



March 5, 2020

## Best Practices During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Dear friends in Christ,

I know that many questions are being raised about how best to maintain our health, as individuals, within our parishes, and as a community at large, in light of the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19. You may have heard of restrictions or adaptations that some denominations are implementing concerning liturgical practices and public worship, and some of our clergy have asked for guidance from my office. Since it seems as though COVID-19 will be a matter of widespread concern for some time, let me begin to address some of the anxieties being expressed, and to reflect on how we as the Body of Christ might be called to minister to our communities in a period when the potential of widespread illness exists.



By way of background, this past Monday our Director of Administration, the Reverend Canon Kim Karashin, along with the co-chair of our Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee, Tim Austin, took part in an informational webinar offered by Episcopal Relief and Development, Faithful Response to COVID-19. Additionally, we have been receiving input from many colleagues, including my fellow bishops who are addressing this issue in their own dioceses.

Based on the information we have so far received, I offer a [brief guide to best practices](#) for our Christian community in the Diocese of Pittsburgh during the COVID-19 outbreak.

You all will remain in my prayers for a healthy and holy Lent.

Faithfully your bishop,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dorsey'.

(The Right Reverend) Dorsey W.M. McConnell  
VIII Bishop of Pittsburgh

Note: The guide is available on the diocesan website at [episcopalpgh.org/covid-19-best-practices/](https://episcopalpgh.org/covid-19-best-practices/)



# WALKING TOWARD FREEDOM



## PREPARING FOR PASSOVER AND EASTER TOGETHER

AS WE GO INTO A SHARED SEASON OF CELEBRATION CENTERED IN **FREEDOM**, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THIS IDEA **TOGETHER**. JOIN US FOR THIS WONDERFUL SERIES.

**ALL SESSIONS ARE 7-9 PM**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| MAR 5  | CHRISTIAN FREEDOM   CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH   |
| MAR 12 | HOW WE PRAY   JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER PGH      |
| MAR 19 | PRAYING THE PSALMS   CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER    |
| MAR 26 | JESUS & THE TEMPLE   RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION |
| APR 2  | FAITH INTO ACTION   CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM   |



CONTACT:

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Additional details and a complete curriculum is available at  
[www.episcopalpgh.org/walking-toward-freedom/](http://www.episcopalpgh.org/walking-toward-freedom/)





## NINETEENTH ANNUAL EAST END PARISHES LENTEN PREACHING SERIES



# BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." – Isaiah 43:19

**6 P.M. Dinner ■ 7 P.M. Holy Eucharist and Sermon**

### Tuesday, March 10

Preacher: The Rev. Aidan Smith  
**at St. James** – 11524 Frankstown Rd., Penn Hills

### Tuesday, March 17

Preacher: The Rev. Scott Gunn  
**at Calvary** – 315 Shady Ave. at Walnut St., East Liberty

### Tuesday, March 24

Preacher: The Rev. Laura DiPanfilo  
**at St. Thomas** – 378 Delaware Ave., Oakmont

### Tuesday, March 31

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell  
**at St. Andrew's** – 5801 Hampton St., Highland Park







Directed By Walt Blocker from The Historic  
Episcopal Church of St Thomas,  
Philadelphia, PA

St. Thomas Gospel Choir presents

## Were you there?

A MasterClass on incorporating choral Gospel  
music in the Episcopal Church worship followed  
by a full-length Lenten meditation gospel concert.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020  
6-7 PM MASTERCLASS • 8 PM CONCERT

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
328 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh PA

Reserve your *FREE* ticket for the class, concert, or both at:

[www.episcopalpgh.org/masterclass](http://www.episcopalpgh.org/masterclass)



**DON'T FORGET TO  
SPRING FORWARD**

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR  
THIS SATURDAY NIGHT



# ECW Spring 2020 Grant Applications Available

The Diocese of Pittsburgh's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be making outreach grants in the Spring.

The ECW particularly seeks to support hands-on ministries that help children, adults and families in need of assistance with food, nutrition, health care, housing, education and counseling.

