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Nurturing our Faith!

August 1, 2024

Nominations for Diocesan Leadership Positions Now Open

Recommendations are now being taken by the Nominating Committee for the following positions to be elected at the 159th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Pittsburgh on November 9, 2024, at Trinity Cathedral:

- Standing Committee
- Board of Trustees
- Committee on Constitution and Canons
- Commission on Ministry
- Cathedral Chapter
- Growth Fund



Full details about the positions are [available here](#). The 2024 Nomination Form with submission instructions is available here in [PDF](#) or [Word](#).

More details about our 159th Annual Convention, as they become available, are available at <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/resources/2024-diocesan-convention>.



Sacred Ground

A Film-Based Dialogue Series on Race & Faith

An Invitation to Participate in Sacred Ground

There continue to be sessions of Sacred Ground going on at various locations throughout this year. Please encourage friends, family, fellow parishioners and other congregations or faith based groups to participate. There are some very positive changes to Level 1 based on feedback from the surveys from participants. This gives us time to implement some of the new initiatives with a larger body of people (less readings, more up to date articles, more discussion time, and only 9 sessions). "Sacred

Ground” Level 2 is for those who took Sacred Ground Level 1 and want a deeper dive into the content with much more dialogue, more research and a focus on individual or collective action. The level 2 sessions consist of 7 sessions. We ask that every parish make this information about the locations available to all of their parishioners. **The first Sacred Ground Level 2 series was a huge success!**

If there is an interest in parishes wanting to host a Sacred Ground Level 1 or 2 later in the year, please let Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger at s.alamdenlinger@episcopalpgh.org. She needs to train any leaders who want to lead these new sessions on the created content. All of the sessions will be made available via zoom. We will be offering a summer 2024 Sacred ground level 1 and Level 2 for those participants who want to participate via Zoom. **The Sacred Ground Level 1 at St. Thomas is starting on 08/22/2024.**

New and improved Level 1 Session (9 weekly sessions) for Sacred Ground at St. Thomas starting Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 6 PM. Dinner will be provided. Sessions will also be available for Zoom participation.

Address: 378 Delaware Ave, Oakmont, PA 15139

Contact Person: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger 412-251-7456

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://wts.zoom.us/j/89796804584?pwd=3PgH8tCAi4PMqppvWTyRtUzjr2faor.1>

New and improved Level 2 Sacred Ground Session (7 weekly sessions) starting Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at St. Thomas. Dinner will be provided and/or full Zoom sessions will occur.

Address: 378 Delaware Ave, Oakmont, PA 15139

Contact Person: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger 412-251-7456

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://wts.zoom.us/j/89796804584?pwd=3PgH8tCAi4PMqppvWTyRtUzjr2faor.1>

Sacred Ground Sign Up Link:

Click here to sign up for Sacred Ground Level 1 or Level 2: <https://forms.gle/49VhbXxsQVulTKiC8>

Please contact Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger at s.alamdenlinger@episcopalpgh.org with any questions of if there are issues with registering for Sacred Ground.



The FOSNA organization (Friends of Sabeel North America) is delighted to host the Reverend Münther Isaac, pastor and theologian from Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, at **Bidwell Presbyterian Church, 1025 Liverpool St, Pittsburgh, PA 15233, on August 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM**. He will address the perceived silence of U.S. churches in the face of mass civilian casualties and destruction of the Palestine homeland, as well as concerns about Christian Zionism.

The Rev. Dr. Münther Isaac is a Palestinian Christian pastor and theologian. He pastors the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour. He is academic dean at Bethlehem Bible College and is director of the “Christ at the Checkpoint” conferences. Isaac is dedicated to matters concerning Palestinian theology. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering (Birzeit University), an M.A. in Religion-Biblical Studies (Westminster Theological Seminary) and Ph.D. from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in Biblical Theology of the Promised Land.



