

# Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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

## The Call . . .

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*to be one in Christ*



April-May 2021, Number 2

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

### Christian Associates Welcomes New Bishops and Executives

We are in the midst of a season of transition. One quarter of Christian Associates' member judicatories—seven out of 28!—will experience a change in leadership between fall 2020 and spring 2022.

In this edition of *The Call*, we welcome the new leaders of four of these church bodies: the newest members of Christian Associates' Council of Bishops & Judiciary Executives.

**The Rev. Nila Cogan** was elected Dean of the Mid-Northeast Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church on Reformation Day, October 31, 2020. She also continues to serve St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church in northeast Somerset County, where she has been Pastor since 2010. Rev. Cogan and her husband Larry live on a small farm, where they make hay and raise sheep and pigs.

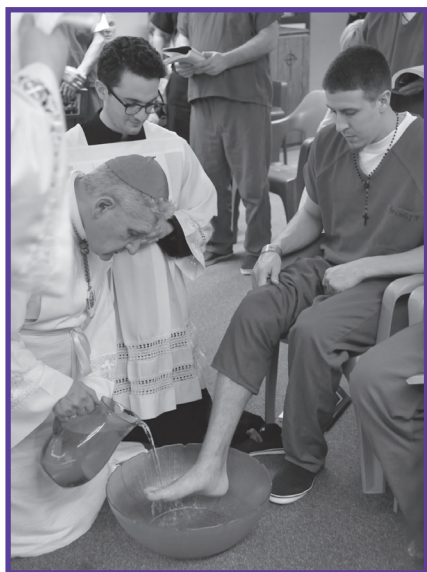
**Majors Gregory and Joyce Hartshorn** arrived in Southwest Pennsylvania this January to serve as Divisional Commanders of the Western PA Division of the Salvation Army.

The Hartshorns have served in Salvation Army pastoral and administrative roles throughout the northeastern United States since 1986, most recently as Divisional Leaders in the Southern New England Division, which includes Connecticut and Rhode Island.

*continued on page 4 . . .*



**New Council Members:** (clockwise from top left) Rev. Nila Cogan, Majors Gregory and Joyce Hartshorn, The Rev. Dr. Thomas Harmon, Bishop Larry Kulik



**Bishop David Zubik washes inmates' feet at Allegheny County Jail on Maundy Thursday 2018.**

### Allegheny County Jail Seeks Director of Chaplaincy

Christian Associates' partner in ministry, the Foundation of HOPE, is seeking a dynamic, compassionate Director of Chaplaincy Services for Allegheny County Jail and Shuman Juvenile Detention Center.

The full job description is available at [foundationofhope.org/about/careers/chaplaincy-program-director/](http://foundationofhope.org/about/careers/chaplaincy-program-director/). Applications, including a cover letter, resume, and three references, are due by April 23.

The position calls for a Director who models integrity, cooperation, and spiritual maturity. The Director must be ordained or authorized by their own faith tradition, but must also be prepared to serve as an interfaith leader, demonstrating respect for all spiritual paths and ensuring the free

exercise of religion for all jail inmates. The Director ensures that inmates as varied as Christians, Muslims, pagans, and Jehovah's Witnesses all receive appropriate spiritual care.

The Director supervises a large staff of full- and part-time employees and interns, as well as scores of volunteers, and serves as the primary representative of the Chaplaincy program to Jail administration and the wider community.

Previous Director of Chaplaincy the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway left the Foundation of HOPE in February after 10 years of exemplary service.



# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

Three-year-old Lydia doesn't remember much about life before the pandemic. She doesn't remember passing the peace during worship, or crowding together on the chancel steps for the children's sermon. She doesn't remember ever getting a hug or a handshake from anyone outside her immediate family.

She does remember that in the fall, her family's beloved dog Hobbes died. She watched her parents dig a grave to bury him in their rural backyard.

