

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

Serving 10 Counties, 27 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 2017, Number 1

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

Together, Catholics and Lutherans Remember the Reformation, Seek Reconciliation

So much has changed since 1517. In that year, Martin Luther published his 95 Theses, setting in motion the Protestant Reformation, which would see Catholic and Protestant Christians estranged from one another for nearly five hundred years.

This year, Catholic and Lutheran Christians in our region and across the world will commemorate the quincentenary of the Reformation together, seeking mutual forgiveness and reconciliation, and celebrating renewed relationship.

In Southwest Pennsylvania, a joint committee with members appointed by **Bishop David Zubik** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, **Bishop Edward Malesic** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg, **Archbishop William Skurla** of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and **Bishop Kurt Kusserow** of the Southwestern PA



Bishop Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation, embraces Pope Francis as global joint commemorations of the Reformation begin.

Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been meeting for the past 12 months in preparation for 2017's year-long commemoration.

The committee has planned three events, with the first, "An Evening of Repentance," taking place on **March 14 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, Munhall**. Dinner will follow the liturgy.

Two additional events will follow this summer and fall. On **June 29**, the churches will join in "An Evening of Witness and Thanksgiving" at **St. Kilian Roman Catholic Church in Mars**. The commemorations will conclude on **October 28**, with a "Day of Commemoration of Hope" at **St. Vincent College**, including prayer in St. Vincent Basilica.

Though the events have a special focus on relationships between Catholics and Lutherans, they are open to all.

Additionally, the planning team is organizing an April mission trip to work on flood recovery in Connellsville.



Prabha Sankaranarayan
Hinduism



Christine Mohamed
Islam



Rev. Carl Baughman
Christianity



Rev. Jim Magaw
Unitarian Universalism

Interfaith Coalition Plans "Compassion and Relationships" Forum

February 12 - Christ United Methodist Church

Compassion and love are lofty ideas, but how do people of faith live these values in everyday relationships?

On Sunday, February 12 at 2 p.m., an interfaith panel of religious leaders will explore "Compassion and Relationships" in the final installment of the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition's series of conversations on compassion.

People of every faith tradition are invited to attend the discussion, hosted by Christ United

Methodist Church, 44 Highland Road in Bethel Park.

The four panelists, representing diverse faith traditions, will engage in discussion and take questions from the audience. Rabbi Doris Dyen will offer closing remarks.

The event is generously supported by United Methodist Women of Christ UMC. The Turkish Cultural Center will provide refreshments.

The event is free and open to the public. Advance registration is appreciated, though not required: visit <http://bit.ly/compassionandrelationships> to register.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

On city streets and the National Mall, in the news and on social media, colliding voices make it clear: *the United States of America is more disunited today than we have been in decades.* These divisions may begin in Washington, DC, but they affect us just as much in Washington, PA, and in Pittsburgh, Aliquippa, Indiana, Kittanning, Greensburg, and everywhere in between.

Even worse, it's not only opinions that divide us. Instead, as a recent poll showed, Americans are divided by what we believe to be true. Even around issues that would seem to have a correct answer and a wrong answer, we are divided as to what is true and what is false. In a Washington Post column, Catherine Rampell concluded, "*Good governance becomes more challenging when Americans live in parallel universes of facts.*"

More challenging? Absolutely. But is it impossible for us to share a common life when we disagree even about what is true and what is false? The story of Christian Associates teaches us that it is not.

After all, when we bring together diverse church traditions, we are convening people who do not accept the same truths. Beyond the three-word shared creed "Jesus is Lord," our member church bodies vary dramatically in what they affirm to be true. We disagree about doctrine, about liturgy, about sacraments, about human sexuality. We even disagree about the nature of Christian unity itself!



With our limited human understanding, none of us can be certain that what we hold to be true reflects the full scope of God's truth. Indeed, the best way to learn more about the One who is Truth is to grow closer to the other members of his Body: our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Though we still differ on so much – though we still hold contradicting fundamental truths – we're still here. Though we cannot yet all come to the same communion table, we can and do all come to the same meeting tables. And so, in this time of partisan division, I think we in the ecumenical movement have wisdom from experience to offer the wider world. We have learned how to live in the midst of parallel universes.

