

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

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Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Hicks Memorial Chapel - lower level

616 North Highland Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15206

to be one in Christ



December 2022/January 2023 Number 4

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

Faith-Less? Lecture Explores Church Disaffiliation and What We Can Do About It



Dr. Stephen Bullivant

One-quarter of Americans report they have no religion. About 59 million of these are “nonverts”: people who previously belonged to a faith tradition but now have none. Understanding why these “nonverts” left the church can help us move out of blame and despair into more effective revitalization and evangelism.

On **Wednesday, January 18 at 7 p.m.**, Dr. Stephen Bullivant will speak about his research into church disaffiliation at the O'Connor Hall Auditorium, at

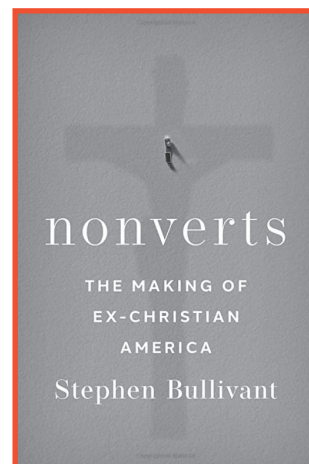
the Pastoral Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, 2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh 15205. Admission to his lecture, titled “Faith-Less?”, is free and open to the public.

Dr. Bullivant holds professorships in Theology and the Sociology of Religion at St. Mary's University, London, and at the University of Notre Dame, Australia. He is the Director of the Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society, London, and holds doctorates in Theology (Oxford, 2009) and Sociology (Warwick, 2019).

He is the author of fourteen books, including two recent volumes on disaffiliation: *Mass Exodus: Catholic Disaffiliation in Britain and America since Vatican II* (2019) and *Nonverts: The Making of Ex-Christian America* (2022). The books combine historical, sociological, and theological research with primary source interviews with nonverts across the U.S.

Fr. David Poecking, Regional Vicar of the South Vicariate of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and organizer of Dr. Bullivant's visit to Pittsburgh, said Dr. Bullivant's work serves as “an inoculation against simplistic thinking.” By understanding the varied cultural trends that have led to disaffiliation, we can better respond to the spiritual needs of our neighbors.

During his visit to Pittsburgh, Dr. Bullivant will also meet with students at Duquesne University, and will be the guest at a luncheon for members of Christian Associates' Council of Bishops & Judicatory Executives and the Theology & Education Committee.



Southwest Pennsylvanians Experience Christian Unity on a Global Scale in Karlsruhe

God's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity. That theme animated September's 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, a gathering of nearly 4,000 Christians from across the globe in Karlsruhe, Germany. Among this cloud of witnesses were six clergy from Southwest Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Dr. Dale Snyder of Bethel AME Church in Pittsburgh shared his church's journey toward reparations in a workshop titled “Reparations and Renewal: A Faith Community's Experience.” The Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary led a workshop titled “Intercultural Formation Matters: Affirming Human Dignity, Mission, and Witness Through Experiential Learning.”



Exuberant worship in many languages filled the outdoor sanctuary at the World Council of Churches Assembly.

The Rev. Joseph Murdy of Ascension Lutheran Church in McKees Rocks attended with a delegation from United Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates, Rev. Dr. Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Beaver, and Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley of the Presbyterian Foundation all attended as members of the International Association of Women Ministers.

To read first-hand accounts of the Assembly, and to see more photos, turn to page 4.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

When was the last time that you got to be entirely yourself?

Not a walking business card. Not your role. Not “the pastor.” Not a person expected to be important, to have the answers, to say something smart. And at the same time, also not any of the mean names you call yourself under your breath.

Instead, just ... you. Your created self. No less and no more than a beloved child of God.

This summer, you gave me that opportunity when you sent me forth on sabbatical after eight years of service to Christian Associates.

