

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



October/November 2019, Number 5

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

Methodists, Lutherans To Celebrate Ten Years of Full Communion

On May 24, 1738, Methodist founder John Wesley heard a reading from Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. Wesley felt that his heart was "strangely warmed." But this pivotal moment was not the last time that followers of Wesley and Luther would have their hearts strangely warmed together.

In 2009, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) entered into a full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church (UMC). This agreement affirmed a shared understanding of baptism, Eucharist, and ministry, and allowed for the shared celebration of Holy Communion and the exchange of ordained ministers.

But ten years after this significant agreement was adopted, many local churches have not lived into the ministry opportunities this agreement affords.

This fall, the Southwestern PA Synod of the ELCA and the Western PA



Bishop Kurt Kusserow and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi serve Holy Communion together during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2018.

UMC Conference are celebrating the tenth anniversary of full communion with "A Season of Celebrating."

The season will commence with a **Celebratory Worship Service on Sunday, October 20 at 4 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church of Highland** (311 Cumberland Rd, Pittsburgh

15237) with ELCA Bishop Kurt Kusserow preaching and UMC Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi presiding. Participants are invited to RSVP by emailing ELCAUMC@gmail.com.

A Season of Celebrating will then continue with Local Communion Celebrations, as individual congregations partner with nearby UMC or ELCA churches for a joint Communion worship service, bible study, fellowship meal, or mission project. The long-term goal is that grassroots partnerships will eventually lead to opportunities for the sharing and exchange of ordained ministers. Participating churches are invited to complete a survey at www.bit.ly/ELCAUMC.

Organizers hope not only that hearts will be warmed, but that Methodist and Lutheran churches will be equipped and sent for a new season of fruitful ministry – together.



Christians Invited to Share in Commemorating October 27 Synagogue Shootings



Our region will mark a somber anniversary on **Sunday, October 27**: the one-year mark of the massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill. There are many ways that Christians can demonstrate our support for the victims' families and the Jewish community.

The families of the victims have asked that churches show their support by ringing church bells at 9:50 a.m., the time of the attack. Churches might also choose to mark the anniversary that morning in worship by remembering the event in spoken prayers, by lighting candles in memory of the eleven victims, or by keeping a time of silence.

The day will also include a series of official commemorative events, known as "Remember.

Repair. Together," in which Christians are welcome to participate.

They include a time of community service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in various locations throughout the city, and group Torah studies from 2-4 p.m. at Congregation Rodef Shalom (4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh 15213). To review the options and sign up, visit www.pittsburghoct27.org.

The day concludes with a public memorial service at **5 p.m. at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall**. Participants will include Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates, who will help to represent the support of the interfaith community.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

I know this is a weird thing for a Congregationalist to say, but I love the saints.

I love the stories of Christian women and men who have sought to follow Jesus. I love their diversity, the thousands of different personalities, styles, gifts, nationalities, and backgrounds that demonstrate there's no single way to be holy. I love their presence: the way they hover close when we come around the Lord's table.

And I'm not alone. When the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives met last month, I asked them to name their favorite saints. Here's a glimpse of our conversation, which sheds light on the saints – but also on the men and women who seek to follow in their footsteps:

"We [Presbyterians] are not a tradition that canonizes people," said Dr. Sheldon Sorge, General Minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery, "but one who is important to me is St. Augustine. As I studied John Calvin and Martin Luther, they led me straight to Augustine, regarding who God is and what God requires of us. I was formed in a different way of answering those questions, and I am grateful for Augustine, who taught me about grace."

"One of my favorites is St. Josephine Bakhita," replied Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, who learned about the saints during her studies at Loyola. "She was a Sudanese woman who was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She had very harsh owners, and eventually was sold to a family who brought her to Italy and left her with an order of nuns. It was there that she met Jesus and went through a miraculous process of forgiveness and healing. She was able to endure the evil that was done to her and pass it up to God, so God could do something beautiful with it. That's akin to the story of African Americans in this country who were abused by slavemasters but persevered in faith."



St. Josephine



St. Peter

Rev. Carl Johnson of the Mid-Northeast Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church commented, "I have a hate-love relationship with St. Peter. I hate him with all my heart because he does nothing but screw up, over and over and over again. And yet, I see myself in him. Every time I think the lightning bolt should come down or he should sink to the bottom of the sea, there is instead grace, forgiveness, and restoration, and therefore hope."

Fr. Ron Larko, who serves as a proxy representative to the Council for the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, said, "St. John Vianney was a priest who was sent into a town that was against him. He struggled to bring conversion to the parish and the town; he wasn't top-notch in intellectual prowess. But still, he was able to call on the Spirit. The Spirit moved in him, and he continually gave his life to God to do ministry. He is the patron of priests."

