

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 28 Church Bodies, 2,000 Congregations and 1,000,000 Christian Members

The Call . . .



On the Web: www.casp.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Hicks Memorial Chapel - lower level
616 North Highland Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15206

to be one in Christ

September 2018, Number 4

A Unifying Voice in the Name of Jesus Christ for the Mission of the Gospel and the Wholeness of Communities

Behind the Scenes: New Data Management Solution Empowers Christian Associates' Ministry



For years, our poorly constructed information systems prevented us from doing that work well. We maintained our mailing lists for *The Call* and other projects in unwieldy spreadsheets, which were difficult to keep up-to-date and challenging to sort or query. We had no good way to store information about clergy interests or participation in events. Even our records of contact information were incomplete, limited to mailing addresses only.

This summer, thanks to a generous anonymous donation, Christian Associates has leapt into a new century of data management. We're working to gather all our records into a single, secure, sophisticated system, which we can use for sending *The Call*, tracking subscriptions to our e-newsletter *Unity n' At*, managing event attendance, and organizing donations.

Salesforce, a cloud-based system customized to suit our particular needs, allows for real-time updates, making our record-keeping far more efficient.

All organizations managing data must take care to protect the privacy of their constituents, and Christian Associates takes this responsibility seriously.

Please be assured that the information in our records will be used only for our internal purposes, and will not be shared with external organizations except in the very rare cases specified in our mailing list policy.

We're currently working on a comprehensive review of every record in our database – including yours!

Please help us to keep our lists accurate. Examine the mailing label on this issue of *The Call*. If any changes are necessary to your name or address, or if you are aware of needed changes to other records at your organization, please contact Michele Perry at mperry@casp.org or 412-688-9070.



At its heart, the ministry of Christian Associates is one of connection.

We bring diverse Christians together to discover common ground and work for the good of our communities, bringing to life Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one." We convene meetings of clergy who share common interests. We share information about news and events relevant to religious leaders.

To connect people effectively, we need to know who they are and how to find them.

Learn to Protect Creation and Save Money at Energy Star Stewardship Tour

Christians are called to be good stewards of God's creation. One way to practice good stewardship is to participate in the Energy Star program, a voluntary program helping individuals and congregations save energy and water.

This month, speakers from the Energy Star program are embarking on a Pennsylvania Stewardship Tour, visiting eight cities across the state to spread the word about faithful use of resources. The tour stops in Pittsburgh on **September 25 at 7 p.m.**, in the John Knox Room at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Speakers will share tools such as the Action Workbook for Congregations, online Portfolio Manager for tracking savings on energy and water, and training webinars. If implemented, these tools could help save up to an estimated 30% of your congregation's energy bills. Just think of the ministry you could do with the money that you save, all while becoming better stewards of God's creation!

Please register by visiting <http://bit.ly/EnergyStarPgh>. If you have questions, contact Dave Smith at dsmith@cleanair.org or 412-954-8494.



ENERGY STAR PENNSYLVANIA STEWARDSHIP TOUR

Hosted by:
the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary,
Christian Associates of SWPA, and
the Clean Air Council, SWPA

**September 25
7:00-9:30 pm**

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 N. Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

I love the church. And if you're reading these words, I imagine that you do, too.

Sometimes, the church is easy to love. When fridges fill up with casseroles delivered to grieving friends. When preschoolers turn into sheep and angels in a Christmas pageant. When beloved Psalms bring hope beside a hospice bed. When the preached word offers a glimpse of the Kingdom. When outstretched hands receive the very Bread of Life.

But sometimes, we proclaim our love for the church through gritted teeth, or even with our fingers crossed behind our backs. Conflict and bureaucracy, passive aggression, prejudice and discrimination, irrelevancy ... these too are the church. The church fails and flails. It does harm.

I confess it was especially hard for me to love the church this summer. In June, when Antwon Rose, an unarmed honors student, died at the hands of a police officer, I yearned for the church to rise up in a united stand for justice. Instead, our deeply embedded sin of white supremacy led many of us to stay mostly silent, unsure what to do, and then quickly move on, distracted by the next headline.