My time away was full of beauty and adventure. I climbed castle towers and prayed in great cathedrals. I raised my voice in song alongside thousands of fellow Christians at the World Council of Churches Assembly. I stood still on a New Hampshire night listening to frogs and staring up at millions of stars. I drove down terrifyingly narrow country lanes, trying to remember to stay on the left-hand side of the road. I plunged into the frigid waters of the English Lake District; I strolled canal towpaths; I hiked in the Black Forest; I kayaked at Lake Erie.



Hiking the Ingleton Waterfall Trail in the Yorkshire Dales

But the most precious part of my sabbatical was the opportunity to be simply me. In this expansive time away from my desk, I was able to de-center the desk from my identity. I was able to be a creature among creatures, knowing that I have a place in this beautiful world, not because of my work habits but because I am made and loved by God.

In the second century, Irenaeus wrote that “the glory of God is a person fully alive.” This summer’s experiences helped me to name what makes me feel most alive: joyful exploration, wonder and learning, spending time with loved ones and making new friends, exercising body and spirit.

As it turns out, each of these conditions can exist in my “regular life” just as much as they could while I was on sabbatical. But it took stepping away to see that clearly.

I am so deeply grateful for the gift of this time away: grateful to you, for your generosity in supporting it, and grateful to God, for blessing it with rest and rediscovery.

And now – back to work!

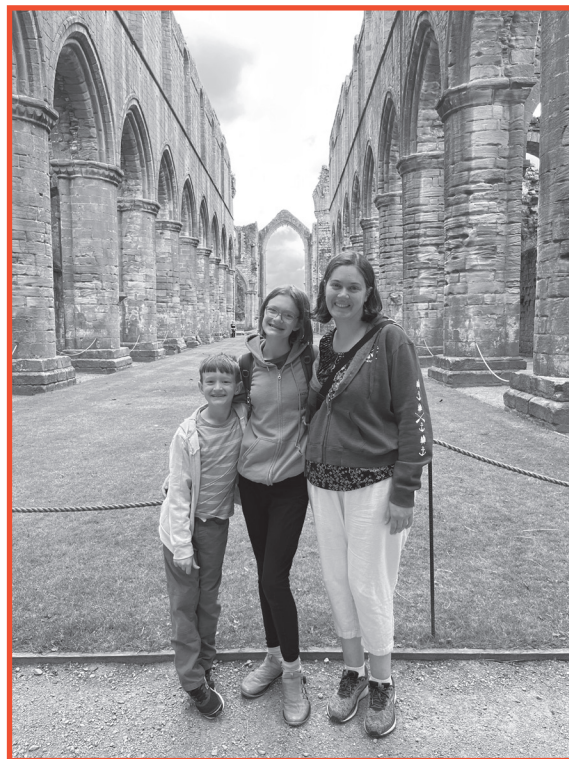
Your sister in Christ,

Liddy

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

Sign up today to receive UNITY N'AT, Christian Associates' e-newsletter! Arriving monthly in your inbox, you'll find up-to-the-minute news and events about our region's churches and our community partnerships.

Visit casp.org/signup to add your name to the list.



Rev. Barlow and her children (Pippa, age 12 and Edmund, age 9) at Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire



Sampling local fare in the Black Forest during a World Council of Churches Assembly excursion

Sofa Spirituality Offers a Tool for Churches Seeking Interfaith Connections

A project that began in the early days of the pandemic is still going strong—and finding new ways to help people of diverse faith traditions discover their shared humanity.

Sofa Spirituality is an interfaith dialogue initiative of Christian Associates and the Center for Loving Kindness at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh. Each Sofa experience includes a brief interview with a spiritual leader, followed by a time of group dialogue.

Until recently, Sofa Spirituality has happened entirely from the comfort of each person's home sofa, via Zoom. This fall, Cross Roads Presbyterian Church and Temple David, neighboring congregations in Monroeville, piloted the first in-person Sofa experience. Learning about one another's faith traditions is always enlightening and fun—and it turns out that doing so over actual cookies and face-to-face conversation is even better!

Rev. Liddy Barlow and Rabbi Ron Symons are excited to work with you to create a Sofa Spirituality series that meets your congregation's goals for interfaith connection. Call us and let's start planning!

