

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

The end of August 2018 kicked off on Chatham University's campus by students returning for the academic year with a Welcome Back bonfire. Daily activities quickly resumed: a weekly Thursday Bible Study with students (20 – 25 attendees), bi-weekly staff and faculty Bible Study, monthly Zoe Eucharist gatherings (held at the Isadore's home, referred to as the House of Life ministry), and a Fall Retreat (held in early October). Additionally, The Rev. Dan Isadore routinely schedules around 48 monthly individual meetings with parishioners (students and alum) of this mobile parish established within the Chatham campus community, and spends a supplementary 60 hours a month engaging in ongoing pastoral care; something that has proven vital to this way of ministering to people.

In November 2018, with the help of Rich Creehan and the Rev. Kim Karashin, the University Chaplaincy applied for, and was graciously awarded, a two-year Leadership Grant from the Episcopal Church. The timing corresponded nicely with a determination that the growing demands of campus work required Dan's full-time attention, resulting in his need to relinquish his position as priest-in-charge at All Saints, Brighton Heights, which he did by year's end.

In January 2019 the House of Life Ministry started its first monthly small-group gathering geared towards caring for non-students, as a means to dive into Scripture more and explore different aspects of Spiritual Formation within the Christian Tradition. This group has decided to continue to meet through the 2019-2020 year. Throughout the remainder of the 2019 year, the House of Life was able to host additional guests for short-term retreats at the Isadores' home.

February 2019 brought on a flurry of activity on and off-campus. The students helped arrange and gathered together for their first ever Forget Valentine's Day Dinner at the House of Life. The following weekend students gathered to attend the annual CCO Jubilee Conference held in Pittsburgh, PA. Then for a third weekend in a row they gathered for their Spring Retreat. With the end of the school year quickly approaching, one of its parishioners was invited to preach at Bellefield Presbyterian Church for their annual University Sunday Service.

The end of April 2019 led to graduation. Students departed campus for the summer, but the University Chaplain's work didn't pause. In May of 2019, the Episcopal Diocese through the University Chaplain, established its first internship aimed at caring for its mobile parish within the Field Education (FE) Program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). This position is aimed at aiding the formation of future leaders of the Church. Also during May, one of the ministry's parishioners moved into the House of Life to stay with the Isadore's for a three-and-a-half-month stay. This was done in an effort to aid him in engaging in an internship within his major of study for the University of Pittsburgh.

Parishioners continued to engage in regular meetings and pastoral care with The Rev. Dan Isadore throughout the summer. Students even arranged a hiking retreat in June, which was followed by a meal of fellowship. Before anyone could blink, it was already August 2019, students were returning to campus and daily activities resumed. During this time PTS welcomed the first students to enroll in its new Anglican track, and one of them who is pursuing a Master of Divinity is an alum of the University Chaplain's and House of Life Ministry. In addition to the newly established FE internship at PTS, added opportunity has allowed The Rev. Dan Isadore to

engage in mentoring additional PTS students throughout the 2019 – 2020 academic year. We look forward to sharing our ministry growth with you over the upcoming year.

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