

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 2018, Number 5

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

Lecture and Panel Discussion Will Focus on Interfaith Approaches to Racial Justice



Rabbi Abie Ingber

Tolerance is a good starting point when encountering people of other races and cultures. But in order to walk in the way of Jesus, our tolerance must transform into love.

On **Sunday, October 28** at 2 p.m., Christian Associates will co-sponsor *"Tolerance is not Enough: An Interfaith Response to Hatred and Racism"* at **Christ United Methodist Church**, 44 Highland Road in Bethel Park.

Rabbi Abie Ingber will offer the keynote address. Rabbi Ingber is Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Community Engagement at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is passionate about challenging hatred and racism in an effort to build relationships of respect and understanding.

Following his remarks, Rabbi Ingber will facilitate a panel of faith leaders who will address the challenges we face in our region related to racism and hatred and how the faith community can and must work together for change.

The panelists include the Rev. Dawn Hand, Pittsburgh District Superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church; the Rev. Dr. John Welch, Vice President for Student Services and Community Engagement and Dean of

Students, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Imam Hamza Perez of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh and Light of the Age Mosque; and Rabbi Amy Greenbaum of Beth El Congregation of the South Hills.

Participants in the *Church Without Walls* project, an initiative of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and Rodman Street Baptist Church, will be attending the event. These interracial small groups share meals together, join in prayer, and engage in conversation about race, based on personal experiences, current events, and shared reading of sacred and secular texts. New participants will be able to join the project following the panel discussion.

RSVPs for the event are requested at christumc.net/rabbiingber.



Salvation Army Welcomes New Divisional Leaders for Western Pennsylvania

This September, the Western Pennsylvania Division of the Salvation Army welcomed **Majors Raphael and Sandra Jackson** as new Divisional Leaders. They are responsible for all aspects of The Salvation Army's ministry and service throughout the 28-county division.

The Majors Jackson came to Pittsburgh from their most recent appointment as the Divisional Leaders of the Northern New England Division, which encompasses Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.



Majors Sandra and Raphael Jackson

Major Raphael Jackson was born in the Bronx; Major Sandra Jackson grew up in Maine but has "become a city girl by

appointment and by choice." Together, the Jacksons have previously served in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Eastern Pennsylvania.

They have two grown children and two grandchildren.

The Majors Jackson succeed Deborah Sedlar, who was appointed to the position of Executive Secretary to the General at the Salvation Army's international headquarters in London, England and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The Western Pennsylvania Division of the Salvation Army has been part of Christian Associates since 1970, and many divisional commanders have served in leadership on the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives.

Major Raphael Jackson will continue this tradition as the Council's appointee to the Board of Directors of Christian Associates' partner in ministry, the Foundation of HOPE.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

October is Clergy Appreciation Month, at least according to Hallmark, and November is the month of Thanksgiving. Come tour my date book and discover the reasons why I'm feeling grateful for you:

I'm thankful for the ways you live into full communion. I attended the installation of the Rev. Sara Irwin, an Episcopal priest, at St. John Lutheran Church in Carnegie, a relationship that brings the full communion agreement between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to life. "This is not a back-up plan," Bishop Kurt Kusserow declared: instead, Pastor Irwin's ministry is a vivid sign of the unity that these churches are building. There is no sweeter Eucharist than one that's shared.



I'm thankful for the ways you explore an unknown future. Methodists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans came together to hear from Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains*. Sometimes conversations about how the church is changing lead to depression and wistfulness for rosier times past. Instead, the day's discussions were energizing and full of possibility. Like Lewis and Clark in the historical episode that frames Bolsinger's book, these pastors are setting their canoes aside, taking on the mountainous challenges of the present moment with creativity and hope.

I'm thankful for the ways you care about creation. Clergy and laity from nine different judicatories took part in the Pittsburgh stop on the Energy Star Stewardship Tour, learning about ways to increase energy-efficiency in houses of worship. Mindful that the Earth is the Lord's, we can take practical steps toward conservation.

In this Clergy Appreciation Month, I give thanks especially for you: your perseverance, your friendship, and your faithfulness.

I'm thankful for the ways you care for the least of these. Our Council of Bishops and Executives held their September meeting at The Neighborhood Academy, a faith-based college-preparatory school. Three quarters of TNA's students come from families with annual incomes below \$25,000. As we toured the school's impeccable facilities and met its dedicated faculty and staff, we saw the Magnificat in action: "You have lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things."