Sofa Spirituality will also offer a winter season of public online dialogues, open to everyone on a drop-in basis. The series begins on Monday, January 16 and continues through February 13, every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:15.

Learn more and sign up for emailed dialogue links by visiting sofaspirituality.org.



Rev. Lindsay White of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church interviews Rabbi Barbara Symons during an in-person Sofa Spirituality program at Temple David, Monroeville.

Christian Associates Seeks Interfaith Research Associate

With the support of the Russell Berrie Foundation, Christian Associates' Sofa Spirituality project includes a research project: mapping interfaith connections in the foundation's home area of northern New Jersey.

To complete this task, Christian Associates is seeking a temporary, part-time Interfaith Research Associate to work between 10-20 hours each week. This person will begin work before the

end of 2022; we anticipate the project will be complete by July 2023.

The Research Associate's work will include planning and conducting interviews with spiritual leaders across northern New Jersey, compiling and analyzing data, drafting the report, and pursuing Sofa Spirituality projects across the region.

The ideal candidate will have extensive experience working in faith-based

organizations, a broad-minded and creative approach to interfaith work, expertise in research and analysis, and strong interpersonal skills. Because most work is done via Zoom, the candidate's location does not matter.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis; visit casp.org/researchassociate for the full job posting and application instructions.



Vigil Marks 10 Years Since Newtown

It has been a decade since 20 children and six adults were murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Since then, 15,000 Pennsylvanians have died by gun violence.

On the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting, the community will gather for **Empty Chairs: a Pittsburgh Vigil**. Survivors and friends will honor the memories of those we've lost and demand an end to the violence.

The vigil takes place at Bidwell Presbyterian Church (1025 Liverpool St, Pittsburgh 15233) on **Thursday, December 15 at 7 p.m.**

The event planning committee includes representatives from:

- CeaseFirePA,
- Pittsburgh Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America,
- Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence,
- Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN),
- Bidwell Presbyterian Church, and
- Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project for Peace.



Community members gather at a 2019 vigil on the anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Postcards from Karlsruhe . . .

Somewhere between a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly and a family reunion—that's what I experienced at the recent World Council of Churches assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany. My heart is still full of the learnings and "praise moments" I had among more than 2,000 global Christian leaders who gathered in early September:

- A Sunday spent with a French-speaking Lutheran-Reformed congregation in Frankfurt that is made up primarily of new immigrants from Francophone Africa. They welcomed our group of WCC visitors with joy and translated the entire service and tour into English for us;
- Several moments in workshops and small groups in this English-dominant global meeting when I realized I was the only person in the room privileged to speak in my mother tongue;
- Learning much from German Christians whose nation admitted 1.2 million refugees in 2020, compared with the U.S.'s 11,840 refugees admitted (even though our population is four times larger than Germany's). German Christians advocated for their government to admit more refugees.

I was grateful for the chance to see with my own eyes this gathering of God's people from across the world!

The Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell
World Mission Initiative
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



Rev. Liddy Barlow and the Acting General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Fr. Ioan Saucă.



Pastor Joseph Murdy meets Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.



Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley (far left) and Rev. Dr. Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes (second from left) gather for worship at the Assembly.



On an excursion to the Black Forest, Rev. Liddy Barlow learned about the region's cultural traditions—including the "bollenhut" hat.

Our time in Karlsruhe, Germany was absolutely life changing.

The commencement of the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches mirrored the opening ceremonies of the Olympics. This experience had many parallels to the global games. The only difference (aside from the lack of actual games in Karlsruhe!) was that rather than compete against one another, we sat together as one, finding ways to make our common effort stronger.

We all came from different countries, represented 350 denominations, and spoke different languages. We all had one goal in common, not striving for the gold, but sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sharing the Gospel is more than just retelling the old-old story. It's about living Christ-like lives and in doing so, we seek reconciliation, care for creation, and see all people as beloved by God.

What struck me the most was realizing how possible unity *is* especially for Christians who confess one holy catholic church. It was incredible to bear witness to such a gathering on a global level.