- **We have learned to love one another.** We've learned to answer John Wesley's famous question: "*Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?*" Jesus told his disciples that it would be their love for one another that demonstrated their faith to the world; as partners in ecumenical work, Christians holding many differing beliefs have nonetheless found ways to be true friends.
- **We have learned to lean in to what we do have in common.** Our differences are obvious: dozens of pundits are ready to tell you all the ways the church is divided. But our daily work at Christian Associates rarely dwells on these differences. Instead, we break open relationship by finding common ground.

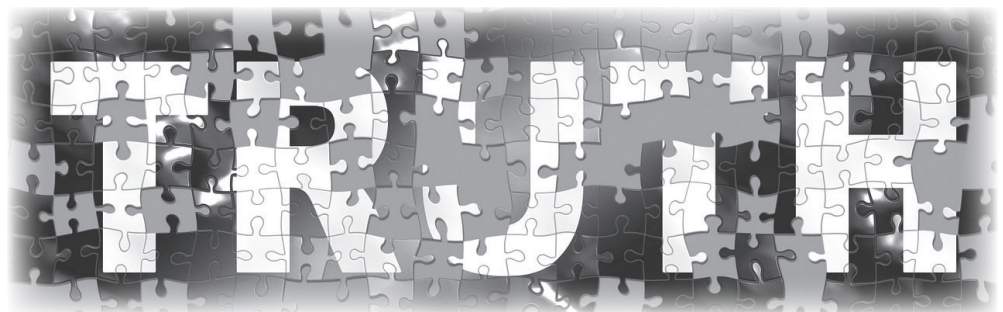
And once you start seeking it, common ground is not so hard to find. We may not agree on justification and sanctification, but we all agree that the church is called to end racism and seek reconciliation. We may not agree on the ordination of women, but we all agree that Christians are called to feed the hungry and to care for people in prison. We may not agree on polity, but we all agree that Christians should open our hearts and our neighborhoods to refugees. If we begin with what we share, we find so many ways to come together.

- **We have learned to acknowledge that ultimate truth is beyond our grasp.** Now we know only in part, Paul wrote. With our limited human understanding, none of us can be certain that what we hold to be true reflects the full scope of God's truth. Indeed, the best way to learn more about the One who is Truth is to grow closer to the other members of his Body: our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May these be the blessings that we bring to a divided nation and a troubled world: a love that sees common humanity, a quest for shared values, a holy humility. In a world of competing truths, may we grow ever closer to the one who is **the Way, the Truth, and the Life: to Jesus himself.**

Your sister in Christ,

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



Harris Lectures Brings Christian, Jewish Clergy Together

Each year, supported by the Milton E. Harris Interfaith Fund, Christian clergy join their rabbinical colleagues at Rodef Shalom Congregation for lunch, conversation, and the annual Harris Lectures.

Rabbi Elan Babchuck, Director of Innovation for the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, will deliver two lectures. The first, free and open to the public, is titled *“Closing the Gap in the City of Bridges,”* and investigates how Talmudic disagreement might help us discover respect for “the other” in today’s fractious world. The evening lecture takes place at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 22.**

The following day, Rabbi Babchuck will be the speaker for the annual **Interfaith Clergy Luncheon and Lecture** at 11:30 a.m., titled *“On Purpose: How to Make Meaning in an Ever-Changing World.”*

Reservations for the luncheon, which is free of charge for clergy and students, should be made by February 13 at www.RodefShalom.org/rsvp.

Rabbi Babchuck lives in Providence, Rhode Island, where he previously served Temple Emanu-El. Building on his own experience as an entrepreneur and founder of multiple for-profit and non-profit ventures, he is currently building the Spiritual Enterprise Ecosystem, an incubator to train, mentor, and fund spiritual entrepreneurs around the world.



Rabbi Elan Babchuck will be the featured speaker at this year’s Harris Lecture and Interfaith Luncheon on February 22-23 at Rodef Shalom

UMPC Hospitals Seek Volunteers So That “No One Dies Alone”

“No one should die alone ... Each human should die with the sight of a loving face.”

– St. Teresa of Calcutta



As pastors know, sitting by the bedside of a person during his or her final hours is a holy privilege. But not every person has family members or clergy able to accompany them as they die.

UMPC Presbyterian and Montefiore Hospitals are seeking volunteers for their *No One Dies Alone* initiative.