Peter Clement, who represents the Bruderhof Communities, chose St. Francis of Assisi. "My wife, Francisca, is named after him. While her mother was expecting her, she was reading the *Little Flowers of St. Francis*. Francis turned away from wealth and position to become a simple follower of Jesus; his love for the poor and for creation is inspiring."

As for me, I love St. Hilda, a seventh-century English abbess of a monastery for both men and women, host of the important ecumenical Synod of Whitby: a woman of administrative giftedness and pastoral sensitivity. She's my role model. Across the centuries, she's also my friend.

As Western churches commemorate All Saints Day this November, may you feel inspired and accompanied by the saints of the church in their glorious diversity. "O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!"



St. Francis

Your sister in Christ,

Liddy

Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister



May you feel inspired and accompanied by the saints of the church in their glorious diversity.

Foundation of HOPE Plans Inspirational Gala

If you believe no one should ever be defined by the worst moment of their life, please join the Foundation of Hope for the annual Evening of HOPE Fundraiser and Gala.

On **November 14** at **6 p.m.**, come to the **August Wilson African American Cultural Center** in the

heart of the Cultural District in downtown Pittsburgh for a transformational evening of fun, food, music, cocktails, and a silent auction.

Inspirational radio host **Brother Marlon Martin** will chair this event. Brother Marlon hosts “Morning Inspiration” on



Brother Marlon Martin

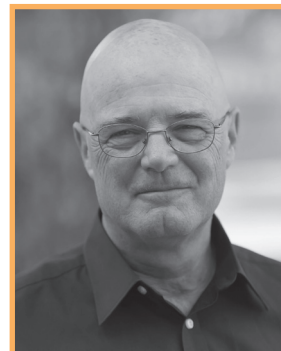
WAMO 100.1, seeking to spread the Gospel and the love of Christ on the radio. Tickets cost \$75 each and include refreshments.

The Foundation of HOPE was incubated and nourished by Christian Associates and now flourishes as our independent partner in ministry. With the mission of empowering incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with their God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their communities, the Foundation of HOPE now offers chaplaincy, pre-release, aftercare, and diversion services.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-of-hope-fundraiser-and-gala-tickets-61662088968>.

Consider the Future of the Church with Author Brian McLaren

“Christian faith for me is no longer a static location but a great spiritual journey. And that changes everything.”



Brian McLaren – pastor, author, and leader in the Emerging Church movement – will be the featured presenter at an event presented by Beaver-Butler Presbytery in cooperation with Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Southwestern PA Synod of the ELCA, and the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church.

“What is the Future of the Church? A Day with Brian McLaren” takes place **October 25 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, with extended conversation available until 3:45 p.m. **Calvin Presbyterian Church** (415 East Grandview Ave, Zelienople 16063) will host.

Registration is \$35 per person, and is available to the first 130 registrants. To sign up, visit www.beaverbutler.org.



Bishop David Zubik (right) was among thousands of participants in Amen to Action 2018.

What does it take to feed a million people?

The answer is faith, teamwork, a couple thousand friends ... and just a few hours!

On **Friday, November 29**, the day after Thanksgiving, Christians from throughout our region will fill the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh for the third annual *Amen to Action*.

At 9 a.m. we will pray and sing together. Then, we'll don our hairnets and gloves to pack nutritious meals for *Meals of Hope*, finishing up around 12:30 p.m.

The meals will then be distributed via the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to over 400 local pantries and after-school programs. It is the largest donation the Food Bank receives each year.

In 2018, *Amen to Action* packed a whopping 1,036,111 meals.

Help beat that record in 2019: register yourself, your family, or a team from your congregation by visiting www.amentoaaction.org.



300 Cups of Coffee

Time is running out to participate in *300 Cups of Coffee*!



We have until December 31 to pay for 150 coffee dates for Christian leaders.

It's time for you to call a colleague and make a new friend.

Visit www.casp.org/300cups for all the details.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Antiochian Village

140 Church Camp Trail
Bolivar, PA 15923

Ancient Faith Women's Retreat

Date: Thurs., Nov 14-Sun., Nov 17

Cost: \$200-\$855, multiple room and food options available

A peaceful, loving, and reflective gathering of women in every stage of life who have come to learn, worship, make friends, and rest at the entrance into the holy Nativity season. For more information visit www.eventbrite.com/e/ancient-faith-womens-retreat-2019-tickets-53298223421

Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program

412-232-5815; www.pmhs.org

Compassion Fatigue from a Systems Perspective: Self-Care and Beyond

Date & Time: Fri., Nov. 15, 5-8 p.m.

Location: Sister M. Ferdinand Clark Auditorium, Level 2, UPMC Mercy, 1400 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219.