Lydia understands that there's a sickness that's spread all over the world. She knows the sickness means she has to wash her hands and wear a mask. Every night, she prays with her family: "God, please help the world get better."

One recent night at bedtime, after repeating their prayer, Lydia asked, "When the world is better, will we keep wearing masks?"



***Our deepest yearning for a better world is one that only God can bring about . . .***

"No, when the world is better we can take our masks off," her mom replied.

"And when the world is better," Lydia asked again, "will Daddy un-dig Hobbes?"

This spring, our region is making the slow transition into a post-pandemic reality. It might seem that the world has recovered, has gotten better. In some ways, things are just as we left them: Lenten paraments from 2020 still on the altar, and congregations ready to pick up with their regular routines. But we are discovering that not everything is the same. We've adopted new habits that will take a while to break, and found new rhythms that we may no longer want to disrupt. Some of our relationships have not survived a long absence. Some of us are coping with the dimensions of a new chronic illness, "long covid," or wrestling with new trauma and anxiety. And over 25,000 of our neighbors in Pennsylvania have died. There are missing faces in our communities, empty pews in our sanctuaries, fresh graves in our cemeteries. The world is getting better, but not everything can be un-dug.

Lydia's question reminds me that vaccinations and herd immunity, while an excellent and long-awaited step, are not sufficient to make the world better. Our Christian hope is not in scientific advances or political victories or any event that can be wrought by human hands. Our deepest yearning for a better world is one that only God can bring about: the New Jerusalem, the holy city where mourning and crying and pain are no more, where righteousness and peace will kiss.

Easter offers us a glimpse of that glory. When Jesus rose from the tomb, the kingdom of God was set into unstoppable motion. Resurrection is not a one-time event; it is a repeating pattern, evident in the world around us and promised for each of us. In the creed, we declare we believe in the resurrection of the body: we, too, will rise. We believe in the relentless triumph of life and love over death and evil. We believe in a God who un-digs every dead thing.

The post-pandemic world will still include confusion, pain, and grief. But we are united by our longing for a day when resurrection light suffuses all creation. In the name of our resurrected Christ, the first one un-dug from the dead, we pray together for a world made better.

Your sister in Christ,

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



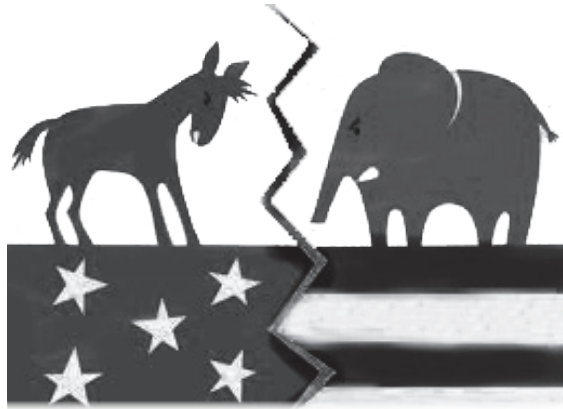


## Learn Skills to Bridge the Political Divide

*"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory... will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."*

Abraham Lincoln wrote these words in his first inaugural address to a bitterly divided nation, and they ring true today as the United States faces deep partisanship. We have forgotten how to talk to one another across our differences, and we risk thinking of one another as enemies.

*Braver Angels*, a dialogue organization whose name was inspired by Lincoln's



address, believes we can all learn the skills we need to have constructive, non-polarizing conversations between people who disagree politically. On **April 19 at 7 p.m. via Zoom**, *Braver Angels* is

offering the "Skills for Bridging the Divide" workshop for the Southwest Pennsylvania community.

The two-part workshop combines an online eLearning course, completed prior to the workshop, and the interactive Zoom workshop.

We'll learn to have respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship.

The workshop is free and open to the public. To register, visit <http://bit.ly/DivideApril19>.



## Bread for the World Workshop Explores Racial Wealth Gap

We can't end hunger without ending poverty – and we can't end poverty without addressing the racial wealth gap.

