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February 16, 2022

Dear Friends,

Lent begins soon with the observance of Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022. I take the opportunity to invite you to participate again, or, for the first time, in the 5-Minute Lenten series, which will be offered during the weekdays of Lent (Mondays-Fridays), beginning Thursday, March 3, 7:00-7:05 p.m. via Zoom. This special series, entitled, My God, My God, will follow Psalm 22 verse by verse. This is the Psalm that is read at the closing of the Maundy Thursday service during the stripping of the altar. I encourage you to participate in these brief times of reflections and worship, and, please invite others to participate along with you.



[Click here](#) for our evening Zoom link.

Passcode (if required): Lent

I also invite clergy and lay leaders (of any age or experience) to sign up to lead these brief services. Leaders will help guide the preplanned service via Zoom, while adding their own 2-3 sentence prayer and a very brief (single paragraph) reflection on the verse of the evening. Leaders do not need any special credentials to lead—a faithful heart and willing spirit are sufficient. Our diocesan Canon for Faith Formation and Evangelism, the Rev. Natalie Hall, can help you to prepare, if you would appreciate some assistance.

Please sign up to [lead here](#).

You will receive a [preparation sheet](#) via email about your [selected date\(s\)](#).

Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to turn our attention toward the ways God ushers us through difficulties and uncertainties with the unchanging promise of God's presence. I hope that you will consider taking part, as able, in this rich and meaningful program. Five minutes is all that is needed!

Faithfully,

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

The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak, D.Min.
IX Bishop of Pittsburgh



Building the Beloved Community

Events with Dr. Ali Michael, Anti-racism Educator, February 19-20

"Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Ali Michael returns to her hometown of Mt. Lebanon for several presentations focused on building and sustaining a healthy multiracial community. She will hold several sessions:



- For Faith Communities on Saturday 2/19 at 3 pm, located at Bower Hill Presbyterian Church ([more information here](#))
- For the South Hills Community on Sunday, 2/20 at 6:30pm, located at Mt. Lebanon High School ([more information here](#))

Sometimes it seems that despite our best efforts, there is still so much work to be done in building Dr. King's "beloved community": a culture where all people can experience dignity and an abundant life. How can we acknowledge the fears and fatigue inherent in this work and keep moving towards the greater goal?

Dr. Michael will share stories from her childhood and her life as a parent, researcher, and anti-racism educator. "Racial competence is a skills-based competence; it can be learned," says Michael. "Sustained race inquiry is meant to lead to anti-racist classrooms, positive racial identities, and a restoration of the wholeness of spirit and community that racism undermines."

You are invited to join either or both sessions with Dr. Michael to learn how each of us can play our part in building the beloved community.



Scholarships for Students of Protestant Faith

Renewable scholarships of \$4,000 to \$15,000 are available from the [Lola G. Duff and William H. Duff, II Scholarship Fund](#) for students of Protestant Faith in Allegheny County, PA. Students can apply for financial need and/or merit based awards.

Applicants must:

- Be students who resided in, have attended two academic years, and graduated from, a high school or home school in Allegheny County, PA.
- Provide verification of Protestant faith.
- Be high school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll, or students already enrolled, in a full-time undergraduate course of study leading to an initial bachelor's degree at an accredited four-year educational institution.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale.



The application deadline is March 18, 2022.

Students can learn more and apply at learnmore.scholarsapply.org/duffscholarship

[Click here](#) to download a flyer to share.



Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: Antiracism Training



Seeing the Face of God in Each Other, our diocesan anti-racism workshop, is taking place online on **Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26, 2022.**

These two days offer a few hours to focus on the beauty and the scope of humanity in the Church and in our world, helping us to go beyond the biases we have that make us push people away, ignore them, or exert power over them—sometimes unwittingly—based only on their appearance. It will help you move more deeply into the mystery of the Body of Christ gathered from every family, language, people and nation as a Kingdom of priests to serve our God. (Revelation 5: 9-10)

Why would you want to take this workshop, at this time?

Here are a few (but by no means all) reasons:

- God calls each one of us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- Our nation is struggling with the impact of generations of systemic racism that affect everyone for the worse.
- We, as a diocese, have committed ourselves to a journey toward healing the wounds of racism in our region through the Beloved Community Initiative.
- As a diocese we have also committed, by vote at diocesan convention, that all in leadership positions, in parishes or at the diocesan level, take the workshop as part of our responsibilities.
- There is always more to learn!

The Commission on Race and Reconciliation has significantly updated and reshaped the workshop for a virtual-reality online experience. If you have taken it in the past and think you could use a brush-up, it would be worth your time.

Our ministry in Christ is to love, to teach and to heal. This workshop will further equip us to be healers.

[Click Here to Register Now](#)

The last day to register is Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Registration is limited to the first 20 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.



PUBLIC FORUM:

Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7 pm via Zoom

RACISM IN MASS INCARCERATION

***“Slavery did not disappear but it evolved
and is now Mass Incarceration.”***

-Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*

This Forum will address how slavery has evolved, how laws like the 13th Amendment have helped this process, and how this applies in Pennsylvania today. Come to this Forum with an open mind and be willing to confront what we have been taught.