I'm thankful for the ways you remind me how far we have to go. Our work pursuing unity is not always easy. Sometimes in recent weeks I've been reminded how many ways we differ, how longstanding and challenging our disagreements can be, how easy it is to misinterpret one another. I'm thankful that we don't pretend to agree just for the sake of getting along. I'm thankful when

we can speak frankly with each other, even with discomfort results. I'm thankful most of all that we have a Savior: that the work of unity is not all up to us.

I'm thankful for the ways the Spirit gives us common ground. The keynote speaker at WORD-FM's annual Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon was Philip De Courcey, a radio preacher and evangelical pastor. That's not my native tradition, and reading through the statement of faith on his Web site, I quibbled with more than a few points. But then I heard his sermon, calling clergy back to gratitude for our vocation, gratitude for the Word, gratitude for the Resurrection. Our differences mattered not at all: the good news of the Gospel, it turned out, was all that counted. The Spirit sang through his preaching, and I was left not cranky but inspired.

At Thanksgiving and always, I give thanks to God for this vocation that calls me so often to praise. And in this Clergy Appreciation Month, I give thanks especially for you: your perseverance, your friendship, and your faithfulness.

Your sister in Christ,

Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister

Appreciate
those who **diligently labor**
among you and have charge over you in the Lord . . .

I Thessalonians 5:12 (NASB)

Allies in Faith Program Will Encourage Hospitality to Immigrants

More than 20,000 immigrants from all across the globe have moved to Southwest Pennsylvania in the past decade. Is your congregation prepared to welcome your newest neighbors? What kind of outreach would best meet the needs of your community?

This November, Christian Associates is joining with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to offer *Allies in Faith*, a two-day learning experience for clergy and religious leaders. Led by a team of seminary professors and staff, community experts, and recent immigrants, *Allies in Faith* will empower you to:

- **Articulate a theology of hospitality**, hearing the call to welcome immigrants in Jewish and Christian scriptures;
- **Deepen your understanding of the immigrant experience**, in local and national contexts;
- **Delve into local resources**, meeting representatives from nearly a dozen agencies and organizations that support immigrants;
- **Conduct a congregational and neighborhood assessment** to determine how your church can best partner with immigrant communities;
- **Plan a project**, supported by ongoing connections over the next four months, that will actively connect your congregation with your newest neighbors.

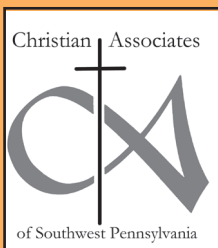


Southwest Pennsylvania is home to more than 20,000 immigrants

Allies in Faith will meet at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206) on Wednesday, **November 28** from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, and on Thursday, **November 29** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Following the closing session, ongoing webinar and social media support will continue while participants work on assessment, planning, and project implementation. The group will reconvene on March 14, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to share their experiences and celebrate the new connections and partnerships that have been formed.

The program is free of charge. Participants will be selected by application, which is available at www.pts.edu/Allies-in-Faith-1819. Applications are open until November 15. If you have questions about the program, contact Helen Blier at 412-924-1346.



Upcoming Interfaith Events

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



November 8, 9:15 a.m.

Interfaith Clergy Breakfast: Giving Thanks

Enjoy connecting with colleagues as you hear and discuss stories of gratitude from across our faith traditions. Share a meal and make new friends.

Pre-register now at www.casp.org/thanksgiving.

November 19, 7 p.m.

Hopeful Responses to Addiction

Join community experts and religious leaders to learn more about the impact of the opiate epidemic on our region, and find out how people of faith and good will can offer pathways to hope. Engage in conversation and connect with resources.

Open to religious leaders, lay people, neighbors, and friends!

Pre-register now at www.casp.org/addiction.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

The Black Political Empowerment Project and the Greater Pittsburgh Campaign Against Violence

www.b-pep.net
www.coalitionagainstviolence.net

Interfaith Service for Peace and Non-Violence

Date & Time: Tues., Oct. 16, 6 p.m.
Location: St. James AME Church, 444 Lincoln Ave., Pittsburgh 15206

The Rev. Dr. James Harris will present the message, as clergy and laity gather in prayer to consider how best to combat violence in our communities.



