



March 2, 2022

Dear Friends,

In my message to you for the New Year I mentioned how, every year, the world seems to be brimming with hopeful expectations. Little did you and I know then that the frightful specter and reality of war and its unavoidable afflictions would take center stage two months into this New Year. The events that are developing in Ukraine are heartbreaking and the people in that region will increasingly suffer greater hardships. What is more, the consequences of war will affect all of us in some way, and the shadow of nuclear threat is eliciting concern and fear far and wide. Some of us may have family and friends living in Ukraine and Russia, or in close proximity to these countries.



War is a human reality about which Jesus speaks. Jesus underscores this reality to his disciples with these matter-of-fact words: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs." (Matthew 24: 6-8 NRSV)

The phrase that brings me a measure of comfort from this passage, which I hope will also bring you some comfort is: "see that you are not alarmed." While fear is a natural and appropriate reaction to danger, Jesus invites us to transcend our fear by keeping our eyes fixed on him; by keeping our hope and faith in God and the victory that God has already achieved for us through Jesus. However, Jesus is not calling us to be passive. Instead, our call is to pray at all times; to provide help as the opportunity arises; to resist evil, and to be peacemakers to the degree that we find ourselves in a position to negotiate peace.

I pray for God's intervention and deliverance for the people of Ukraine. I pray for God's peace to reign in all our hearts. Keep your eyes on Jesus; "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7 NRSV)

Faithfully,

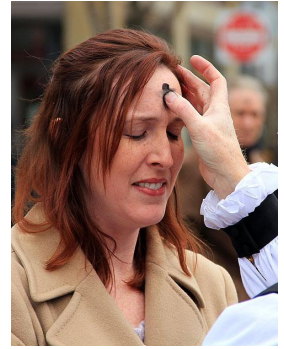
A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Ketlen A. Solak.

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



Ashes to Go

For the ninth year in a row, clergy and lay ministers of the diocese will offer “Ashes to Go” for individuals who cannot, or for some reason prefer not, to attend a traditional church service to mark the start of Lent. Bishop Solak, in her first year as leader of the Pittsburgh diocese, will continue the practice by distributing ashes in Downtown Pittsburgh’s Market Square.



Here’s a sampling of locations and times:

- **Mt. Lebanon**, 7:30-8:30 a.m., “T” station entrance, 600 block of Washington Rd.
- **Mt. Lebanon**, 9:30-10:30 a.m. drive-thru distribution at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Rd. (Mayfair Drive parking lot)
- **Squirrel Hill**, 10:30 a.m.- 12 noon, corner of Forbes & Murray Avenues
- **Hastings, Cambria Co.**, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Conemaugh Miners Medical Center Chapel
- **East Liberty/Shadyside**, 12 noon, front steps of Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave.
- **Brackenridge**, 12:00-2:00 p.m., front of St. Barnabas Church, 989 Morgan St.
- **Homestead**, 12:00-3:00 p.m., ashes delivered to individual homes. Call 412-461-5291 for details.
- **Mt. Lebanon**, 1:00-2:00 p.m. drive-thru distribution at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Rd. (Mayfair Drive parking lot)
- **Downtown Pittsburgh** with Episcopal Bishop Ketlen Solak: Market Square, 1:15-2:00 p.m.
- **McCandless**, 1:15 p.m., Sunrise of McCandless assisted living facility
- **Squirrel Hill**, 2:00-3:30 p.m., corner of Forbes & Murray Avenues
- **Brackenridge**, 4:00-5:00 p.m., front of St. Barnabas Church, 989 Morgan St.
- **Mt. Lebanon**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., “T” station entrance, 600 block of Washington Rd.



A Prayer Gathering for Peace

*in solidarity with the Pittsburgh-area
Ukrainian community*

Sunday, March 6, 2:30 p.m.

Saint Paul Cathedral

108 N Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh

Streaming online at youtube.com/diopitt

Sponsors include: African Methodist Episcopal Church, Third Episcopal District; AHINSA; Bruderhof Church Communities; Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh; Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh; Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania; Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Southwestern PA Synod; Greater Pittsburgh Rabbinical Association; Islamic Relief USA; Jewish Community Center - Center for Loving Kindness; Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh; JFCS Pittsburgh; North American Lutheran Church, Mid-Northeast Mission District; Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network; Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation; Pittsburgh Presbytery; The Salvation Army, Western Pennsylvania Division; Turkish Cultural Center Pittsburgh; Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Joseph Eparchy; Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Western Eparchy ... and more to come.



