

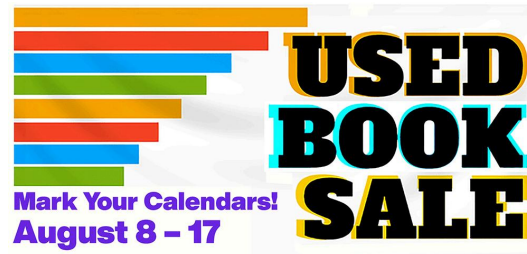
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August 5, 2025

## Calvary's Annual Used Book Sale

Attention all book lovers! Find your next great read - and more - at Calvary Church's annual Used Book Sale. The big event kicks off **with a Preview Party (admission \$10) from 5-7 p.m., Friday, August 8, and continues daily from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, August 9 through Sunday, August 17 in Calvary's Parish Hall, 315 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh 15206.**



One of the region's largest and longest-running used book sales, Calvary's sale features thousands of books ranging from beach reads to Bible studies. Categories include history, travel, children's, popular and literary fiction, politics, religion, spirituality, LGBTQ, cooking, gardening, Pittsburgh/regional interest and more.

The Used Book Sale is **still accepting donations**. Your great reads go to a great cause. All proceeds benefit the Calvary Bookstore's mission of promoting literacy. Since the sale's inception in 2006, more than \$60,000 has been donated to local educational and literacy organizations.

Donations of books, CDs, DVDs, video/audio tapes and vinyl records can be brought to Calvary's Parish Hall. (Please no encyclopedias, magazines or textbooks.) To ensure someone will be available to accept your donation, contact Parish Administrator Kim Pieratt at [kpieratt@calvarypgh.org](mailto:kpieratt@calvarypgh.org). We will be glad to arrange for help transporting heavy items. Thank you for supporting the Used Book Sale and its mission!



## Diocesan Staff Update

Rebecca Steiner has ended her service with the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Despite her short tenure, Rebecca made significant progress in completing the 2024 audit and creating new procedures, and we are grateful for all of her hard work and dedication.

During the period of transition please contact Marlene Rihn at [mrihn@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:mrihn@episcopalpgh.org) or Canon Joann Saylor at [jsaylors@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:jsaylors@episcopalpgh.org) for any finance-related questions or issues.



## Diocesan Transitions for July, 2025

### Transfer In

**The Rev. Miguel Carmona-Romero** transferred his canonical residence from the Diocese of Dallas to the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The change took effect on August 1, 2025.

### New Calls

**The Rev. Charles Fischer III** began serving as Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood, on July 1, 2025. Charles also continues his role as Vice President for Seminary Advancement at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**The Rev. Deacon Nicole Starr** began serving as Curate at Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh, on August 1, 2025, under the supervision of the Very Rev. Aidan Smith, Cathedral Dean. Nicole was ordained to transitional diaconate on June 14.

**The Rev. Miguel Carmona-Romero** has accepted a call to serve as Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Nativity, Crafton, beginning August 1, 2025. His first Sunday presiding and preaching at Nativity will be August 10. Miguel will also continue his diocesan role as Missioner for Ministry in Brookline.

### Departure

As Nativity, Crafton, prepares to welcome Fr. Miguel in August, they will also be saying farewell to **the Rev. Regis Smolko**, who has served as the parish's regular supply priest since March. August 3 will be Regis's last Sunday at Church of the Nativity.

### Retirement

**The Rev. Bill Geiger** retired from active ministry on July 1, 2025. Bill had served as the Rector of Christ Church, Indiana, since 1999. Bill and his wife Kate plan to remain resident in Indiana, PA.

### Birth

**The Rev. Kris Opat** and his wife JoEllen welcomed their first child into the world on Sunday, June 29. Ayla June Opat weighed in at a healthy 8 pounds, 14 ounces, and 21 inches long.

### New Standing Committee Member

James Neral, a member of Christ Church, North Hills, was elected by the Standing Committee to fill the unexpired term of Wesley Rohrer of St. Andrew's, Highland Park. Jim will serve through 2026.



