

July 12, 2023 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

Pittsburgh Seminary awarded \$1.25 million grant to establish Faith Forming Families Network

*The innovation lab is designed to help ‘rebuild the neighborhood’
as envisioned by the seminary’s celebrated alum, Fred Rogers.*

PITTSBURGH, PA. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has received a grant of \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish the Faith Forming Families Network (F3 Network), an innovation lab that will “rebuild the neighborhood”—one of mutual care and flourishing as envisioned by the seminary’s most notable alumnus, the Rev. Fred Rogers. The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment’s Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative, which seeks to help parents and caregivers share their faith and values with their children.

One crucial challenge facing families and communities involved in the spiritual formation (faith) and moral development (character) of children is the disconnect between the parents, elders, and caregivers (families) who engage their children in the home, and pastors, teachers, and leaders who engage children in churches, schools, and social organizations. Connection, conversation, and collaboration between those two groups allows for effective spiritual formation and moral development. F3 will reconnect families and communities as partners in the spiritual formation and moral development of young people, and empower them to define the problems they face for themselves and to discern solutions they will implement together.

“The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Neighborhood Collaborative, six externally-facing programs at PTS, allows the Seminary to convene conversations and collaborations between congregations, organizations, and citizens; provides education and formation for discipleship, leadership, and citizenship; and advocates for truth, justice, and hope in church and society. With these grant monies Pittsburgh Seminary can also collaborate on building upon the legacy of Mister Rogers’ most fundamental commitment: that ‘every child should be loved exactly as they are,’” said the Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee, president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. “We’re excited about the opportunity to continue our ‘theology of neighbor’ in this way.”

PTS is one of 77 organizations receiving grants through this competitive round of the Lilly Endowment initiative. Reflecting the diversity of Christianity in the United States, the organizations are affiliated with mainline Protestant, evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox Christian, and Pentecostal faith communities. Many of the organizations are rooted in Black church, Hispanic, and Asian Christian traditions.



Fred Rogers, known to PBS fans as *Mister Rogers*, was a 1962 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Music Notes for July 9.

We welcome guest organist Diane Kingsbury this morning, as Roger and Kimberlea are away celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary. Diane has helped us on numerous occasions over the years, and we are most grateful to her for providing music for our worship service this week.

WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

**GENESIS 24:34-67
SELECTIONS**

SERMON: A WEDDING STORY.

OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS



click on the logos



calvin and Hobbes



This Week in History.



The 14th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, defining U.S. citizenship and guaranteeing citizen due process and equal protection under the law, and barring individuals involved in rebellion against the U.S. from public office.

July 9, 1868



British pottery designer Josiah Wedgwood is born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England.

July 12, 1730



Theologian and founder of the Presbyterian tradition, John Calvin is born in Noyon, France.

July 10, 1509



Signing of the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte by Charles the Simple, King of the Franks (above), granting the Viking leader Rollo control of Normandy.

July 11, 1826



Geographer Henry Schoolcraft discovers the source of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca, MN.

July 13, 1832



American folk singer and social activist Woody Guthrie is born in Okemah, OK.

July 14, 1912



German General Erich Ludendorff launches Germany's fifth, and final offensive of the Second Battle of the Marne, only to be stopped by American, British and Italian divisions. Allied troops would launch a massive counter-offensive four days later, forcing a German retreat that would culminate in the Armistice ending World War I.

July 15, 1918