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The Call . . .

On the Web: www.casp.org

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Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

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to be one in Christ



June 2025, Number 3

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

Fall Training Helps Churches Approach Reparations for Racial Injustice

Your church has begun the work of addressing racial justice. Perhaps you've had a book study, attended a lecture, or shared fellowship with a nearby congregation from a different racial background. Now it's time to take the next step.

This October, a two-day workshop will equip local congregations to move toward reparations: a process of acknowledging and repairing the harm done by systemic racism and colonialism. **Sacred Reckonings** is a workshop that teaches theological foundations and community organizing strategies for reparations to teams who can lead this work in their churches. The training is facilitated by clergy from United Church of Christ, United Methodist and Unitarian Universalist traditions. Sacred Reckonings has engaged over 50



churches across the nation, and is coming to Pittsburgh for the first time.

The Sacred Reckonings model is based on a "reparatory eco-map" that makes clear that reparation has many aspects: truth-telling, spiritual practices, relationship, political solidarity, and wealth return. The process of reparation

is not prescriptive: it is grounded in context and relationships. This work of repair is liberative, even joyful. We all benefit by building a more just world.

The program invites teams of 3-6 participants from each church. It is most suitable for predominantly-White churches that have some prior experience discussing and working for racial justice.

The workshop will be hosted by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; it begins with dinner on Friday, October 10 and concludes at 5 p.m. on Saturday. The cost is \$750 for a team or \$250 per individual, which includes ongoing support and mentoring after the initial training.

For more information or to sign up, visit casp.org.

Majors Marcus and Joy Jugenheimer Appointed to Serve WPA Salvation Army



Majors Marcus & Joy Jugenheimer

The Western Pennsylvania Division of the Salvation Army will welcome Major Marcus Jugenheimer as its new Divisional Commander this July, following the

retirement of Majors Gregory and Joyce Hartshorn in February.

Major Jugenheimer grew up in Salem, Ohio. "I was unchurched growing up until I met The Salvation Army at the age of fourteen as a volunteer at a summer

day camp program," he said. "At the end of the summer, the new friends I met invited me to church services at The Salvation Army and about six months later I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior."

Major Jugenheimer serves alongside his wife, Major Joy Jugenheimer, who has been appointed Divisional Director of Women's Ministries in Western Pennsylvania. Her family has been involved in the Salvation Army for six generations. The Jugenheimers' ministry together over the past thirty years has included serving local Corps in Connecticut, New York, and Ohio, as well as in Divisional positions in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Greater New York. They have two adult daughters.

Currently, Major Marcus and Major Joy serve as General Secretary and Program Secretary respectively of the Greater New York Division. There, they are second-in-command to former Western PA Divisional Leaders Lt. Cols. Raphael and Sandra Jackson, whom they describe as long-time friends and mentors.

"I believe the Church is called to exemplify unity to a deeply divided world through sacrificial and self-giving love," said Major Marcus Jugenheimer. "While we have no life or ministry experience in Western Pennsylvania, we know that God is already at work there as He is everywhere and we look forward to lending our service to the cause of Christ and His Kingdom in that beautiful part of His vineyard."

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Dear friends,

This spring, I unexpectedly became a weekly Mass-goer.

It was an unusual habit for a lifelong Congregationalist like me. After all, when I started at Christian Associates in 2014, I'd only been to a handful of Catholic Masses in my life. It took me years to learn the liturgical rhythms: to stand up, to kneel down, to remember to stop after "and deliver us from evil." Even now, I'm still sometimes concerned when protocol places me in a front row seat: it's much easier to sit behind someone who knows the ropes.

In April and May, a series of special liturgies found me in the pews at Saint Paul Cathedral for three weeks back-to-back: first to mourn Pope Francis, then to celebrate Bishop Zubik's 50th ordination anniversary, then to welcome Pope Leo XIV.



Photo by Brian Cohen

While the services were different in theme and tone, they all culminated in the Eucharistic feast. With stirring music, the bread and wine were brought to the altar. Great clouds of incense swirled as the bishop consecrated the meal. At last, all the people processed forward, hands outstretched or mouths open, to receive the sacrament.

