

## Environmental Program Opportunities

- **Introduction to Community Solar in PA: Harnessing Sunshine to Lower Bills and Build a Brighter Future—September 20, 7:00 pm, Webinar**

Join us for a free webinar to learn more about what community solar is, examples of how it's working around the country today, and ways that you can get involved in expanding solar opportunities for you and your community. Learn more and register at <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/community-solar-in-pa-sep-20/>.

- **ENERGY STAR® Pennsylvania Stewardship Tour**

Like most U.S. commercial buildings, *the typical worship facility wastes about 30 percent of the energy for which its congregants pay*. No-cost efficiency actions and careful investments can earn substantial savings to be returned to the mission of the congregation. *What could your congregation do with funds equivalent to 30 percent of your annual energy bill?* Also, while saving money, the pollution related to this wasted energy will be reduced—pollution that impacts human life and health. Further, natural resources will be conserved for our children and generations to come. ENERGY STAR is the nation's voluntary program helping congregations, businesses, schools, homeowners, and tenants save energy and water—and therefore money. Local Pennsylvania faith communities are hosting ENERGY STAR presentations on tools, training, and technical support freely available at [www.energystar.gov/congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/congregations).

- September 25, 9:00-10:30 am, **Akron**: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/energy-star-pa-tour-sep-25-akron/>
- September 25, 2:30-4:00 pm, **Bedford**: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/energy-star-road-trip-sep-25-bedford/>
- September 25, 7:00-9:30 pm, **Pittsburgh**: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/energy-star-tour-sep-25-pgh/>
- September 26, 9:00-10:30 am, **Meadville**: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/energy-star-pa-tour-sep-26-meadville/>
- September 26, 2:30-4:00 pm, **State College**: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/energy-star-pa-tour-sep-26-state-college/>
- September 26, 7:00-8:30 pm, **Harrisburg**: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/energy-star-road-tour-sep-26-hbg/>
- September 27, 9:00-10:30 am, **Media**: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/energy-star-pa-tour-sep-27-media/>

## General Assistance Applications Open Again—Help for the Poor

A seminar with information will be held on September 14—go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/what-restoration-ga-means-for-pa-sep-14/> to learn more.

On July 18, 2018, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court voted 7-0 to repeal Act 80 of 2012, which eliminated General Assistance that year. This cash assistance program provides a minimal income support for desperately poor individuals with serious disabilities, people fleeing domestic violence, and individuals in active drug treatment for limited periods of time. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has already started taking applications for GA again.

Community Legal Services has created a web page explaining who is eligible for GA and what documents they will need to provide when they apply. The web page is here: [www.clsphila.org/GA](http://www.clsphila.org/GA)

This page also contains information about good changes to the TANF cash assistance program as a result of Act 80 being struck down, as well as background information on the lawsuit. CLS will be updating this page with additional outreach materials and information from DHS as it is released.

## Justice and Gerrymandering—Video Available, Host a Discussion

What is the connection between justice and gerrymandering? Fair Districts PA Chair, Carol Kuniholm, is part of that story. Her eleven years in youth ministry at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli, Pennsylvania and her work with children and youth in a partner congregation in the inner-city Kensington section of Philadelphia led her into a deeper exploration of systems of injustice and what it means to love our neighbor in the political arena. In a February 2018 presentation to her own community she shared her experience and suggested ways to be a good neighbor as individuals and as a community of faith. Create a space in your faith community to have a conversation about justice,

gerrymandering and love of our neighbors. Learn more at <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/justice-gerrymandering-host-group/>.

## **Election 2018**

**October 9, 2018 is the last day to register to vote before the 2018 Election on November 6, 2018**

- **Now is the time to get high schoolers that are eligible registered to vote! Learn more: [Get Your High Schoolers \(& Yourself\) Registered to Vote!](#)**
- **And while you are at it—have you checked your own voter registration status? [Are You Sure You're Registered to Vote?](#) Check it out before it's too late.**
- **Here is a one-stop shop for all things voter: [Voter Hub Up and Running, Ready to Assist](#)**
- **[How You Can Help Protect Our Elections from a Cyberattack](#)**
- **[Election 2018 is Nearing: Here's 10 Things that Congregations Can Do](#):** Also includes guidelines for organizing adult forums, candidate forums, and voter registration drives.
- **The Ride to Vote: Use Lyft to Exercise Your Rights:** Lyft is partnering with a number of organizations to provide free and lower cost rides to polling places to underserved communities that face significant obstacles to transportation. Find out more: <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/use-lyft-to-exercise-your-rights/>

Blessings,



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*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

*--Margaret Mead, anthropologist, 1901-1978*