



September 29, 2022

The 157th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Save the Dates!

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus --1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

It's that time of year - pumpkin spice latte, crisp fall days, changing leaves and of course the Annual Diocesan Convention. Plans are coming together for a 2-day Episcopal celebration of our community. It all begins with our pre-convention gatherings for lay deputies and clergy via Zoom.



This year we will be meeting via Zoom by District as follows:

- Saturday, October 22 at 10 AM - District 2
- Saturday, October 22 at 1 PM - District 4
- Saturday, October 29 at 10 AM - District 1
- Saturday, October 29 at 1 PM - District 3

Bring your questions and be ready for a lively discussion of life in the diocese.

The convention begins on the evening of Friday, November 18 via Zoom.

On Saturday, November 19, we will gather in person at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) in Pittsburgh's Highland Park neighborhood.

Business of the diocese, the Bishop's Annual Address, Workshops, a Ministry Fair, and a diocesan dinner are in the works for the 2-day event. It promises to be a joy-filled weekend of fellowship, learning and working for the building up of the Kingdom of God in our little corner of the world.

Clergy and lay deputies are required to attend both days' events. If a lay deputy cannot attend either day, it is their duty to make certain an alternate deputy attends in their place.

Saturday's events at PTS are open to the entire diocese. More details about registration, the schedule and workshop offerings will be available soon. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Last Call for Nominations and More

The **deadline for nominations** for diocesan positions was extended and is open until tomorrow, Friday, September 30th. [Details here.](#)

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

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



Report about the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church



The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church and meets every three years. Its legislative process is an expression of The Episcopal Church's belief that, under God, the Church is ordered and governed by its people: laity, deacons, priests, and bishops.

Convention was supposed to meet in 2021 but was postponed until 2022 due to the pandemic, and dioceses were asked to bring fewer alternates to decrease the number of attendees overall. Pittsburgh was represented by: Mr. Jamie McMahon (deputation chair), The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh, The Rev. Jeff Murph, The Rev. Kris Opat, The Rev. Neil Raman, the Rev. Nancy Threadgill (clergy alternate), Mr. Jon Delano, Mr. Michael Braxton, Ms. Lisa Brown, and Dr. Joan Gundersen (lay alternate). Of course, our bishop the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ketlen Solak also attended.

The General Convention is our Church's highest temporal authority. As such, it has the power to amend the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, to amend the Book of Common Prayer and to authorize other liturgical texts, to adopt the budget for the Church, to create covenants and official relationships with other branches of the Church, to determine requirements for its clergy and other leaders, to approve resolutions on public policy, and to carry out other responsibilities and authority.

Please read the complete report by Jamie McMahon, Chair of the Pittsburgh deputation, [on the diocesan website.](#)

Above photo, L to R, The Rev. Neil Raman, Michael Braxton, Jamie McMahon, the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh, Joan Gundersen, Jon Delano, the Rev. Nancy Threadgill, the Rev. Jeff Murph, the Rev. Kris Opat, and Lisa Brown.

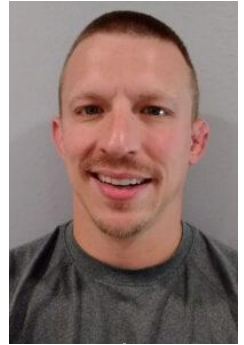


Let's Get Together!

Calling all 20-40-somethings!

On **October 16, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.**, young adults from across the diocese will be gathering at Christ Church North Hills for food, fellowship, and conversation surrounding building diocesan-wide young adult community. Food and drinks provided. Bring the kids.

Please RSVP by October 7 to the Rev. Dan Isadore at IsadoreDJ1@gmail.com, or 412-360-9693.



Community Diaper Giveaway

St. James, Penn Hills, in partnership with St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, hosted a diaper giveaway with [Jeremiah's Place](#), Pittsburgh's only Crisis Nursery. Jeremiah's Place provides free, 24/7, temporary and confidential care of young children when their families are faced with a crisis or are experiencing instability.

Volunteers from St. Paul's Anti-Racism and Social Justice Committee gratefully secured diaper donations from generous parishioners. The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh, along with volunteers from Jeremiah's Place and St. Paul's, greeted families who stopped by St. James on Saturday morning, September 17, for the giveaway. Families were appreciative to receive a free packet of diapers, containers of baby wipes, and bottles of hand sanitizer.



If your church is interested in hosting a "Diaper Give-Away Event" in partnership with Jeremiah's Place please contact Eileen Sharbaugh, Co-Founder of Jeremiah's Place and parishioner of St. Paul's Mt. Lebanon, at sharbaugh@verizon.net

To learn more about Jeremiah's Place visit <https://jeremiahspplace.org>



Growth Fund Grants for Environmental Projects

At its July 2022 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the Growth Fund Committee's recommendation to create a funding program that addresses environmental projects in diocesan parishes. While applications to the general Growth Fund are meant to assist participating parishes in maintaining and preserving their physical plants, with an emphasis on helping smaller parishes that may not be able to afford such repairs, the new Growth Fund for Environmental



Projects is meant to encourage parishes to explore energy-saving projects at our parishes.