That is, all the people except me. The Eucharist is a sacrament of unity, and the Catholic Church and my own United Church of Christ are not in full communion. My hosts at the cathedral do not lack hospitality; in fact they are consistently kind and gracious. They aren't excluding me out of disrespect or arrogance. Our mutual observance of this separation is, instead, simply a reflection of reality. Our churches haven't reconciled our understandings of what's happening in this meal. We're not yet in the right kind of relationship. We haven't overcome all that divides us. We can't do this together yet.

But ah, would I like to. It's hard, sometimes wrenchingly so, to feel the Spirit moving in the service, to watch the host and chalice raised and blessed, to recognize the presence of Christ in this sacrament, to yearn for the bread and cup—and not yet to taste them. It's hard to feel the pull toward the altar and to stay still in the pew. It's hard to pray in unison "*Lord, I am not worthy for you to enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed,*" and to wait, unfulfilled, for the healing word of invitation.

I hope there is something holy in this longing. I hope that God blesses our deep yearning and our long, lonely waiting. I hope that as we experience broken hearts at our separation, our Holy Comforter will transform our grief into renewed commitment to pursue unity: real, tangible unity, the kind we can taste.

On May 19, in his first papal audience with ecumenical and interreligious guests, Pope Leo said, "*As Bishop of Rome, I consider one of my priorities to be that of seeking the re-establishment of full and visible communion among all those who profess the same faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*" May God help him fulfill his intention, and may our longing to feast together soon find us all around the same holy table.

Your sister in Christ,

The Rev. Liddy Barlow
Executive Minister

What happened with Nicaea?

As you may have heard, the planned prayer service to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea was postponed shortly after the April edition of *The Call* went to press. This was simply a matter of scheduling, and not a sign of any lack of enthusiasm at this momentous occasion. Watch for new and revised plans this fall!

Registration Now Open for Northeast Wee Kirk Conference



Join fellow clergy and lay leaders serving in small congregations for the restful and fulfilling Northeast Wee Kirk Conference from October 13-15 at Laurelville Retreat Center, Mount Pleasant.

Plenary speakers will include Dr. Dale Allison, professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary; Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, General Minister of Pittsburgh

Presbytery; and Michael Wilson, director of education for the Arc of Ministry, Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church USA. Rev. Brenda Barnes, pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, will be the Communion Preacher.

The optional “Pre-Kirk” pre-conference from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Oct. 13 will cover “A Quick Review of 90 years of Research on Church Vitality and Simple Turnaround,” led by Rev. Jim Farrer, retired UMC pastor.

Participants have the opportunity to attend three of seven offered workshops:

1. “Reflecting Theologically on End of Life Pastoral Concerns” led by Dr. Dale Allison
2. “Joining in Partnership for the Sake of the Kingdom” led by Rev. Jessica McClure Archer

3. “Robert Works for You: Leading According to the Rules and the Reality” led by Rev. Michael Wilson
4. “Cultivating Harmony; Turning Conflict into Discernment” led by Rev. Erik Hoeke
5. “The Micro-Group: A New Look at an Old Discipleship Model” led by Rev. Brenda Barnes
6. “Finding the Holy Spirit Anew in Everyday Spiritual Practices” led by Dr. Linda Leon
7. “Text and Context: Preaching in Ways that They May Hear” led by Rev. Matt Skolnik

Registration costs are on a sliding scale according to congregation size and range from \$200-\$350. Lodging and meals are included in the price. Register before August 1 for early bird savings of \$25 at wee-kirk-ne.org.

New Chaplain Brings Compassion and Expertise to Allegheny County Jail

Allegheny County Jail and the Foundation of HOPE welcomed a new Director of Chaplaincy Services in May: the Rev. Jacqueline Lyde.