Duquesne University

600 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh PA 15282
<https://www.du.edu/events/holy-spirit-lecture-and-colloquium>

The Holy Spirit and the Challenge of Difference

Date & Time: Tues., Oct 23, 4:30 p.m.
Location: Power Center Ballroom
Speaker: Dr. M. Shawn Copeland, Professor of Systematic Theology, Boston College
Cost: Free

The Annual Holy Spirit Lecture and Colloquium is an expression of Duquesne's mission and charism as a University founded by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and dedicated to the Holy Spirit. Visit the Web site to register.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

5801 Hampton St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-661-1245
www.standrewspgh.org

Sojourners Among Us: Serving Pittsburgh's Refugee Community

Date & Time: Fri., Oct. 26, 8 p.m.
Speaker: Sloane Davidson, Founder and Executive Director of "Hello Neighbor"
Cost: Free; offerings accepted.

Decades of war and political and social instability have resulted in a global refugee crisis of historic magnitude. Join us for the 21st annual St. Andrew's Lecture to explore a compassionate, effective, and personal response to this crisis in our own city and region.

Sisters of St. Joseph

1020 W. State Street
Baden, PA 15005
724-869-2151
www.stjoseph-baden.org

In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World

Date & Time: Sun., Oct. 28, 2 p.m.

Cost: Free

Join us for a panel conversation with three younger religious sisters who will share their experiences of religious life in today's society. Desiré Findlay, CSSF; Virginia Herbers, ASCJ; and Deborah Warner, CND are among a diverse group of younger women religious from North America whose essays on issues central to apostolic religious life today have been published as a collection titled *In Our Own Words: Religious Life in Changing World*. Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-our-own-words-religious-life-in-a-changing-world-registration-48062910459>.



Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

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

Tuesday Reading Series: Hallowed Be This House

Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20
Time: 10-11:30 a.m.
Leader: Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM
Free Will Offering
Read and discuss this book by Thomas Howard, and discover how to find signs of Heaven in your Home.

Iconography Retreat

Dates & Times: Fri. Nov. 16, 6 p.m.- Sun., Nov. 18, 4 p.m.
Leader: Marylyn Barone
Cost: \$225 including overnight accommodation; \$200 for commuters; all supplies included.

This retreat will be for adults and requires no previous icon-writing experience. Participants will write an icon of the Archangel Uriel, known as the angel of wisdom, on an 8 x 10 gesso-covered board. Using a pre-prepared prototype, they will learn techniques for faces, garments, background and gilding with 23 karat gold leaf. Register by Nov. 9.



Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation

412-281-3752
www.plf.org

Designing your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life

Date & Time: Sat., Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Location: Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 N Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Cost: \$149

This workshop with Dave Evans, Silicon Valley design innovator and co-author of the book *Designing Your Life*, will help you work out what is most important and how to build a life around it. Dave Evans uses design thinking methodology to help participants develop a constructive and effective approach to steward their gifts, abilities, and passions to do meaningful work that enrich the common good. Register at <http://bit.ly/evansworkshop>.



Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program

1515 Locust St, Suite 705
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-232-5815
www.pmhs.org

Health Ministry: Success in Church and Community

Date & Time: Fri., Nov. 9, 6-8 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.

This dinner and gathering will take a fresh look at fruitful health ministries in our region, reflecting on best practices and considering future trends. Speakers include faith community nurses Kathy Conrad, Joyce Ott, and Kelly Rupp, as well as health minister Consuelo Cruz-Martinez. Register by October 26 by contacting ParishNurse@pittsburghmercy.org.