Of course, an event like this takes years to organize and the moving pieces are nothing I could fathom. However, if such an effort as gathering people from all over the world is possible, how much more possible is it to gather together with those around the corner. I am grateful for this profound experience and the opening of my ecumenical eyes which from now on will see things differently.

Pastor Joseph Murdy, OLF
Ascension Lutheran Church, Robinson (ELCA)

Southwest Pennsylvania at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches

It was truly a joy and a blessing to have the opportunity to gather for an International Association of Women in-person assembly in Karlsruhe this year. The IAWM gathering was followed by the Pre-Assembly of the Just Community of Women and Men and then by the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

At the Just Community of Women and Men Pre-Assembly, the increase in violence towards women and children around the world was raised up. All of us need to work toward keeping everyone safe.

How grateful I am to have had the opportunity to be able to visit the gathering of the World Council of Churches. It was a wonderful gift to meet Christians from all over the world, and to learn about their experiences. At one of the plenary sessions, Christians from Ukraine spoke about the challenges they are facing. Another day, I had lunch with a Christian man from Palestine, and he shared what life is like for him and his family. I met a woman from Brazil, a Native gentleman from the U.S., and many others as we talked about the need for water justice and climate justice.

Each day all gathered for worship and different individuals and churches took turns leading the worship and the music. The variety of music was inspiring. I feel renewed seeing how the church makes a difference all over the world by working towards peace and justice, and by living out the grace and hope of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Rev. Dr. Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes

*Pastor of Holy Trinity & Hope Lutheran Churches, Beaver;
President of the International Association
of Women Ministers*



Rev. Liddy Barlow (second from left) in the Black Forest with new friends from Canada, Uganda, and the Cayman Islands.



Pastor Joseph Murdy (left) and Pastor Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes (right) meet Rev. Anne Burghardt, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation.



Led by youth stewards, Assembly participants join a demonstration promoting action to protect the climate.



Rev. Liddy Barlow (far right) and Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley (center) meet colleagues from South Korea, Zambia, Kenya, and Chicago via Puerto Rico at the "Just Community of Women and Men" pre-assembly.

Rev. Liddy Barlow has developed a 60-90 minute presentation about the WCC Assembly, exploring the key issues addressed there (from the war in Ukraine to the changing climate), its unique model of doing business, and the human experience of meeting global neighbors. She is available to share it with congregations and organizations. Contact us to set a time for her to visit your church in person or by Zoom.

Your Supports Transforms Christian Unity From Concept to Reality

It's a classic sign found outside churches of all traditions: "CH__ CH. What's missing?"

The answer of course is: UR. You are!

The church is a holy mystery, gathered by the Holy Spirit. But the church does not remain a mystic concept: it becomes a flesh and blood gathering of actual people. It's not a visible reality without people like you.

And similarly, Christian unity is only a theological proposition—until, inspired by the Spirit, real-life, actual people work together to make that belief into a tangible reality.

That's where Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania comes in. For fifty-two years, our ministries have been bringing diverse Christians together: building relationships, discovering our common ground, and working together to serve our neighbors.

At Christian Associates, unity is more than a nice idea. It's an observable fact. It flourishes in the work that supporters like you have made possible:

- 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.
- Building new connections, reaching beyond our traditional partnerships to forge relationships with independent and non-denominational churches.
- 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.
- Communications, including this newsletter you are holding, that share the news, events, and information that help churches connect and thrive.
- Interfaith initiatives, such as the Sofa Spirituality series of dialogue opportunities: building bridges with our neighbors, exploring our differences, and celebrating our shared values.

What's missing from Christian Associates? Well, U R! To further the mission of Christian unity, we need you to join us in our work. We need your commitment to the Gospel's promise "that they may all be one." We need your prayers. And we need your investment in Christian Associates as the primary tool for fostering unity in our region.

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.

Thank you for taking this important step toward the unity we share in Christ and yearn to make manifest here in Southwest Pennsylvania.



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.

To show our gratitude, we'll send you a member newsletter and special treats throughout the year.

