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April 13, 2023

Online Learning Pilot Landing May 1



Serviam Institute
I Will Serve.

**Sign up now to access free content from the
Diocese of Pennsylvania!**

A year ago, the Diocese of Pennsylvania launched its own online learning platform, **Serviam** (Latin for “I will serve”), to help equip and empower its members for mission and ministry. Now, as they consider broadening their audience to other Episcopal dioceses, they have asked the Diocese of Pittsburgh to participate in a special pilot program beginning May 1.

This is your opportunity to access Episcopal-specific online content, completely free of charge!

- Are you serving on your parish’s vestry, or just wondering, *What’s a vestry?* ... Take Serviam’s “Vestry 101” course. Or, for a deeper dive, check out “Canonical and Legal Responsibilities of a Vestry.”
- Want to go deeper in your spirituality? Explore “An Introduction to Spiritual Direction.”

Other courses include:

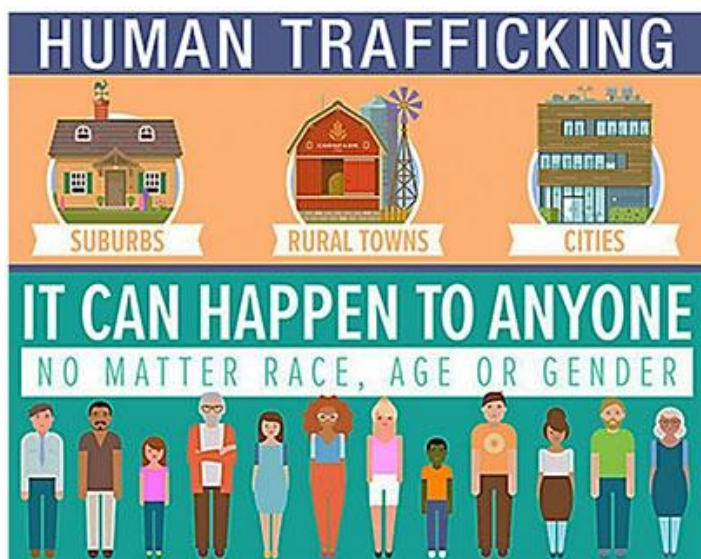
- An Introduction to Clergy Transitions,
- Evaluating Your Church’s Security, and
- Introduction to Safe Church

Sign up to participate in our Serviam pilot group

[Sign up now](#) to join our Pittsburgh pilot group. Later this month, you will receive instructions to access Serviam starting May 1 and a special Getting Started Guide.

Sign Up for Serviam Pilot

To help make this pilot as helpful as possible to our friends in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, all participants will be asked to provide feedback through brief, easy-to-use online forms, both on the specific courses completed and on the Serviam experience in general. Your participation and feedback will be greatly appreciated!



Human Trafficking In Western PA

Why is it here?
How to identify it?
What can you do about it?

Date & Time: Thursday
April 20, 2023, 7 pm

[Register for Zoom Link](#)

Speakers:

Sherrill Rudy, RN, CRNP
Living in Liberty: Awareness and
Prevention Team Member



Kaitlyn Veiock
Beaver County Anti- Human Trafficking
Coalition: Chair and
Women's Center of Beaver County: Medical
Advocacy Community Education Specialist



For more information, email scregistration@uucnh.org

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



A Choral Evensong

Sunday, April 23, 5 pm

**Christ Episcopal Church
902 Philadelphia Street, Indiana, PA 15701**

Music by Howells, Bairstow, Tallis, and Rheinberger

The service will be sung by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's (IUP) Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Craig Denison. It will also feature their recently-restored Kilgen-Brunner pipe organ, played by IUP organ professor Dr. Christine Clewell, and the parish's recently-appointed organist, Ms. Marissa Bruno.

It is also a celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Rev. William L. Geiger's ordination to the priesthood.





INTERFAITH CHRISTIAN/JEWISH CONVERSATIONS

Four Sessions:

- Sunday, April 23 | 4:30-6:30 PM with dinner
- Sunday, May 21 | 4:30-6:30 PM with dinner
- Sunday, June 11 | 4:30-6:30 PM with dinner
- Sunday, September 10 | 4:30-6:30 PM with dinner




Join the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and our interfaith partners as we read portions of the book, *The Bible With and Without Jesus*, by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. We will gather once a month as a large group, with guided instructions to meet independently in small interfaith groups at least once in between the large group events.

Your participation will result in friendship and developing community, building bridges (as we love to do in Pittsburgh!) across lines that some expect to keep us apart. Anti-Jewish violence is on the rise. Characterizing Christians as suspiciously or fundamentally part of ideological extremism such as Christian Nationalism is on the rise. The best way to avoid violence and suspicion is to know each other by name and share a table.

Much more information and registration details for this important conversation series is available at <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/christian-jewish-conversations/>



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE
PRESENTS



GUN VIOLENCE IN PITTSBURGH

CAUSES AND LIFE-SAVING SOLUTIONS



Sunday, April 30
at 7 pm via Zoom

LAVONNIE BICKERSTAFF

Pittsburgh's Assistant Chief of Police

Lavonnie Bickerstaff has served the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police since 1990. She now leads the Investigations branch and has also supervised, among others, Patrol, Community Policing, Crime Analysis, Robbery, Homicide, and the Zone 1 Police Station.



JOSH FLEITMAN

CeasefirePA's Western Pennsylvania Manager

Josh Fleitman's background is in politics, policy, and communication. He has worked as Deputy Chief of Staff to PA State Senator Pam Iovino, and has served in government offices at the state and federal levels.