Cost: \$40 for registered nurses with CEUs; \$30 without credits; \$20 for undergraduate nursing students, seminarians, religious, and clergy. Includes dinner and free parking.

Presenter Ann Depner will consider what kind of help promotes growth and resourcefulness, and what leads instead to resentment or helplessness in care receivers. Register by Nov. 1 by contacting ParishNurse@pittsburghmercy.org.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Central Presbyterian Church

(305 Allegheny St, Tarentum 15084)
presents the 2019 Concert Series:

Sunday, October 20, 4:00 p.m.

"Variations on a Harp"

featuring Isabel Cardenes, Harp; Andres Cardenes, Violin; and Warren Davidson, Viola, playing music by Handel, Bach, and Fauré

A goodwill offering will be received. Refreshments will follow the program. Visit www.facebook.com/CentralPresbyterianChurchTarentum for more details.

The Pittsburgh Tarentum Campmeeting Association

a Christian community of 23 cottages located in the wooded section of Natrona Heights, opens each summer for musical programs, worship services, and cottage open houses. Visit www.summercottagespa.org for more information.

For Sale: The Red Cottage, a delightful 2 story, 2 bedroom is available for sale. It is located in a wooded section of Natrona Heights along with 32 other cottages. In addition to the 2 bedrooms, there is a sitting room on the second floor. The cottage is completely furnished with 4 air conditioners, 2 wall heaters, washer/dryer, and many other amenities. Living room, dining room, and completely equipped kitchen with microwave, etc. Decorated nicely. Asking \$24K. Call owner: Don Larva (724) 444-6842 or Ginny (412) 826-5789 or cell: (412) 841-6089.

Organ Available: Lowery Brand Organ – Bench included. Size: 42 inches wide, 45 inches tall. Serious inquiries only. Pickup only. For inquiries please call 724-772-3561 and leave name and phone number.

CHOSEN

Dates: January 17-19, 2020

Ages: 6th Graders through 12th Grade

Cost: \$140 (Youth Leaders are FREE!)

Ski/Snowboard Option: \$50 for lift tickets and rentals



(724)423-2056
www.laurelville.org
Program@laurelville.org



800 McKnight Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Become a Volunteer Tutor

With a commitment as little as one hour per week, you can help local students achieve academic success.

- Help students in grades K-12 with Reading, Math, English & Science
- Choose a time Monday through Thursday between 3 - 8PM
- Tutoring Sessions are one hour long

No experience is required; ongoing support is provided by a Tutoring Program Manager.

Math tutors must have strong math skills due to the Common Core Math Curriculum

To sign-up, please call Sandy Niekum at 412-366-1300 x 123 or email tutors@anchorpointcounselingministry.org.

www.anchorpointcounselingministry.org



SAMARITAN

Counseling • Guidance • Consulting

Nov. 7th | 6:30-8:30 pm
Sewickley Presbyterian Church, Lower Level



This workshop will empower Youth Pastors\ Lay Leaders who work with youth to help teens and families struggling with mental health issues. To sign up/ learn more:

412.741.7430

samaritancounseling.net

Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology

Discover ancient times and places

Excavations sponsored by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary form the core of a significant collection that provides glimpses into daily life in the lands of the Bible from prehistoric times into the Middle Ages.



Free and open to the public!

Wednesday-Saturday
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Archaeology Lecture
March 28, 7:30 p.m.**

With Archaeologist and
Kelso Museum
Curator Emerita
Nancy Lapp



412-924-1395 | Group Tours Welcome!
616 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206

DIVINE DESIGNING MINISTRIES, INC

501(c)3

THOSE WHO WALK WITH GOD REACH THEIR DESTINATION
PRESENTS

November 16, 2019

Meeting of the Minds!
Exploring The Word

\$25.00 in Advance ~ \$30.00 At the Door

Registration & Continental Breakfast 8:00 AM

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Lunch 12:00 – 1:30PM

Rev. Dr. Deborah A Harris, Pastor
701 5th, Avenue - The Corner
New Kensington PA 15608
Phone: 412.607.1964
Website: www.divinedesigning.org
Email: dr.deborahharris@gmail.com



Divine Designing Ministries invites you to an interactive Bible Workshop designed to deepen individual understanding of Scripture and Biblical principles.