Learn more about the connections between racial inequity, policy, and wealth at this year's *Bread for the World* Hunger Advocacy Workshop on **Saturday, May 15 from 9:30 to noon via Zoom**.

Together, we'll be participating in an online version of *Bread for the World's* Racial Wealth Gap Simulation, a tool that helps us understand how federal policies created structural inequalities and how these policies have differently impacted Black and White communities in America.



Our featured speaker will be the **Rev. Angelique Walker-Smith**, Bread for the World's Senior Associate for Pan-African and Orthodox Church Engagement.

In addition to reflecting on the simulation experience, Rev. Walker-Smith will share details of the 2021 *Offering of Letters*: an opportunity for congregations to advocate to end hunger by reaching out to elected officials.

To sign up for the free workshop, visit <http://bit.ly/breadworkshop2021>.



## What's Next for Pastoral Caregiving? Emerge With Grace at the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference



Fr. Paul Abernathy, Rev. Dawn Hand, Rev. Craig Gyergyo

No one is an expert on how to emerge from a pandemic. But we know what will be necessary in whatever comes next: strong community with one another.

This year's online Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference—*Emerging With God's Grace: Care, Counseling, and Ministry After the Pandemic*—will bring pastoral caregivers into dialogue with one another to process their experiences and face a post-pandemic future.

On **Friday, May 21, from 9 a.m. until noon via Zoom**, pastors, therapists, social workers, drug and alcohol counselors, and all involved in caring for others will gather for learning, prayer, and conversation.

An opening worship service, themed around the raising of Lazarus, will feature opportunities for prayer and reflection and brief homilies by three local faith leaders:

❖ **Fr. Paul Abernathy**, Director of the Neighborhood Resilience Project

- ❖ **Rev. Dawn Hand**, Superintendent of the Pittsburgh District of the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church
- ❖ **Rev. Craig Gyergyo**, Senior Pastor of Christ Church at Grove Farm

Next, participants will use break-out rooms to engage in facilitated conversation around specific aspects of the pandemic experience:

- Grief,
- Addiction,
- Congregational Ministry,
- Children,
- Elders, and
- Mental Health.

Together, participants will discuss how the pandemic has affected these aspects of pastoral care and how we face the time beyond the pandemic.

Registration for the conference is free of charge, and is available at [www.pgphpc.org](http://www.pgphpc.org).



## Christian Associates Welcomes New Bishops and Executives

*continued from page 1...*

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg welcomed a familiar face as its new bishop on February 11. **Bishop Larry Kulick** is the first native son and priest of the diocese to be appointed bishop.

Bishop Kulick grew up in Leechburg and served parishes in Greensburg, Irwin, Kent, New Kensington, and New Alexandria. He also holds a degree in canon law and has held many diocesan posts, including Chancellor and Diocesan Administrator.

Bishop Kulick is active in many Slovak cultural and fraternal organizations locally

and nationally. A classic car enthusiast, he owns the 1966 Pontiac LeMans in which he was brought home from the hospital as a newborn.

Beaver-Butler Presbytery also selected one of its own as its new executive leader. **The Rev. Dr. Thomas Harmon**, installed as Executive Presbyter on March 23, comes to his new ministry after seven years serving Westminster Presbyterian Church in Evans City.

Throughout his ministry, in both Pennsylvania and Ohio, Dr. Harmon has

been active in presbytery work, serving as Moderator and Vice Moderator, leading strategic planning teams, and engaging in numerous committees and task forces. Dr. Harmon and his wife, the Rev. Kelley Angleberger, have four young children.

*"I'm thrilled to welcome these new leaders to Christian Associates' Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives," said Rev. Liddy Barlow. "Their fresh insight will help lead us into more visible unity in the years to come."*



## Violence: Pray It, Say It, Stop It

by **Jay Gilmer**, City of Pittsburgh STOP the Violence Coordinator



Violence takes many forms -- guns, knives, fists, even words on social media. Some violence is far away, like the mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder. Other violence is close to home, like violence in the streets and even violence in households of your church members.

