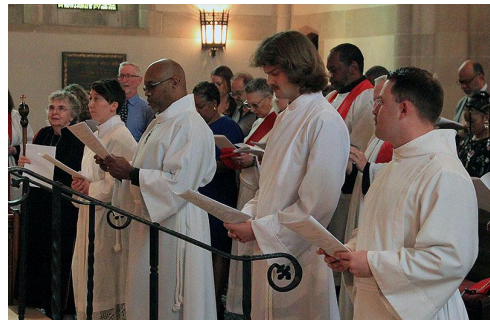


# Nurturing our Faith!

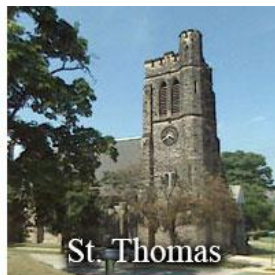
September 25, 2024

## Curacy Program Launched

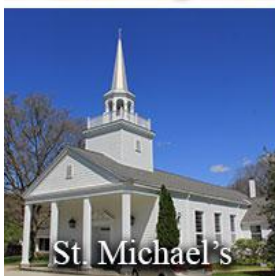
At the last diocesan convention, Bishop Ketlen Solak announced the curacy program as part of her diocesan priorities. The curacy program is an opportunity for newly ordained clergy to serve the church and to continue their formation and training. The goals are to share the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ, to form new clergy, to share the good news in word and action, to help develop sustainable ministry and to grow as a learning community across the diocese as people work to support and encourage these newly ordained persons during their curacies. In June, the following four people were ordained to the transitional diaconate: Deanna Briody, Guy Brown, Jack Brownfield and Theodore Somes. Shortly after ordination, they began a 2-year curacy placement, respectively serving at Calvary, East Liberty, St. Thomas's, Oakmont, St. Michael's, Ligonier, and St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, with the option of extending their curacy by an extra year.



Calvary



St. Thomas



St. Michael's



St. Paul's

Bishop Ketlen formed a working group to help launch the curacy program. This group included Catherine Brall, Noah Evans, Natalie Hall, Annis Rogers, Cameron Soulis, and Luke Zerra. This working group divided itself into two subgroups with Noah, Natalie and Luke working on site placement, and Catherine, Cameron, and Annis working on the formation program. Noah Evans and Cathy Brall steered the respective work of each subgroup.

Part of the task of the working group was to find suitable parish placements for each curate. The goal is for curates to meet

regularly with the priests at the parishes where they are placed, and to also meet with assigned mentors, who are experienced priests in the diocese. In addition, the working group created a formation program meant to develop ministry competencies, which include preaching, teaching, pastoral care, sacramental leadership in celebrating the Eucharist, performing baptisms, funerals and weddings. The program is also designed to help curates develop work management skills, general parish administration, volunteer management, conflict resolution and basic crisis management. This is a continuation of their seminary training and growth in their understanding of what it means to be an ordained person in the Episcopal Church. Two of the most experienced priests in the diocese, Catherine Brall and Jonathon Jensen, are serving as facilitators of the formation aspect of the program.

The curacy program was carefully constructed by clergy who care deeply for the ongoing ministry of the diocese and are using their gifts to support its new clergy. Catherine Brall, who has an extensive background in ordination training for the diocese and who served as the Director of Field Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, remarks “I love training. I love formation of new clergy. I have personally supervised 20 some seminarians and many clergy, including new clergy as well, and continue to support them.”



In reflecting on the curacy program, thus far, Noah Evans says, “It’s my hope that a program like this is not just good for the clergy but is good for the entire diocese because it brings together so many people: the site supervisors, the newly ordained clergy, people who are leading the formation program, the people who are serving as mentors to these newly ordained clergy. My hope is that it creates a community of growth and formation because all of us are working together.”



## Virtual Faith-Based Security and Resilience Learning Series

The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security and partners cordially invite you to attend the third quarterly event of our virtual learning series on Monday, September 30, 2024, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. In this segment of our series, we will be conducting a panel discussion between faith leaders who have been the unfortunate victims of gun violence along with public officials who are experts in the field of public safety.

