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September 1, 2022

Bishop Ketlen and Scott Solak Featured in Magazine



Mt. Lebanon Magazine, in its September edition, published an article, *Called to Pittsburgh*, about Bishop Ketlen and her husband Scott.

See <https://lebomag.com/called-to-pittsburgh/>

"When she was elected to become the ninth bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh the next month, she famously said she was ready to become "a Pittsburgher for Jesus" in her acceptance speech—a slogan that appeared on T-shirts in the Calvary Episcopal Church bookstore within the week. Bishop Ketlen, while aware of her status as a groundbreaker, does not wish to be defined by that single achievement.

"That is not the way I take my identity, but I do hope and pray and look forward to the day when that will be so commonplace that it will no longer be an issue of conversation. That it will be so commonplace that it's just yet another person who was elected, and be as such," she said."

--Photo by John Schisler, Mt. Lebanon Magazine



World Mission Initiative Conference at PTS

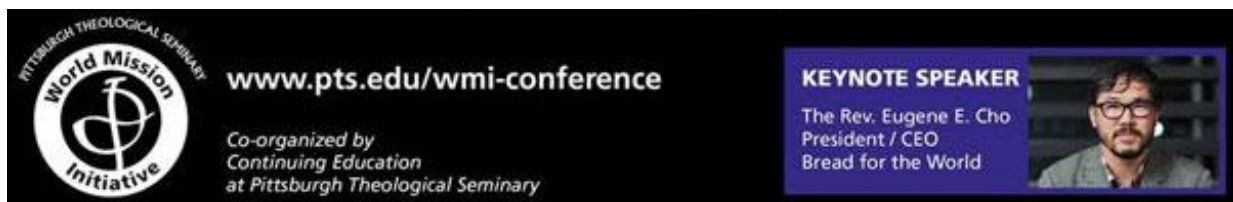


What does it mean to engage in God's mission through the major disruptions of our day?

The Diocese is pleased to be a sponsor of the World Mission Initiative (WMI) Conference and W. Don McClure Lecture on the theme, “Missional Leadership in a Time of Disruption,” at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) on Fri. and Sat., Oct. 7-8. The Rev. Eugene Cho, renowned church planter and dynamic new president/CEO of Bread for the World will be the keynote speaker. Rev. Cho has a passion for encouraging and challenging leaders, and we hope this conference will inspire and equip mission leaders like you.

The conference will be held in a hybrid format (both in-person on campus and livestreamed online). In addition to the plenary presentation and conversation Friday evening, Saturday will feature workshops such as “Being Leaders of Disruption,” “The Gift of Disruption: Recalibrating your Church’s Mission,” and “Resources for Relevant Missions Leadership”. Also on the agenda are a lunchtime conversation with Rev. Cho, and a powerful closing plenary discussion with the Rev. Saleem Ghubril (Executive Director of The Pittsburgh Promise), the Rev. Dr. Asa Lee (PTS President), and the Rev. Karen Rohrer (Director of the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry at PTS) on Saturday afternoon.

Registration is free but is required for everyone and is open now. View the [conference website](#) to register and for more information.



Webinar Invitation:

Sacred Ground Fall Kickoff with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
Thursday, September 15, 1:30 p.m.



For: Sacred Ground facilitators and participants—and all Episcopalians interested in learning more about this dialogue series on race.

What: Bishop Curry will share his vision for racial reckoning and justice ministry over the next two years and how to engage using Sacred Ground curriculum. Other leaders will discuss how to welcome people into race conversations and explore strategies for transitioning into action and community engagement.

Join: Find out how Sacred Ground furthers the work of racial justice, healing, and reconciliation—and how these small groups become experiments in Beloved Community.

Register Today



I Would Like to Meet You... In Person! *The (Re)Launch of University Ministries*

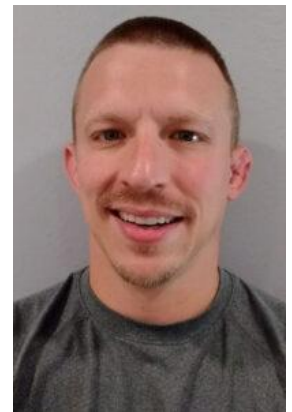
My name is (the Rev.) Dan Isadore, and I am the Young Adult and University Chaplain for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

We as a diocese find ourselves starting over in many ways after the past two years. This is no different in the University context as classes resume this Fall.

In the effort to re-launch our University ministry, I would like to get to know those within the diocese who already find themselves on campus – students, staff and faculty. If that describes you, let's get together for lunch, coffee, or breakfast.

Please contact me at IsadoreDJ1@gmail.com, or 412-360-9693.

Let's get to know Jesus better together, and figure out how He's inviting us to make Him known at our local universities. No prior experience is necessary.



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 via Zoom **Friday evening, October 7, through Saturday, October 8.**

[Click here](#) for a tentative agenda.

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 Friday, September 30. 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.



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

**Saturday, September 17
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.



Safe Church Training for Sunday School Teachers



With September comes 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*)

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

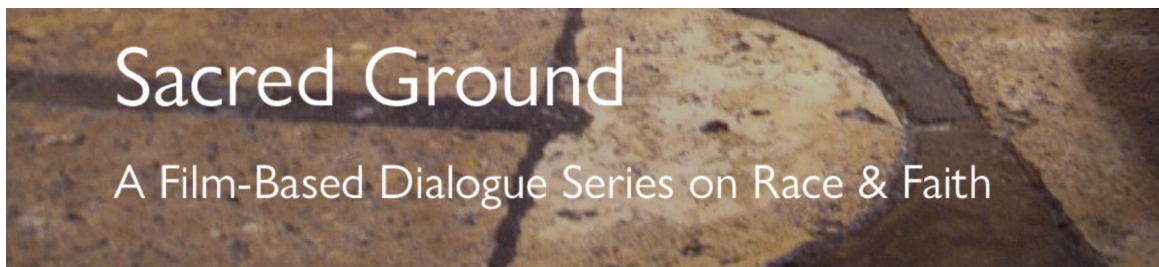


St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Canonsburg

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 through 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 more 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.



Diocesan Convention

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

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
