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September 23, 2025

There are reports from several members of the diocese who have received emails purporting to be from Bishop Ketlen. This is a phishing scheme. These are NOT from Bishop Ketlen and are not originating from her email account, so rest assured that his account has not been hacked. Someone IS using her name, after creating an email address that looks close enough to one that MIGHT be hers that some may be fooled.

Delete any such emails, and then delete them from your deleted folder. Some email services, like Gmail, Outlook and Yahoo, allow you to report spam messages. Check the help section of your email service. Members of the diocesan staff will NEVER ask you for money or gift cards by email.



The poster features a colorful, watercolor-style background with shades of purple, blue, yellow, and pink. At the top, the title 'TOWARDS A FULLER GOSPEL' is written in a large, purple, serif font. Below the title, there are four circular portraits of speakers, each with a date and name next to it. The speakers are: The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers (Oct. 07), The Rev. Isaiah Shaneequa Brokenleg (Oct. 14), The Rev. Ryan Macias (Oct. 21), and The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh (Oct. 28). At the bottom of the poster, the time '7:00PM - 8:00 PM Eastern' and the dates 'Oct. 07- Oct. 28 via zoom' are listed in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

The **Beloved Community Initiative** is honored to present a powerful speaker series originally offered to the Diocese of San Diego—and now brought to Pittsburgh by

popular request.

Join us on Tuesday evenings throughout October for Toward a Fuller Gospel, a Zoom-based series featuring voices from Americans of color whose cultural origins shape their unique lenses of biblical interpretation and theological reflection. Each speaker brings a rich, contextual perspective that invites us to deepen our understanding of the gospel and expand our vision of beloved community.

Whether you're seeking inspiration, challenge, or renewal, you'll find yourself blessed by these sacred conversations.

No registration is required. [Click here for the Zoom link.](#)



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)

There are no fees for this important workshop.

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





The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh
Co-presented with
The Pittsburgh Silent Film Festival

Wednesday, October 1, 7:30pm
Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church,
5801 Hampton St. Pittsburgh 15206

General Admission Tickets \$20.00 (cash or card)
Children and Students with ID are
FREE admission to the concert

Concert Organist Joshua Stafford,
Director of Music Ministries and Organist at First
Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio

*A full bio and tickets ahead of time are available
on: www.organseries.com*



The Current Experience of Palestinian Christians

Led by Canon Iyad Qumri
Sunday, October 12 @ 9:45 am
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road,
Mt. Lebanon, PA

Canon Iyad Qumri has been welcoming and guiding pilgrims to the Holy Land for over thirty years, including many groups from St. Paul's and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He was born and lives in Jerusalem, where, with his family, he operates Qumri Pilgrimages.



He is a member of the St. George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem and is a Canon of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. During the adult forum, he will share about the current situation for Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. He will also be talking about our hopeful pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2026. Please join us for this special visit from our friend in Jerusalem and learn firsthand about life in the Holy Land right now.



WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

<p>On average, 130 people die by suicide every day. <i>Source: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention</i></p>	<p>From 1999 to 2019, 841,000 people died from drug overdoses. <i>Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i></p>	<p>Nearly 1 IN 5 in the U.S. lives with a mental illness. <i>Source: National Institute of Mental Health</i></p>
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Identify. Understand. Respond.

Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based, early-intervention course that teaches participants about mental health and substance use challenges.

St. Thomas, Canonsburg, is hosting a daylong workshop on **Saturday, October 18, 2025, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. with lunch provided.**

Format: 2 hours individual pre-work plus seven hour workshop together.

Cost: First ten registrants free of charge, others \$29. **Register by October 4.**

Day and Time: Saturday, October 18, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. with a simple lunch provided.

Location: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 139 N. Jefferson Ave., Canonsburg.

Registration: Send an email to the Rev. Carter Hawley at chawley@trinitycathedral.org



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](#).



SUPPORT A CENTRAL SERVICE FOR THE POOR OF PITTSBURGH

Federal funding cuts have severely impacted Trinity Cathedral Walk-In Ministry's access to items from the food bank. You can help them maintain their current level of service to the community by planning to attend this year's very special Harvest Fest Outreach Fundraiser.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1066 Washington Rd, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
412-531-7153 stpaulspgh.org

Tickets will be \$25, with additional opportunities to give. More details, and the delicious menu, will be released soon!



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](#)



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.



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.](#)



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

September 27: St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale (Saturday)
September 28: St. Thomas, Northern Cambria
October 5: St. Mark's, Johnstown
October 12: St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset

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

Bishop Ketlen Visits Holy Cross, Homewood

A wonderful crowd gathered to welcome Bishop Ketlen to Homewood on Sunday, September 7.



Bishop Ketlen Visits St. Matthew's, Homestead

Parishioners in Homestead enjoyed Bishop Ketlen's visit on Sunday, September 21.



Pumpkin Pie Sunday at Saint Barnabas, Brackenridge

What a wonderful day we shared on Sunday, September 21! The Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers filled our sanctuary with beautiful music, and our time of fellowship—complete with delicious pumpkin pie—was filled with joy and connection.

With open arms, we welcomed our new Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Dr. Julie Smith (Mother Julie), into the hearts of Saint Barnabas. There is so much to be thankful for!

--Karen Davidek



Additional photos are available at www.facebook.com/StBarnabasBrackenridge.



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