The grants are primarily designed for ministries within the diocese and with the goal of even distribution across all districts. It is hoped that these small grants will enable the continuation of existing ministries on the local level. However, the ECW will continue its policy of also awarding grants to some national and international ministries such as Episcopal Relief & Development.

[Click here for the grant application](#) and submission instructions. **Applications for the Spring 2020 grants must be submitted before Thursday, April 2, 2020.**



## ECW Spring 2020 Scholarships Available

The Episcopal Church Women established the Memorial Membership Fund to aid students through educational grants. The fund was begun in 1927 to be used for two missionary training scholarships. In the 93 years of its existence, the scope of the fund has widened to include nursing, theology and other humanitarian fields of study.



Funds are raised through gifts from individuals or groups in memory of a loved one or friend. This money is invested and the interest used for the granting purposes. Each applicant must:

- be an Episcopalian in good standing (active) in a parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh,
- have completed one year of college or the equivalent,
- be pursuing education in either church or humanitarian related fields,
- submit an application, including a letter stating goals and need, and
- submit a reference letter from their parish priest.

The Memorial Membership Committee will consider each request based on individual need and circumstances. Scholarships are completely unencumbered and may be used as needed to aid the recipient in achieving their educational goals. Each eligible applicant is able to apply once a year for three years.

**The applications must be received by Thursday, April 2, 2020.** The application form with submission instructions is [available by clicking here](#).

For additional information please contact Betty Duckstein at [ducksteine@yahoo.com](mailto:ducksteine@yahoo.com).



## Garden Grants to be Available this Spring

**Spring is coming! How do we know this? The days are becoming longer, the seed catalogs are arriving in our mailboxes, and we're all getting really bored with snow and cold weather.**

Once again in 2020, the diocesan Social Justice and Outreach (SJO) Committee will offer grants to fund church garden initiatives. For the last six years, the diocesan SJO Committee has offered a few (4-8) small grants to support the efforts of creating and sustaining parish-based vegetable gardens. In 2019, one new garden at St. Thomas, Northern Cambria was created. Five established gardens



received funding: St. Andrew's, Highland Park; Holy Cross, Homewood; St. David's, Peters Township; Spring Street Farms at the Community of Celebration, Aliquippa; and Shepherd's Wellness Community in Bloomfield.

While the SJO budget is very small, they are able to fund these garden grants, in part through donations from the Outreach Commission of St. Paul's, Mount Lebanon; the Women of Calvary, East Liberty; Christ Church, North Hills; and private individuals. The SJO notes that any parish or individual desiring to donate to this effort should contact Canon Kathi Workman, diocesan treasurer, at [kworkman@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:kworkman@episcopalpgh.org) or Marianne Novy, chair of SJO, at [mnovy@pitt.edu](mailto:mnovy@pitt.edu).



#### Applying for a garden grant:

These grants are intended to encourage

Episcopal parishes and organizations in the Diocese to create new vegetable gardens or to support already functioning gardens with small material needs such as: seed or plant purchases, fencing, bed construction, soil or fertilizer purchases, soil testing costs, hand tool purchases, water connections, rain barrels, etc.



Depending on the location and circumstance, we expect that produce grown will be distributed through local food pantries or organization-based outreach efforts. In past years, some gardens have played a significant role in youth education. These grants are not intended to support an exclusive or private garden, nor a garden designed solely for decorative purposes. We have prepared a guide to setting up a small garden; this guide is available by contacting Pat Eagon at [pkeagon@gmail.com](mailto:pkeagon@gmail.com). If you are awarded a grant, the funds will be distributed in late winter/early spring, 2020.

The maximum grant request for this program should be no more than \$500. Funds are to be used in the calendar year 2020 unless an extension is submitted and approved by the SJO committee. Priority will be given to those applications that seek to start new gardens, but the committee will also consider applications seeking to sustain existing gardens that meet the eligibility described in the application. Application forms are available [by clicking here](#), and are due via USPS, **postmarked by March 13, 2020, or electronically by March 17, 2020**. Electronically submitted applications or any questions regarding eligibility can be directed to Marianne Novy, Chair of SJO at [mnovy@pitt.edu](mailto:mnovy@pitt.edu) or Pat Eagon at [pkeagon@gmail.com](mailto:pkeagon@gmail.com).



