

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 2024, Number 1

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

Commonwealth Offers Resources To Help Keep Your Church Safe

Church leaders feel a duty to keep their members safe. In today's environment, with hate crimes on the rise and a myriad of tensions facing our country, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania is offering programs that can help us do just that.

The Pennsylvania State Police's Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Team is a team of state troopers who travel the commonwealth conducting free security evaluations for public and private institutions, including houses of worship and religious schools. The RVAT team completed over 425 assessments in 2023.

RVAT team members make an onsite visit to assess exterior and interior features, identify structural and operational weaknesses, and provide options for making improvements. They prepare a written report and return to the house of worship to present their findings.



These assessments are available at no charge. To learn more or schedule an assessment, contact Sgt. Scott Rossman, ssrossman@pa.gov or 717-214-2987.

Once you have identified vulnerabilities, the commonwealth can also help provide funds to increase your building's security. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency manages the Non-profit Security Grant Program, which provides funding support for physical

security enhancements and other security related activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack – and recent hate crime statistics mean that includes Christians.

The grants provide 100% of the necessary funds for the proposed projects, up to a total grant of \$150,000. Fundable projects include safety trainings for the congregation or staff members; installation of metal detectors, security cameras, or lighting; and building upgrades.

The 2024 Nonprofit Security Grant application and deadlines will be released between February and April 2024. Sign up at pema.pa.gov/Grants/NSGP to receive updates on the timeline for this year's program when it is released. In the meantime, now is the perfect time to begin to plan your application by conducting a vulnerability assessment to determine your church's needs.

Festival of Homiletics Comes to Pittsburgh

Rediscover the thrill and the joy of the proclaimed Word at the **Festival of Homiletics**, an annual national conference celebrating excellence in preaching, coming to Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood **May 13-16**.

The Festival typically draws over 1,500 preachers and pastors of varied denominations from across the United States. This year, it's right on our doorstep, with events taking place at **Calvary Episcopal Church, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**.



The all-star lineup of preachers and speakers includes Willie James Jennings, Jacqueline Lewis, Brian McLaren, Anna Carter Florence, Otis Moss III, Emilie Townes, and poet Padraig O'Tuoma.

Several speakers have ties to Pittsburgh, including Angela Hancock, academic dean at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Donna Giver-Johnston, director of the seminary's Doctor of Ministry program; and Dawn Hand, who previously served as superintendent of the Pittsburgh District of the United Methodist Church.

Discounted early-bird registration for in-person attendance is available **before February 15** for **\$379**. Seminarians are eligible for a 50% discount.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

The year was 1967. A loaf of bread cost 22 cents. The Beatles' album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" spent 15 weeks at the top of the charts. At a McDonald's restaurant on McKnight Road, local entrepreneur Jim Delligatti put two all-beef patties on a sesame seed bun and called it the Big Mac. And on October 2, Mabel Lindsay Gillespie died at age 81.

Miss Gillespie's father became rich in the lumber business, and she grew up in Gilded Age Pittsburgh, surrounded by incredible wealth. Like other members of the city's aristocracy, the Gillespies had a classic sense of *noblesse oblige*. Mabel became involved in dozens of charitable causes across the city and beyond, supporting education, the arts, and religion.

As an only child, Mabel inherited her parents' fortune in its entirety. She never married and had no children to name in her own will; her obituary lists a single cousin as her survivor. So, she had to be creative in structuring her own estate. She left bequests to friends and distant relatives; she made gifts to her chauffeur and housekeepers; she supported the farmers who cared for her summer estate on Maryland's Eastern shore. And she created a trust to benefit her friends' children. Each would receive income from the trust during their lifetimes; on their deaths, the principal would be divided among 41 different charitable organizations.

These organizations are widely varied in location, focus, and scale. Mabel named colleges, hospitals, the symphony, the parks conservancy. She named organizations in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood, where she lived, and she named distant ones, like the American University in Cairo. And she named ecumenical organizations: the National Council of Churches, the Presbyterian Church's commission on ecumenism, and the Council of Churches of the Pittsburgh Area.

