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August 20, 2025

Diocesan Passport Program

It is with both excitement and a heartfelt invitation: the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh's Fellowship Committee is launching an innovative **"Diocesan Passport Program,"** designed to deepen our connections with one another, broaden our understanding of the varied expressions of parish life in our midst, and remind us that sometimes we don't truly see our own home until we've had the joy of traveling beyond it.



Why a Passport Program?

We all know the thrill of setting foot in a place we've never been before—the new faces, the unfamiliar sights, the surprising ways others worship and serve. In that moment of discovery, our hearts expand, and we gain fresh perspectives on our own traditions. If you've ever returned from a trip halfway around the world and described your hometown differently, you know exactly what we mean!

The Diocesan Passport Program brings that spirit of pilgrimage home, inviting each of us to step outside the walls of our own parish, meet fellow Episcopalians, and celebrate the rich tapestry of faith we share across the diocese.

How It Works

1. **Print Your Passport.** Beginning on August 24, print your pocket-sized passport booklet, [available here](#). Clergy and lay leaders, please display these prominently in your narthex, parish hall, and outreach newsletters. Encourage every worshipper, newcomer, and visitor to take one home.
2. **Travel and Collect Stamps.** Visit any other parish on a Sunday, at a midweek service, during a concert, or at a community event. When you arrive, introduce yourself as a Passport Traveler and ask the clergy to sign your booklet.
3. **Share Your Stories.** Snap a selfie with parish members or clergy during your visit. Share it with the diocese at life@episcopalpgh.org. Post it on social media with the hashtag **#DiocesePassport2025**. Let us build a virtual tapestry of the places we've been and the people we've met.

4. **Recognition.** At our Diocesan convention this year we will share the photos and the percentage of each parish that has participated by getting at least one passport signature.

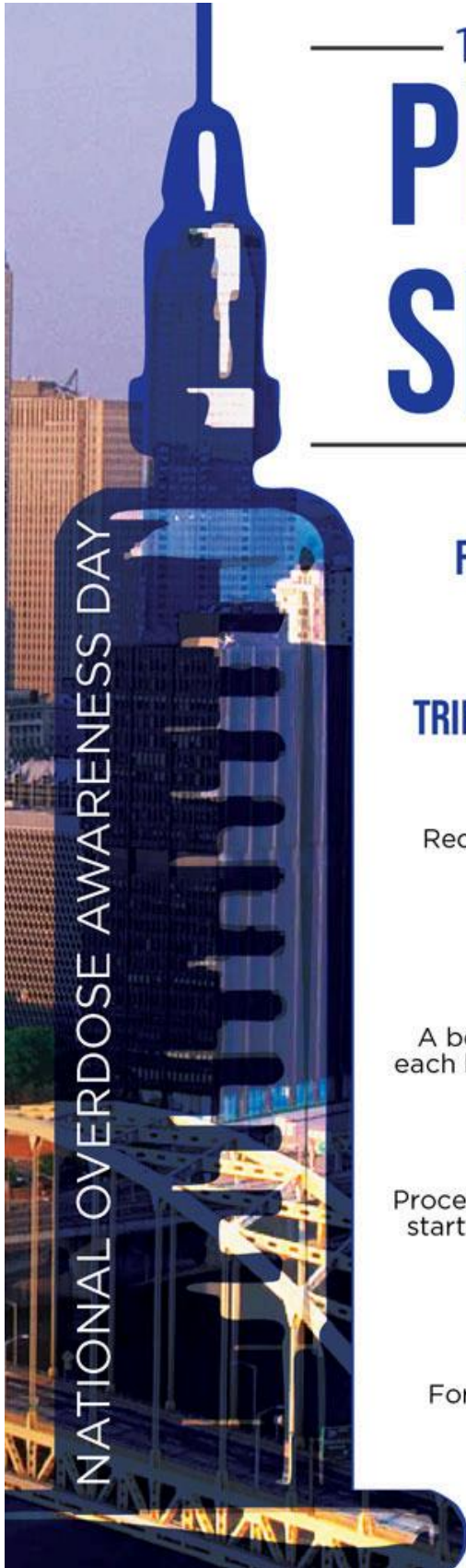
Inviting Every Parishioner

To all who call one of our parishes home, we say: the Passport Program is your invitation to go deeper, to reach beyond your comfort zone, and to marvel at the breadth of God's work in our midst. Consider these personal challenges:

- **Go with a friend.** Invite someone who's never been to another parish—maybe a newcomer in your own community—so you can discover together.
- **Attend a new service.** Try an evening prayer service if you usually attend morning Eucharist, or visit a parish that celebrates differently. Notice what speaks to you—and what surprises you.
- **Offer to host.** When travelers arrive at your parish, be intentional about introducing them around, offering them a bulletin, and stamping their passport. Your welcome may be the highlight of their journey.
- **Reflect and share.** Keep a journal or blog about what you learn at each stop. How did worship feel different? What did you learn about God's work in another neighborhood? How did the experience enrich your own faith?