## Young Adult Event at Urban Tap in Shadyside

Young Adults in the Diocese of Pittsburgh are invited to an evening of food and conversation with the Rev. Canon Scott Gunn on **Monday, March 16, 6 p.m.**, at Urban Tap, 216 South Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

Scott is a well-known preacher and teacher with a passion for evangelism and for helping others discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. He is the co-author of *Walk in Love: Episcopal*



*Beliefs and Practices and Faithful Questions: Exploring the Way with Jesus.*

Scott+ is currently the Executive Director of [Forward Movement](#). Founded in 1934, Forward Movement is an agency of the Episcopal Church whose mission is to inspire disciples and empower evangelists. It is best known for *Forward Day by Day*, a daily devotion providing meditations on scripture readings. Forward Movement also offers books and e-books for small groups, individual study, and prayer; Christian formation courses; leadership events; Spanish and bilingual resources; a daily podcast; and apps for smartphones and tablets.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact the Rev. Neil Raman at [nraman@calvaryphg.org](mailto:nraman@calvaryphg.org) or 412-661-0120 x112.



## Volunteer Instructors Needed! Training Will Be Provided



**Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh  
Emergency Preparedness  
and Response Committee**

After a very successful first offering of Stop the Bleed Training at Calvary Episcopal Church in East Liberty earlier this year, the diocesan Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee is hoping to offer similar, but smaller, training sessions for parishes geographically more distant from Pittsburgh.

In order to do so, we would like to recruit half a dozen volunteers to undergo training as Stop the Bleed instructors.

The qualifications are simple: you must either work (or have worked) in one of the medical professions or serve (or have served) as a first responder. You will be trained by specialists from UPMC, which will also supply everything you need for the sessions you lead, including a PowerPoint presentation and the equipment trainees use to practice the basic skills.

If you believe this is a service that you are called to contribute, please contact the Co-Chair of the Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee, Tim Austin, at [austover@gmail.com](mailto:austover@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

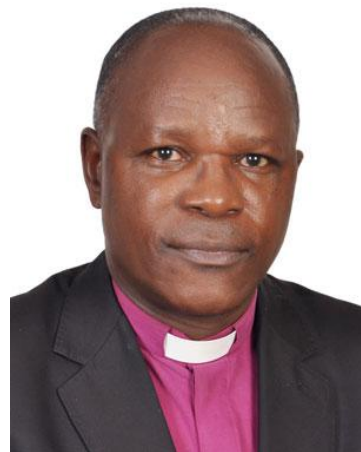


## Archbishop of Burundi To Visit St. Thomas Church in Oakmont

On **April 3, at 7:30 p.m.**, Bishop McConnell and St. Thomas Church will welcome the Most Rev. Martin Blaise Nyaboho, the Archbishop of Burundi, to St. Thomas for Evensong.

The Archbishop will preach and there will be a reception afterwards. It is a unique opportunity to hear from one of the leaders of the Church in Africa, a place where Christianity has spread more quickly in the last century than in any other continent.

All are invited to attend the service and reception, as we extend a warm Oakmont welcome to the Archbishop.



[St. Thomas Memorial Church](#), 378 Delaware Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139



## Around the Diocese

### Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

**March 8:** St. Thomas, Canonsburg  
**March 22:** St. Barnabas, Brackenridge  
**March 29:** St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg



**April 5: St. Peter's, Blairsville**

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

**Annual Meetings:** As we enter the annual meeting season, all parishes are reminded to complete and submit the [Parish Annual Meeting Report Form](#) as soon as possible.

**Parish 2019 Parochial Reports Are Due Now!** Please call the diocesan office if you any questions or need any assistance.



## Parting Shot

On Sunday, March 4, Bishop McConnell and the Rev. Kris Opat welcomed two confirmands and received four new members at St. David's in Peters Township.



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to [amuhl@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:amuhl@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.



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