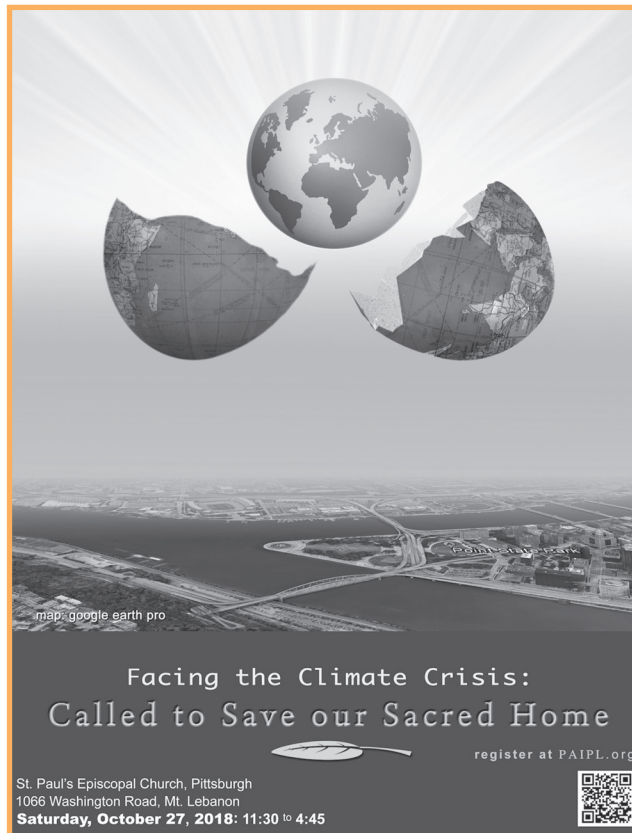


South Hills Will Host State-wide Interfaith Environmental Conference

On Saturday, October 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., the faith-rooted climate response organization Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light will hold its annual state-wide conference in the Pittsburgh area for the first time.

“Facing the Climate Crisis: Called to Save our Sacred Home” will take place at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road in Mount Lebanon.

Keynote presentations include *“Embracing a Blue-Green Religious Vision”* by Dr. Charles McColleston, author of *The Point of Pittsburgh: Production and Struggle at the Forks of the Ohio* and former professor of Industrial and Labor Relations at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, as well as *“Listening for the Voice of the Earth”* by the Rev. David Carlisle, President of the Rachel Carson Homestead Board and former longtime pastor of Springdale Presbyterian Church.



These speakers and many of the workshops discuss current efforts in Pittsburgh toward improving environment and health.

Workshops will consider sustainable building, reconnecting with the landscape, engaging your congregation in environmental issues, protecting God’s creation in the midst of petrochemical buildup, the relation between climate and international development aid programs, and Africana cultural/environmental principles.

Doors will open at 11. Lunch will be provided and there will be a Green Fair of information. Standard pre-registration is \$35 but scholarships are available.

To register and for more information, visit www.paipl.org.



Holocaust Educators to Gather at Seton Hill



The triennial Ethel Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference at the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education at Seton Hill University convenes teachers, professors, and others interested in Holocaust studies and Jewish-Catholic relations.

This year, the conference will take place **October 21-23**, with the theme *“Women, the Holocaust, and Genocide.”*

During the Holocaust and other global genocides, women were victims, rescuers, and bystanders, yet they were also perpetrators.

The study of women and genocide remains a very important aspect of scholarly research, and the search to better understand factors that lead to genocide will invariably contribute to eradicating such terrible acts in the future.

The conference includes a keynote address by **Wendy Lower**, Professor of History and Director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College; presentation of the Nostra Aetate Award to Victoria Barnett, Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Programs on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust; and many other papers and presentations.

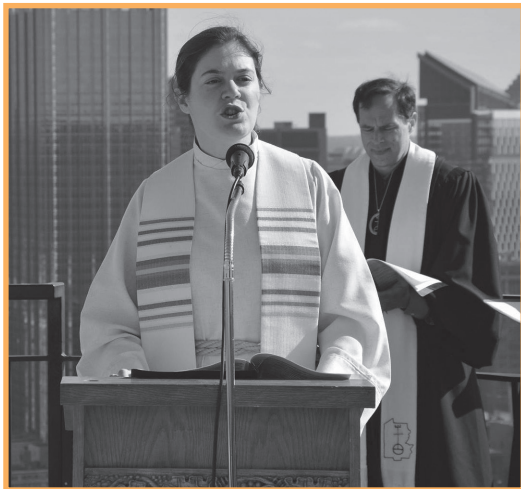
Registration for the full conference, including meals, is \$120. Several events are free and open to the public with advance registration.

A full schedule of the conference and more information is available at <https://alumni.setonhill.edu/lefrakconference>.



Executive Minister's Sermon Among 100 Sermons Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Rev. Liddy Barlow's sermon "Listening to Tamar" was recently selected by *Sojourners Magazine* to be included in their collection of 100 sermons against domestic and sexual violence.