Parishes may apply for these funds to address smaller environmental, non-urgent projects within the parish. Examples of such projects include, but are not limited to, automatic light switches, composting, replacing invasive landscaping with native plants, rainwater barrels, xeriscaping, etc. Electric and gas companies may do energy assessments and parishes are urged to contact these companies before making application to the Growth Fund and include these assessments in their application. Priority will be given to those parishes who have not received any Growth Fund grants in the past three years.

Grant amounts are limited to 50% of the project cost. Awards will not exceed \$1,000. Parishes will be asked to match the amount granted by the Growth Fund Committee and Board of Trustees with its own funds, which may include sweat equity. If there are funds remaining in the allocation at year-end, for parishes who have received funds this calendar year, additional applications may be submitted to the fund.

The application for environmental projects can be found on the [Documents & Forms](#) page of the diocesan website and is available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#) formats.

—Jim Cassaro, Chair, Growth Fund Committee



Blessing of the Animals in Johnstown

[St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#), located at 335 Locust Street in downtown Johnstown, is holding a Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** in the church courtyard.

Everyone is invited to bring their beloved pet of any species for a special blessing by St. Mark's priest the, the Rev. Nancy Threadgill. Please keep dogs on leashes and other pets gently restrained as appropriate for their species.



For additional information, contact the Rev. Nancy Threadgill at revnancy-stmarks@atlanticbb.net or (814) 535-6797.



Will Your Vote Count?

The Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, invites all to a forum, **October 12 at 7 p.m.**, to hear two expert speakers on voter eligibility and election regulation.

Jessie Allen, Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh, litigated voting rights cases during the 2008 presidential election and earlier was part of the Brennan Center for Justice challenge on state laws that bar voting because of criminal conviction. Jonathan Cervas, post-doctoral fellow at Carnegie Mellon's Institute for Politics and Strategy, especially concerned about gerrymandering in relation to inequality, was a consultant on redistricting to the 2021 Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission and most recently, as a Special Master, redrew New York State's Senate and Congressional districts.

**GREAT ISSUES:
DEMOCRACY THREATENED:
WILL YOUR VOTE COUNT?**

A reception will follow. There is no charge to attend. Redeemer is located at 5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15217, 412 422 7100, redeemerpittsburgh.org



Forging a Better Future, For All

The Social Justice and Outreach Committee and the Commission on Race and Reconciliation present an online talk by **Dr. Joylette Portlock**, Executive Director of [Sustainability Pittsburgh](http://SustainabilityPittsburgh.org), on **Wednesday, October 26, at 5 p.m.**, titled *Forging a Better Future, For All*.



Under Dr. Portlock's leadership, Sustainable Pittsburgh regularly works with hundreds of partners in the region – including local governments, nonprofits, and the business community – to ensure that our economy is built to last and our people and our planet thrive. Dr. Portlock has been Associate Director of Science and Research at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and, among many other current positions, is an advisory board member of the Black Environmental Collective. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology and anthropology from MIT and a PH.D. in genetics from Stanford.

No fee or registration required to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86411794777?pwd=WnVaTm02MnJiV3hUaEloQk1Rekp5Zz09>

If required: Meeting ID: 864 1179 4777 Passcode: 351255

For more information, contact Marianne Novy at mnovy@pitt.edu



World Mission Initiative Conference at PTS

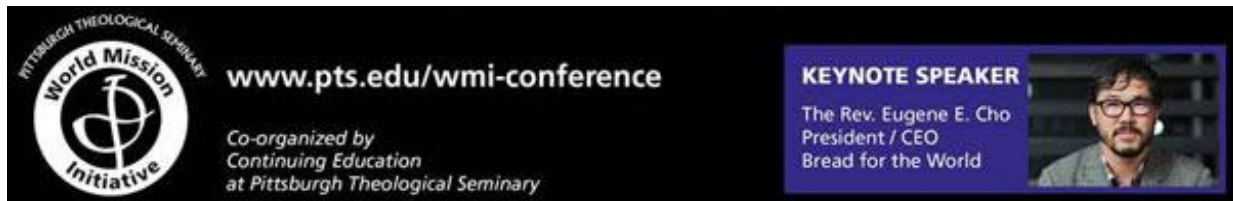


What does it mean to engage in God's mission through the major disruptions of our day?

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.





Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:

- October 2:** St. Mark's, Johnstown
- October 8:** St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale (Sat)
- October 9:** St. Francis, Somerset
- October 23:** St. Paul's, Kittanning (a.m.)
- October 23:** St. Michael's, Wayne Township (p.m.)

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.



Parting Shots

St. Stephen's , McKeesport, dedicated its Sunday, September 11 service to first-responders and acknowledged Patriot Day in memory of all who lost their lives, were injured, or responded to the 9/11 terrorist attacks that took place 21 years ago. The church invited McKeesport police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel to take part in a service and luncheon.



From Episcopal News Service: Episcopal priest 'in shock' after winning 'Jeopardy!'



After the Sept. 26 episode of “Jeopardy!” your one-day champion, with cash winnings totaling \$21,800, is the “Episcopal priest from Walla Walla, Washington.”

The Rev. David Sibley, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Spokane, survives to play another day.

Editors note: Actually, as of today, he continues with his fourth day as the Jeopardy champion.

Check your local listings to watch Sibley defend his title. [Click here for the full updated story.](#)



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