



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PITTSBURGH MERCY PARISH NURSE & HEALTH MINISTRY  
PROGRAM HOSTS HEALTH MINISTRY PRAYER GATHERING**

*Theme of November 13 virtual program is ‘Spirituality and COVID-19 ... Life Lessons’*

**PITTSBURGH (October 6, 2021)** – The [Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program](#), part of [Pittsburgh Mercy](#) and [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy and celebrating its 30th year (1991-2021), will host “Spirituality and COVID-19 ... Life Lessons,” a virtual health ministry prayer gathering, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, November 13.

Offered remotely, the event provides continuing education, resources, and fellowship opportunities to individuals who are interested in spiritual care and health ministry. Attendees will learn from our Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse team, guest speaker Edwina Gateley, and each other as they enhance their knowledge of caring for people in need whether in their faith communities or the local community.

Gateley is the author of more than 15 books on spirituality. A well-known speaker and retreat leader, she has written frequently on topics such as her own faith journey, discipleship, and spirituality. She is the recipient of 16 national and international awards. Gateley, who has a master’s degree in theology from the Catholic Theological Institute in Chicago, spent a year in 1983 walking with persons experiencing homelessness and women involved in prostitution, which led to her forming a house of hospitality and nurturing for the women.

Many in the caregiving and ministerial professions may feel stretched and drained physically, mentally, and spiritually as we go through the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The gathering will provide participants needed time to refresh and

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renew their spiritual health, self-compassion, and self-care by learning to light their paths to move forward with daily routines and responsibilities as they meet challenges along the way.

The gathering will also allow attendees to reflect within their spiritual lives on such questions as:

- How is God speaking to them?
- Are there any positive aspects of COVID?
- What can they learn about themselves and COVID?
- Is God saying to view COVID differently, and does their ministry need to change?

The gathering is designed for faith community and parish nurses, registered and licensed practical nurses, certified nurse practitioners, clergy, health ministers, pastoral and social ministers, physicians, health and social service professionals, licensed professional counselors, health care educators, nursing students, seminarians, and others interested in promoting whole-person health (balancing body, mind, and spirit).

Upon completion of the program, participants will be able to define spirituality and how it relates to the intentional care of the spirit. They will also be able to identify two life lessons in the past year for personal spiritual growth and self-care, and describe a recent situation that integrates faith and health in providing spiritual care to those in need (family, faith community, workplace, or local community).

Registered nurses who attend can earn **1.75 continuing education (CE) credits** through the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). UPMC is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC). Registered nurses who attend the entire session and complete an evaluation form within eight business days of the event will be awarded a certificate and 1.75 CEs. UPMC and ANCC do not endorse any commercial products as a result of this CE activity.

The cost is \$35 for registered nurses who wish to receive CE credits; \$20 for those who do not wish to receive credits; and \$15 for undergraduate nursing students, seminarians, religious, and clergy. The cost includes invitation to the meeting and handouts. Limited, partial scholarships are available by calling the Parish Nurse office at 412-232-5815.

Registration is accepted by U.S. mail. More information and registration information is available at the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse website ([www.pittsburghmercy.org/faith-communities](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org/faith-communities)). Virtual space is limited. Early registration is encouraged. Download the

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registration form at <https://www.pittsburghmercy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-Health-Ministry-Prayer-Gathering-Flyer.pdf>. Registration must be postmarked by **Wednesday, November 3, 2021**. For more information, contact the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program at 412-232-5815 or email [ParishNurse@pittsburghmercy.org](mailto:ParishNurse@pittsburghmercy.org).

***About the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program***

Celebrating its 30th year of service (1991-2021), the [Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program](#), part of [Pittsburgh Mercy](#) and [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, was the first parish nurse program in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The program integrates faith and health, and has served more than 4,100 health care professionals and laypersons who volunteer in their faith communities, and has commissioned more than 520 faith community nurses and health ministers through the “Foundations of Faith Community Nursing” preparation course. To learn more about the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program, or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, visit [www.pittsburghmercy.org](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org).

***About Pittsburgh Mercy***

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#) is a person-centered, population-based, trauma-informed community health and wellness provider. It is the region’s only Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) and Integrated Community Wellness Center. We reach out and offer help – and hope – to some of our community’s most vulnerable populations: people who have physical and behavioral health challenges; people with intellectual disabilities; and people who are experiencing addiction, homelessness, abuse, and other forms of trauma. Our mission is to be a compassionate and transforming, healing presence within our communities. Pittsburgh Mercy is a member of [Trinity Health](#) and serves in the tradition of the [Sisters of Mercy](#). With annual operating revenue of \$110 million, Pittsburgh Mercy is one of the largest health and human service nonprofit organizations and employers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We serve more than 33,000 people annually in 60+ locations and employ 1,200 colleagues. For more information or to make a donation in support of our mission, visit [www.pittsburghmercy.org](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org).

*(Editorial note: Photo attached)*

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