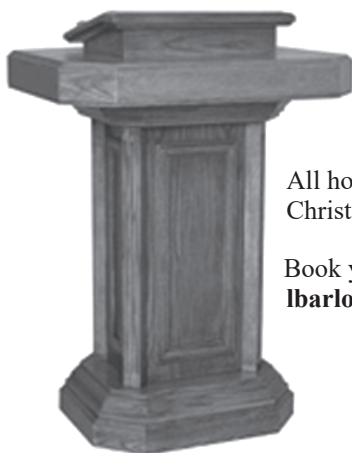
These *“Compassionate Companions”* will sit with dying patients who have no family or friends to be with them: reading, praying, or simply providing a compassionate presence.

After registration as hospital volunteers, the Compassionate Companions complete a two-hour training program. They will then sit with the patient in three-hour shifts around the clock, according to their availability.

Interested volunteers may contact the **Rev. Andrea Buettner**, chaplain, at **412-647-7560**.

Bring Christian Associates to Your Pulpit!

Share the work of Christian unity with your congregation by inviting Christian Associates to join you on Sunday morning!



Rev. Liddy Barlow has preaching availability throughout this spring and summer.

All honoraria support the work of Christian Associates.

Book your date today by emailing lbarlow@casp.org.

Thank You . . .



to everyone who made our 2016 year-end giving campaign a great success!

If you were not able to make a donation in December, you may continue to support the work of Christian

Associates by visiting www.casp.org/donate or by mailing a check to **PO Box 5241, Pittsburgh, PA 15206**.

We are grateful for your support of Christian unity in our region!

Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden
 1020 State St.
 Baden, PA 15005
 724-869-2151
[www.stjoseph-baden.org/
 event-calendar](http://www.stjoseph-baden.org/event-calendar)

Valentine Retreat for Married Couples
 Dates: Sunday, Feb 12 12:30pm-6pm

This program includes presentations on the spirituality of marriage, time for sharing as couples, and an opportunity to renew marriage vows at liturgy.

Presenters include Sister Marguerite Kropinak, clinical social worker, and Regina and David Zajac, presenters for Marriage Encounter.

Fee: \$65 per couple, includes candlelight dinner

Register via link above.



Heritage Gospel Choir of Pittsburgh
www.thgcpgh.org

Joint Concert

Date: Saturday, March 11
 Time: 7:00pm

Location: Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ
 6300 E. Liberty Blvd.
 Pittsburgh PA 15206
 412-361-7000

Featuring: "Belle Voci", "Essence of Joy Alumni Singers", "Canticum"

Proceeds to benefit the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.



Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program
 1515 Locust St., Ste 705
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 412-232-5815
ParishNurse@pmhs.org

Faith Community Nurse and Health Minister Preparation Course

Date: February 24 and 25; and March 18, 24, and 25, 2017
 Location: UPMC Mercy

Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program

(continued . . .)

The Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, part of Pittsburgh Mercy and Trinity Health, offers "Foundations of Faith Community Nursing" a five-day, 38-credit preparation course that offers valuable education and resources to faith community nurses and lay health ministers.

Cost: \$395 for 38 contact hours, \$200 for those not interested in hours.

Contact above for more information.



Martina Spiritual Renewal Center
 5244 Clarwin Ave.
 West View, PA 15229
 412-931-9766
Info@martinacenter.com

"Joy in the Desert"

Five Lenten Thursdays based on the Lenten Sunday Gospels and Pope Francis' "The Joy of the Gospel"
 \$15 Offering
 Time: 6:00 pm, Dinner
 7:00-8:00 pm, Prayer/Song and Presentation

Weekly Topics:

"Transfiguring the Desert with Joy"
 "Watering the Desert with Joy"
 "Seeing Joy in the Desert"
 "Rising to Joy from the Depths of Despair"
 "Facing Life / Choosing Joy"



Crestfield Camp and Conference Center
 195 Taggart Rd.
 Slippery Rock, PA 1657
 724-794-4022
www.crestfieldcc.org

30 Hour Famine Retreat for Teens and Young Adults

Date: Friday, February 24th-Sunday, February 26th 2017
 Friday, March 10th-Sunday, March 12th

The Famine Retreat is an opportunity for youth groups of the Pittsburgh Presbytery and surrounding areas to gather, pray,

Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

(continued . . .)

reflect, serve, go without, worship, play, question, wrestle with realities and make a difference.