Then, in August, I read the Pennsylvania grand jury report addressing sexual abuse in the state's Roman Catholic dioceses. How could anyone love the church when faced with 887 pages of the deepest kind of individual and institutional brokenness? The sins reported in the report are almost too weighty to bear. Again and again, the church abandoned its foundational duty to care for the most vulnerable. Although practices have improved tremendously in more recent decades, the pain of these past failures remains. Those of us from traditions outside Roman Catholicism know we have no grounds for pride: our own histories are just as shadowed by misconduct.

In the times when it is hardest to love the church, I turn to loving Christ instead. And, like the sudden light that appears when a stone rolls away, I soon find myself loving his body, the church, again too.

The presence of sin in the church is nothing new. Since Judas took his seat at the Last Supper, the church has been marred by the sin of its members. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them," exclaimed the scandalized people of Galilee. Peter, the rock on which the church was built, was hardly a sturdy and unshakable boulder; more a wobbly pebble. From the Crusades to the Doctrine of Discovery, we've inherited an institution that bears stains across the centuries: a church that has killed, stolen, and betrayed.

"We have this treasure in clay jars," Paul wrote. The church seems sometimes to be constructed of the weakest kind of clay, fragile and leaky, just one vibration away from shattering altogether. But what is inside these jars – ah, praise God; that is still treasure indeed, despite every weakness of its container.

And that treasure belongs to all of us, sinners though we are, even at the times when our own love for the church is shaky and unsure. The Good News of the Gospel is still ours, a song of new life, reconciliation, justice, forgiveness, the truth of Christ crucified and risen. The challenge of the Gospel is still ours: the call to bind up the brokenhearted, even the brokenhearted in our own pews. The call to repent of our sin, and to turn again to follow the one who makes all things new.

In the times when it is hardest to love the church, I turn to loving Christ instead. And, like the sudden light that appears when a stone rolls away, I soon find myself loving his body, the church, again too.

Your sister in Christ,

The Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister
Christian Associates of Southwest PA



photo by Jennifer McKinney



How Should We Lead in Challenging Times? Tod Bolsinger Shows the Way

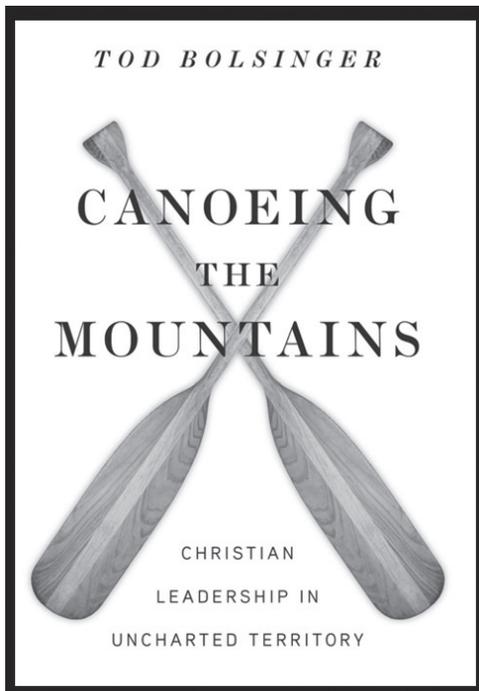
When Lewis and Clark set off on their expedition, they expected to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean.

Instead, they encountered the Rocky Mountains. They were forced to change their strategy, abandon their canoes, and set a new course forward.

On **Friday, September 21**, Beaver-Butler Presbytery invites pastors and church leaders to spend a day with Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains*.

Tod is a pastor, clergy coach, professor, writer, and leading voice in the area of renewing church leadership. He will help us learn how to adapt our leadership in a changing world, as more and more Americans consider themselves “spiritual but not religious” or “nones.”

The event takes place from **9 am to 2:30 pm** at **Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church in Cranberry Township, PA**. To register, please contact office@beaverbutler.org.