## A Seasonal Need at Trinity Cathedral Walk-in Ministry



During our long, hot summer, the number of visits to the Trinity Cathedral Walk-In Ministry has increased. The ministry provides food, clothing, personal care items, referrals to other services, and much more, in a kind and caring Christian environment.

Parishes and individuals can help the many volunteers in caring for our venerable population. **There is an immediate need for new men's and ladies underwear in medium, large and extra-large sizes.** Contact the cathedral's walk-in ministry coordinator, Mike Radziwon, at [mradziwon16@gmail.com](mailto:mradziwon16@gmail.com) with any questions or to arrange for pickup or delivery.



## **Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule and Cycle of Prayer for the balance of 2025 now available**

Bishop Ketlen's 2025 visitation schedule, August – December 2025, is now [available here](#).

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for July – December 2025, is now [available here](#).

These documents, along with many others, are available on the Diocesan website under the [Resources tab](#).



## **Holy Hikes Southwest Pennsylvania Schedule w/trails for 2025 season**

St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier and St. Francis in the Fields, Somerset have partnered to launch an official chapter of [Holy Hikes](#) in the Diocese, known as Holy Hikes of Southwest Pennsylvania. We piloted a series of hikes in 2024, as a way to test how the ministry would go and to understand how congregations might collaborate. After a successful initial season, we are ready to launch the ministry diocesan-wide.



The hiking season runs from May to October, although our official launch is delayed until June this year, and the hikes take place in the morning on the third Saturday of each month. We will start the hikes at 10 a.m., but some of the team will be there about 15 minutes early to welcome hikers. (If the weather is forecast to be hot, we may move the start time to 9:00 a.m. Please look for announcements on Facebook from the diocese.

The hiking schedule for 2025 is:

### **Saturday, August 16, 2025 - 10:00 am**

[Johnstown Flood National Memorial](#) - Carriage Road Nature Trail - 1.15 miles - easy - with an optional .10 mile trail to the South Abutment and a .34 mile trail with lots of steps to the bottom of the dam (more difficult)

**Saturday, September 20, 2025 - 10:00 am**

[Indian Creek Valley Trail](#) - Melcroft to Indian Head section - 2.75 miles - easy

**Saturday, October 18, 2025 - 10:00 am**

Ohio State Park - [Meadow Run Trail](#) - 2.9 miles - easy

[Read more about Holy Hikes Southwest Pennsylvania here.](#)



## JUSTICE & FREEDOM: GOD'S STORY IN PITTSBURGH

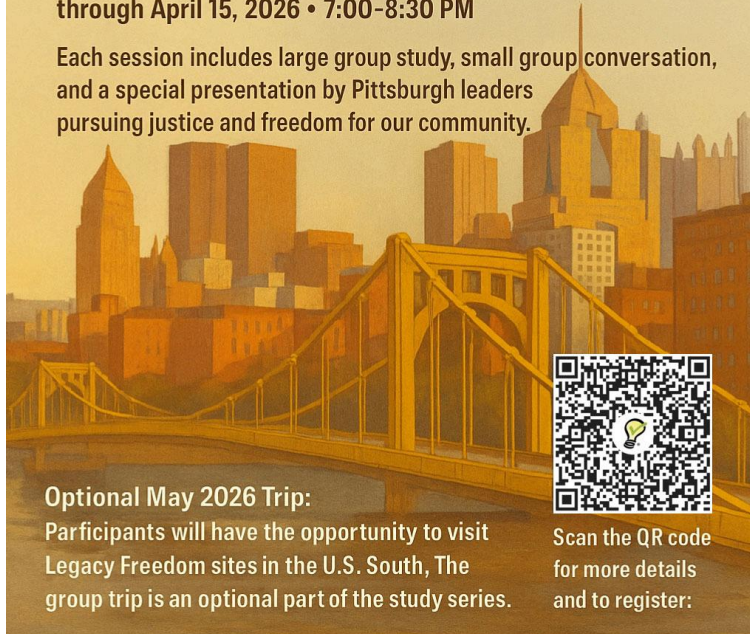
An Interfaith Series on Scripture, Society & Hope

Hosted by Rabbi Daniel Fellman at Temple Sinai  
and the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall at Church of the Redeemer

2025 Summer sessions held at Church of the Redeemer  
(5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217) with more information  
for fall sessions forthcoming.

