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September 5, 2025



Seeing the Face of God in Each Other, our diocesan anti-racism workshop, is taking place online via Zoom **Friday, October 10, and Saturday, October 11, 2024.**

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.

There are no fees for this important workshop.

For more details about the program, how it works, and registration, [click here.](#)



Diocesan Staff Update: Marlene Rihn

Those of you who have had the privilege of working with Marlene Rihn in the past will join us in celebrating her promotion to Senior Accountant and Assistant Treasurer for the diocese. With more than 15 years of serving on the diocesan staff, she has been a faithful colleague to Bishops, staff, and parishes.



Although some of her responsibilities have changed, she will still be a resource for congregations and clergy. Marlene can be reached at mrihn@episcopalpgh.org.

Thank you, Marlene, for your faithful service, and congratulations on your new role!



Jazz @ Emmanuel – The 34th Season!

Jazz Vespers incorporates a series of finger-snapping jazz meditations and stirring poetic or interpretive readings that celebrate who we are as beloved human beings before a benevolent and wondrous creator. A scriptural message and passing of the peace round out the celebration of the theme of the day. This not-to-be-missed, unique worship experience is one everyone will want to see and hear for themselves.



2025-2026 Season

Second Sundays September through May, 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary

September 14: Always Hope	October 12: Harvest	November 9: Humble Thanks
December 14: What are your Gifts	January 11: The Arc is Long	February 8: Kindness to Strangers
March 8: Rejoice	April 12: Pat, Present, Future	May 10: Love is Contagious

[Emmanuel Episcopal Church](#), 957 W. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA

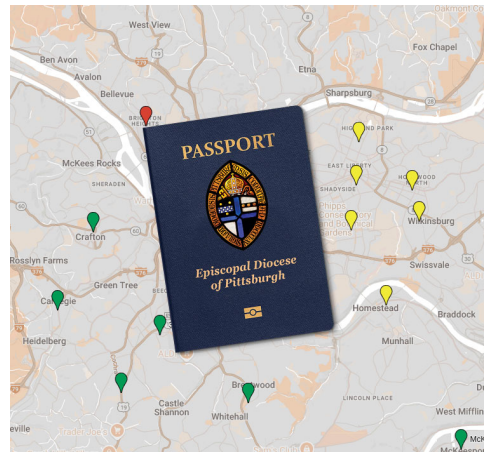


Diocesan Passport Program

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.

For more details about the program and how it works, [click here](#).



Christ Episcopal Church Presents:
2025 Women's Retreat

A GOOD ENDING IS OUR GREATEST GIFT

WITH: THE REV. JULIE SMITH, PHD.

Rev. Julie taught history at colleges in South Dakota, North Carolina, and at Mount Aloysius.

After literally getting lost in the desert, she followed a call to ministry. She now serves as a hospice and facility chaplain in Greensburg and as a supply priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, currently at St. Barnabas in Brackenridge.

Rev. Julie and her wife recently celebrated 38 years together. They enjoy travel and the outdoors: hiking in the Mojave, visiting Israel, and exploring national parks.



Oct. 18, 2025 8:30-4:30

Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills
5910 Babcock Blvd.
Pittsburgh, 15237 (Ross Twp)

Cost: \$65
includes Lunch & Refreshments

Click here to register



St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon Annual Harvest Fest Save the Date

Benefitting the Trinity Cathedral Walk-In Ministry
Friday, October 24, in the Undercroft of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1066 Washington Rd, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
412-531-7153 stpaulspgh.org



The Walk-In Ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Pittsburgh has been a critical source of support for the local community. Unfortunately, federal funding cuts have severely impacted Trinity Walk-In Ministry's access to items from the food bank. You can help them maintain their current level of service by planning to attend this year's very special Harvest Fest Outreach Fundraiser.



Tickets will be \$25, with additional opportunities to give. Everyone from the Diocese, and their friends and family, are invited to come, share a meal, and learn more about the great work done by the Trinity Walk-In volunteers!

More details, and the delicious menu, will be released soon! Contact the Rev. Erin Morey at erin@stpaulspgh.org with questions.



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!

Full information is at <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/bring-cups-to-sing-with-you/>



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.

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



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.



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

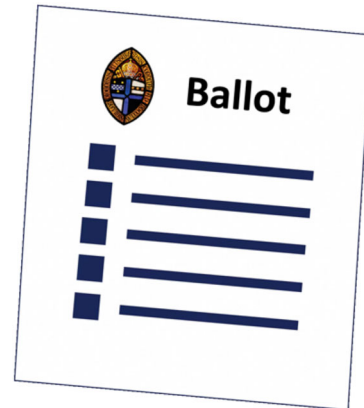
Ohiopyle State Park - [Meadow Run Trail](#) - 2.9 miles - easy

[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, Scottsdale (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.

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

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

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



Parting Shots

Episcopal News Service Features Pittsburgh's 'Passport Program'

Pittsburgh's 'passport program' encourages Episcopalians to visit diocese's churches

By Shireen Korkzan
Posted Aug 27, 2025



The Rev. Brandon Cooper, right, signs a "passport" for a woman visiting St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, where he serves as priest-in-charge. The Diocese of Pittsburgh's 2025 "passport program" encourages Episcopalians to attend worship services in different Episcopal churches diocese-wide between late August and the Nov. 15 diocesan convention. Photo: Courtesy of Brandon Cooper

[Episcopal News Service] The Southwestern Pennsylvania [Diocese of Pittsburgh](#) has launched a "[passport program](#)" encouraging Episcopalians to attend worship services in different Episcopal churches diocese-wide.

The initiative's goal is to foster fellowship, one of Pittsburgh Bishop Ketlen A. Solak's three diocesan priorities alongside growth and communications.

"We are called to be in fellowship with God and with each other. Paul talks about that in his [letters](#), and it's also in [Psalm 133](#), which says, 'How good and pleasant it is when brethren live together in unity.' That unity comes from a warm fellowship that's already begun," Solak told Episcopal News Service.

[Read this excellent article here.](#)

Overdose Awareness Day at Trinity Cathedral

On Friday, August 29, Trinity Cathedral hosted an annual service commemorating Overdose Awareness Day on Friday, August 29.



Participating in the observation were the Coalition for Leadership, Education, and Advocacy for Recovery (CLEAR), Christian Associates of SW Pennsylvania, City of Pittsburgh EMS, Light of Life Mission, JCC PGH, The Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium, Pittsburgh Won't Forget U, and Families who lost loved ones.

Many more photos are available on the [diocesan Facebook page](#).



Has your parish been featured in the news? Do you have an event or content to share?
Please let us know via email at info@episcopalpgh.org
