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March 15, 2022



A combined observance of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh  
and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 10 a.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 328 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(Downtown)

**Preaching:** The Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow  
Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

**Presiding:** The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak, D.Min.  
Bishop, the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

*Clergy, pastors, and deacons are invited to vest (red/scarlet) and process  
There will be a light lunch for clergy following the liturgy.  
Registration for oils will be available soon.*



## Diocesan Transitions

### Appointments and Assignments

On February 15, **the Rev. Catherine Munz** began serving as Interim Associate Rector at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. She will continue in the role through June, providing coverage during the maternity leave of St. Paul's Assistant Rector, the Rev. Laura Di Panfilo, and the sabbatical of their Rector, the Rev. Noah Evans.

Beginning in March, **the Rev. Brandon Cooper** and **the Rev. Deacon Paul Barker** are serving as regular supply clergy at St. Paul's, Kittanning. Brandon+ continues to also serve the parishes of Christ Church, North Hills, and St. Michael's, Wayne Township.

Bishop Solak has appointed **Gloria Trevino** to the Commission on Race and Reconciliation. Gloria, a member of St. James, Penn Hills, is filling a vacancy left by **Darrell Powell**, who retired and relocated to North Carolina last year.



With the retirement of the Rev. Leslie Reimer, **the Rev. Neil Raman** has been named Senior Associate Rector at Calvary, East Liberty. Neil+ has served at Calvary for three and a half years and is president of the diocesan Standing Committee.

### Recent and Upcoming Retirements

On February 27, **the Rev. Leslie G. Reimer** retired from active parish ministry and her position as Senior Associate Rector at Calvary, East Liberty. Leslie+ plans to continue her involvement with Sheldon Calvary Camp. See [Saluting the Rev. Leslie G. Reimer](#) for more.

On July 1, **the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler** will retire both from his position as Rector of St. Peter's, Brentwood, and from his diocesan role as Canon for Recovery Ministries. Jay+ plans to continue serving the diocese and community, particularly in the area of addiction and recovery.

On August 1, **the Rev. Dr. James B. Simons** will retire after 36 years of ordained ministry in our diocese and 34 years of service as the Rector of St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier.

### Transfers

**The Rev. Dr. Wesley Hill** has transferred his canonical residency from the Diocese of Tennessee to the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The transfer was effective on January 1. Wes+ serves as Assisting Priest at Trinity Cathedral.

### Family Transitions

Congratulations to **the Rev. Laura Di Panfilo** and **the Rev. Luke Zerra** on the birth of their first child, **Lucy Grace Zerra**. Lucy was born on March 3, weighing in at 7 pounds, 15 ounces. Laura+ is on maternity leave through May 31 from her position as Assistant Rector at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. Luke+ serves as Curate at St. Andrew's, Highland Park.



## Racial Inequities in Maternal Health in Western PA

Thursday March 24, 2022, 7 p.m., via Zoom

Speakers:

Ann M. McCarthy, MSN, CNM, Staff CNM, University of Pittsburgh Physicians; Former Clinical Director and Midwife Emeritus, The Midwife Center for Birth and Women's Health

and  
Winter Clay, RN, Doula, Marriage Mentor & Cofounder  
of [Masters of Maternity](#).

For more information: Email [scregistration@uucnh.org](mailto:scregistration@uucnh.org)



Register Now



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



## Eucharists Through the Centuries at Christ Church, North Hills

Have you ever wondered how Christians celebrated the Eucharist 100 years ago? 500 years ago? 1000 years ago? Or even as far back as the very early church?

At each of its Sunday services during Lent, [Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills](#) is using a Eucharistic liturgy from each of those time periods, beginning with the Anaphora of **Hippolytus of Rome** in the year 215, and continuing, each succeeding week, with Eucharistic liturgies taken from various historic periods, ending with the present-day on Palm Sunday. It is a veritable romp through liturgical history.



According to the Rev. Canon James Shoucair, rector of Christ Church, "The idea behind this is not to present these ancient liturgies as some sort of museum piece to be observed with detached curiosity, but to help us to enter into them as living forms of

worship that connect us both with the risen Christ as well as with the piety of those who have come before us in the faith.”

A short video compilation will be available after Easter for those wishing to view a sampling of the liturgies.