First Wednesday of Each Month from June 4, 2025  
through April 15, 2026 • 7:00-8:30 PM

Each session includes large group study, small group conversation,  
and a special presentation by Pittsburgh leaders  
pursuing justice and freedom for our community.



### Optional May 2026 Trip:

Participants will have the opportunity to visit  
Legacy Freedom sites in the U.S. South, The  
group trip is an optional part of the study series.



Scan the QR code  
for more details  
and to register:

[Click here to sign up](#)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAEAE2FA3FAC52-56936917-justice>



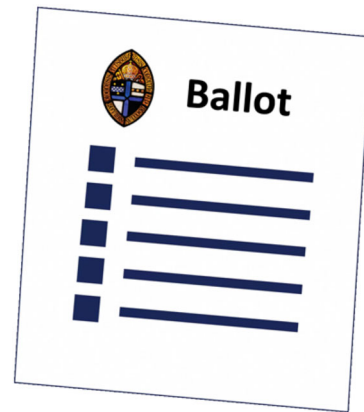
## Nominations Open for Diocesan Governing Bodies and Committees

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is now welcoming nominations of clergy and lay persons for election to membership on various governing bodies and committees of the

Diocese. The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for elections to be held at the Diocesan Convention on November 15, 2025. This year's convention will be held at Trinity Cathedral, Downtown.

This year we will be electing:

- One lay person to the Board of Trustees
- One lay person to the Growth Fund
- One clergy and one layperson to:
  - the Standing Committee
  - the Cathedral Chapter
  - the Committee on Constitution and Canons
- One lay person to the Disciplinary Board
- One person (clergy or lay) to the Commission on Ministry
- Four clergy and four lay deputies and four lay alternates as Deputies to General Convention held in Phoenix, AZ, in 2027



For more information on the work of the Boards and Committees, please [click here](#).

Multiple candidates for open positions are accepted and encouraged. All positions carry a term of three years (ending in 2028) except for the Standing Committee which has a four-year term (ending in 2029).

Nomination forms have been mailed to all parishes in the Diocese and are [available here](#).



## Fall 2025 Offerings from the Stevenson School for Ministry

### Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Confessing Church

Mondays  
August 25 – December 15  
7:00 - 8:00pm Eastern

Dr. Joshua Davis



## An Introduction to Political Theology

Thursdays  
August 28 – October 16th  
5:30–6:30 pm EST

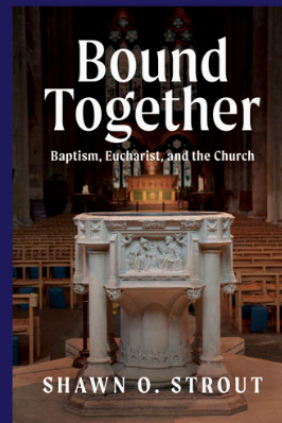
The Rev. Joseph Pagano



## Bound Together: Baptism, Eucharist, and the Church

An SSFM Continuing Education Opportunity

Mondays 7–8pm Eastern  
September 8 – October 6



[Complete course details and registration is available here.](#)



## Diocesan Office Summer Hours

Bishop Ketlen has given the office staff permission to work from home until 2 p.m. on Fridays between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The staff will be maintaining their normal work hours from Monday to Thursday.

Email and voicemail will be monitored and responded to as needed on Fridays.



## Parting Shots

### Steeple Repairs in Scottdale

Contractors carefully removed the cross on the top of the steeple at St. Bartholomew's in Scottdale to facilitate repairs to the steeple's roof. The repairs, funded by a diocesan Growth Fund grant, went perfectly!



*--Photos courtesy the Rev. Deacon Cynthia Gainer*