**Panelists:**

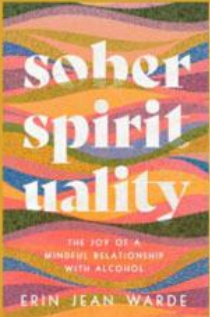



- **Rabbi Hazzan Dr. Jeffrey Myers – Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh PA** Surviving the worst anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history, Rabbi Myers addresses the responsibility of houses of worship to provide a balance between being open and welcoming, yet safe and secure.
- **Reverend Brenda Gregg – Destiny of Faith Church, Pittsburgh, PA** In October 2022, the Destiny of Faith Church was the site of a mass shooting when two teenagers opened fire during a funeral and six individuals were injured.
- **Pastor Glenn Germany – Jesus’ Dwelling Place Church, Pittsburgh, PA** While conducting a sermon, Pastor Germany narrowly escaped harm when an attempted shooter’s firearm jammed.
- **Robert Shively Jr. – Director of Public Safety, Cumberland County Emergency Preparedness and Consequence Management Expert**
- **George Giangi, Chair, Business, Industry & Infrastructure, South Central Task Force Best Practices for Congregation Security**

Additional information and registration details are available at [www.episcopalpgh.org/faith-based-security-series/](http://www.episcopalpgh.org/faith-based-security-series/)



# SOBER OCTOBER





## Sober Spirituality Book Study

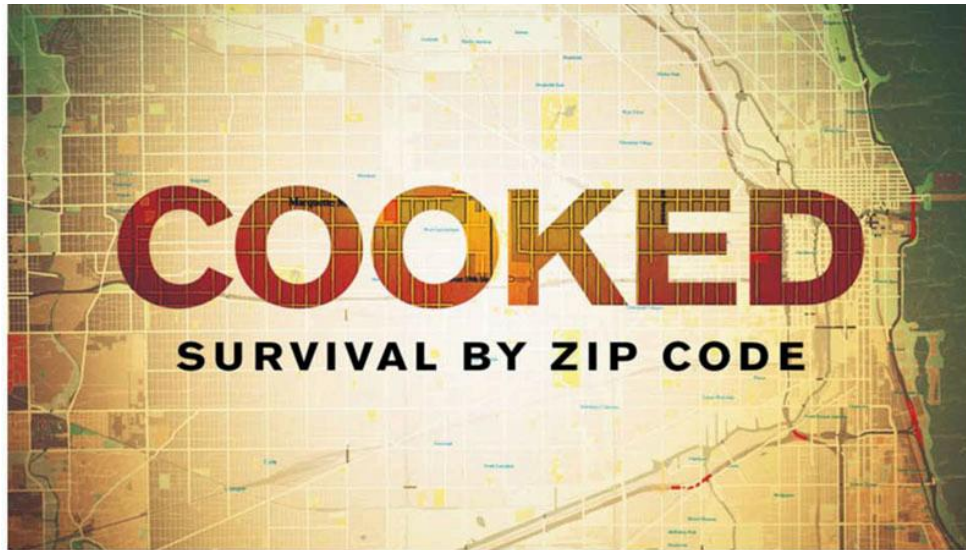
Author & Leader: The Rev. Erin Jean Warde  
Tuesdays, October 1-29, 2-3pm eastern



The Stevenson  
School for Ministry

Join the Rev. Erin Jean Warde in a 5-week study of her book, *Sober Spirituality: The Joy of a Mindful Relationship with Alcohol*. In this course, you’ll explore how alcohol affects us in mind, body, and soul, such that you will be encouraged to get prayerfully curious about how drinking shows up in your life, while trusting how the Spirit leads you into answering the question: How do I want to be in relationship with alcohol? Whether a complimentary ticket, \$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100 fee fits your life - everyone will receive the same experience.





# FILM SHOWING

In the summer of 1995, Chicago experienced an unthinkable disaster, when extremely high humidity and a layer of heat-retaining pollution drove the heat index up to more than 126 degrees.