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 15 local clergy.
- **\$130** keeps our website, www.casp.org, online for a full year.
- **\$180** funds our Zoom account, so we can offer online meeting space and webinars.
- **\$500** underwrites an educational seminar for interfaith spiritual leaders.

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

Psalms 133:1

Thank You to Our 2022 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 in this space next year.

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

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*This list includes donations
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*We have made every effort to
ensure the accuracy of this
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Please contact our office if
you discover an error and we
will publish a correction.*

*We are also deeply grateful to
our member judicatories. We
will print the list of our 2022
judicatory sponsors in the
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* Indicates a member of the Circle of Unity monthly giving program; † In memoriam

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Selects Focus on Justice

Each year, the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25**, inspires Christians from across the world to give thanks for our unity in Christ, and to pray for our continued progress in coming together.

Organized in partnership by the World Council of Churches and the Vatican Council on Promoting Christian Unity, the Week of Prayer has a new theme each year, with worship planning and promotional resources available from geii.org.

The 2023 theme, inspired by Isaiah 1:12-18 and selected by the Minnesota Council of Churches, is “Do good; seek justice.”

Many local churches find the Week of Prayer to be the perfect time to plan an ecumenical service. For example, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh’s Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish plans a Christian Unity service at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Glenshaw on Saturday, January 21 at 6 p.m. The preacher will be Pastor Andrew Jackson of Webster Avenue Christian Missionary Alliance Church, and Dr. Herbert Jones will lead the Heritage Gospel Chorale to offer special music.

Christian Associates would love to help your local ministerium or congregation celebrate the Week of Prayer! Contact us; we’ll be glad to help promote your service, and even to participate as appropriate.



Foundation of HOPE Opens Search for New Executive Director



Jody Raeford (at right) served the Foundation of HOPE for ten years.

After the retirement of the Foundation of HOPE’s leader, Christian Associates’ partner organization is seeking a new Executive Director.

Jody Raeford stepped down September 9. He led the Foundation of HOPE since 2017, a period of outstanding growth for the organization. Under his leadership, HOPE established new programs for youth and adult diversion, seeking to assist at-risk individuals before they accrue a criminal record. Earlier this year, HOPE received a \$1.3 million state grant to expand its aftercare services.

Before becoming Executive Director, Mr. Raeford served five years as the director of HOPE’s aftercare ministries.

“We are grateful to Jody for his many years of service and wish him much peace and happiness in all of his future endeavors,” said board president Jay Gilmer. “We are proud of our work and confident that we will continue to be an oasis of HOPE for the many people we have been called to serve.”

A search process is going on now to identify HOPE’s next Executive Director, with hopes of naming a new Executive Director before the end of 2022.

Christian Associates Featured in New Book on Vocation

How does a person get called into ecumenical ministry, anyway?

Rev. Liddy Barlow answers that question in her essay in a new book, *Explore: Vocational Discovery in Ministry*, edited by Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi and Matthew Floding.

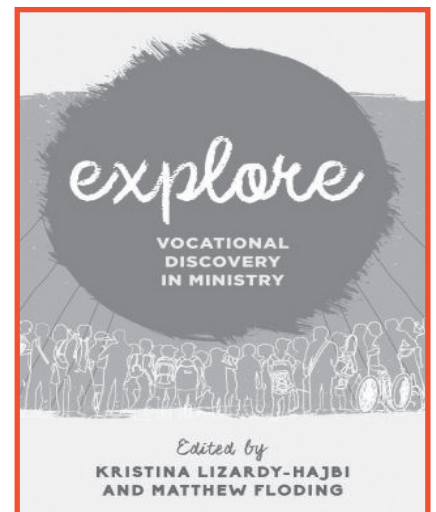
The book is intended for use by seminarians seeking to understand the breadth of opportunities for which their studies might prepare them. It collects the first-person stories of clergy serving in a diverse array of vocations: parish ministry; campus, hospital, and military chaplaincy; judicatory leadership;

academia; nonprofit service and advocacy; and many more.

