

Synod Sunday!

It seems longer than a year since we celebrated Synod Sunday in 2019. A lot has happened in the last 12 months, and it is possible even more changes could be coming.

But through it all, as we have sought to be faithful, your Synod has stood with you as you, your congregation and your presbytery have experienced a world most of us have never seen before. In early March the pandemic of COVID-19 turned our world upside down for far longer than two weeks!



Your congregation most likely experimented with new worship formats and techniques. In conjunction, we have hosted webinars and workshops on communication strategies and equipment suggestions for congregations of all sizes. But our needs have been far more than technical, and so we have brought leaders together to learn about resiliency, leadership through crises and best practices for this time as you have been discovering them!

In the midst of the COVID crises, another cry rose in our streets and towns, calling us each and all to engage the pandemic of racism. While work we began in the spring around *civility* touched on this, we look ahead to more opportunities to listen, understand and live differently with one another in God's "kindom" come.

Looking ahead. On the reverse side of this bulletin insert you will find summaries of online workshops that continue into the fall that the Synod of the Trinity is either a partner or holding on its own. You can also find other relevant information regarding grant opportunities and "best practices" on the Synod's website.

What is Synod Sunday? On this day, we invite the congregations and presbyteries in the Synod of the Trinity region to celebrate the gifts and blessings that take place throughout the year in our bounds.

Why September? The Synod of the Trinity's birthday (the day in which it first gathered in 1717) is Sept. 17. We annually hold Synod Sunday during this month.

www.SynTrinity.org

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A Time For Seeking ... The Beloved Community

The Synod of the Trinity is offering opportunities for us to consider and engage some of the issues and concerns of our times in light of Martin Luther King's Beloved Community. The first in the series will occur Sunday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. by video conferencing system Zoom.

Rev. Dr. James Calvin Davis, of Middlebury College, will set the stage for the series by discussing: "Characteristics of the Beloved Community." In later weeks, we will move on to look at a variety of issues, including racism, hyper partisanship and technology. James' name may be familiar to you if you have read his book "Forbearance."

Registration is mandatory at SynTrinity.org.



Jesus Christ and the 'Dividing Wall': Race & God's Mission

On Wednesday evenings in October, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will host a four-part online series through World Mission Initiative titled "Jesus Christ and the 'Dividing Wall': Race and God's Mission."

This free event will help churches find resources on how to have deep conversations on race.



For more details on the series, visit pts.edu/wmi-conference.

Synod Peacemaking Grants Available

Justice. Peace. Two words that have risen to the top of headlines, conversations and gatherings more often than not over the past months. Peacemaking is central to our faith as Presbyterians, as we are called to restore relationships in a broken world and model the harmony and wholeness of God.

The Synod is offering grants of up to \$1,500 to address the following needs: hate speech and behavior, racism, rise of incivility in our culture, gun violence, refugee and immigration issues, hunger needs and providing under-served peoples with access and education. **Application deadline is Nov. 1.**

More at SynTrinity.org/Grants

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