Mabel Gillespie never heard of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania: it wouldn't exist until 1970. She never lived in a world where ecumenical organizations included Catholics as well as Protestants. She certainly never imagined a time when ecumenical conversations would happen over Zoom or on social media.

And yet even so, for the past 55 years, each time one of her trust's beneficiaries has died, Christian Associates (as the successor organization to the Council of Churches of the Pittsburgh Area), has received a gift designated for our endowment. These funds have gone to work, generating income that has fueled our ministry for decades. This December, 55 years after

Miss Gillespie's death, we received the final installment of her gift, bringing the total of her generosity to our mission to approximately \$325,000.

Most of us will never dream of the fortune that Miss Gillespie had, but we still have wealth to share: our faith, our wisdom, our imagination, our love. What legacies will you leave? Who will you still be helping, 55 years after your death? What is the work beyond your current imagining that you can, even now, begin to make possible?

Praise be to God for the lives of generous saints; help us too to provide for the faithful ones who will follow us.

Your sister in Christ,

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



Rev. Liddy Barlow pays respects at Mabel Gillespie's resting place at Allegheny Cemetery



Mabel Gillespie



A stained glass window in the Gillespie mausoleum

February Offers Opportunities for Interfaith Engagement



Benjamin Aysan, Noah Evans, and Aaron Meyer

What happens when the children of Abraham—Christians, Jews, and Muslims—all gather around the same table? They break bread together, share in conversation, build relationships, encounter real differences, and discover common ground.

That’s what happens at Abraham’s Table, a shared initiative bringing together three faith organizations in the South Hills: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Mount Lebanon, the Turkish Cultural Center in Beechview, and Temple Emanuel of South Hills in Mount Lebanon.

Since October, members of the three groups have been meeting monthly for dinner, exploring a new theme each month through presentations and table discussions. Attendance and enthusiasm have been strong.

On **February 28 at 10 a.m.** in the McNaugher Lounge at **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**, Christian Associates welcome the leaders of Abraham’s Table — Rector Noah Evans of St. Paul’s, Rabbi Aaron Meyer of Temple Emanuel, and Benyamin Aysan of the Turkish Cultural Center—for a special installment of the We Have to Talk series of interfaith conversations, in partnership with the Center for Loving Kindness at the Jewish Community Center.

The South Hills leaders will tell their story, sharing how this initiative began, what has led to its success, and how we all might learn from it. Together, we’ll support one another in our efforts to build interfaith harmony in our own neighborhoods. Your RSVP

is helpful, but not required, by visiting casp.org/wehavetotalk.

Meanwhile, Christian Associates and the Center for Loving Kindness continue to offer **Sofa Spirituality**, a platform for interfaith dialogue that can take shape in both online and in-person forms. The current season of public online dialogues continues through February 21 and features new interviews with leaders such as Father Levi Hartle, Cantor Kalix Jacobson, and Dr. Sheila Johnson-Hunt. Watch the interviews each week at sofaspirituality.org, and sign up to receive the link for our Zoom dialogues on Mondays and Wednesdays.



An Abraham’s Table gathering at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in October 2023

Local Christian Leaders Recognized as “Righteous Among the Neighbors”

The Gentiles who helped save Jews during the Holocaust are recognized as “Righteous Among the Nations.” Here in Southwest Pennsylvania, a contemporary group of allies have been honored with the new title “Righteous Among the Neighbors.”

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh and the LIGHT Education Initiative developed the program to honor non-Jewish Pittsburghers who have supported the Jewish community and stood up against antisemitism, particularly in response to the October 27th, 2018 synagogue shooting. The groups selected 24 honorees, including educators, mental health practitioners, and community leaders.

