

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



February-March 2018, Number 1

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

In Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, Christians Will Gather to Keep King's Dream Alive

"I've been to the mountaintop," preached the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 3, 1968, the night before his assassination, "and I've seen the promised land."

Fifty years later, the promised land – a just society free of racism – can seem as distant as ever. But with the eyes of faith, we can continue King's work, imagining and working for a day when justice and reconciliation are possible.

On **April 4**, the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh will host an ecumenical worship service at **6:30 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral** (325 Oliver Ave in downtown Pittsburgh) to commemorate the anniversary of King's death.

A bell will toll 89 times before the service begins, chiming the years since King's birth. Area religious and civic leaders, including Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, will participate in the liturgy.

The diocese also continues its "Church Without Walls" collaboration with Rodman Street Missionary Baptist

Church, a series of intentionally interracial small group conversations.

As "Church Without Walls" continues, interested participants from other Christian traditions are invited to take part. Existing small groups, plus prospective new participants, will meet at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1066 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon) on **Sunday, February 18** at 4 p.m.

A worship service will combine the Anglican tradition of Evensong with the music of the Rodman Street Choir. Current participants in the small groups will offer testimonies of their experiences, and newcomers will form groups to begin their conversations.

Farther afield, the National Council of Churches plans a major anti-racism event



on **April 3-5** in Washington, DC. "Act Now! United to End Racism" will include a worship service in the Orthodox tradition on the evening of April 3, a rally on the National Mall on April 4, and visits with legislators on April 5.

Visit www.rally2endracism.org for more details. It may be possible for Christian Associates to help coordinate carpooling and other travel arrangements for this event; please contact our office if you have interest.

Visit from Civil Rights Leader Will Inspire Evening Celebration and Clergy Workshops

Civil rights activist **Cornell William Brooks**, the immediate past president of the NAACP, will visit Pittsburgh this March for two days of events celebrating the intersection of faith and social justice.

On **Thursday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.**, Brooks will speak at **Temple Sinai (5505 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh)**; his address is titled, "*Nightmares, Dreams, and Moral Imagination*." An interfaith, interracial choir will offer music.

The following day, Friday, March 16, Brooks will keynote a morning of workshops and conversation for clergy of all faith traditions at Pittsburgh

Theological Seminary. While the final program is still in process as The Call goes to print, a full schedule and registration details will be available soon at www.templestsinai.org.

Brooks is a fourth-generation ordained pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, civil rights attorney and writer. Most recently, he served as the 18th President and CEO of the NAACP.

The weekend is the culmination of activities at Temple Sinai to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Rabbi Jamie Gibson's service there. The events are sponsored by the PNC Foundation.



Cornell William Brooks to visit Pittsburgh in March

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

Early in this new year, I was invited to give a blessing at the second inauguration of Pittsburgh mayor Bill Peduto. I decided to quote one of my favorite Christians, and one of our region's most beloved sons:

Hear these words from a great Christian teacher, Saint Fred – also known as Mister Rogers. “There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.”

Let us pray.

Holy and gracious God, Lord of loving kindness, Spirit of all the best surprises:

Our hearts are full of your praise. We thank you today for the gift of this city: for its rivers, ridges and valleys, for each one of its ninety neighborhoods. We thank you for the people of this city: men and women from every continent with steel in their bones, black and gold in their veins, and folding chairs in their parking spots.

We pray today for our elected leaders. Bless them with compassion and creativity; preserve their honesty and their humility. Help them set aside party and ego and seek the common good. Most of all, keep them attentive to the needs of the poor. Equip them to serve our neighbors who endure racism, who face hunger, who live with addiction. Help them put their best energies to work on behalf of children and elders, immigrants and refugees, inmates and returning citizens.

Especially, God, bless your son, Bill, as his service continues. Preserve his health. Fortify his faith. Surround him with colleagues who will challenge and strengthen his ideas and with friends who will support and cheer him. Remind him always of the way to success: to be kind, to be kind, to be kind.

In gratitude and joy we make these prayers for your Love's sake. Amen.