“My hope is to cultivate a ministry that embodies compassion, ethical orientation, and trauma-informed care,” Rev. Lyde said. “I want to ensure that every person we encounter, whether an inmate, a returning citizen, or an officer, is met with dignity and spiritual support. I also hope to expand the scope of training we offer to chaplains, including establishing a Clinical Pastoral Education program.”

Rev. Lyde brings extensive experience in institutional chaplaincy. From 2017 to 2024, she was Lead Chaplain at Western Psychiatric Hospital; she has also worked in hospital and hospice settings. She is credentialed as a Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor-Educator by the Institute of Clinical Pastoral Training, and earned her Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Rev. Lyde is ordained in the Baptist tradition and endorsed by the Progressive National Baptist Convention. She continues to serve as an associate pastor at Baptist Temple Church in Homewood, where her husband, the Rev. Dr. Rodney Lyde, is senior pastor. The Lydes have two adult daughters, a recent Duquesne alumna and a current Pitt nursing student.

Rev. Lyde is pursuing a Ph.D. in Communications and Rhetoric at Duquesne University. She is a member of “Divine Nine” sorority Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

While Christian Associates was instrumental in establishing professional chaplaincy at Allegheny County Jail in the 1980s, the chaplaincy department is administered today by the Foundation of HOPE. Chaplaincy is one of HOPE’s five programs serving people affected by the criminal justice system; these also include pre-release, activities, re-entry, and diversion services.



Rev. Jacqueline Lyde

The former Director of Chaplaincy Services, the Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe, became Senior Pastor of Sixth Presbyterian Church in Squirrel Hill in May.

Pope Francis Remembered

*By Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla, D.D., Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
Written on April 24, 2025*



Pope Francis greets Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla in early October 2024 at the Synod on Synodality in Rome.
Photo ©Vatican Media.

I will fly to Rome to attend the funeral of Pope Francis. It seems like yesterday that I flew to Rome for the start of his papacy on March 13, 2013. From his first appearance over the Piazza of the Basilica of Saint Peter, Pope Francis was a vibrant and independent leader who understood the traditions, but was not afraid to follow the Holy Spirit in the way he lived and led the Church. In many ways, Pope Francis was a true member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Even though he produced several decrees, writings, and many church

reforms, Pope Francis more than anything else was a pastor. When he visited the United States and at every event at the Vatican, he would reach out to greet the children and those in need. He never lost his connection to the common people which began when he served as the Archbishop of Buenos Aires. He said what he believed and presented his thoughts in an authentic way.

Pope Francis understood our Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States. He listened to our needs and requests. We are grateful that he returned our tradition of a married priesthood. After decades of difficulties, we were able have more priests to serve our people.

My personal contact with Francis was during his visits to the United States or at meetings in Rome. My longest time with him was mainly through months of being with him during the Synod of Bishops gatherings in Vatican City. It was not unusual for him to wait at the door, meeting and greeting everyone as they arrived at the meeting. He would listen

to hours of presentations and needs. After listening, Pope Francis would respond by making changes to improve the Church and the world.

For example, I was surprised that he responded to some of my ideas. He accepted the idea to include young people into the Bishop's Synod process. The inclusion of young people was extended for the local, national, and regional synodal processes. This is just one of the many innovations of Pope Francis.

We mark Church time by referring to events as taking place during the time of Saint Pope John Paul or Pope Benedict or even going back to Peter. Historians will note his achievements, but we will remember the time of Francis as the time when the church continued to heal the wounds of the past. He listened and responded to the needs of the poor and needy. His time will be remembered for his continuing to reach out to other Christian Churches, other religions, and to anyone searching for meaning in their lives.

We pray that our next Holy Father will also be dedicated to listen and respond with his love for his people.



Scenes from Archbishop Skurla's participation in Pope Francis' funeral. Left: Leaders of Eastern churches gather before the Mass. Center: Archbishop Skurla, third from right, during the service. Right: Leaders of Eastern churches offer prayers before Pope Francis' coffin.



Local Roman Catholics offered Masses in memory of Pope Francis.