Our speakers are from Straight Talk, a non-profit whose mission is to restore justice by building a statewide decarceration movement across Pennsylvania--and dismantle institutions of state violence.



David L. Garlock

is the PA state organizer for Straight Ahead
and a criminal justice reform advocate



Jennifer Black

is the Central PA community organizer for
Straight Ahead and comes from a
background of both activism and academia.



This Forum is sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, in conjunction with Faith in Action, consisting of St. Brendan's, the Unitarian Universalist Church North Hills, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

To Register, email:
office@trinitywexford.org

To Register, send an email to office@trinitywexford.org



Volunteers Needed to Provide Spiritual and Pastoral Care

The Palliative Medicine division of the Allegheny Health Network is currently recruiting volunteers for 2022 to provide spiritual/pastoral care to inpatients. Palliative care focuses on helping to alleviate the suffering which accompanies serious illness. These symptoms may be physical, emotional, psychological, or spiritual. Training will be provided by the health network, by palliative care clinical staff, the palliative care spiritual care coordinator, and local hospital chaplains. Anyone 18 years of age or older is invited to apply. No prior experience needed, though it is welcomed. Schedules are arranged at the volunteer's convenience.



Allegheny Health Network
Palliative Care
**SPIRITUAL
CARE**

West Penn Hospital, Jefferson Regional Hospital, Forbes Regional Hospital, Allegheny Valley Hospital, and Allegheny General Hospital all have palliative care inpatients. The patients whom we serve are at all points along the continuum of their illness, from initial diagnosis, through aggressive treatment, to comfort measures only and referral to hospice. It is a rewarding experience serving patients and their families who are facing spiritual crises and a host of existential questions.

For more information, please contact Chaplain Kim Rapczak at Kimberly.Rapczak@ahn.org or 412-738-4650. You may also fill out the volunteer application found at www.ahn.org/volunteer-application. Make sure you indicate at which hospital you are interested in working, and under the category of 'other,' fill in 'palliative care/spiritual care.'



Apply Now for Episcopal Church 2022-2023 Educational Scholarships

Applications are being accepted for a wide variety of [educational scholarships](#) from The Episcopal Church for the 2022-2023 academic year. The deadline to apply is April 10. All applicants must be Episcopalian.

The scholarships—derived from annual income of more than 45 trust funds established through bequests to The Episcopal Church—range from assistance for children of missionaries, bishops and clergy to individuals seeking theological education and training. The maximum award is \$10,000 per student.



At least nine of the scholarships are designated for Native American youth; others are specific to Black, Asian American, Chinese, and Hispanic students, as well as seminarians, among other listings. Applicants are encouraged to read the [scholarship trust fund list](#) and identify in their application those funds that best fit their situation.

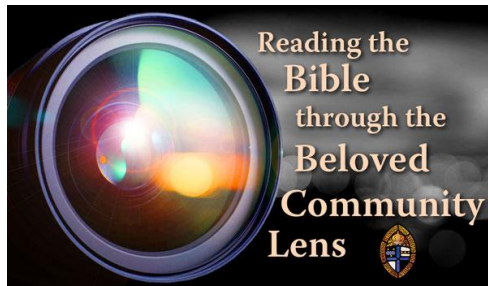
The application form is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Online applications are required, and only complete applications will be considered. All applicants must have the endorsement of their Episcopal bishop.

Applications are reviewed by a scholarship committee composed of representatives from the Episcopal Church Executive Council, the church-at-large, the Treasurer's Office, and various other Episcopal Church ministries.

For more information, contact [Ann Hercules](#), associate for grants and scholarships.



Beloved Community Initiative Events



An online Bible Study is being offered **throughout 2022 at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.**

More information is available at <https://www.bcpittsburgh.org/reading-the-bible-through-the-beloved-community-lens/>



An online prayer and discussion event is being offered **throughout 2022 at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.**

More information about the *Prayer and Share* is available at <https://www.bcpittsburgh.org/youre-invited-mark-your-calendar/>



Around the Diocese



Bishop Solak's Visitation Schedule:

February 20: St. David's, Peters Township
February 27: St. Stephen's Wilkinsburg
March 6: St. Thomas, Canonsburg
March 13: St. James, Penn Hills

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation. Bishop Solak's visitation schedule is [available here](#).

Save The Date: On **March 12**, at St. Paul's in Mt. Lebanon, a special event will be held to commemorate the life of Bishop Barbara Harris, the first woman consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Communion. She was elected Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, on September 24, 1988. The event is sponsored by the Commission on Race and Reconciliation and the Beloved Community Initiative. More details are to come.



Important Reminder: The deadline for filing 2021 Parochial Reports is March 1, 2022.



Parting Shot

The celebration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Absalom Jones on February 12 featured guest preacher Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Solak was the celebrant.

A key feature of the service was the dedication of a plaque commemorating the Rev. William Henry Wilson, the first Black deacon and priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, ordained to the priesthood at Trinity Cathedral on December 30, 1877.

The service can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/bcNVi3z5E/>



Has your parish been featured in the news?
Please let us know via email at info@episcopalpgh.org