Retreat Highlights:

- Joining with others who are completing the fast and experiencing the very same hunger as you are.
- End the fast with communion reflecting on the meaning and the 1st meal of hope and remembrance
- Singing, games, mission projects

Cost: Cottages: \$104 per person Scott Lodge: \$110 per person (3-5 people per room)



Gilmary Catholic Retreat Center
 601 Flaugherly Run Road
 Coraopolis, PA 15108
 412-264-8400
www.gilmarycenter.org

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola 2017 For Men

Date: Friday, Feb 24th-Sunday, Feb 26th

The Spiritual Exercises are a weekend silent retreat with spiritual talks and time for personal meditation.

The spiritual conferences are preached by the priests of Miles Christi, according to the method and the principles of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Apart from the conferences and time for prayer, each day there will also be Holy Mass, Holy Rosary, and opportunity for confessions.

The retreat will start on Friday at 4:00 pm and conclude on Sunday at 4:30 pm. As experience has shown throughout the centuries, the Spiritual Exercises have proven to be an excellent means of conversion and sanctification. In addition, the Magisterium of the Church has commended them numerous times.



**House of Prayer at
Mt. St. Macrina
500 West Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-8644**

**The Ark & The Dove
10745 Babcock Blvd
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724-444-8055**

www.thearkandthedoveworldwide.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

Pneuma Institute

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 N. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-924-1423

Are you sensing a call to enhance your ministry of spiritual guidance and leadership? Do you know about the Pneuma Spiritual Direction and Leadership Certificate Program?

For more information, please contact **Dr. Martha Robbins**, Director of Pneuma Institute at mrobbins@pts.edu.

Retreat Venue for Sale

Small, charming retreat center property located on forty wooded acres, fifty miles south of Pittsburgh with stunning views.

This site features a lovely log house with cathedral ceiling, three bedrooms and loft, expansive deck; plus small comfortable guest cabin that sleeps five and is perfect for individual or small group retreat.

Contact: holyground@windstream.net
or 724-852-4233

Poustinia Retreat

Date: Fri, Feb 24th-Sun, Feb 26, 2017
Presenter: Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

A bible, an icon, a small loaf of bread and a jug of water are one's companions during this time of listening to and resting in the Lord.

Breakfast is provided on Saturday and Sunday.

Cost: \$75
Registration Due by Feb. 17

Lenten Morning of Prayer

Date: Sat, March 18, 2017
Time: 9:15 am-1pm, includes lunch
Presenter: Deacon Dennis Prestash

Fee: \$35
Registration deadline March 14



**St. Brendan's Episcopal Church
2365 Mcaleer Road
Franklin Park, PA 15143
412-364-5974
www.stbrendans.org**

St. Brendan's Speaker Series: A Night Inside the Symphony

Date: Sun., March 19
Time: Doors open 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m.
Fee: \$12 at door, \$10 phone reserved, \$7 student.

Lecture by Melia P. Tourangeau, President & CEO of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, hors d'oeuvres, and a raffle.



50th Anniversary Celebration of the Duquesne Weekend

Dates & Times: Fri., Feb. 17, 7-9 p.m. and Sat., Feb. 18, 12 noon to 9 p.m.
Location: The Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Cherrington Pkwy, Coraopolis, PA 15108
Fee: \$80 (includes lunch and dinner on Sat.)

50 years ago, the Holy Spirit fell in power on a handful of Duquesne University students. Celebrate the anniversary of the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement through dynamic praise and worship, fellowship, and wonderful keynote talks.

Speakers include Michelle Moran, President of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (Friday evening), Charles Simpson, and Patti Gallagher Mansfield, author of "*As By a New Pentecost*" (Saturday). Bishop David Zubik will celebrate Mass on Saturday afternoon.



**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox
Cathedral
419 South Dithridge St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213.
412-682-3866**

Syrian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service

Date: Sun., April 2
Time: Service 4 p.m., Dinner 5 p.m.
Fee: \$50 adults, \$20 age 7-18, \$6 age 6 and under.

Proceeds benefit International Orthodox Christian Charities' Syrian Relief Fund. Led by Hierarchs Metropolitan Savas, Bishop Thomas, Archbishop Melchisedek, Bishop Irinej, Bishop Daniel and Bishop Gregory. Contributions are tax deductible. Children's room available. Register online at ioccc.org/pittsburgh



Preacher Camp!

May 16-19, 2017
Lutherlyn, Prospect PA.
\$525 registration fee covers the sessions, cabin and meals.

Scott Kuechenmeister Hall, Vanderbilt Divinity School Certified Homiletic Coach, facilitates as each preacher presents a story about their formation as a preacher and two sermons for the group to process. Preachers will experience personal and professional growth.