Rev. Barlow preached her sermon in 2012, when she was serving St. John's United Church of Christ in Larimer, Westmoreland County. It considers the rape of Tamar in 2 Samuel 13 as an example of the violence women continue to face, and it calls on Tamar's bravery as a call to action for the church.

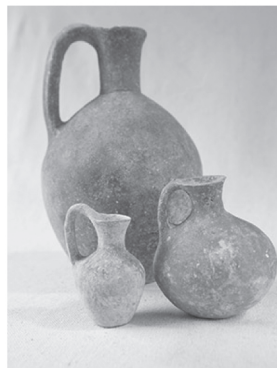
Among the other preachers with sermons featured in the collection are the Rev. Adam Hamilton, the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, and the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III.

To view the whole collection of sermons, visit <https://sojo.net/100sermons>. Rev. Barlow's sermon is available at www.casp.org/listening-to-tamar.

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.

Requests for group tours are welcome.



412-924-1395

616 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206

The Time is Right for Generosity



All donations made through Give Big on Tuesday, November 27 will make us eligible for a share of a prize pool.

Mark your calendar and plan to participate!

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.

Whether big or small, all gifts will go to sustain our ministries that bring diverse Christians together to work for the common good.

Thank you for your support!



Salvation, mercy, the whole world and everything in it: all come to us as gifts from God. We are moved to generosity in return. You might say we are called to GIVE BIG.

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving, **November 27**, will once again be Give Big Day, as Pittsburgh Magazine sponsors a day of giving to benefit organizations throughout our region.

Christian Associates will be one of many local charities accepting donations through the Give Big Web site: www.givebigpittsburgh.com/organizations/christian-associates-of-southwest-pennsylvania



An electronic newsletter from
Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Unity n'At is Christian Associates' bimonthly e-newsletter. Keep up with ecumenical news and events from our region, and receive *The Call* before it arrives in your mailbox.

To subscribe, visit www.casp.org/signup.

PREPARING FOR MINISTRY IN THE WAY OF JESUS



Online and Hybrid Classes

Preaching the Seasons *Hybrid Class*

Oct. 5, 2018-April 5, 2019
With James Platt, Lecturer in Scripture, PTS

African American Preaching and The Power of Story: Black Sermon as Dynamic Discourse *Online Class*

Oct. 15-Nov. 9, 2018
Brian Wells, Director, Doctor of Ministry
Program, PTS

The Contemplative Practice of Motherhood *Hybrid Class*

Jan. 12-March 2, 2019
Lauren Burdette, Spiritual Director, and
Renée Prymus, Instructor of English, University
of Pittsburgh

Parables for the Future: Scenario and Strategic Planning *Online Class*

Jan. 21-Feb. 15, 2019
James Downey, Vice President for Planning
and Institutional Effectiveness, PTS

Also You May Be Interested in These Classes

Science and Ethics *Conversations and Community Series*

October 2018-April 2019
Six-part, free sessions

Building Trauma-Informed and Resilient Communities: Pastoral and Ministry Responses

Dec. 7, 2018
Taunya Tinsley, Counselor



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

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**Leading a Church
through Transformation**

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

Led by:
The Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, PhD, MSW, MA, MDiv

412-741-7430

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**Thousands of Christians,
Over One Million Meals**

On the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 23), thousands are expected at David L. Lawrence Convention Center to sing, pray, celebrate and pack over one million meals for the hungry. This is the second annual “*Amen to Action*” event: last year, over 3,000 volunteers packed 1,014,366 meals for their Pittsburgh community. Bring your family, your neighbors, a team from your church, or the whole congregation, and let’s beat that record in 2018!

“*Amen to Action*” was founded by an ecumenical group of Pittsburgh clergy and lay leaders with the shared vision: “to connect people of all faiths, creating a platform of harmony and amassing spiritual capital more potent than all the coal in the hills and steel in the mills—and in so doing, lead Pittsburgh to become a spiritual power plant for the rest of the world.”

For more information, visit www.amentoaaction.org.

You are invited to . . .

An evening of  **HOPE**

Thursday, October 18

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The Andy Warhol Museum
117 Sandusky St, Pittsburgh

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

Tickets at bit.ly/eveningofhope2018