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August 24, 2022

Overdose Awareness Prayer Service



Trinity Cathedral

325 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Friday, August 26, 2022

Ring of the Bells starting at 11:15 a.m.

Interfaith Prayer Service begins at 12 noon

All are welcome to an interfaith service to pray for those who lost their life to overdoses and the families left behind, for first responders, and for those who still suffer from addiction.

Starting at 11:15 a.m., a Cathedral bell will toll 719 times - once for every person who died from an overdose in Allegheny County in 2021.

In a moving tribute, families of loved ones who died from overdoses will display pictures on the fence in front of the Cathedral. The service will also honor and bless the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Emergency Medical Services' first responders for their roles in reviving overdoses and saving countless lives.



St. Paul's, Kittanning, Celebrating 200 Years Strong!
1822-2022

Saturday, September 17, 2022



**12 Noon to 4 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
112 North Water Street
Kittanning, PA**

**Learn about the history of St. Paul's and
its 200 years of continuous operation.**

Take a stroll through the amazing church building.

**Enjoy the beautiful stained-glass windows and the
architecture of the interior and exterior.**



Raffle baskets, music, and activities for kids of all ages.
Free food, snacks and drinks.
Open to the public.



Growth Fund Applications Being Accepted

The diocesan Growth Fund continues to be available to participating parishes to provide grants or loans for building, renovation, and maintenance projects.

The Growth Fund and the Committee that administers it is dedicated to saving the physical plant of our churches with a focus on smaller parishes that may not be able to afford necessary repairs, addressing the urgent needs of parishes for repairs and unforeseen emergencies that affect the integrity of their buildings.



Grants will be considered for projects up to \$15,000 and loans for remaining costs greater than \$15,000.

More information on Growth Fund grants and loans is [available here](#). The application is available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#).



Safe Church Training for Sunday School Teachers



As September approaches – and with it, the start of a new Sunday School year – please remember that all Sunday School teachers must complete the Episcopal Church's Safe Church, Safe Communities

training. This training is available at no cost online via the Praesidium Academy website.

For access to the training, complete and submit the registration form found here: [Safe Church, Safe Communities Registration - Formstack](#). After doing so, you will receive an email inviting you to create a learner account on the Praesidium Academy site, as well as a separate email listing the courses that you will need to complete. (These emails are not auto-generated; please allow several days for processing.) Each course is quite short, normally taking between 10 and 20 minutes to complete.

This training should be completed every three years to keep fresh your knowledge of Safe Church principles and practices.

Child abuse and criminal history clearances should also be obtained and renewed every five years. (For information on required clearances, click here: [Clearances \(pa.gov\)](#).) Evidence of completed training and clearances should be kept on file at your parish.

For additional information, visit the [Safe Church, Safe Communities page](#) on the diocesan website.



Let's Be a Blessing: Help Release Our Neighbors' Medical Debt

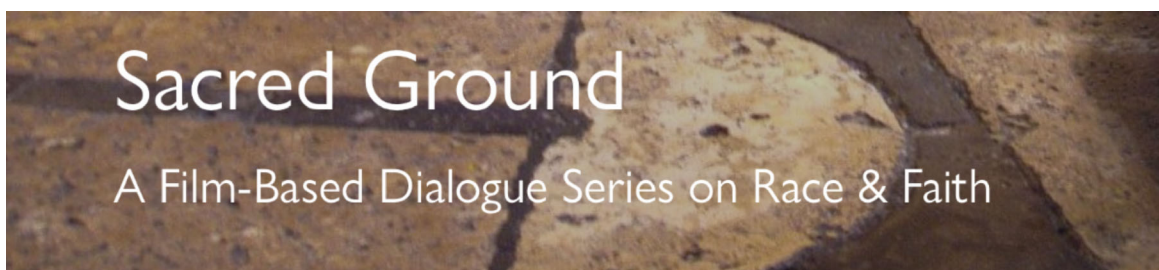
- More than 100 million Americans have medical debts they cannot afford to pay. (*NPR, July 25, 2022*)
- Indebted older adults fare measurably worse on a range of health measures according to a 20-year study by Urban Institute. Those in debt are more likely to have two or more doctor-diagnosed illnesses like high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, heart and lung disease... (*New York Times, June 6, 2022*)



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Canonsburg
St. David's Episcopal Church, Peters Twp.