Five-Minute Lent

Dear Friends,

Lent begins tomorrow 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



Saluting the Rev. Leslie G. Reimer

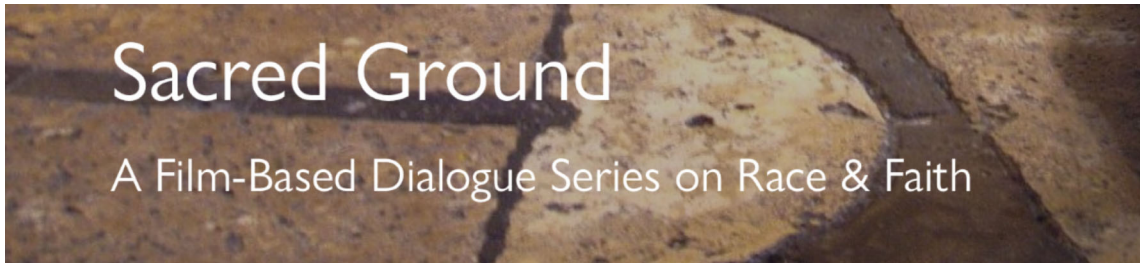
The Rev. Leslie Reimer retired from active parish ministry this past Sunday, February 27, 2022. Until then, she was the longest serving non-retired priest in the Pittsburgh diocese. In 1980, she became the third woman ordained to serve as a priest here. She began with short stints in Penn Hills, Indiana and Mt. Lebanon before moving on to hospital chaplaincy at Presbyterian and Children's. Since 1998, she has been full-time at Calvary Church, East Liberty, eventually becoming Senior Associate Rector. But generations of children and adults have come to know her through her involvement with [Sheldon Calvary Camp](#), a service she plans to continue.



Leslie has shared her life with this diocese, and in recognition of her retirement, we asked her to share some thoughts on her unique ministry. You can read the interview on our website at www.episcopalpgh.org/saluting-leslie-reimer.



Sign Up for "*Sacred Ground*" Small Groups



Sacred Ground is an important component 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.

Sacred Ground is a film- and reading-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh's Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) is creating local small groups to study the *Sacred Ground* curriculum. This will allow parishes to work together in regions or across regions to begin their journey through this important topic of study. BCI will collaborate with trained leaders to organize "Sacred Ground" small group studies, either through zoom or in person.

[Sign up here](#) to indicate your interest in participating. The information you provide will allow BCI to discern the proper format and when the small groups can begin.



From the Social Justice & Outreach Committee:

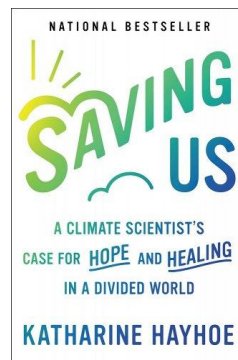
Book Study: Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World

At the 26th [UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties](#) (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021, a number of Episcopal Delegates attending the conference have decided to start a book study to discuss *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* by Texas Tech professor Katharine Hayhoe.

The New York Times called Hayhoe "one of the nation's most effective communicators on climate change."

The first meeting will be via Zoom on Monday, March 7, at 8 p.m, ET. The public is invited to attend and can register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpcuyhqjlpGtxpKe7Cx8TOYL2Toz9sNJZR](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpcuyhqjlpGtxpKe7Cx8TOYL2Toz9sNJZR)

The first session will be focusing on the Preface and Section 1 of the book, through page 33. There will also be sessions on these Mondays: April 4, May 2, June 6, and July 11.



Garden Grants are Available Again this Spring

The diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SJO) encourages each parish to consider creating or sustaining a church vegetable garden. This is a wonderful outdoor activity offering easy social distancing, fresh air, and much-needed fresh produce for local food pantries and neighbors. So grab those seed catalogs from your mailboxes, and start planning your planting strategy.



Once again in 2022, the SJO will offer grants to fund church garden initiatives. For the last eight years, the SJO has offered small grants to support the efforts of creating and sustaining parish-based vegetable gardens.

The SJO is able to fund these garden grants, in part through donations from the Outreach Commission of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, Women of Calvary, East Liberty, and private individuals. Parish or individual desiring to donate to this effort should contact [Canon Kathi Workman](#) in the diocesan office, or [Marianne Novy](#), chair of SJO.

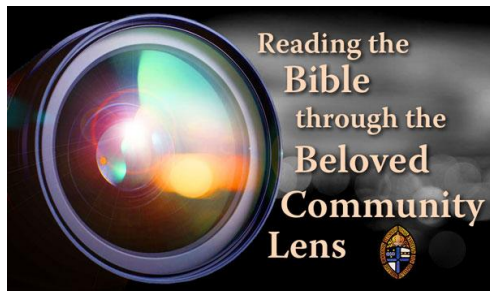
Applying for a garden grant: These grants are intended to support Episcopal parishes and organizations in the diocese to create new vegetable gardens or to support existing gardens. The application, with complete submission instructions, [is available in Word format here](#).

Mailed applications must be postmarked by March 24, and electronic submissions (preferable) are due by March 28. Any questions regarding eligibility can be directed to [Marianne Novy](#) or [Pat Eagon](#), the garden grant coordinator.



Beloved Community Initiative Events





DATE CHANGE: Our next Bible Study has been shifted to Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m., to accommodate Ash Wednesday.

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.**

The next Prayer and Share will be on Wednesday, March 23.

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:

March 6: St. Thomas, Canonsburg
March 13: St. James, Penn Hills
March 27: All Saints, Brighton Heights
April 10: St. Brendan's, Franklin Park

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](#).

DATE CHANGE - Save The Date: On **Saturday, April 30**, 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 was March 1, 2022. Please contact the diocesan office if you need assistance to complete the report.



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