***Cooked: Survival by Zip Code*** tells the story of this tragic heatwave, the most traumatic in U.S. history, in which 739 citizens died over the course of just a single week, most of them poor, elderly, and African American.

<b>SUNDAY, OCT 6TH</b>	<b>1:15 PM</b>
<b>AT ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> 2365 McAleer Road, Franklin Park, PA 15143	
<b>LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED</b>	

Hosted by St. Brendan's Justice Ministry and the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh Social Justice and Outreach Committee

For more information, contact Marilyn Mulvihill, at [mimi15143@yahoo.com](mailto:mimi15143@yahoo.com)



**Fall 2024 Anti-Racism Workshop**

# SEEING THE FACE OF GOD IN EACH OTHER

## Race to Reconciliation



Seeing the Face of God in Each Other, our diocesan anti-racism workshop, is taking place online via Zoom **Friday, October 11, and Saturday, October 12, 2024.**

These two days offer a few hours to focus on the beauty and the scope of humanity in the Church and in our world, helping us to go beyond the biases we have that make us push people away, ignore them, or exert power over them—sometimes unwittingly—based only on their appearance. It will help you move more deeply into the mystery of the Body of Christ gathered *from every family, language, people and nation as a Kingdom of priests to serve our God.* (Revelation 5: 9-10)

Why would you want to take this workshop, at this time? Here are a few (but by no means all) reasons:

- God calls each one of us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- Our nation is struggling with the impact of generations of systemic racism that affect everyone for the worse.
- We, as a diocese, have committed ourselves to a journey toward healing the wounds of racism in our region through the Beloved Community Initiative.
- As a diocese, we have also committed, by vote at diocesan convention, that all in leadership positions, in parishes or at the diocesan level, take the workshop as part of our responsibilities.
- There is always more to learn!

The Commission on Race and Reconciliation has significantly updated and reshaped the workshop for a virtual-reality online experience. If you have taken it in the past and think you could use a brush-up, it would be worth your time.

Our ministry in Christ is to love, to teach and to heal. This workshop will further equip us to be healers.

[Click here for registration and additional details.](#)



## Mental Health Sunday 2024

At this summer's General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Louisville, it was [resolved](#) to celebrate Mental Health Awareness on the Sunday closest to

International Mental Health Day, October 10. This year, the nearest Sunday is October 13.

A suggestion for celebrating this day is inviting a speaker who is trained in mental health counseling and spiritual disciplines to speak at your parish.

For example, St. Thomas in Oakmont will have Dr. David Janvier, LPC, a local Certified Clinical Trauma Professional with a Ph.D. in Spiritual Direction, address the church's role in supporting mental health education and awareness during their Christian Education time prior to their main service on October 13.

In addition, there is a curriculum, [Mental Health First Aid](#) put together by the National Council for Mental Health, that is offered by trained facilitators at several of our parishes.

For more information contact Wilma Gaughan, the Parish Nurse at St. Thomas, at [wmarieg@gmail.com](mailto:wmarieg@gmail.com).



CCNH PRESENTS

# WOMEN'S RETREAT

## STORIES OF FAITH

OCT. 12, 2024  
8:30-4:30

Christianity has many wonderful stories of faith that inspire and encourage us on our own faith journey.

On this retreat, we will delve into a few of these stories: some biblical, some from the Saints, and some a bit more modern.

We will explore how these stories impact us today; bearing witness to God, our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

And we will explore our own faith journey, looking at how our story is important to the people and the world around us



SPEAKER

### THE REV. CANON NANCY SUELLAU

spent her career serving parishes and her Diocese in Jacksonville FL. She retired to Cranberry Township to be close to family. She is a proud grandmother of two and mother of two.

She enjoys the arts, mahjong and helping others to recognize God's presence in their lives.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTH HILLS  
5910 BABCOCK BLVD.  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
15237 (ROSS TWP)

COST: \$65  
INCLUDES LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS.

REGISTER:



## The Investiture of Presiding Bishop-Elect Sean Rowe November 2, 2024

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is holding an official watch party in the Lounge at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon for the investiture of our new presiding

bishop-elect. The event will be hosted by the clergy and lay deputies who attended General Convention earlier this year, and their chair, Jamie McMahon.