Left: Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh greets Benjamin Aysan of the Turkish Cultural Center Pittsburgh as Rabbi Dan Fellman of Temple Sinai looks on.

Right: Bishop Larry Kulick of the Diocese of Greensburg receives Eucharistic gifts.



In Memoriam: The Reverend Robert Russell



Rev. Robert Russell

Christian Associates joins mourners across the community in remembering the life and celebrating the resurrection of the Rev. Robert C. Russell, who died March 29.

Rev. Russell served as Chair of Christian Associates' Council of Bishops & Judicatory

Executives in 1999-2000 representing the AME-Zion Church. He was the longtime pastor of Trinity AME-Zion in Pittsburgh's West End, and was active in service to a wide variety of church and community organizations.

"He and I worked so closely together in the early 1990s while he was at Trinity AME Zion," remembered the Rev. Dave Carver of Crafton Heights United Presbyterian Church. "Once, there was some violence at Langley High School. The principal there convened a group of students, and it turns out that one of the young women was from Crafton Heights and another from Trinity. We'd done some joint Youth retreats, and the white girl said, 'Why is it we can be friends at church but we can't be friends at school?' The principal took note, and called Bob and me. Once a week we went in to the school wearing our collars and ate lunch in the cafeteria. We walked the halls, sometimes holding hands, just to demonstrate that racism can be opposed."

"Rev. Russell was a longtime cheerleader for the work of Christian Associates and a wonderful encouragement to me," said Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister. "May he rest in the presence of his Savior, and may his memory continue to inspire us."

Save the Date for the Pittsburgh FRIENDS Legends Dinner

Building unity in the body of Christ requires leaders who catch the vision and show the way. Each fall, Pittsburgh FRIENDS recognizes our regions' "legends" whose prayer, work, and leadership move us closer to the vision of One Church.

Pittsburgh FRIENDS' fifth annual Legends Awards Dinner will take place on Friday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m., with tickets priced at \$40 per person. A location will be announced in the coming days; watch pittsburghfriends.com for all the details and for registration information.

This year's Legends honorees include a familiar face: Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates! Join Christian Associates leaders and friends in celebrating Liddy's leadership and continuing to build relationship with the nondenominational and evangelical churches that are the key constituency of Pittsburgh FRIENDS.

Past honorees include Dr. Reid Carpenter of Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, Bishop Loren Mann of Pentecostal Temple, Bishop David Zubik of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, and Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris of the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg,

Pittsburgh FRIENDS is a multicultural, relational network of leaders building bridges between communities through empathy and enjoyment. The group was founded in 2020 by Pastor Niecy Dennis White of The Lord's Church in Monroeville and Rev. Jeff Leake of Allison Park Church.

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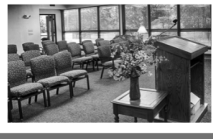



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Discerning Vocation in Community

By Annie Leech, Christian Associates' Student Assistant

In his 1999 book *Let Your Life Speak*, Quaker author Parker Palmer defines and explores what it means to be called to a vocation. He writes that a vocation is “a calling that I hear,” and, “before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am. I must listen for the truths and values at the heart of my own identity, not the standards by which I must live—but the standards by which I cannot help but live if I am living my own life.”

As I complete a two-year graduate degree at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, I am reflecting on the ways that these two years and my work with Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania have helped me to tune in and listen to the voice of my life speaking. Through prayer, spiritual disciplines, and community, I am now more able to distinguish between the “I” voice of my ego, and the calm, quiet voice of my true self. Paradoxically, these two years have also tested me in answering the voice of my call. Like Fred Rogers, perhaps the most famous graduate of PTS, I am a seminarian called to a vocation outside of the church.

Since Christian Associates' work is so centered on the church, this might seem surprising. And yet, this year has taught me much about the ways that Christian community can flourish both inside institutional religious settings and beyond them. Some of the most impactful experiences of my work with Christian Associates have been through the “We Have to Talk” interfaith dialogue series. These ongoing conversations, co-sponsored with the JCC's Center for Loving Kindness, seek to bring together people from different faith backgrounds to engage in structured dialogue around current events. Most recently, the group ventured to the Maxo Vanka murals at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Millvale to engage in conversation around faith, art, and fascism. Present were faith leaders from a number of different traditions, bringing to the conversation a variety of perspectives and a great deal of wisdom.