Read more about this exciting initiative at www.episcopalpgh.org/diocesan-passport-program/





11th ANNUAL

PRAYER SERVICE



FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

328 SIXTH AVENUE,
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

Reception to follow in church hall



11:30 AM BELLS

A bell will ring 415 times - once for each life lost to overdose in Allegheny County in 2024.

12:00 PM PRAYER

Procession led by bagpiper and clergy starts from downtown churches into the cathedral



For more information, please call

412-281-8362



**Bring the Cantate Usquam Singers
to Sing With You on a Sunday**

The mission of the Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers is to bring music to churches that don't have choirs or the resources to sing at their regular services. Cantate Usquam, founded in December 2024, literally means "sing anywhere," and **we are a volunteer choir based in Pittsburgh that charges nothing.** From February to June we sang at the following churches: St. Peter's, Blairsville; St. Bartholomew's/Trinity, Scottdale; St. Matthew's, Homestead; St. Barnabas, Brackenridge; St. Peter's, Brentwood; and Cross Creek Presbyterian, Burgettstown.

Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers

Sing Anywhere!

The Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers:

- want to sing WITH you and share the joy that music brings to worship
- are led by musicians who have experience leading congregations and choirs in singing and can provide keyboard accompaniment
- are non-denominational
- work with your church to sing hymns and music from your tradition
- will sing choir pieces for a prelude, offertory, and/or communion
- love to sing a capella but can also use available instruments
- are scheduling dates beginning in September 2025, but NOT for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week or Easter services
- wear no robes and sing from within your congregation, not up front

Contact: Michael Salmon (oriolefish@gmail.com / 904-718-7622) or
Penny Anderson (penny_anderson@fastmail.fm / 412-310-9167)
For more information and/or to schedule a date



Supported by Lutheran Campus Ministries and Calvary Episcopal Church



ECW Fall 2025 Grant Applications Available

The Diocese of Pittsburgh's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be making outreach grants in the Fall.

The ECW particularly seeks to support hands-on ministries that help children, adults and families in need of assistance with food, nutrition, health care, housing, education and counseling.

The grants are primarily designed for ministries within the diocese and with the goal of even distribution across all districts. It is hoped that these small grants will enable the continuation of existing ministries on the local level. However, the ECW will continue its policy of also awarding grants to some national and international ministries such as Episcopal Relief & Development.



[Click here for the grant application and submission instructions.](#) Applications for the Fall 2025 grants must be submitted before **Friday, October 10, 2025.**



ECW Fall 2025 Memorial Scholarships Available

The Episcopal Church Women established the Memorial Membership Fund to aid students with educational grants. The fund was begun in 1927 to be used for two missionary training scholarships. In the 94 years of its existence, the scope of the fund has widened to include nursing, theology and other humanitarian fields of study.



Funds are raised through gifts from individuals or groups in memory of a loved one or friend. This money is invested and the interest used for the granting purposes.

Each applicant must:

- be an Episcopalian in good standing (active) in a parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh,
- have completed one year of college or the equivalent,
- be pursuing education in either church or humanitarian related fields,
- submit an application, including a letter stating goals and need, and
- submit a reference letter from their parish priest.

The Memorial Membership Committee will consider each request based on individual need and circumstances. Scholarships are completely unencumbered and may be used as needed to aid the recipient in achieving their educational goals. Each eligible applicant is able to apply once a year for three years.

The applications must be received by **Friday, October 10, 2025.** The application form with submission instructions is [available by clicking here.](#)



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, 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

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

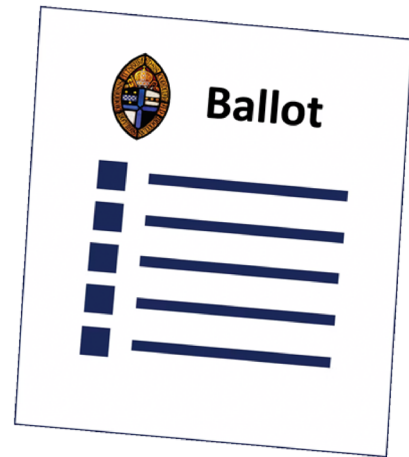
[Read more about Holy Hikes Southwest Pennsylvania here.](#)



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 clergy 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](#).



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

September 7: Holy Cross, Homewood

September 21: St. Matthew's, Homestead

September 27: St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale (Saturday)

September 28: St. Thomas, Northern Cambria

Parish leadership is reminded to complete a form, available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#), at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact Andrea Rath at 412-721-0853, ext. 251, or arath@episcopalpgh.org.



Parting Shots

Holy Hikes Visits Johnstown

Another wonderful Holy Hike on Saturday, August 16--this time on the trails of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in St. Michael, Pennsylvania. Three additional congregations in the Diocese were represented at this month's hike, including St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, St. Thomas, Northern Cambria, and St. Thomas in Oakmont. Thanks to those parishioners who joined us--and climbed all of those stairs! They've earned more jewels for their heavenly crowns.



--Photo courtesy Katie Ong

Clergy Spouse Gathering

Meloni Murph of St. Thomas, Oakmont, hosted a brunch gathering for clergy spouses, both active and retired, at her home in April.



--Photo courtesy Scott Solak