The legacy of Fred Rogers has never gone out of style, but he has been even more present lately, as the fiftieth anniversary of the first episode of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” approaches on February 19. To celebrate, PBS stations will be airing a new documentary, “It’s You I Like,” replete with favorite clips and celebrity cameos. Also in the works: a feature-length biopic, which will star Tom Hanks in a cardigan. To top it all off, the U.S. Postal Service is issuing Mister Rogers stamps, on sale March 23.

Perhaps we turn to Mister Rogers as an antidote to our public discourse. At a moment when our elected leaders seem to revel in rhetoric that is ever more coarse, divisive, and cruel, Mister Rogers’ calm voice of compassion seems like an alien language. His winsome curiosity contrasts with our know-it-all assumptions. His gentleness clashes with our claims to strength. When we prize associations with celebrity, wealth, and power, Fred Rogers, like Jesus, welcomes the children instead.

Christian Associates’ office is located on the campus of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where Fred Rogers graduated with a Master of Divinity in 1963. I hope that some of his spirit has rubbed off on us, as we go about our mission in the places where he walked. I hope that in our work for unity, we too can be gentle, curious, and open-hearted. I hope we – all of us – can remember to be kind, to be kind, to be kind.

Your sister in Christ,



The Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister

Christian Associates of Southwest PA



Rev. Liddy Barlow offers a blessing at the inauguration of Mayor William Peduto at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall on January 3. Joining in the interfaith benediction were Rabbi Sharyn Henry of Rodef Shalom Congregation and Imam Hamza Perez of Light of the Age Mosque and the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

*As we work for unity,
let's be more like Mister Rogers.*

Learn Strategies for Survival at ALICE Training

The terrible shooting at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas in November 2017 came as a cruel reminder that even our houses of worship cannot provide sanctuary from our nation's epidemic of gun violence.

Though none of us want to contemplate such a tragedy in our own communities, there are steps we can take to make our churches more safe.

The Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ invites its ecumenical partners to an **Active Shooter Response Training Event at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 312 South Maple Avenue, Greensburg PA 15601, on Saturday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to**

1 p.m., including lunch. Sponsors for the event are Donald Hamm & Sons Insurance LLC and the Insurance Board.

This event is held in cooperation with the ALICE Training Institute. The letters in ALICE stand for the steps taken during a shooting:

- Alert
- Lockdown
- Inform
- Counter
- Evacuate

This training includes an e-learning component that participants should complete prior to the workshop. This link will be

ALICE[®]
TRAINING INSTITUTE

provided to those who register and takes about twenty minutes to complete.

To register, email your name to Don Hamm, Jr., at dhamm3@comcast.net.

Registrations are limited to four participants per congregation, so that as many churches may be trained as possible.

HOPE Diversion Program Helps Young Neighbors Avoid Incarceration



For many years, Christian Associates' partner in ministry, the Foundation of HOPE, has offered compassionate service to inmates and returning citizens.

But what if there was a way to help young people at risk before they enter the system?

That is the mission of HOPE's new Diversion Program, a voluntary pre-arrest/pre-booking program that enables non-violent, low- and medium-level offenders ages 16-26 to avoid the normal course of prosecution and criminal conviction.

Local law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, the Housing Authority and other referring partners identify youth who might be candidates for the program.

Then, the Diversion Program Director, Jeff Williams, and Case Manager Shauntaya Hester work with the youth to create an individualized goal plan, focusing on counseling, treatment, and behavior modification.

If the obligations of the plan are met, their criminal charges will be dismissed. In the past six months, 17 young people have successfully completed the program.

To learn more about the Diversion Program or the other ministries of the Foundation of HOPE, visit www.foundationofhope.org.

Disability-Focused Devotional Coming to Western Pennsylvania

If the entire disabled community were considered to be one country, it would be the poorest, least employed, and least evangelized nation in the world.

This sad truth is why the Disability Concerns Committee of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church is putting together a Lenten devotional focused on disabilities.

Each week of Lent, a different writer from the committee is focusing on different subjects, from treating people with disabilities with respect to the disabled (wounded) God in Jesus Christ.

Our hope is to bring awareness to people with disabilities and how important they are to the world and our faith.

You will be able to find information on this devotion at our blog found at wpadisabilityconcerns.wordpress.com. We hope you have a blessed Lent and Easter.