## Five-Minute Lent

All are invited to join again, or, for the first time, in the 5-Minute Lenten series, which is 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.

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

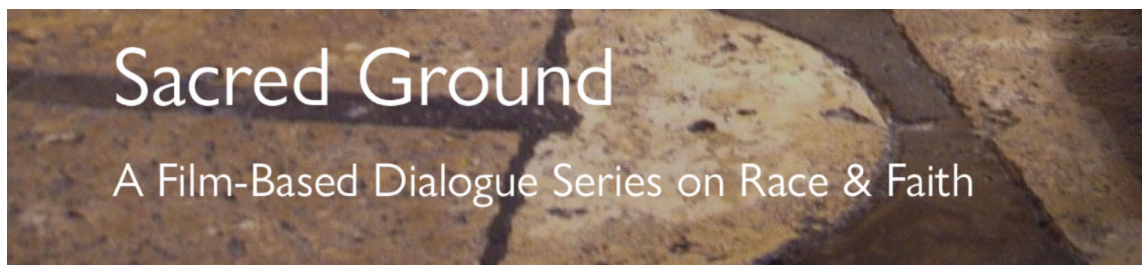
Passcode (if required): Lent

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. Please consider taking part, as able, in this rich and meaningful program.

Five minutes is all that is needed!



## 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.



## 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.

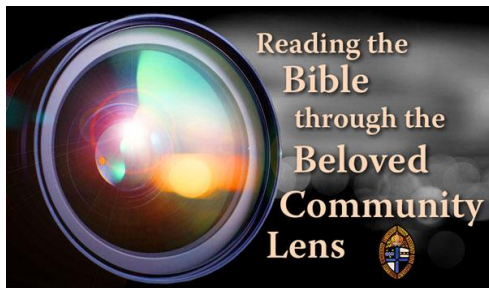
The SJO is able to fund these garden grants, in part through donations from the Outreach Commission of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, Women of Calvary, East Liberty, and private individuals. Parishes or individual desiring to donate to this effort should contact [Canon Kathi Workman](#) in the diocesan office,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



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/>



## Theological Scholarships Available

**From the Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM):**

**Scholarship application process for 2022-23 is now open!**

**Apply Today: Applications open until May 9th.**

<https://www.simministry.org/scholarship-application-main>



For this year's essay, an important part of the application process, SIM invites candidates to register their particular vision of Beloved Community and how, with the rest of God's people, they will live into that vision.

The support received as a SIM scholar, beyond financial assistance, includes being a participant in a learning community. SIM scholars have expressed, repeatedly, not only how their scholarships helped them financially, but also how much the supportive relationships have meant to them as they prepare to lead the church in uncertain times.

To hear our recent scholars talk about what the SIM Scholarship has meant to them, go to: [www.simministry.org/sim-news/scholars](http://www.simministry.org/sim-news/scholars)

Over the years, the awards have ranged between \$1,500 and \$18,000. Award announcements are anticipated by June 30, 2022. Please contact SIM Associate Director, James M. Goodman, at [jgoodmann@simministry.org](mailto:jgoodmann@simministry.org) or 770-598-6636 with any questions.

The [Society for the Increase of the Ministry](#) has been making scholarships to seminarians and theological students since 1857.



## Around the Diocese



### Bishop Solak's Visitation Schedule:

**March 27:** All Saints, Brighton Heights  
**April 10:** St. Brendan's, Franklin Park  
**April 17:** Trinity Cathedral (Easter)  
**April 24:** Calvary, East Liberty

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.



## Parting Shots: Ashes-To-Go





Elena Swann receives a blessing from Rev. Canon Natalie Hall on Ash Wednesday, March 2, in Squirrel Hill. For a story and additional pictures, [visit the website of 90.5 WESA](https://www.wesa.org), Pittsburgh's NPR news station.

--Photo by Maria Anto for 90.5 WESA

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Bishop Ketlen Solak, the Very Rev. Aidan Smith from Trinity Cathedral, and Erin Morey from St. Paul's Mt. Lebanon, distributed Ashes-To-Go on Wednesday, March 6, in Downtown's Market Square. Bishop Ketlen was also interviewed by KDKA NewsRadio.







*--Photos courtesy Rich Creehan*

Has your parish been featured in the news?  
Please let us know via email at [info@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org)