JOIN US VIA ZOOM HERE:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82506280975?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82506280975?pwd=NzFEdHkvUnk2Y0hiN1FlcWcwZzcYdZ09)
[PWD=NzFEdHkvUnk2Y0hiN1FlcWcwZzcYdZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82506280975?pwd=NzFEdHkvUnk2Y0hiN1FlcWcwZzcYdZ09)
MEETING ID: 825 0628 0975
PASSCODE: 815539

**PROTECT
PEOPLE
NOT GUNS**



Join the Zoom discussion at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82506280975?pwd=NzFEdHkvUnk2Y0hiN1FlcWcwZzcYdZ09>



It's Not Too Soon to Plan for Vacation Bible School

St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, is thrilled to offer Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children ages pre-k through sixth grade this summer!

Each day will include crafts, snacks, games, stories about our faith and music. St. Paul's VBS will run from June 26 through June 30, 12:30 to 3 p.m.

[Sign up here](#). If you would like to volunteer your time or have any questions please contact the Rev. Laura Di Panfilo at laura@stpaulspgh.org.



Property Maintenance Workshop

Our church properties are like a beloved family member. They are a part of our sacred and special celebrations. They also require work and care, some of which is daunting, to keep them structurally sound and “healthy.”

The Property Committee of the Board of Trustees seeks to help all diocesan parishes with strategies to take care of these buildings and facilities that are important members of our communities. The committee will host an online workshop open to all. It would be particularly helpful to clergy, vestry members, maintenance staff, and facility volunteers.



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Property Maintenance Workshop

Saturday, April 29 from 9 – 11 AM on Zoom

[Please click here to register as soon as possible.](#)

The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 26.

Questions? Contact Jo Ann McLaughlin-Klemencic at jamklemencic@episcopalpgh.org



2023 PITTSBURGH PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE

Resilience, Joy and Living in the Present Moment

Christ United Methodist Church
44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Please join us for the 23rd Annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference to be held on Friday, May 12, 2023, 8am - 4pm at Christ United Methodist Church in the South Hills.

This conference has been specifically designed to provide education and support for pastors, clergy, laity, physicians, psychologists, nurses, counselors, social workers, students, volunteers and caregivers. Topics include addiction and recovery, mental health and wellness, family and marriage, outreach and reflections in ministry.



Scan QR code for more
and to register for the
conference.



Keynote Speaker
Tod Bolsinger, MDiv, PhD,
Co-Owner and Principal of
AE Sloan Leadership

Interested in an exhibition opportunity? Ready to register?
Visit: www.pghpcc.org Questions: karenplavan@gmail.com or 412.281.8362



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:

April 16: Calvary, East Liberty
April 23: St. Brendan's, Franklin Park
April 30: No Visitation
May 7: St. Peter's, Blairsville

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@episcopalpg.org.

The full church year **Cycle of Prayer** is now [available here](#) and Bishop Ketlen's full church year **Visitation Schedule** is [available here](#).



Parting Shots

On Saturday, April 8, Bishop Ketlen joined Roman Catholic Bishop Zubic and the leaders of many other ecumenical denominations at the annual *Blessing of the City* on Mt. Washington.



Wednesday, March 22, 2023

THE BLAIRSVILLE DISPATCH

The Blairsville Dispatch is Direct Mailed to
100% of Blairsville and Homer City Homes!

Laundry Love events being held in Blairsville

By KYLIE JASPER

kjasper@indianagazette.net

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is back to having in-person Laundry Love events from noon to 2:30 p.m. every second Sunday at the E&F Forge Laundromat in Blairsville.

Laundry Love is a national initiative that was founded over 40 years ago on the West Coast and designed to assist low/no income families with their laundry needs. Kathy Hughes Baird presented the idea of Laundry Love to the congregation of St. Peter's Episcopal Church around seven years ago.

"At the time, we were donating as a church to several organizations," she said, "but we had no hands-on mission."

So they started hosting Laundry Love events on the second Sunday of each month for a few hours. The church, thanks to funding from the Episcopal Dioceses of Pittsburgh and donations from organizations and other churches within the community, are able to provide quarters, laundry detergent and dryer sheets to those who show up.

"But most importantly

of the people you pass on the street," she continued. "I leave there and realize I have hardly any problems at all."

Baird explained the challenges that their mission faced during the mass social restrictions of COVID-19.

"We relied on texting some of the regular families that come each month and if they needed their laundry done, we would deliver quarters and detergent to their house depending on the amount of loads."

The group was also able to use donations from the Blairsville Alliance Church's Vacation Bible School program, in which the kids prepared sandwich bags filled with a laundry pod, dryer sheet and Bible verse.

"We got them before the pandemic and ended up saving them, they were so pretty," Baird said, "but then we were able to distribute and use them once the pandemic hit. It worked out well."

They just recently kick-started in-person events again.

Laundry Love events that pop up throughout the nation tend to be unique

we provide our company," and tailored to their specific community somehow. Baird's husband is the priest at St. Peter's. When he had to leave a Laundry Love event early one Sunday to take communion to an ill parishioner,

"You realize what a struggle life is for some

See **LAUNDRY: A-2**

LAUNDRY: From A-1

a woman who had shown up for the event asked if he could start bringing communion to them at the laundromat, too.

"So now we do that!" said Baird. "Sometimes we have more people in the laundromat than we do in church."

"Every church is part of the community," she said. "I believe that a church is not a place with walls around it. Whether or not people go to church, you serve them. Especially those in different situations than you."

"You can't know your

community unless you know all the different types of people that live in it," she said. "The kindness and generosity of the people we meet there is wonderful. Everyone is human; it's wonderful to learn about the people you don't normally associate with. We tend to fear them or be hesitant. We shouldn't."

For more information about Laundry Love, visit the website at <https://laundrylove.org/> and for information on helping locally, contact Baird at (603) 674-6329.

"Anybody can volunteer, help or donate."