Women Ministers Meet for Education, Conversation

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the International Association of Women Ministers welcomes women clergy to its monthly 11:30 a.m. lunch meetings at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, beginning September 20.

In the September meeting, the chapter will welcome a panel of preachers represented in Christian Associates' recent book, “Blessed Art Thou Among Women: Southwest Pennsylvania Preaches on Mary, Mother of Jesus.”

On **October 18**, in preparation for Advent, the **Rev. Dr. Angela Diehart Hancock** will offer preachers some fresh homiletic ideas for the season of darkness, hope, and anticipation, as she discusses, “The Art of the Advent Sermon.”



The chapter will continue hosting monthly meetings, a January retreat, and a spring celebration through the rest of 2018-19, as well as next summer's 100th anniversary International Assembly.

To receive email updates, contact chapter secretary Rev. Kimberly Greway at kimberly.greway@alleghenycounty.us.



Learn, Pray, and Support Educators at Fall Events

Blessed Be Educators, an ecumenical organization that aims to provide educators with spiritual support and recognition, is offering two fall programs that welcome both clergy and lay people, especially those with an interest in education.

1. On **Saturday, September 29**, behavioral health specialist and certified trainer Lori Sachs will offer “**Youth Mental Health First Aid**” at the A. J. Palumbo Hall of Science & Technology, Carlow University.
2. BBE's **Third Annual Prayer Breakfast** will be held **Saturday, October 20** at 9 a.m. at the Saint John Fisher Parish Hall, Churchill.

This course, developed by the National Council for Behavioral Health, teaches participants the risk factors and warning signs of a variety of mental health challenges common among adolescents, including anxiety, depression, psychosis, eating disorders, AD/HD, disruptive behavior disorders, and substance use disorder.

There is no registration fee, and morning coffee, lunch, and training materials will be provided. This course is approved for PA Department of Education Professional Development Act 48 Hours (\$5 processing fee).

Pastors, current and retired educators, and others who are interested will come together to enjoy morning prayer, a hot breakfast, door prize drawings, a keynote speaker, and blessing of educators.

The 2018 speaker is Rosemarie Perla, licensed psychologist, certified professional coach, and business owner. The title of Ms. Perla's address is “Living Life with Gratitude & Positivity.”

Children, all ages, are welcome to attend. The cost is \$10/adults; \$5/children payable in advance.



Rosemarie Perla will be the keynote speaker at BBE's October 20 Prayer Breakfast

To register or to learn more about Blessed Be Educators, please contact Dr. Mary Ann Hvizdos, Program Director at 412-807-1611 or mahvizdos@verizon.net.

Association of Pittsburgh Priests

Women as Disciples and Models of Ministry Today - From the Scriptures

Date & Time: Mon., Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
 Location: Kearns Spirituality Center, 9000 Babcock Blvd, Allison Park, PA 15101
 Suggested Donation: \$20
 Speaker: Megan McKenna, PhD

In this talk Dr McKenna will issue her challenge by focusing on Jesus' words to women in Scripture. She uses a mixture of storytelling, the Scriptures, and back and forth dialogue to "do theology" together. Come prepared to be involved.

Reading the Scriptures with the Mind, Eye, and Heart of a Woman

Date & Time: Mon., Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
 Location: Kearns Spirituality Center, 9000 Babcock Blvd, Allison Park, PA
 Suggested Donation: \$20
 Speaker: Barbara Reid, OP, PhD

New Testament scholar Dr. Barbara Reid's presentation will explore aspects of feminist biblical interpretation. It is also the focus of her most recent book: *Wisdom's Feast: An Introduction to Feminist Interpretation of the Scriptures*.

To RSVP for these programs, contact Fr. John Oesterle at 412-232-7512 or johnoesterle2@gmail.com.