**Join the Churchwide Virtual Celebration**



The Most Reverend Michael Curry  
requests the honor  
of your presence at the  
Celebration of New Ministry and Investiture of  
*the Right Reverend Sean Rowe*  
as Presiding Bishop and Primate  
of The Episcopal Church

**Saturday, November 2, 2024**

“Roll Call” of Dioceses - 9:30 am ET  
Service of Holy Eucharist - 11:00 am ET

**[www.iam.ec/investiture](http://www.iam.ec/investiture)**

Schedule of Events:

9:30 a.m.: Roll Call of Dioceses

11 a.m.: Installation Service

Location: [St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 1066 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA

With this event, The Episcopal Church will officially welcome the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe as our 28th presiding bishop with a smaller, simpler, live-streamed investiture service aimed at reducing carbon footprint and increasing opportunities for churchwide virtual participation.

Refreshments will be provided at St. Paul's. For more information or to RSVP, please contact [office@stpaulspgh.org](mailto:office@stpaulspgh.org) or 412-531-7153 (x10).



**Diocesan Convention Registration Now Open**



**The 159th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh**  
**Saturday, November 9, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 328 6th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

Registration for all deputies and guests is now open.  
Registration is required for all lay and clergy deputies.

<https://episcopalpgh.wufoo.com/forms/2024-diocesan-convention-registration/>

There is a \$30 fee for all attendees and includes all materials, a continental breakfast and lunch.  
If you cannot afford the fee, please send an email to [convention@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:convention@episcopalpgh.org).

Problems or questions about registering? Contact Andy Muhl at [amuhl@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:amuhl@episcopalpgh.org) or 412-721-0853 ext. 253



## **Nominations for Diocesan Leadership Positions Still 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>.



## **Around the Diocese**



### **Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:**

- September 15:** Holy Cross, Homewood  
**September 22:** St. Thomas, Northern Cambria  
**October 6:** St. Mark's, Johnstown  
**October 12:** St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale (Sat.)  
**October 13:** St. Francis, Somerset

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

Bishop Ketlen's visitation schedule is [available here](#). The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer is [available here](#).

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact Andrea Rath at 412-721-0853, ext. 251, or [arath@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:arath@episcopalpgh.org).



## **Parting Shots**

### **McKeesport Pride!**

St. Stephen's, McKeesport, is grateful for grants from the diocese to fix the roof and paint the outside of the church. John Ochap, a roofer by trade, began scraping, priming, and repairing the twelve window walls of the church. For several Saturdays and with no fanfare, John put up and took down scaffolding. After 10-11 hours of solid work, one window was ready to be painted. After preparing four windows, electrical engineer Ken Miller joined John, cutting the work time in half. They hope to have all the church windows completed by Christmas, which means that the back walls and interior of the church will be ready for a professional painter to complete the job. St. Stephen's' CAN-DO spirit is once again in evidence every Saturday and these men work hard to maintain the church they love. --*The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre*



Parishioner John Ochap of St. Stephen's, McKeesport is pictured here with fellow parishioner Ken Miller on the ladder.

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### **A Celebration in Peters Township**

On Sunday, September 22, St. David's, Peters Twp., honored the Rev. Dr. Julie Smith for filling in of the last two months while Fr. Kris Opat was on sabbatical. During the Sunday morning service the parish presented her with hydrangea tree and daffodil bulbs (the flower of St. David of Wales) as well as some compost and mulch to add to her garden as token of appreciation for her service over the last two months.



L to R: Denise Peden, Senior Warden, the Rev. Smith and Mike Colligan, Grounds Committee

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### **A Joyous Time in Homewood**

On Sunday, September 15, Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood, hosted Bishop Ketlen for their annual visitation. It was celebrated with fun, food and a steel band!



## **A Visitation to St. Thomas. Northern Cambria**

St. Thomas, Northern Cambria, had a great time hosting Bishop Ketlen and Scott Solak during their visitation on Sunday, September 22



Has your parish been featured in the news?  
Please let us know via email at [info@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org)