Tickets can be purchased now at:
www.divinedesigning.org

PREPARING FOR MINISTRY IN THE WAY OF JESUS

Enrich Your Ministry with These Classes

Let's Play: Using Experimental Forms to Tell the Stories We Need to Tell

A Spiritual Formation Event

Nov. 9, 2019

Lori Jakiela, Author and Professor, University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg

Guiding a Congregation Through Change and Transition

The Art of Transitional Ministry, Week 2

Nov. 18-22, 2019

Paul Rhebergen, Janet Nolting Carter, and Pam Peterson, Transitional Pastors

Preaching a Relevant Word to a Restless People

Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 26, and April 23, 2020

Donna Giver-Johnston, Pastor, Community PC of Ben Avon, Pittsburgh

Register Early for These New Online Classes

Spiritual Writing

Jan. 6-Feb. 9, 2020

Jonathan Callard, Writer, Editor and Teacher

Collective Decision Making: Beyond Robert's Rules

March 9-April 3, 2020

Barbara Blodgett, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Assessment, PTS



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

NOT ALL SCARS CAN BE SEEN.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUPPORT THOSE IN OUR REGION SEEKING COUNSELING AND EDUCATION.

...and by his bruises we are healed.

NRSV Isaiah 53: 5

The need for accessible, affordable, and holistic care is undeniable. Donations help to support the maintenance and growth of services and programs sought by our community from the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. Our neighbors, friends, colleagues, families and congregations are reaching out today more than ever to find support, to find well-being, and to heal. In a world surrounded by rising costs, there are areas where we sometimes struggle. One of our greatest areas of need is to help reduce and/or eliminate client debt. Individuals and families seeking services face increasingly higher co-pays and deductibles even with health insurance. Your support will help to ease the burden placed on both our clients and the organization.

55 Days of Giving #give55

September 13th - November 6th, 2019

pittsburghpastoralinstitute.org/give55



The Robert E. Webber Center and Trinity School for Ministry introduce the

CATECHESIS AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAM

(Certificate or MAR Degree Track)



The Robert E. Webber Center
for an Ancient Evangelical Future
Reclaiming the Christian Tradition for the Life of the Church Today

**Join us for Course 1: *History and Theology of Catechesis*,
during Week One of Trinity's Winter InterTerm, January 6-10, 2020.**

This six-course program may be taken at the non-credit level toward a Certificate of Christian Catechesis or for credit as the core curriculum of an MAR in Catechesis and Christian Formation. Students will be instructed in the history, theology, pedagogical principles, and core content (creedal, moral, spiritual) of classic Christian formation—while being trained to effectively catechize children, youth, or adults. Courses 1 and 2 will be offered annually (online and residential) as prerequisites to the subsequent courses offered during future Trinity InterTerms:

- Course 2: Principles and Practices of Catechesis (June 2020)
- Course 3: Teaching the Rule of Faith – Scripture and Creed (January 2021)
- Course 4: Teaching the Rule of Hope – Prayer and Spiritual Practice (June 2021)
- Course 5: Teaching the Rule of Love – Holiness and Service (January 2022)
- Course 6: Catechesis in Context – Local Ministry Practicum (Spring 2022)

Courses 1-5 may be audited as non-credit; however, those wishing to complete the Certificate of Christian Catechesis will have additional requirements and must apply to the program. If you wish to apply, please send an email request to Janessa Fisk (Janessa.fisk@tsm.edu) for instructions.

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 5241

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

412-688-9070

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 1245

Return Service Requested

*The Call . . . to be one in Christ is ordinarily published bimonthly by **Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.** Email: newsletter@casp.org. (C) 2010. **No fax submissions are accepted.** Classified Advertisements may be placed at a PREPAID cost of \$10.00 for 40 words or less. The publication of ads/events does not indicate specific endorsement of an organization, ad or event, and is strictly of an informative nature. *The DEADLINE for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the issue the submission is to appear (November 15 for December issue).* Photographs, articles and other submissions about the local church are welcome.*

Reminder: Register Now for Workshops on Antisemitism



Christian Associates is organizing a workshop track for Christian leaders at the *Antisemitism, Hate and Social Responsibility* Conference hosted by **Rodef Shalom Congregation** in Shadyside on **November 10-11.**

The workshops, led by Dr. Mary Boys and Dr. Peter Pettit will take place on Monday, November 11.

The workshops offer participants an opportunity to delve into new understandings fundamental to reorienting and repairing Christian-Jewish relationships and Christian prejudices.

To register for all or part of the conference, visit <https://jfedpgh.org/antisemitism-hate-and-social-responsibility>; to learn more, visit www.classroomswithoutborders.org.

The Time is Right for Generosity

December 3 will be the third annual *GiveBig* community giving day. Christian Associates will be accepting donations through the *GiveBig* Web site: www.givebigpittsburgh.com/organizations/christian-associates-of-southwest-pennsylvania.

#GIVING
TUESDAY

Gifts made through this site will be eligible for a share of a prize pool.

Of course, you can also support the work of Christian unity by donating at any time by mail (**P.O. Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206**) or online (**www.casp.org/donate**). If you would like to be included in the annual list of our supporters in the December issue of *The Call*, be sure to send in your gift by November 15.

Your gifts are needed to sustain our ministries that bring diverse Christians together to work for the common good. Thank you for your support!