Among the Righteous Among the Neighbors were these Christian leaders:



Clockwise from top left: Rev. Liddy Barlow, Sister Gemma Del Duca, Rev. Tim Smith, Canon Natalie Hall. Photos by Brian Cohen

Sister Gemma DelDuca, Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg: “for the literal decades—almost fifty years—that you have dedicated to promoting the importance of Holocaust and genocide education in the global Catholic community.”

Canon Natalie Hall, Rector, Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill: “for standing visibly and powerfully alongside the Jewish community after the synagogue shooting and for your work as a Christian faith leader who models how to build meaningful relationships with your Jewish neighbors.”

Rev. Tim Smith, CEO, Center of Life, Hazelwood: “for the many years of deep partnerships and friendships that you have built across the Jewish community, and for the compassion that you model in the way that you speak about antisemitism.”

Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania: “for your efforts as a Christian faith leader to stand powerfully with the Jewish community and to model what Christian solidarity can look like in so many ways.”

Christian Associates Affirms New Five-Year Strategic Plan

As Christian Associates begins its next half-century, our work will be guided by our new strategic plan. The Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives affirmed the plan in spring 2023, and work is already proceeding on its action steps.

The Council began its planning work in 2021 by exploring the trends that affect our work: trends in ecumenism nationally and globally; trends in Southwest Pennsylvania's economic,

political, philanthropic, and activist landscape; and trends in congregational and judicatory ministry. Panels of guest speakers provided their perspectives, and Council members shared insights from their own contexts.

Next, the Council identified the strengths Christian Associates brings to these trends and the opportunities that they present. Finally, the Council named specific programmatic responses to implement in the next five

years: some new and some continuing.

Through this process, the Council was able to identify priorities that build on Christian Associates' core identity as we respond with faith, hope, and unity to the needs of this moment.

The 2023-2028 strategic plan includes 3 strategic priorities, 11 goals, 50 strategies, and 151 action steps. The priorities and goals are as follows:



Council leaders used a retreat at Pine Springs Camp in May 2022 to refine ideas for the strategic plan



A group of Council leaders gather at Beaver-Butler Presbytery to refine the plan's action steps in March 2023

1. COLLEGIALITY

The psalmist reminds us “how very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1). In the Hebrew Scriptures, God called Israel as a collective nation; in the New Testament, Jesus called a diverse group of disciples—men and women from many backgrounds and perspectives—to follow him in community. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit shaped the Christian community into the church, allowing people of all races and cultures to understand one another and work together to serve our neighbors. Our human relationships allow us more fully to mirror the image of God, whom we know as the eternal relationship of Trinity.

The relationships Christian Associates has facilitated are a key strength of our ministry, one that we should continue to nurture and support. At the same time, we recognize that our current network of relationships is incomplete. Many Christians in our region have no place around our gathering table. Some have felt unwelcome, whether due to cultural and theological differences or due to our nation's besetting sin of racism. Others have had no place within our current structure, which focuses on judicatories to the exclusion of independent churches and other Christian institutions. We feel called to widen our welcome and expand our circle, opening ourselves to the transformation that new relationships can bring.

PRIORITY: *Christian Associates will strengthen relationships among diverse Christians, within our own membership and across the wider Christian community of Southwest Pennsylvania.*

GOALS:

- A.) We will enhance fellowship among judicatory leaders.
- B.) We will promote healing of the divisions between communities of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- C.) We will strengthen connectivity among Christian institutions.
- D.) We will establish transformative fellowship and witness with evangelical leaders.

2. COLLABORATION

Christian Associates serves the church, and the church we serve is changing. Regional shifts in population and demographics, combined with trends in church affiliation that affect the entire Western world, find the church in Southwest Pennsylvania diminished numerically, even as we remain strong in faith and hope. Retirements of aging clergy, plus additional leaders who chose to leave the ministry during the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, mean many parishes and congregations have recently experienced pastoral transition, or are currently engaged in a pastoral search. More and more of our neighbors are “nonverts” (those who once identified as a member of a faith tradition, but now identify as “nones”), and many others have no history or relationship to the church at all, creating a new mission field in our own neighborhoods.