- Rev. Chad Bogdewic,
Koppel and Wurtemberg United
Methodist Churches



St. John's United Church of Christ

1230 Brownstown Rd.
Larimer, PA 15647
(412) 926-0322

Black History Month Concert

Date & Time: Sun., Feb. 18, 4 p.m.

The St. John's Choir welcomes the Lemington Chorale under the direction of Rev. Deryck Tines for a concert to commemorate Black History Month and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

500 West Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-7149
sistersofstbasil.org

Lenten Noontime Reflection & Prayers

Dates: Tuesdays, February 20, 27 & March 6, 13, 20.; Time: 12-1 p.m.

Do you have a heart for someone in need? What better time than Lent to pray for the needs of others during your lunch hour! Join us for a short reflection followed by communal and private prayer.

Lenten Day of Prayer: "Abraham, The Eucharist, and Sacrifice"

Date: Sat., March 10
Time: 9:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$35, includes lunch

Hosted by Rev. Jason Charron, this day of prayer includes the sacrament of reconciliation. Please register by March 5.



Kearns Spirituality Center

9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-366-1124
cdpsisters.org/kearns

Lenten Series: Through Darkness into Light

Date: Mondays: February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26; Time: 7-9 p.m.
Presenter: Margie Modro, CDP, M.S., CCORP
Fee: \$10 per class or \$40 for the 5 week series

On this Lenten journey, the foundations of spirituality and the polarities between light and darkness as seasons necessary for

spiritual growth will be explored. Through heart-work, participants will learn how to take the thread of everyday experiences to weave a fabric of conscious living in the spirit. The five evenings will provide a context to understand the concepts of spirituality and awareness for personal growth.

Busy Women's Retreat: From Vulnerability to Wholeness

Date: Friday, April 13-Saturday, April 14 (Begins with dinner on Friday at 6:00 pm and concludes with Liturgy for Sunday on Saturday at 4:30 pm.)
Presenter: Anne Kertz Kernion
Fee: \$145 for overnight guests in a private room, \$125 for overnight guests in a shared room, \$100 for two day commuter guests. All of the above options include 3 meals, all retreat materials and Saturday sampler options. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due when registering.

Finding the courage to accept ourselves as we are, with our imperfections and inconsistencies, leads us to discover deep beauty in our humanity. Embracing our vulnerability, our "cracks," brings us heartfelt connection, revealing light and love that can show out into our world. Through presentations, discussion, activities, and silence, we will tap into the strength and beauty inside each of us. The retreat will also feature a "sampler" of options – Tai Chi, spiritual direction, massage etc., on Saturday afternoon.



Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center

2067 Evergreen Rd.
Villa Maria, PA 16155
724-964-8886
www.vmesec.org

Pan-Orthodox Retreat: Forgiveness – the Path to Healing, Wholeness, and Holiness

Date: Sat., March 3; Time: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cost: Adults \$35; Young Adults (age 19-35) \$20; Youth (age 10-18) Free.

Featured speakers include His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Fr. Aleksa Pavichevich of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Canton, Ohio.

To register, contact Stephanie Rimedio at 330-716-2726, text Marianne Carmack at 412-565-9441, or email ohiowpalentenretreat@gmail.com.

St. Benedict the Abbot Church

120 Abington Drive
McMurray, PA 15317
724-941-9406
www.sbapeters.org

David Haas and Lori True: Workshop

Date: Saturday, March 3
Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Cost: \$15, includes lunch.

Pastoral musicians are invited to join noted Catholic liturgical composers David Haas and Lori True for a day that is part retreat and part practical skills workshop. We will explore and take inventory of our vocation in the ministry of sung prayer, along with the challenges we face. We also will examine practical skills in sung leadership for cantors, choirs and the entire ensemble of liturgical music ministers. Online registration is linked from the church Web site.

David Haas and Lori True: Concert

Date: Sat., March 3; Time: 7-9 p.m.
Cost: Free; an offering will be taken.
An evening of sung prayer and praise with composers/performers David Haas and Lori True. A reception will follow.



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral

419 S. Dithridge St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-682-3866
www.stnickspgh.org

Syrian Relief Dinner and Prayer Service

Date: Sunday, March 4
Time: 4 p.m. service; 5 p.m. dinner
Cost: \$50 adults; \$20 students age 7-18; children 6 and under free.