From these experiences, I witnessed the principle of *Koinonia* in action. *Koinonia* is often translated to mean ‘community’ or ‘fellowship’. I define *Koinonia* as the animating spirit of the Christian community. It is not just that we gather (two or three among us) but that we do so in Christ's consciousness. This animating spirit drives a community into deeper communion with love and truth. My year with Christian Associates has taught me that this spirit lives both within the church and outside of it, in spaces where people gather together to bring about beauty, truth, and goodness. As I graduate and pursue my post-seminary call as the Religious Education Coordinator at the Chautauqua Institution, I trust that my experiences with Christian Associates have helped me to see with incarnational eyes and recognize the spirit of *Koinonia* at play.



Participants in Christian Associates' May “We Have to Talk” event, held at St. Nicholas Church, Millvale, experienced its unique Maxo Vanka murals.

We at Christian Associates congratulate Annie on her graduation and wish her all the best in what we're sure will be a bright and blessed future.

DISCOVER PNEUMA INSTITUTE

Who We Are

Pneuma Institute, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a Spirit-led ecumenical organization rooted in Christian contemplative and Ignatian spiritual traditions, dedicated to those seeking to deepen their spirituality.

Our Mission

Bright Wings II by Sr. Mary Southard, CSJ www.ministryofthearts.org. Used with permission.

We educate, form, equip, and support individuals and communities in spiritual formation, direction, leadership, and the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

Our Vision

We aim to awaken and deepen awareness of our interrelatedness with God, others, and creation, fostering discerning, compassionate, and just communities.

Our Services

- ✓ Certificate Programs in Spiritual Direction & Leadership, Supervision, and Spritual Exercises in Everyday Life
- ✓ Supervision and consultation
- ✓ 1 on 1 & Group Spiritual Direction
- ✓ Directed or themed retreats
- ✓ Continuing education workshops and retreats



We care for one another, share leadership, exchange resources, and collaborate to further the mission. Connect with us to explore and further your growth in your spirituality.

New Cohorts Starting
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DirectorofPrograms@pneumainstitutesdl.org

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SUPPORTING TODAY'S CHURCH LEADERS

Plan now to join us for the following events this fall!



Henderson Lecture and Leadership Conference
Faithful and Flexible: Empowering Church Leaders for Emerging Possibilities
With the Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger
Sept. 19-20, 2025, In Person and Online



The 2050 Church: Culture, Technology, and The Call To Lead
With Dr. William Curtis, Presenting, and Dr. Edwin Van Driel, Preaching
Oct. 9, 2025, In Person



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Save the Date for Upcoming Events

Christian Associates will join CLEAR in sponsoring the annual **Overdose Awareness Day Interfaith Commemoration** on Friday, August 29 at Noon at Trinity Cathedral, Downtown Pittsburgh.

The Pennsylvania Department of Homeland Security will sponsor a **Houses of Worship Safety and Security Conference** at the Best Western Premiere Hotel and Convention Center, Harrisburg on September 11. Details are forthcoming; see pa.gov/agencies/homelandsecurity for more information.

The **3rd Annual Women of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Conference** will take place Saturday, September 13 at Geneva College, Beaver Falls. The keynote speaker will be Pastor Tiffany Gilbert. To purchase tickets, visit tinyurl.com/ChaplaincyConference.

The **Eradicate Hate Global Summit 2025** will take place September 15-17 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh. Information on keynote speakers is forthcoming; visit eradicatehatesummit.org/2025-summit.



Members of Christian Associates' Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives took part in a daylong retreat at the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City last month. Following Divine Liturgy, participants enjoyed camaraderie, a communal meal, and the sunny countryside setting. Thanks to Archbishop Melchisedek, Mother Christophora and the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America for hosting us.

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