Judaism with Q & A conversation for our group.

Additional details are available at www.episcopalpgh.org/invitation-to-shabbat/



Healing Service at St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg

As part of an ongoing attempt to continuing working on ways to reach people who feel rejected by organized religion, the Rev. Julie Smith will host the second in series of planned healing services at 6 p.m. on January 18 at [St. Stephen Episcopal Church](#), 600 Pitt Street, in Wilkinsburg.

It's part of what's being called an effort to work on ways to reach the "Nones" --- our family, friends and neighbors who feel rejected by organized religion and identify their own affiliation as "NONE."

This includes millennials, immigrants, members of the LGBTQ community and anyone who is feeling pushed away from churches by cultural and political forces.

Refreshments and conversation will follow. If you are interested in attending, or would like to be notified of future events, please email Jason Togyer at jtogyer@gmail.com.



Winter Book and Jewelry Sale at Atonement, Carnegie

Winter is a great time to catch up on reading! Come browse a wonderful book selection - you're sure to find something to enjoy.

If you're looking for a Valentine's Day gift or some 2019 bling, shop a large jewelry selection with great prices.

Church of the Atonement, 618 Washington Avenue,
Carnegie, PA 15106

**Friday, January 18: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. & Saturday, January
19: 9 a.m.- Noon & 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. for Bag Sale**

Snow Date: Sunday, January 20 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Questions? Call Joyce Corkery at 412-276-0366



REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

**Sunday, January 20, 2019
4:00 p.m.**

**With Church Without Walls
at Rodman Street Missionary
Baptist Church**



*I have decided to stick with
LOVE. Hate is too great a
burden to bear.*

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, 6111 Rodman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
rodmanstreetchurch.org



From the Diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee

- Plastic in the oceans kills over a million sea birds, 100,000 marine mammals, and countless fish every year, according to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Plastic chemicals can be absorbed in our bodies- 93 per cent of Americans age six or older test positive for BPA, which can cause cancer and birth defects, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.
- Our tap and bottled water are both loaded with microplastics.



Following up on the Diocesan Convention resolution which recommends that "each parish encourage its parishioners to recycle, reuse and reduce their uses of water, electricity, gasoline and other fossil fuels, and plastics, which are polluting the ocean," the Social Justice and Outreach Committee encourages all parishes in the diocese to take part in the *Single Use Plastics (SUP) Challenge*, to reduce the reliance on single use plastics such as plastic grocery bags and Styrofoam cups and plates.

The Committee is collaborating on a project, known as the *What's SUP Challenge*, with committees of the Pittsburgh Friends Meeting House and the First Unitarian Church. We encourage all members of the diocese to a kickoff event on Sunday, January 20, at 1:30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 4836 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

This event will involve education about the dangers of plastics and possibilities for alternatives, forming teams of people pursuing similar goals, watching the movie "Bag It" together, and refreshments. In future months we hope to tour a recycling facility and learn the limitations of recycling, share our successes and what we're all learning, and hold a SUP-less supper to celebrate.

Marianne Novy (mnovy@pitt.edu)
Diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee

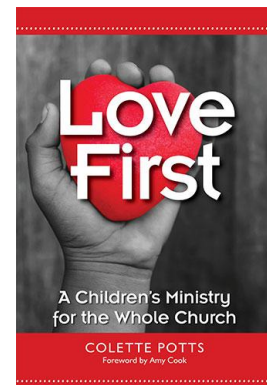


Love First Book Study

The Children's Ministry Team is conducting an online book study of *Love First: A Children's Ministry for the Whole Church* by Colette Potts.

A copy of this book was provided to each parish in convention packages. We will discuss one chapter a month. We will kick off the study in person on January 25, at 10 a.m.- location TBA- followed by online summary and online discussion.

You need not attend the 'in person' meeting to participate in the online study and discussion. To participate, please join our email list at pghchildmin@gmail.com



Pittsburgh Beer & Hymns



Thursday, January 31

7:00-9:00 pm

Vincent's of Greentree

333 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15220



Hosted by Saint John Lutheran Church, Carnegie

www.saintjohncarnegie.com

all ages welcome!



Save the Date: Lenten Learning Day 2019

Mark your calendar for Lenten Learning Day 2019, **Saturday, March 23**, at **St. Brendan's Episcopal Church** in Franklin Park. This will be a special day of learning, worshipping, and building relationships with others across our diocese and communities.

Our theme for this year is **Good News Within Reach**. So... What's the good news?



- **First**, we don't need to look far and wide for opportunities to fulfill the mission of the Church. There are people all around us in need of love and teaching and healing. We see them when we take the trash out to the curb, when we drop our kids or grandkids off at school, and while standing in line at the grocery store ... They're our neighbors! And, because they are within our reach, the Good News of Christ is within theirs.
- **Second**, fulfilling the Church's mission is within the reach of every parish - whether large or small, financially well-off or merely making ends meet, served by a full-time rector or Sunday-only supply clergy.
- **Third**, ideas and support for mission is within reach - not something we have to import from out-of-state. We have people and parishes participating in creative and effective ministry right here within our Western Pennsylvania footprint.

On March 23, come and learn about some of the mission and ministry taking place throughout our diocese - directly from the people who lead and participate in it. Ponder together how similar forms of mission and ministry might work in your own parish and community context. Get practical tips and helpful resources that you can take back to your parish and share with others.