The Gospel allows us to see opportunities in the midst of challenges, and our connection with one another opens new possibilities to address these challenges collaboratively. We can bring our collective resources to engage this new day. Because our diverse member judicatories face similar struggles, we can demonstrate our unity by working together to help one another and to strengthen the whole Church. This collaboration across our diversity begins to remedy the public stumbling block of Christian division that so often impedes our evangelism. Together we can live out our callings to “shepherd the church of God” (Acts 20:28) and to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

PRIORITY: *Christian Associates will bring judicatories together to respond with hope to challenges facing the church.*

GOALS:

- A.) We will encourage our member judicatories to collaborate to address shared challenges such as the clergy shortage, small-town ministry, and empty buildings, using full communion partnerships and other creative solutions.
- B.) We will welcome clergy new to their congregations by connecting them to Christian Associates, the region, and local ecumenical opportunities.
- C.) We will pursue shared evangelism.

3. CONNECTEDNESS

We live in a world of dazzling multiplicity. God’s creation includes thousands of species of butterflies, a quarter million different kinds of plants, and a beautiful array of human creatures: people of all races, cultures, religions, and philosophies. The harmony God intended in creation has been broken by our sin: too often, humans have responded to our diversity with words of hate, systems of injustice, and acts of violence.

We understand that our broken church reflects a broken world: racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and other religious bigotry, fractious partisanship, and

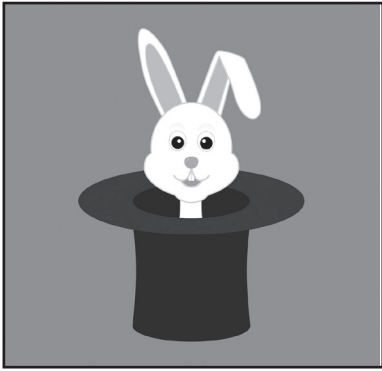
violence are other manifestations of division plaguing our communities. Christian Associates understands the work of unity, and so we are uniquely positioned to work with our neighbors to tackle the divisions plaguing Southwest Pennsylvania. Our experience as an ecumenical agency and our perspective as Christian leaders are valuable to wider community conversations. We cannot do this work alone: we draw on longstanding and new partnerships with civic institutions, secular and faith-based community organizations, and our interfaith colleagues.

PRIORITY: *As an organization with a mission of unity, Christian Associates will work with civic, community, and interfaith partners to address varied forms of division.*

GOALS:

- A.) We will facilitate dialogue between spiritual leaders and police.
- B.) We will address political polarization and extremism.
- C.) We will foster interfaith understanding and seek to end antisemitism.
- D.) We will continue work addressing community violence.

You Can Help Make Christian Unity Appear Around Us



The magician takes the stage, removing her tall top hat from her head. “Abracadabra!” she exclaims. And what was once invisible appears: a white rabbit peeks out of the hat and hops away.

For a magician, making things appear requires only the right magic word. But for the rest of us, making invisible things visible is much more complicated.

Take the unity of the church, for example. We believe that the church is one. We know that Christ has only one body, and that all of us are members of it. But our unity is often invisible, hidden underneath our division.

There’s no magic wand to wave that can make our unity appear. But, praise God, we have something better: the prayers, commitment, and faithful work of people like you and your neighbors. Your passion to make unity visible helps realize Jesus’ prayer “that they may all be one.”

Here are just a few of the ways that this zeal takes shape through the ministries of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania:

- **Connecting Christian leaders**, as we convene bishops and executives and help them connect with their peers, developing collaborations that benefit congregations and neighborhoods across Southwest PA.
- **Partnership between the church and community organizations**, as we work in collaboration to promote positive police-community interactions, end hunger, pursue racial justice, and much more.
- **Interfaith initiatives**, such as the Sofa Spirituality series of dialogue opportunities: building bridges

with our neighbors, exploring our differences, and celebrating our shared values.