Come together with our region's Orthodox hierarchs for a meal benefiting International Orthodox Christian Charities' Syrian Crisis Relief Fund. A supervised children's playroom will be available. Register online at www.iocc.org/pittsburgh, or call Zelfa at 412-417-4706.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 S. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-441-3800
www.elpc.church

Hope Academy of Teaching Artists in Concert

Date & Time: Sun., March 4, 3 p.m.
Cost: Free; an offering will be collected

The talented faculty members from ELPC's Hope Academy of Music and the Arts return for another innovative and eclectic concert.

The Art of Song

Date & Time: Sunday, April 8, 2018

Time: 3:00pm

Celebrating the interaction of the visual arts with the vocal arts, singers from the church's music ministry will take us on an international journey through art and song.



Rodef Shalom Congregation

4905 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-621-6566
www.rodefshalom.org

Confronting Domestic Violence: A Workshop with Jackson Katz

Date & Time: Tues., March 6, 1-5 p.m.

Cost: \$25 for registration before February 20; \$35 afterward

Sponsor: Southwest PA Says NO MORE

#MeToo has exposed the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and abuse in the lives of women across all sectors. Many men are

appalled to learn how frequently friends and colleagues have experienced this abuse. Traditional sexual harassment training is not sufficient to create a culture of respect for women and men. This workshop will explore the roots of sexual harassment and propose new ways for everyone to take action. The session will be led by Dr. Jackson Katz, an internationally recognized educator, author, filmmaker and activist and a founding architect of the "bystander" approach to prevention. Register online at Eventbrite.com.



Calvary Episcopal Church

315 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-661-0120
www.calvaryepgh.org

Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh: Benjamin Sheen

Date & Time: Fri., March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12 general admission; students free with valid ID. Tickets available at the door.

Benjamin Sheen is one of the UK's brightest young organists, having recently won the inaugural Longwood Gardens International

Organ Competition. He and combines a busy concert career with the position of Acting Organist at St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue. Mr. Sheen will dazzle the audience on the four-manual 137-rank Casavant Frères organ at Calvary Episcopal Church.



Shadyside Presbyterian Church

512 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-682-4300
www.shadysidepres.org

Music in a Great Space

Date: Sunday, March 11

Time: 3-5 p.m.

Cost: Free. No tickets necessary; donations appreciated.

The 25th anniversary season of Music in a Great Space continues as pianist Abigail Eagleson is joined by flutist Anna Cooper and oboist Natalie Beckenbaugh.



Kerygma Offers Top Scholarship, Engaging Resources to Churches

Publishing can be risky. Navigating that turbulence to provide the best in Bible study resources for adults is what the Kerygma Program has been about for forty years.

The program name "Kerygma," from the Greek word for "proclamation," "teaching" or "message," conveys what the resources are intended to do—to bring adults together to engage in inductive study of the Bible in order to understand God's message.

Kerygma's 40 publications include studies of Old and New Testament books, as well as thematic studies of texts such as the parables of Jesus, or biblical passages used in Handel's Messiah. For a full list of the studies, including the newest, Isaiah, visit www.kerygma.com.

Kerygma was founded in 1977 by faculty members from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Recently, it returned to that campus. Kerygma's program manager, Peggy Heely, now works across the hall from the offices of Christian Associates on the ground floor of the PTS Chapel.

Kerygma studies are written by pastors and scholars from various reformed traditions, who provide historical and socio-cultural background for a particular book or theme in an accessible reading style. A leader's guide written by Christian educators accompanies each study, providing various learning approaches to engage groups in thoughtful reflection and discussions of the texts.

Today, Kerygma studies are used by over two dozen Protestant denominations in urban and rural churches and communities across the country.

Bring Christian Associates to a Pulpit Near You



Rev. Liddy Barlow has traveled far and wide throughout our region to bring the Good News as a guest preacher or supply pastor.

Her visits to local churches are an excellent way to introduce congregations to the work of Christian unity – and, all honoraria she receives from speaking engagements go directly to support our ministries. Rev. Barlow is now booking preaching engagements throughout 2018.