Epiphany Association

820 Crane Ave
 Pittsburgh, PA 15216
 412-341-7494
www.epiphanyassociation.org

Formation of the Christian Heart

Date: Sept. 19-22
 Cost: \$400 per person includes breakfasts, lunches, and all retreat materials

This retreat is an opportunity for spiritual deepening and time away as participants reflect on the movements and dynamics of the human heart. We will spend time with the "threefold path" of spiritual purification, illumination, and union as embraced by Christian spiritual masters through the centuries. Our sessions will feature wisdom from companions such as Teresa of Avila, CS Lewis, and Thomas Merton.

Duquesne University

600 Forbes Ave.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Peace Is a Right: Freedom From Fear - A Three Rivers Celebration of the International Day of Peace

Date: Sept. 21
 Cost: Free

Peace activities will take place from 2-4 p.m. in the Student Union. A Peace Information Fair begins at 4 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. The Gathering of International Flags will take place at 6:30 p.m. on the sidewalk outside the Student Union, followed by the procession and main program at 7 p.m.



Dutilh United Methodist Church

1270 Dutilh Rd
 Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

Preach!

Dates & Times: Mon., Sept. 24, 9 a.m. - Tues., Sept. 25, 4 p.m.
 Cost: \$50, includes lunches and book.

Five outstanding preachers from Florida, Georgia, and Maryland will offer workshops, preaching resources and inspirational messages on contemporary topics. A panel of Western PA preachers will discuss aspects of preaching and share their insights during this time of worship, fellowship and learning.

Register online at <https://wpa-reg.brtapp.com/Preach>



St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral

8290 Thompson Run Road
 Allison Park, PA 15237
 412-366-4647
www.sanocpgh.org

Love and Marriage, But No Baby Carriage: New Reproductive Technologies in Light of Orthodox Christian Beliefs and Ethics

Date & Time: Thurs., Sept. 27, 7 p.m.
 Fee: Free

First comes love and then comes marriage, but what happens when there is no baby carriage? The grief and sadness of infertility has been with us since the beginning of time. How should we view the advent of new, assisted reproductive technologies in light of Orthodox Christian beliefs and ethics?

St. Alexander Nevsky

(continued)

Panelists include Jennifer Lahl, President, Center for Bioethics and Culture Network; Dr. Albert Rossi, Dir. of Counseling and Psychological Services, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary; and V. Rev. George Johnson, Rector, St. John the Baptist Church



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

400 Old Clairton Rd
 Pleasant Hills, PA 15236
 (412) 655-2168
www.poplutheranph.com

Caregiver Workshop

Date: Sun., Sept. 30,
 Time: Lunch at 11:45 a.m.; workshop 12-2 p.m.
 Fee: Free; registration requested

This workshop by Lutheran SeniorLife is designed for the "sandwich generation," who are caring for parents while also tending to kids, grandkids, and/or facing their own concerns about aging. Topics will include care options for older adults, preparing for the future, and care for the caregiver. Registration is requested by Sept. 21; contact Patricia Davidson, Health & Wellness Ministry Coordinator, at 412-367-8222 or patricia.davidson@lutheranseniorlife.org



Amplify Church

Pittsburgh East Campus
 9400 Saltsburg Rd.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15239
www.futureforwardchurches.com

Future Forward Conference

Dates: Oct. 2-3
 Cost: \$79 individual; \$59 groups of 10+

The Future Forward Conference is for church leaders and church members who are committed to connecting with and staying connected with the next generation in a rapidly changing world. The keynote speaker is pastor and bestselling author Carey Nieuwhof, who writes one of today's most widely read Christian leadership blogs. The conference will focus on five proven change strategies that can help declining churches make a comeback and help healthy churches to stay on track.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

St. Paul Cathedral

108 N. Dithridge St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-621-4951
www.stpaulpgh.org

2018 Concert Series

Nicole Keller, Organist

Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, Berea, Ohio
Date & Time: Fri., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: Free

Virginius Barkauskas, Organ and Robertas Beinaris, Oboe

In conjunction with the U.S. Lithuanian Consulate
Date & Time: Fri., Oct. 19, 7:30 pm
Cost: Free



Olmsted Manor Retreat Center

17 East Main St., PO Box 8
Ludlow, PA 16333
814-945-6512
www.olmstedmanor.org

Olmsted Manor

(continued)

Fixing Church Workshop

Date: Oct. 2-4
Presenter: Rev. Bill Kemp
Cost: \$226 (tuition, room, and board)

This workshop will focus on using existing small groups and Sunday school classes to promote positive change in the church. Pastors and church leaders who join us for this retreat will be equipped to make plans for their own church, as well as lead a seven-week study for their congregation. A free e-book of the study as well as a print version will be available to participants.