Please take a stand for unity and collaboration by giving generously to Christian Associates. You may use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today. Checks may be made payable to Christian Associates and mailed to:

Christian Associates of
Southwest Pennsylvania
PO Box 5241
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

You can also give online at www.casp.org/donate. Your gift may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.

Making Christian unity visible is no simple trick: it demands our faithful and sustained work, prayer, and commitment. And yet, there is something magical about seeing our oneness taking shape. Praise be to God for the tremendous gift of being part of this movement of the Holy Spirit, as we are all drawn together into one body and sent forth to fulfill Christ’s mission in the world.

Special Ways to Give

Be part of the Circle of Unity.

Circle members give monthly, providing the sustaining support that Christian Associates needs most.

You won’t need to remember to mail in a check; your contribution will be made automatically, and can be paused at any time.

Join the Circle of Unity by visiting www.casp.org/circleofunity and signing up for a monthly online gift.

Join the John 17 Society. The Society includes our most generous donors, who give \$250 or more each year, or \$21 or more each month.

Make a distribution from your IRA.

If you are 70.5 years of age or older by the end of the year and have a traditional IRA that requires a minimum distribution, you may direct all or part of that distribution (up to \$100,000) to Christian Associates before the end of the calendar year. The donated distribution is not subject to federal income taxes.

Remember Christian Associates in your will. Ensure that our work can continue for many years to come by including Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania when you plan your estate.

Your gifts make our ministries possible.

- **\$25** boosts a social media post, helping spread the word about events and opportunities.
- **\$72** provides a one-year subscription to *The Call* for 10 local clergy.
- **\$130** keeps our website, *casp.org*, online for a full year.
- **\$180** funds our Zoom account, so we can offer online meeting space and webinars.
- **\$500** underwrites a dialogue meeting for interfaith spiritual leaders.

*How good and pleasant it is
when God’s people live together in unity!*

Psalm 133:1

Thank You to Our 2023 Supporters!

The generous support of individuals, congregations, corporations, and foundations makes our work possible. Many thanks to each of these donors for their commitment to Christian unity! We look forward to including your name next year.

John 17 Society “that they may all be one” \$250 or more

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* Indicates a member of the Circle of
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*This list includes donations made
between November 16, 2022 and
November 15, 2023. Donations
made after November 15 will be
recognized at the end of 2024.*

*We have made every effort to
ensure the accuracy of this
list and apologize in advance
if any names were omitted,
miscategorized, or misspelled.
Please contact our office if you
discover an error and we will
publish a correction.*

Special Thanks to Our Judicatory Supporters

Christian Associates is deeply grateful to all our member judicatories, and we wish to offer particular recognition to the church bodies who contributed to our financial needs in 2023:

Allegheny Union Baptist Organization
Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania,
Orthodox Church in America
Beaver-Butler Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Bruderhof Communities of Southwest Pennsylvania
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
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Redstone Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg
Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh
Southwestern Pennsylvania 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

We know judicatories have many important financial priorities, and we are grateful to these church bodies for their commitment to Christian Unity. If you see your judicatory's name on the list, please express your appreciation to your bishop or judicatory executive.

Save the Date for Spring Events

Bread for the World Hunger Advocacy Workshop: Saturday, April 13 at Pittsburgh Presbytery, 901 Allegheny Ave., Pittsburgh

Find out how your church can help Nourish Our Future by supporting programs that support child nutrition, such as WIC, the child tax credit, and international aid. Meet with others from your legislative district to help plan our strategy.

Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference: Friday, April 19 at Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Rd., Bethel Park

Dr. Kimberly Wagner, Assistant Professor of Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary will keynote this year's conference; her presentation is titled "A Word from the Depths: Preaching and Ministry amid Trauma." You'll also find a full

slate of workshops, great networking, and an afternoon Bible study.

Subscribe to Unity n' At (casp.org/sign-up) or watch our Facebook page for registration details, and look for the next edition of *The Call* for more details.