Rev. Barlow tells the story of her own call to Christian Associates and describes the unique adventures she has enjoyed in ecumenical ministry. “My role is to reflect a varied church back to itself, so that all of us, together, might better understand and live out our true unity in Christ.”

In addition to Rev. Barlow, contributors include Bishop Will Willimon, Rev. William H. Lamar IV, Rev. Traci Blackmon, Bishop Karen Oliveto, and many others.

The book is published by Rowman & Littlefield, and can be purchased at various



online bookstores or at rowman.com. The paperback edition is \$28; enter the code RLFANDF for a 30% discount.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

The Pittsburgh Creche

Steel Plaza
600 Grant St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The Pittsburgh Creche has become a beloved part of Pittsburgh's holiday traditions since it was first dedicated in 1999. Each year 250,000 people stop to gaze at this exact replica of the nativity scene at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It is on display around the clock from Light-Up Night (the Friday before Thanksgiving) through Epiphany.

Approximately \$70,000 is required each year to maintain and display the crèche. An endowment fund at the Pittsburgh Foundation is helping ensure this inspirational display can continue in many years to come. To make your gift, visit pittsburghfoundation.org/creche.



Lutheran University Center

4515 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-682-6886
psalm.online

Truth Be Told Art Exhibit

Date & Time: Saturdays and Sundays, 1-6 p.m., through Dec. 9, or by appointment.
Cost: Free.

Truth Be Told is an art exhibit created by 14 women artists across the country as they reflected on racism. The group of seven black women and seven white women began with conversations after the murder of George Floyd.

These discussions moved them each to consider one word and create an art piece around that word. Featured artists include Pittsburgh's Debbie Jacknin.



Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

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

Christmas Preparation Retreat

Date: Sat., Dec. 10
Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$40, lunch included

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered along with a conference and a prayer service. Registration due Dec. 5; email hpmsm@verizon.net.



Calvary United Methodist Church

917 Beech Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412-231-2007
calvarypgh.com

10th Annual Handel's Messiah Sing-Along Concert Series

Date & Time: Sat. Dec 17, 4 p.m. or Sun., Dec 18, 4 p.m.
Cost: \$18; \$12 students/seniors; children, veterans, police, and firefighters free.

Tiffany meets Handel! Sing along to this choral masterpiece, performed by the Festival Choir conducted by Brian Burns to a choral masterpiece. Enjoy the beautiful sanctuary and its Tiffany stained glass. Proceeds support outreach ministries on the North Side.



Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center

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

Coffee and Contemplation: We are Singing – of Holy Mystery, of Earth, and of Ourselves

Presenter: Sister Janet Burkhart, HM
Date & Time: Tues., Jan. 17, 9:30-11:30 am
Location: In person or via Zoom
Cost: \$7

A time of reflection on songs that lead us deeper into prayer, including those that celebrate the coming of Jesus and those of the African American feast of Kwanzaa. Zoom participants must register in advance on the website or by calling the center.



Trinity School for Ministry

311 11th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
724-266-3838
tsm.edu

Congregational Renewal: Inside Out

Date & Time: Thurs., Jan 19, 1-5:30 p.m.,

Fri., Jan. 20 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; free public lecture on Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.
Cost: \$75

The Rev. Canon Mark Eldridge, Director of Anglican Revitalization Ministries for the American Anglican Council, leads a seminar designed to give participants the passion, Biblical principles, and proven practical strategies needed to lead a church of any size through revitalization.



International Association of Women Ministers

facebook.com/IAWMWesternPA

Winter Retreat

Date & Time: Thurs., Jan 19, 2:00 p.m.-Fri., Jan. 20, 1 p.m.
Location: Unconfirmed at press time
Cost: \$200, includes single room, dinner, breakfast, lunch, and program

Gather with women clergy colleagues from across the region for a relaxed and refreshing time of retreat led by the Rev. Dr. Meredith Hutchison of the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality. To sign up, contact Rev. Ann Morris, foxmorris@verizon.net.