13th Annual WORD-FM Pastor Appreciation Lunch

www.wordfm.com/pal

Date & Time: Wed., Oct. 13, 10:30 am-2 pm
Location: Heinz Field, 100 Art Rooney Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Cost: Free (clergy only)

WORD-FM

(continued)

Enjoy fellowship, door prizes, and a message from Pastor Philip De Courcy of the "Know the Truth" radio program and lead pastor of Kindred Community Church in Anaheim, CA. This free event is for Senior Pastors and Associate Pastors of all area churches. Registration is required to attend.



The Ark and the Dove

10745 Babcock Blvd.
Gibsonia, PA 15044
(724) 444-8055

www.thearkandthedoveworldwide.org

Devotion in Motion: Learning the Language of Movement

Date & Time: Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cost: \$50, including lunch

The day will include teachings by Sister Cecilia based on scripture texts and learning to express ourselves before the Lord with simple movements as a group and individually. Bring a spirit open to learn this beautiful form of prayer and worship, and wear comfortable shoes and modest clothing that you will be free to move in.

Days for Girls Seeks Volunteers to Empower Girls' Dignity and Education

The Days for Girls mission is simple: *Creating a more dignified, free and educated world through access to lasting feminine hygiene solutions.*

But more than that, there is dignity, independence, and education.

Having access to quality sustainable hygiene and health allows girls to experience the education, safety, and dignity that we all deserve. When girls have access to sustainable hygiene they miss less school. Educated women are better able to provide for their family and to raise healthier children, and less likely to live in poverty. The whole community is enriched when girls are educated.

That means Days for Girls is involved in advocacy, education, and making reusable menstrual pads. Volunteers sew and assemble kits to be handed out to girls and women all over the world.

Inside each kit are products that can be used and reused for up to three years. Two shields that fasten into underwear, eight liners that can be changed throughout the day, two plastic bags (one clean one dirty) to help manage the liners, two panties, a wash cloth, bar of soap, and ovulation chart.



A person trained in the Days for Girls curriculum accompanies each of these kits when it is distributed. The curriculum includes how to use and care for the kits, basic reproductive health, and self-defense.

You can get involved by visiting www.daysforgirls.org or contact Rev. Karie Charlton at Third Presbyterian Church, which hosts the Pittsburgh Chapter of Days for Girls.

You can join them on Wednesdays anytime between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 5701 Fifth Avenue in Pittsburgh, or call 412-661-4710 to see how you can participate.

Camp Agapé

... bringing people together in Christ through outdoor ministry

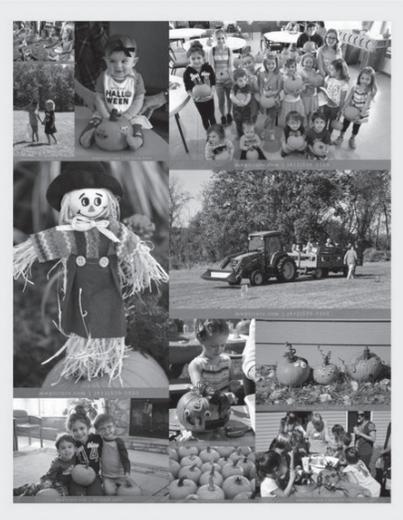
FALL FOLIAGE DAY

Saturday, October 13
12-4pm

JOIN US AT CAMP FOR AUTUMN AT ITS FESTIVE BEST!
THERE WILL BE HAYRIDES, PUMPKINS TO DECORATE AND
TAKE HOME, LOTS OF GOOD FOOD INCLUDING ROASTING HOT
DOGS AND MAKING S'MORES OVER THE CAMPFIRE.
PLEASE REMEMBER TO RSVP AT 724-356-2308.