Welcoming Our Newest Unifier

Christians disagree on many things, but we can unanimously agree on the cuteness of our region's newest ecumenist.

On September 11, Christian Associates' Executive Administrative Assistant Erin Lane and her husband Doug welcomed Milo Jackson Louis Lane. Milo is healthy and thriving, and enjoying his big sister Penny and big brother Liam.



In Erin's absence, we were grateful for the service of Melanie Linn Gutowski as our Temporary Administrative Assistant. You can now find Erin back in our office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can email her any time at elane@casp.org.

Churches Invited to Join in Ministry to Foster Families

Submitted by Rev. Chad Bogdewic

As Christians, we are the hands and feet of Jesus, the body of Christ, present in a hurting world. One population that is hurting needlessly are children, especially those in foster care.

There are around 15,000 children in foster care in Pennsylvania and not nearly as many homes for them to be placed in safety and security. There is a critical need for foster parents. We can do our part to help alleviate that need. Our sacred Scriptures says God is “Father of orphans” (Ps 68:5) and we can be co-workers with God in this important mission.

Adoption Connection, PA is a faith-based nonprofit foster care and adoption agency serving western PA. We want to partner with your congregation through our **One Church One Mission** program that teaches and empowers churches about making a difference through recruiting foster families, surrounding a foster family with love and prayer,



A foster family served by Adoption Connection PA

and helping a child to know what God’s love in action looks like in person.

Being present, being a force of prayer and social holiness for Christ can

change the hearts and minds of children and youth who need to hear that they are loved and wanted. Jesus tells us that whatever we do for the least among us, we do for Him (Matt 25:40). As we seek to make the world a welcoming place for the least among us, we are making it a welcoming place for Jesus. As the church, we can do that by being the hands of God reaching out in love and grace.

We may not be able to help 15,000 children, but as Mother Teresa said, “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” Partnering together, we can change the life of hurting and scared kids among us. Together, we can transform a weeping into laughter. Together, we can resurrect the hope that seems lost, because as Christians, we know what resurrection means. Please join our mission.

For more information about One Church One Mission, contact Rev. Chad Bogdewic, Family Recruiter and Outreach Coordinator for Adoption Connection, PA at 724-371-0671.

Christian Associates Welcomes Liberty University Student

Christian Associates welcomed Rebecca King as a Student Assistant in fall 2023, as she sought to learn the processes and practices of Christian unity across Southwest Pennsylvania.

Rebecca completed her internship during her final semester in Liberty University’s online program; she earned her Master of Divinity degree with a focus in global studies in December 2023.

Her work at Christian Associates included organizing a Thanksgiving prayer service with the Bread for the World team, presenting a paper to the Theology & Education Committee, and updating our directory of local ecumenical organizations.

Rebecca’s own story reflects her passion for unity in the body of Christ. She grew up in a small



Rebecca and David King on a recent trip to Costa Rica

Presbyterian church. Shortly after marrying her husband David in 1997, they helped to grow a start-up Methodist church in Cranberry Twp. Since then, Rebecca, David, and their four children spent several years growing in love for Christ at an Anglican church in Sewickley before finally calling Allison Park Church home for the past ten years. As a former Spanish teacher with Fox

Chapel Area Schools, Rebecca has enthusiastically embraced diversity. In 2011, Rebecca and David participated in a short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic. This sparked a love for missions that has developed through the years. After two trips to Africa in 2016 and 2017 doing evangelistic missions, Rebecca and David were invited to Uganda in 2018 to speak at a marriage conference designated for Ugandan pastors and their spouses.

Rebecca was thrilled to learn, connect, and grow under the guidance of Rev. Liddy Barlow this fall. “I am so thankful that God opened this door for me to experience unity at the citywide level. I loved serving Pittsburgh through the unique ecumenical adventure that CASP alone offers.”