Baptist Ministers Conference of Pittsburgh and Vicinity

bmcv.pgh@gmail.com
facebook.com/PMCPV

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City-Wide Virtual Observance

Date & Time: Mon., Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
A virtual worship service to celebrate the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., streaming on the Conference's social media platforms.



Pittsburgh Racial Justice Summit

412-444-8436

www.pittsburghracialjusticesummit.org

25th Annual Racial Justice Summit

Save the dates of January 19-20 for this important annual event. More details and registration information are coming soon; watch the website.

Upcoming Spring Events

2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, preaching

Sunday, March 26

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, Ross

Sowing Food Justice—Why the Farm Bill Matters to Ending Hunger:

The Southwest PA Bread for the World Hunger Advocacy Workshop

Saturday, April 22

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Highland Park

Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference

Friday, May 12

Christ United Methodist Church, Bethel Park



2023 THEME: LAMENT AND HOPE

This retreat is designed to give worship leaders space to relax, recharge, learn, and connect with peers. It includes workshops, seminars, valuable resources, fellowship time, and plenty of music!



For more information, visit our website or contact us.
laurelville.org . program@laurelville.org . 724.423.2056

GUIDING THE FAITHFUL IN COMPLEX TIMES

Wise Women's Work

A Community and Conversation Series

Online Jan. 19, Feb. 16, and

March 9, 2023

The Art of Transitional Ministry

Part 1

Feb. 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and

30, 2023

Restorying in the Wake of Loss

Albright-Deering Lecture, Worship, and Lunch

Featuring Dr. Karen Scheib, Professor Emerita of Pastoral Care and Pastoral Theology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Feb. 16, 2023, In-Person, Pittsburgh Seminary, and Online

Cultivating Clergy Well-Being Workshop with Dr. Karen Scheib

Coordinated by the Western PA United Methodist Conference

Feb. 15, 2023, In-Person, see website for locations



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Blessed Be Educators Winter 2023 Virtual Workshops

School Shouldn't Be A Scary Place

Saturday, January 7, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

How is school violence affecting our children mentally and emotionally? Join panelists Ms. Eletta Cameron, Ms. Sharon Fisher, and Mr. John Fleitman in exploring school violence and its impact on children, parents, and educators.

Underwritten by Waverly United
Presbyterian Church



To Register, choose one option:

1. Email Program Director, Mary Ann Hvizdos at: mahvizdos@verizon.net
2. Sign up on Eventbrite
3. Scan QR Code:



Spirituality of Childhood

Saturday, February 4, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Learn ways to nurture a child's spiritual growth, self-respect, and respect for others within a Christian framework. Panelists include Rev. Canon Natalie Hall, Ms. Sarah Posti, Mr. Todd Clan, and Mr. Timotheus Pope.

Underwritten, in part, by a grant
from the Faith-Based Health
Collaborative.

Both Workshops approved for PA Dept of Education Act 48 Credits

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

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*Christ the Savior
is Born*

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Nicaea 2025: Let's Prepare to Celebrate

The year was 325.

At the invitation of Emperor Constantine, bishops from across the world gathered at Nicaea for the first Christian council. On the agenda: affirming the divinity of Christ. Writing a creed. Setting the date of Easter. Establishing canon law.

Nearly 1700 years have passed, but much of Christianity as we know it today first took shape at Nicaea.

In 2025, Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant churches will mark the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea. Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew plan to meet on the site of the original council. The World Council of Churches is planning a variety of commemorations, including a World Conference on Faith and Order.

What will we do here in Pittsburgh? How can the Christians of Southwest Pennsylvania come together to mark this anniversary, to reaffirm this common history, and to move forward in faith together?

If these questions intrigue you, join Christian Associates' Nicaea 2025 working group. The group will meet throughout the next three years to plan region-wide celebrations of this anniversary. It will meet for the first time in February 2023. Indicate your interest in joining the group by emailing Rev. Liddy Barlow, lbarlow@casp.org, by December 31.



The logo for commemorations of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea was unveiled at the World Council of Churches Assembly in September.