Plus, hear from our special guest speaker, the Reverend Paul Abernathy, pastor of St. Moses Orthodox Christian Mission in Pittsburgh's Hill District and director of [FOCUS Pittsburgh](#).

Watch the diocesan website and the Grace Happens e-newsletter for more information and online event registration in the weeks ahead.



2018 Parochial Reports Due March 1

Parishes are reminded that Parochial Reports for the year 2018 are due by March 1, 2019, and the Episcopal Church's online filing system is now open.

A blank report form, filing instructions, and detailed workbooks for help in completing each page of the report are available online at www.episcopalchurch.org/research/forms-and-instructions

Parishes are highly encouraged to file using the online reporting system. Information about how to access this system was mailed to every parish in December. For those who file electronically, a signed paper copy is also required to be submitted to the diocesan office. If you cannot access the online system, submit your completed and signed paper copies to the diocesan office for entry into the system.

It is the joint responsibility of clergy and vestry to assure the timely completion of parochial reports.

Contact [Judi Rogers](#) or [Kathi Workman](#) in the diocesan office if you have questions about filing your annual parochial report.



Icon Workshop in Franklin Park

Byzantine iconography is a highly structured and disciplined art form which combines prayer and painting techniques to create serene images of Christ, Mary, the angels and the saints following centuries-old guidelines.

[Peter Pearson](#) has been studying and painting icons for nearly 50 years, has authored three books on the subject, has painted hundreds of icons for churches, monasteries, seminaries, convents, and individuals all over the world and has taught hundreds of workshops. Peter's students number in the thousands and each has walked away with an icon of their very own.

No previous experience or natural talent is required.

We will paint, pray and follow the simple step-by-step instructions.

[St. Brendan's Episcopal Church](#) in Franklin Park, 2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143, is happy to welcome Peter to lead their first Icon Workshop, January 17-20, 2019, in their social hall. Registration fee is \$250 and includes all supplies and instruction.

Painting schedule: Thursday, Jan. 17 & Friday, Jan. 18, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Jan 20, 1-5 p.m.

Contact Kate Heston at kmheston71@gmail.com or 609-651-0080 for more information or to register.



Important IRS Updates for Parishes and Clergy

1. **"Parking Lot Tax"** - You may have heard about the IRS issuing guidance this week regarding the "Parking Lot Tax" which was part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by Congress in December, 2017. In order to determine whether this affects your parish, consider the following key provisions:



If a parish reimburses employees for parking while they are at their parish (or pays a third party directly for a parking lease), this expense must be reported as unrelated business income on Form 990-T (and the parish must pay a 21% tax on expenses in excess of \$1,000). Same with reimbursements for public transportation for employees to and from work.

If a parish owns a parking lot, an article published this week in the Church Law & Tax E-Newsletter titled "Is the Parking Lot Tax in Your Future?" will help parishes determine whether their parking lot is subject to the 21% tax. The link to the article can be found at the following url: <https://www.churchlawandtax.com/web/2018/december/how-to-calculate-your-church-parking-lot-tax.html>

One provision that is clear is that if a church has parking spaces reserved for employees, the expenses related to those spaces always create unrelated business income. Parishes have until March 31, 2019 to change parking arrangements to remove or eliminate reserved employee spots and have these actions be treated as retroactive to January 1, 2018.

The second step is to determine if most of the parking spaces are utilized for employees or for the "general public." If the majority of the spaces are utilized or available for the general public, then the church does not have unrelated business income (unless it has parking spaces reserved for employees). Please contact Kathi Workman if you have any questions or would like assistance in performing this analysis.

2. IRS Mileage Rates for 2019 - The standard mileage rates for the use of a car/small truck will be as follows:

- 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3.5 cents from 2018
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

3. Reminder of Jan. 31 IRS filing deadline - The deadline for parishes to file W-2 wage statements and Form 1099-Misc independent contractor forms for 2018 is January 31, 2019. Blank 1099-Misc and 1096 forms can be ordered free of charge from the IRS website.



2019 Visitation Schedule and Diocesan Cycle of Prayer Now Available

Bishop McConnell's 2019 visitation schedule is now available for download and printing [by clicking here](#).

A printable version of the 2019 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer [is available here](#).

These documents, along with many others, are available under the [Resources tab](#) on the diocesan web site.



Commission on Race and Reconciliation Offers Monthly Prayers

The Commission on Race and Reconciliation has developed a series of special prayers calling attention to specific issues still prevalent in our society today that we as a church must be ever mindful of as we work toward making the world a better place for all of God's people. This will be a regular monthly prayer offering.

JANUARY -- For an end to slavery:

"O God of liberty and justice: we live in a nation in which the institution of human bondage was once a legal and accepted practice. We give thanks for those who worked and fought, at great personal sacrifice, to bring about an end to that cruel and oppressive system in our own land, and we pray that governments and authorities everywhere in the world might be led to make a quick end to the enslavement of any human being, throughout the Earth." Amen



Around the Diocese

Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

January 20: Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh
January 27: St Paul's, Monongahela
February 3: St. Peter's, Brentwood
February 10: All Souls, North Versailles



Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

Lisa Brown, a General Convention deputy from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, has been appointed to the General Convention Task Force on Formation & Ministry of the Baptized and looks forward to working with this group over the next two years to explore lifelong formation.



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to info@episcopalpgh.org. When possible, the copy should be in a Word document and all original logos, pictures and artwork should be attached separately. Please be sure to include your contact information with any submission.

