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April 17, 2021

St. Brendan's Public Forum: Social Justice And Food Security

St. Brendan's next Public Forum is **Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m.** via Zoom. The topic is Social Justice and Food Security.



Mitch Bassi, a long-time volunteer at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, will be speaking on how the Food Bank bridges communities and resources in our region to help our neighbors in need overcome food insecurities and lead healthy, happy lives.

Because of the pandemic, individuals and families who never imagined asking for a helping hand have turned to the Food Bank for the first time. People most vulnerable to food insecurity, such as people of color, veterans, people with disabilities, seniors and children need our support more than ever to ensure they have a steady source of fresh and healthy food.

We will be raising funds to assist the Food Bank in helping our brothers and sisters in need during this very difficult time. If you would like to make an early donation, it's easy! Just go to pittsburghfoodbank.org/stbrendans and you can make your donation right there. For every \$1 raised, the Food Bank is able to provide five meals to those in need. Our goal is \$5,000. When we reach our goal, the Food Bank will be able to provide 25,000 more meals!

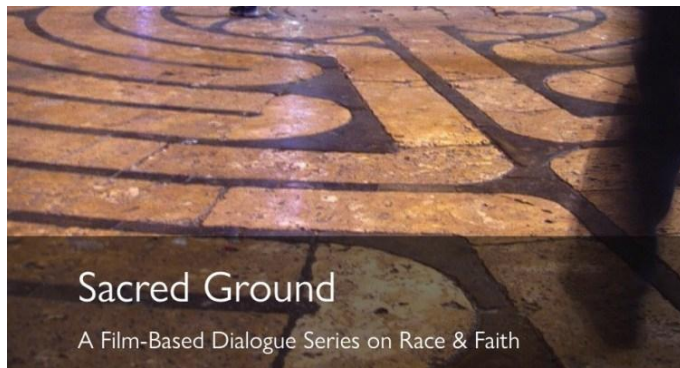
To register, email Katie at StBrendanskatie@gmail.com. For more information, visit stbrendans.org.

Gathering on Sacred Ground with Presiding Bishop Curry

The diocesan Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) invites you to join Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as he brings together participants and facilitators who've been part of the *Sacred Ground* race

dialogue film series to convene as a community!

You will hear learnings and success stories from peers, words of encouragement from the Presiding Bishop, and exciting announcements about how we can pursue racial healing, reconciliation, and justice together.



Tuesday, April 27, 5:30-6:30 p.m. – [Register Here](#).

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

Whether you have finished the series, are in it now, or are planning to start it, come to get encouraged and to deepen our shared commitment to *Becoming Beloved Community*.

For more information about our Beloved Community Initiative or the Sacred Ground series, please contact the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh, Canon for BCI, at emcintosh@episcopalpgh.org or Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, BCI Program Coordinator, at s.alamdenlinger@episcopalpgh.org

Forum on Solitary Confinement

The 2018 Episcopal General Convention resolution, [D029 Condemning Prolonged Solitary Confinement as a Form of Torture](#), calls on all Episcopalians to amplify their voice in solidarity with human rights groups, the United Nations, and others to end prolonged solitary confinement.

In the May 18 primary, Allegheny County will vote on whether or not to restrict the use of solitary confinement at the County Jail, where inmates are now sometimes being confined to a small bathroom-sized space 20 hours a day (without books or TV or the internet) for months at a time. This increases mental health problems in people, more than two-thirds of whom are already fighting psychiatric disabilities or substance abuse disorders. The county jail has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation.



To give more background on this issue, the diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee and Commission on Race and Reconciliation are presenting a Zoom forum on **Sunday May 16, at 7:30 pm**, with Jules Lobel, Walthour Professor at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, speaking on “What’s Wrong with Prolonged Solitary Confinement?”

Professor Lobel, former head of the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#), argued against Ohio’s use of solitary confinement before the US Supreme Court and has coedited *Solitary Confinement* (Oxford University Press). There may be another speaker who has personally experienced solitary confinement.

Link to join the Zoom meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87523504622?pwd=ZDdSYkl6ejdxNjhyYld1cGVzdFhGZz09>

If requested: Meeting ID: 875 2350 4622 Passcode: 741991

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

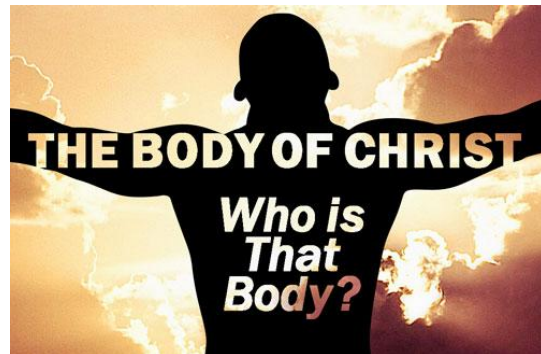
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--Photo by [Wendy Alvarez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The Body of Christ: Who is that body?

Join the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh and the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall for a diocesan-wide Eastertide conversation about the content of two important documentaries: *The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song* (<https://www.pbs.org/show/black-church/>) and *A Time for Burning* (<https://bit.ly/3rogS43>).



Black expressions of the Christian church developed largely from nationally encouraged racial segregation. It has been noted that Sunday morning in America is the most “segregated hour,” where black, brown, and white bodies meet for worship in separate spaces. Where will these faithful expressions of Christianity meet? Let’s watch these critically acclaimed documentaries to enter a conversation about the Body of Christ. Who is part of that Body? Where does the wider, integrated Body meet?

Our three-part discussion series will help us approach the discussion with grace about how God might break open ways in which our bodies could be the Christ’s, together.

- **The Black Church (Part I): Thursday, April 15 from 7:30-9:00 PM**
- **The Black Church (Part II): Thursday, April 22 from 7:30-9:00 PM**
- **A Time for Burning: Thursday, April 29 from 7:30-9:00 PM**

Please watch the section of each documentary ahead of each discussion. Questions will be provided for conversation. You are invited and welcome to bring friends along, too, both in and beyond the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Zoom Link:

Anti-Racism Training



Friday & Saturday, May 14 & 15, 2021

A Zoom workshop in four parts

- Preparatory work prior to gathering together
- Friday evening
- Saturday morning
- Saturday mid-afternoon

The last day to register is Wednesday, May 12, 2021. Registration is limited to the first 24 people who sign up in order to maintain the collaborative experience of the workshop.

All necessary materials and meeting links will be sent to participants prior to the workshop.

There are no fees for this important workshop

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW

<https://forms.gle/DRr26wUgQF4Npfdd6>

Around the Diocese

Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

April 18: St. Peter's, Blairsville

April 25: All Saints, Brighton Heights

May 2: St. Brendan's, Franklin Park

May 9: Calvary, East Liberty



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

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