CCNH & St. John's ELCA present:

VBS 2024

On Earth As in Heaven



FREE service focused
bible camp

Aug. 5-9, 2024
5:00-7:30 pm

**Christ Episcopal Church,
North Hills**

Register here: <https://www.christchurchpgh.org/events-at-christ-church/vbs-2024-on-earth-as-in-heaven/>

For more information, contact ellen.seagraves@christchurchpgh.org

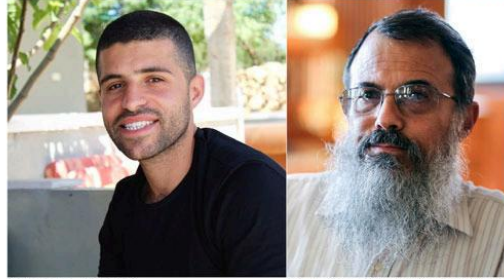


Roots שורשים جذور

Sunday, September 22nd 2024

1:00-3:00 PM

Fostering a movement of understanding, non-violence, and transformation by the example of Israeli and Palestinian neighbors suffering war at home. Noor A'wad and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger present their friendship as an example of overcoming seemingly insurmountable differences – an example that models how we might transformatively face differences in our own country & neighborhoods.



NOOR A'WAD

RABBI HANAN SCHLESINGER

Join us for a light lunch at 12:00 PM (*halal/kosher available*)
Presentation & conversation begins at 1:00 PM

Church of the Redeemer

5700 Forbes Avenue + Pittsburgh, PA 15217
(412) 422-7100

RSVP at: redeemerchurch@aol.com

*Discover the power of human relationships to overcome animosity
and the capacity of the human spirit to endure and persist.
People of all faiths, philosophies, traditions, political perspectives, orientations,
ages, and more encouraged to attend this non-partisan event.*

<https://www.friendsofroots.net>



Parish Prayers for Beloved Community

The Beloved Community Initiative announces the creation of a “Parish Prayers for Beloved Community” for all parishes in our Diocese to utilize along with their usual content.

Each parish is invited to submit prayers they would like included in a book of prayers to be curated by the Beloved Community Initiative.

The prayers should be connected to the creation of a beloved community. It is another enrichment tool for reinforcing beloved community. Please email your requests to Canon Eric McIntosh, Canon for the Beloved Community



Initiative, at emcintosh@episcopalpgh.org or Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, BCI Program Coordinator, at s.alamdenlinger@episcopalpgh.org. by September 30.



BBQ Pulled Pork Take-out Picnic Lunch at St. Mark's, Johnstown

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 335 Locust Street, downtown Johnstown, is holding a BBQ Pulled Pork Take-out Picnic Lunch on Saturday August 17, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Each lunch consists of a BBQ pulled pork sandwich*, macaroni & cheese, coleslaw and two cookies. Price per meal is \$10.00. The lunch is take-out only and must be ordered in advance. To order, call 814-535-6797 or email stmarks@atlanticbbn.net. Deadline: Monday, August 5 at 5 p.m. Proceeds benefit St. Mark's ministries.

* A vegetarian option (veggie crumbles in BBQ sauce) is available but must be requested when placing order.



Fall 2024 Visitation Schedule and Cycle of Prayer Now Available

Bishop Ketlen's Fall 2024 visitation schedule through the end of the church year, the Last Sunday after Pentecost, is now [available here](#).

The Summer/Fall 2024 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, through November 24, is [available here](#).

These documents, along with many others, are available on the Diocesan website under the [Resources tab](#).



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:

There are no visitations scheduled [until September 15](#).

Parish leadership is reminded to complete a form, available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#), at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact Andrea Rath at 412-721-0853, ext. 251, or arath@episcopalpgh.org.

Important Reminders

Our November Diocesan Convention feels like it's a long way off but **now is the time for parishes to complete their Lay Deputy Certification forms** available in [Word](#) or [PDF](#). More information about the 159th Annual Convention, including a list of open positions for election and nomination forms, is available [here](#).



Parting Shots

A Tribute to the Very Rev. George Werner at General Convention



Jon Delano, one of the Lay Deputies representing the Diocese of Pittsburgh at the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Louisville, KY delivered a moving tribute to the Very Rev. George Werner on Tuesday, June 27.

Among his many accomplishments, Werner was previously the Dean at Trinity Cathedral and President of TEC's House of Deputies. [Dean Werner died](#) on February 6, 2023.

New UMC Bishop for the Western Pennsylvania Conference Anointed at Trinity Cathedral



The 2024 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church, meeting at the Omni William Penn Hotel during the week of July 8, welcomed a new bishop to their Western Pennsylvania Conference in a service of Anointing and Sending Forth at Trinity Cathedral on Friday, July 12.

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi will be leaving the Pittsburgh area to serve the Greater New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania annual conferences. Here in Western Pennsylvania, we welcome Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, who currently serves the West Virginia annual conference. The new assignments are effective on September 1.

Has your parish been featured in the news?
Please let us know via email at info@episcopalpgh.org