Our Washington County parishes – St. Thomas' in Canonsburg and St. David's in Peters Township – have partnered with RIP Medical Debt to forgive debt portfolios in western PA, eastern Ohio, and northern West Virginia.

You're invited to join their campaign to bring a bit of light into the lives of families in our region. By raising \$5,000 we can forgive ~\$500,000 of medical debt in our region. Donations can be made online until September [by clicking here](#).



The Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) will be running **Sacred Ground** sessions throughout this coming program year in various locations and room is available for those wanting to participate.

There will be several 8-week sessions, starting in September 2022, and running until June 2023.

Starting in September

- Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. starting on September 8 at St. Thomas, Oakmont
- Mondays at 6:30 p.m. starting on September 12 at Calvary Church, East Liberty

Starting in November

- Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. starting on November 10 at St. Thomas, Oakmont
- Tuesday evenings at a location and time TBD

Starting in January 2023

- Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Church, East Liberty
- Tuesday evenings at a location and time TBD

Starting in April 2023

- Day and time TBD at St. James, Penn Hills
- Day, time and location at a second location TBD

BCI can add additional locations as needed. A minimum of 8 people per session are needed to allow for maximum ability to interact within the sessions. [Please click here to register.](#)

BCI will also accommodate anyone who wants to participate but cannot attend in-person by offering a Zoom option for any of the sessions.

For additional information about the Sacred Ground program, visit www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/.

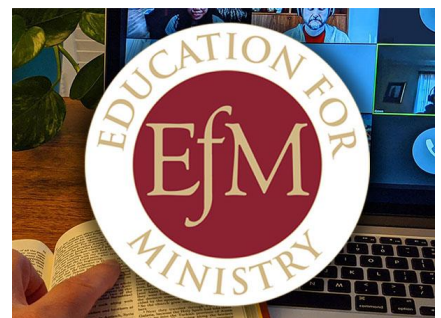
Please feel free to reach out to Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, the BCI Program Coordinator, at s.alamdenlinger@episcopalpgh.org or 412-251-7456 with any questions.



EfM (Education for Ministry) Invitation to Join Via Zoom

Are you interested in exploring your faith and your ministry(ies) while learning about the Old and New Testaments, church history, and theology in a small group setting?

The Thursday morning EfM group invites you to join us for 36 weekly Zoom meetings, starting in late September. We are a multi-denominational, collegial, engaged, and upbeat group. For more information, call or text Barbara Brooks at 412-726-9811 or email tipark4me@aol.com.



Diocesan Convention

**The 157th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Friday & Saturday, November 18 & 19, 2022**

The **Resolutions Committee** of Diocesan Council is now accepting items to be considered by the next convention of the diocese. Proposed resolutions may be submitted by any parish or individuals. The required form with submission instructions is available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#).



The convention **Nominating Committee** is looking for candidates for diocesan offices. Any Episcopal parishioner in the diocese can run, and everyone is encouraged to offer their names for consideration. Details are available at www.episcopalpgh.org/wanted-candidates-for-diocesan-offices.

A **Display Table Reservation Form** is available for those wanting to showcase their ministries. [Click here](#).

The deadline for parishes to **certify their Lay deputies** to Diocesan Convention in November has passed but the diocesan office is (grudgingly) still accepting the forms. The certification form can be found in both [PDF](#) and [Word](#).

All available details about the Fall convention will be [posted here](#) as information becomes available.



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:

September 11: Holy Cross, Homewood

September 18: St. Thomas, Oakmont

September 25: St. Matthew's, Homestead

October 2: St. Mark's, Johnstown

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

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact her virtual assistant, Crystal Goforth, at 412-721-0853, ext. 256, or via email at assistant@episcopalpgh.org.



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