To secure your congregation's place on her calendar, call our office at 412-688-9070 or send an email to lbarlow@casp.org.



Adult Bible Studies with a difference
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Special Thanks to Our Judiciary Supporters

In December, we published the names of the individuals, congregations, corporations, and foundations that support the work of Christian Associates.

But, as several readers pointed out, our strongest and primary means of support – both now and throughout our history – has been our member judiciaries. While all 28 of our member judiciaries support us with their presence and their prayers, we want especially to recognize these judiciaries that supported our work financially in 2017.

Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania,
Orthodox Church in America
Bruderhof Communities of Southwest Pennsylvania
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pennsylvania
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Kiskiminetas Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Metropolis of Pittsburgh, Greek Orthodox Church
Mid-Northeast Mission District, North American
Lutheran Church

If you see your judiciary's name on the list below, please express your appreciation to your bishop or judiciary executive. And if you would like to support our ministries yourselves, as a record-setting number of your neighbors did during our winter appeal, we invite you to do so. You can mail a check to **Christian Associates, PO Box 5241, Pittsburgh PA 15206**, or give online at **www.casp.org/donate**.

Thank you for helping our ministries to thrive, so that we may live out Jesus' prayer for unity!

Penn West Conference, United Church of Christ
Pittsburgh Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Redstone Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg
Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh
Southwestern PA Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America
Third Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Washington Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Western Pennsylvania Conference, United Methodist Church
Western Pennsylvania Division, Salvation Army

I need help with:

- ☐ Feeding my family.
- ☐ Becoming a volunteer.
- ☐ Getting taxes done.
- ☐ Avoiding eviction.
- ☐ Caring for my grandmother.
- ☐ Keeping my heat on.
- ☐ Joining the workforce.
- ☐ Finding a summer camp.
- ☐ Protecting a friend.

I can help with:

- ☒ All of the above.



Need help? Dial 2-1-1.

It's your friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed hotline for help with human services. If you need help, info or referrals in your community, call 2-1-1 first. If 2-1-1 is not available where you are, dial 1-888-553-5778.



UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

The Art of Transitional Ministry *Part I*

March 5-9, 2018

Paul Rhebergen, Transitional Pastor, PC(USA) and Jan Nolting Carter, Transitional Pastor, PC(USA)

Discipleship: A New Testament Examination of the Inner and Outer Life of Faith

A Spiritual Formation Elective

March 11-14, 2018

Tucker Ferda, Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament, PTS

Word Made Flesh: Writing for Social Change *Writing Workshop*

March 16-17, 2018

Liberty Ferda, Freelance Writer and Instructor, and Tony Norman, Columnist, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

The Uneasy Task of Forgiveness: Biblical and Psychological Views *Workshop*

March 23, 2018

Everett Worthington, Professor of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Re-examining the Importance of Wesleyan Anthropology for Racial Conversations

Albright-Deering Lecture

April 12, 2018

Douglas Powe, James C. Logan Professor of Evangelism and Professor of Urban Ministry; Managing Director for the Institute for Community Engagement; Director of Urban Ministry Program, Wesley Theological Seminary

Creating Communities of Spiritual Activism, or, If I Were 26, What Kind of Church Would I Plant?

Workshop

April 25, 2018

Brian McLaren, Pastor, Author, Activist

How Our Churches Can Help Heal a Divided America

Evening Lecture

April 25, 2018

Brian McLaren, Pastor, Author, Activist



Office of Continuing Education
616 N. Highland Ave.
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for these upcoming educational events . . .

Bread for the World Hunger Advocacy Workshop

Sunday afternoon, April 15

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Registration opens in late February at

bit.ly/breadworship2018

2018 Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference

Friday, May 11

Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley

Keynote speaker: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Registration opens in late February at www.pghpc.org

On Annunciation Day, Celebrate Mary With Sermons



The second volume in our sermon series, *The Word in Our Voices*, will be available for download on March 25, 2018.

Blessed Art Thou Among Women: Southwest Pennsylvania Preaches on Mary, Mother of Jesus will feature sermons by preachers from a wide variety of Christian traditions – from Mennonite to Roman Catholic to Presbyterian – considering the life and example of the Theotokos. You can find it at www.casp.org/sermons.