Email scott.a.khall@gmail.com for more information. Limited to eight participants. Registration deadline and deposit due by April 14.





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"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." —Hebrews 6:19



Trinity School for Ministry

JUNE TERM 2017

The Reformers and Medieval Monasticism

Dr. Evan Howard | CH 725/975 | June 5-9

Mark: The Gospel Passion

Bp. Grant LeMarquand | NT 627/927 | June 12-16

Urban Mission

Dr. Rodger Woodworth | ME 725/975 | June 12-16

Non-credit option: \$180

Full Course Listings at www.tsm.edu/intensives

For more information contact Dawn Bates,
Manager of Interterms, dbates@tsm.edu or 800-874-8754.



April 30-May 2, 2017

THRIVE

Ministry on the Edge

Thrive2017 is a conference for pastors and church leaders who are doing ministry on the edge of society.

Featured speakers include **Sara Miles**, Director of Ministry at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco and the founder/director of The Food Pantry and **Peter Rollins**, writer, philosopher and developer of a type of "Religionless Christianity."

When: April 30-May 2, 2017
Where: Double Tree Hotel - Greentree (Pittsburgh, PA)
Cost: \$400 (includes full conference and all meals)

Topics include:
• Worship • Revitalization • Dismantling Racism
• Theology and Ecology • Social Justice

Come learn new ways of doing ministry for a changing world.

For more information or to register, visit www.thrive2017.weebly.com.



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412.741.7430



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UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

*Extending Hospitality:
Conversations and Community
Series*

**Hospitality and
Ecumenism**
Feb. 15, 2017
Liddy Barlow

Hospitality and Disability
March 15, 2017
Debbie Creamer

**Hospitality and the Old
Testament**
April 19, 2017
Jerome Creach

*Language Over Lunch:
Hybrid Course*

Bible Hebrew Reading
March 15- May 17, 2017
James Durlless

**New Testament Greek
Reading**
March 22- May 24, 2017
James Durlless

**Cultivating God's
Compassion**
March 10-11, 2017
Janet K. Ruffing

**Immersed in Grace:
A Workshop for United
Methodist Church Leaders**
March 23, 2017
Paul Chilcote

**Deep Abiding
Connection:
Foundational Wesleyan
Practices**
*Albright-Deering Lecture in
Methodist Studies*
March 23, 2017
Paul Chilcote

**In God's Image:
An Old Testament View
of Clay and Dust**
Spiritual Formation Elective
March 19-22, 2017
*Steven Tuell and
Karen Bowden Cooper*



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www.BishopConnareCenter.org*

MEDIEVAL WISDOM — 500 YEARS AFTER THE — REFORMATION

Ancient Evangelical Future Conference
June 8-9 | Trinity School for Ministry

Featured Speakers

Rod Dreher | Chris Armstrong
Evan B. Howard | Kevin Hughes
Susan S. Phillips | David Yeago

The Conference brings theologians and practitioners together from across the ecumenical spectrum to reflect on the wisdom of medieval sources, consider their retrieval for life and ministry today, and assess their significance from a Reformation perspective.



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

webbercenter.tsm.edu/AEFC2017

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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Live Your Faith on Good Deeds Day Sunday, April 2



Good Deeds Day started in 2007 with a simple idea: join together to help others and change the world for the better. Since its start, the annual event has grown and grown: last year, 1.5 million people in 75 countries participated. Under the leadership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh Volunteer Center, Southwest Pennsylvania has participated for the past three years.

This spring, Good Deeds Day is getting even bigger – and that’s where we come in! The Jewish Federation is inviting its interfaith partners, as well as secular organizations, to join in this community volunteer effort on **Sunday, April 2**.

If your neighborhood, your church, or a partner organization has a hands-on project of any size that could use volunteers, contact **Joyce Hinnebusch**, Volunteer Center Administrative Assistant, at jhinnebusch@jfedpgh.org or 412-992-5214.

If you’d like to sign up to participate in a project, visit <http://jfedvolunteer.org/good-deeds-day/> after registration opens on February 20.

Opportunities for Learning and Engagement

Save these dates for these annual events co-sponsored by Christian Associates this spring.

- **Bread for the World Workshop**
April 23
- **Trinity Institute**
April 28-29
- **Thrive 2017: Ministry on the Edge**
April 30-May 2
- **Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference – May 5**



Watch for more details on each of these opportunities in the April edition of *The Call*, or contact our office for additional information.