In Psalm 11:5 in the Contemporary English Version of the Bible, we read: "The LORD tests honest people, but despises those who are cruel and love violence." While the causes of violence are many and the solutions may vary, you can take the first step by praying against violence.

The STOP the Violence Office of the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety is encouraging pastors and church members

to pray against violence at every worship or prayer service in 2021.

Can you make the *Pray It, Say It, Stop It* Commitment and pledge to name the problem of violence every time your community gathers for worship this year? Make that commitment, and email me at [Jay.Gilmer@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:Jay.Gilmer@pittsburghpa.gov).

For additional information on violence prevention strategies, volunteer opportunities, and resources, please sign up here to receive our monthly STOP the Violence Newsletter: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/>

Together, our prayers can be part of the solution. Let's **Pray It, Say It, Stop It**.



## Workshop Focuses on Advance Care Planning in Black Churches

Clergy and lay leaders from African American faith communities are invited to participate in *"My Faith, The Church, and Advance Care Planning,"* an interactive online seminar on **Tuesday, April 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The program explores how to engage and prepare members of congregations and the community on having conversations with loved ones about end-of-life care.

The session is hosted by VITAS Healthcare in Pittsburgh, which provides hospice and palliative care, and the Center for Practical Bioethics, a national organization based in Kansas City.

There is no cost to attend this event, but space is limited. Register at [VITAS.com/events](https://VITAS.com/events) and look for "AA Church and ACP," or call Patricia D. Brown at 412-799-2123.



Feeling weary after over a year of pandemic preaching? Call on Christian Associates to help! Rev. Liddy Barlow is happy to fill your pulpit, whether in person, outdoor, pre-recorded, or livestreamed. All honoraria support the ministries of Christian Associates, so you will know your church is supporting ecumenism even while you're taking a well-earned rest. Contact Rev. Barlow for more information - [lbarlow@casp.org](mailto:lbarlow@casp.org).



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY  
OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS  
*FORMING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH*

## 21st Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture

Please join us via livestream or in person for our annual lecture on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 pm. It will be held online and in person at the Cathedral Center of Saint John the Baptist in Munhall, Pennsylvania where all state- mandated social distancing protocols, including masking, will be strictly observed.

For all others, the lecture will be livestreamed via our website and recorded for future access by the public on our YouTube archive. For more information, please go to [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu) or call 412-321-8383x36.



*Father Deacon  
Daniel Galadza*

Father Deacon Daniel Galadza will deliver both in person and through livestream the 21st annual Ss. Cyril and Methodius Lecture of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary entitled "The Liturgy of Jerusalem: History, Theology, and Lessons for Today."

The Church of Jerusalem was the cradle of Christianity, influencing when and how Christendom celebrated the conception, birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ and the memorials of the Theotokos, apostles, and martyrs. For the Byzantine Catholic Seminary's annual Cyril and Methodius Lecture, the Reverend Deacon Daniel Galadza presents Jerusalem's liturgical year, its historical sources, and theology. His lecture will illustrate connections between the "Byzantinization" of the Eastern Patriarchates at the end of the first millennium and the Latinization of the Eastern Catholic Churches from the middle of the second millennium onward.

**Do you know a young  
person who is interested  
in doing the most good?**



## The Salvation Army's Camp Allegheny is Hiring!

We need staff members who will model Christ through servant-ministry, establish loving relationships and create unforgettable experiences for kids in need.

Camp Allegheny, located in Ellwood City, offers low-cost, Christian-focused camping opportunities to children living in Western Pennsylvania.