Come & See! Free Family Fun!

For more information, visit our
website
www.campagape.org
or call the camp office at
724-356-2308



MINISTRY SERVING MINISTRY

Antiochian Village Conference Center is a peaceful setting in the beautiful Laurel Highlands, on Route 711, just a few minutes north of Ligonier, Pennsylvania. At Antiochian Village, we are committed to changing the lives of people by providing true Christian hospitality in an Orthodox spiritual environment.

Come spend a few days here and you'll understand this feedback from one of our recent guests, "The Antiochian Village is truly a special and unique place, made even better by the people who care so much to make it the highest quality experience, to serve God, and to actively demonstrate striving to be as Christ."

PREPARING FOR MINISTRY IN THE WAY OF JESUS

Join Us at Three Free Events This Fall

**Between God and Money:
Understanding the Place
of Money in Our Lives**
Sept. 27-Oct. 11, 2018
With Robert A. Wauzzinski,
Pastor and Economist

**Globalization and
Migration: The Movement
of God's Word**
*McClure Lecture in World
Mission and Evangelism*
Oct. 2, 2018
Jehu J. Hanciles, Candler
School of Theology, Emory
University

**The Quality of the Air
We Breathe**
*Science and Ethics,
Conversations and Community
Series*
Oct. 10, 2018
Mark Dixon, Filmmaker and
Public Speaker, Blue Lens

Also You May Be Interested in These Classes

Preaching the Seasons
Hybrid Class
(Online/In-person)
Oct. 5, 2018-April 5, 2019
With James Platt, Lecturer in
Scripture, PTS

**African American Preaching
and The Power of Story:
Black Sermon as Dynamic
Discourse**
Online Class
Oct. 15-Nov. 9, 2018
Brian Wells, Director, Doctor of
Ministry Program, PTS



www.pts.edu/CE 412-924-1345 ConEd@pts.edu

Offering Hope & Healing



SAMARITAN

Counseling • Guidance • Consulting

Three-Part Pastors' Workshop:

**Leading a Church
through Transformation**

Oct. 24, 31, & Nov. 7 – 9-11:30am
@ Sewickley Presbyterian Church

Led by:

The Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, PhD, MSW, MA, MDiv

412-741-7430

samaritancounseling.net

You are invited to . . .

An evening of  **HOPE**

Thursday, October 18

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The Andy Warhol Museum
117 Sandusky St, Pittsburgh

Join us at the Warhol for an evening of fun,
food, cocktails, music, and a silent auction,
all in support of ministry that transforms the lives
of people affected by incarceration.
Museum tour included.

Tickets at bit.ly/eveningofhope2018

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 5241

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

412-688-9070

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Coming Soon

Coming this fall through the partnership of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement ...

November 8, 9:15 a.m.

Interfaith Clergy Breakfast: Giving Thanks

Enjoy connecting with colleagues as you hear and discuss stories of gratitude from across our faith traditions. Pre-register now at www.casp.org/thanksgiving

November 19, 7 p.m.

Hopeful Responses to Addiction

Join community experts and religious leaders to learn more about the impact of the opiate epidemic on our region, and find out how people of faith and good will can offer pathways to hope. Pre-register now at www.casp.org/addiction.

Pastoral Caregivers Prepare for Storms

To celebrate Pastoral Care Week 2018, the chaplains of UPMC will offer a conference for chaplains and other pastoral caregivers: "*Prepping for the Storms: How We can be Better Prepared for the Crisis Seasons in Our Work.*" on **October 15** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Richard Freeman, who serves as Chaplain Manager at the hospital. Participants may also select two workshops on topics such as substance abuse, suicide prevention, and innovative practices.

Parking, breakfast, and lunch are all included in conference registration.

For more information or to register, contact Chaplain Dianna Wentz at wentzds@upmc.edu before October 1.

**SAVE
THE DATES!**