Women's Clergy Group Plans Spring Events

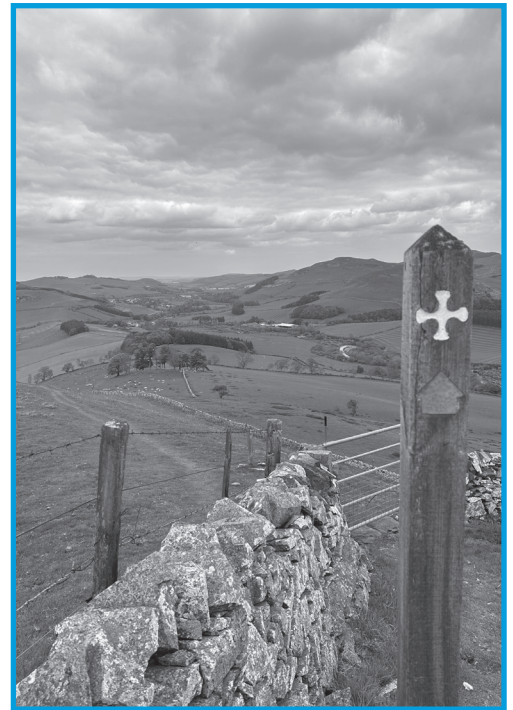
The Western PA Chapter of the International Association of Women Ministers, an ecumenical organization founded in 1919, is offering several upcoming opportunities for reflection, community, and mutual support.

On **Wednesday, March 14** at 10 a.m., Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates and Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley of the Presbyterian Foundation will lead "A Virtual Pilgrimage Along St. Cuthbert's Way." Drawing on stories of the life of this sixth-century saint, as well as the images and stories of their travels to the Scottish Borders and Northumberland in May 2023, the leaders will bring participants into a virtual spiritual journey. This program will be offered in a hybrid format, both in person at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and via Zoom.

From **Thursday, April 25** at 1 p.m. until **Friday, April 26** at 1 p.m., the chapter offers its annual retreat at **Antiochian Village** in Bolivar, PA. Rachel Becker, LCSW, will lead our contemplation of death, life, and new life during the Easter season. Expect an experience of group sharing, experiential art, and time for prayer and reflection.

The cost of the retreat is \$200, including the program, a single room, and three meals. Some financial assistance is available in cases of need. Registration and full payment must be received by Wednesday, March 27; visit bit.ly/IAWMretreat2024 for more information.

For more information about these and other events, and to add yourself to the Western PA IAWM email list, please send a message to the Rev. Lola Turnbull, pastorljt@yahoo.com.



A guidepost along St. Cuthbert's Way near Morebattle, Scotland

Classified Ads

Free To a Good Home

21 cream-colored, full-length choir robes with maroon trim on collar, front, and sleeve, which have been gently worn by our choir and looking for a new home. The robes have been professionally dry cleaned and stored. Please contact Shereen Stutz 412-554-7882 or [sstutz9@gmail.com](mailto:ssstutz9@gmail.com) with interest.

Help Wanted

Trinity School for Ministry, an evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition that forms Christian leaders for mission, is seeking a **Human Resource Administrator**. The HR Administrator manages and prepares human resource documents, assists employees with work issues, facilitates employee onboarding and training, processes and maintains payroll records, and oversees the enrollment and maintenance of the employee benefit package. Full-time (40 hours/week). Find the full position description at tsm.edu/about/employment. Qualified individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a cover letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation to elucci@tsm.edu by March 1, 2024.

Common Ground USA is hiring a **State Program Officer** to be based in Western PA. This role is responsible for coordinating and supporting programs to mitigate risks of political violence, in this election season and beyond. Learn more and apply at careers.sfcg.org.

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Save the Date · Save the Date · Save the Date · Save the Date

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
In the Lord I will rejoice!

Join Christian Associates' Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives and leaders from across the community for an evening of prayer and celebration marking Rev. Liddy Barlow's tenth anniversary as our Executive Minister.

Thursday, April 11
East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Taize Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.
Dessert Reception at 8:00 p.m.



Photo by Brian Cohen

Registration opens soon at casp.org/tenyears

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