DOING  
THE MOST  
GOOD

**A variety of positions are now open!**

*All COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed.*

**Apply NOW at [salvationarmywpa.org/camp](http://salvationarmywpa.org/camp)**



# GUIDING THE FAITHFUL IN COMPLEX TIMES

Register Now - All Classes and Events Take Place Online

**Wise Women and Spirituality**  
*Mother-Shepherd, Mother Tongue;  
Embodying and Speaking Hope for God's Kingdom*

May 6, 2021

Mihee Kim-Kort, Pastor

**J. Hubert Henderson Lecture on Church and Ministry**  
*See No Stranger: Revolutionary Love as the Call of Our Times*

May 24, 2021

Valarie Kaur, Civil Rights Activist, Documentary Filmmaker, and Attorney

**Companions in Ignatian Discernment: Am I Called to Spiritual Leadership or Direction?**  
*A Spiritual Formation Elective*

June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17, 2021

Carolyn J. Nickerson, Spiritual Director, Adjunct Professor, Nurse

## Henderson Summer Leadership Conference *Religion and the Common Good*

May 24-25, 2021

Parker J. Palmer, Author, Educator, and Activist; Carrie Newcomer, Singer, Songwriter, and Educator; Valarie Kaur, Civil Rights Activist, Documentary Filmmaker, and Attorney; and Rich Mouw, Theologian and Philosopher  
Registration will be limited for this event!



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### Education & Enrichment for Ruling Elders in the PC(USA)

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- Courses in Bible, Reformed Theology, & Worship
- Workshops in Pastoral Care, Ethics, Preaching...
- Field Education/Practicums



**If you feel God is calling you to further leadership in the PC(USA), please call or email for further information.**

Redstone Presbytery  
724-837-6737 [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)  
Washington Presbytery  
724-222-1500 [office@washingtonpresbytery.org](mailto:office@washingtonpresbytery.org)





# ENGAGING THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

*June 10 & 11, 2021*



Speakers include: Jonathan Wilson, Edith Humphrey, Paul Blowers, Sandra Richter, and Chris Armstrong

The Christian doctrine of Creation is one of the most contested doctrines of the modern era. But arguments with the natural sciences can distract us from the Bible's narrative of God's creation and redemption of the world, and disconnect that narrative from the life of the Church. This conference will explore the biblical narrative of creation, its significance for the historic Church, and its implications for the worship and mission of the Church today.

**Register through May 28 at [webbercenter.tsm.edu](http://webbercenter.tsm.edu)**

PRESENTED BY:



**Trinity** and  
School for Ministry



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

## Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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### Upcoming Events at a glance



#### **Monday, April 19:**

“Skills for Bridging the Divide” – an online workshop with *Braver Angels*, helping us learn to connect across political differences. See page 3.

#### **Friday, April 23:**

Applications due for Director of Chaplaincy Ministries at Allegheny County Jail. See page 1.

#### **Monday, May 3:**

A new quarter of *Sofa Spirituality* dialogues begins, with new videos posted at [sofaspirituality.org](http://sofaspirituality.org) and fresh opportunities for interfaith conversation. Eager to talk in the meantime? Arrange a customized Sofa session for your own congregation or group! Email [lbarlow@casp.org](mailto:lbarlow@casp.org) to learn more.

#### **Saturday, May 15:**

*Bread for the World* Hunger Advocacy Workshop and Racial Wealth Gap Simulation. Explore the intersection of racism, poverty, and hunger, and learn to make change in this online workshop. See page 3.

#### **Friday, May 21:**

“*Emerging with God’s Grace: Care, Counseling, and Ministry after the Pandemic*”, an online Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, with prayers and conversation to reflect on this past year and move into the future. See page 3.

#### **Monday and Tuesday, May 24-25:**

“Religion and the Common Good,” the online Henderson Summer Leadership Conference at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Speakers include Valarie Kaur, Parker Palmer, Richard Mouw, Carrie Newcomer, and more! See the full schedule and register at [www.pts.edu/SLC-2021](http://www.pts.edu/SLC-2021).