

## BLESSED BE EDUCATORS

### Advisory Group Members

Dr. Roseland Bainum  
Dr. Keely Baronak  
Rev. Joseph Hedden, Jr.  
Rev. Nicita Moses  
Ms. Lee Ann Risha  
Ms. Lori Sachs  
Ms. J. Cynthia Smith



*BLESSED BE EDUCATORS* is an ecumenical, non-partisan organization. We are under the fiscal sponsorship of Destiny of Faith Church and an affiliate of their *Faith-Based Health Collaborative*.

Membership is open to all churches located in *Southwest PA*, in addition to Bedford, Blair, and Cambria Counties.

#### Contact:

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Look for additional information about Blessed Be Educators on the **BBE Facebook page** or at **www.baidos.net**



*Funding for BBE is provided by grants from the Irene C. Shea Charitable Foundation and the Faith-Based Health Collaborative, member congregations, businesses and individual donors.*

*Carlow University's Education Department provides in-kind workshop registration and technical support. Together with the Campus Laboratory School, they hold charity drives for Christmas Giveaways.*



## BLESSED BE EDUCATORS



*To provide educators with spiritual support & recognition by sponsoring faith-based programs.*

### OUR PURPOSE

## BLESSED BE EDUCATORS:

- Seeks to uplift teaching as a Christian ministry, to recognize teachers for their spiritual gifts and their ministry with children.
- Extends opportunities for prayerful support to current and retired educators, and all who minister to children and youth, through sponsored programs.
- Provides opportunities for congregations to recognize and value the gifts of all educators.

### How Your Congregation Can Become Involved

Contact Mary Ann Hvizdos for a membership form.

#### Membership Benefits

- Request Christmas donations for your distribution to congregants or community members in need (children's hats/gloves, new books, school supplies and some adult clothing.)
- Receive child abuse prevention resources for Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer
- Receive up to 30 educator recognition gifts for annual celebration

*"I give thanks to God always for you..."*

*~1 Corinthians 1:4*

## Our Program

**BLESSED BE EDUCATORS (BBE)** sponsors a series of faith-based programs in support of our mission. Pastors and their congregations participate in those programs as they find helpful and appropriate. Educators and community friends also are welcome to participate in most programs. Some are reserved solely for member congregations.

## Program Year

*Programs are presented chronologically as they occur October 2024 --June 2025*

## Virtual Book Club

*Five monthly sessions, one hour each beginning October 18*

Facilitator

Rev. Rhonda Higgins

Pastor, New Vision Tabernacle Church

Chosen Book

*The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness*

*Preparing to Practice*

By Rabbi Rami Shapiro

## Educator Prayer Breakfast

In celebration of World Teachers' Day, held annually, October 5, educators and guests gather for fellowship and prayer, to share a meal and hear a guest speaker. *The next breakfast will be held October 26, Church of the Redeemer Parish Hall.*

## Annual Christmas Giveaways

Thanks to generous donations from individuals and local universities, each December **BBE** distributes \$3,000 to \$4,000 worth of children's hats, gloves, new books, and school supplies; also, some new adult clothing to member congregations that complete a request form.

## Educator Workshop

### *Teen Depression and Suicide Prevention*

This workshop, open to all, is sponsored by three organizations: Faith-Based Health Collaborative, Carlow University Education Department and Blessed Be Educators. Description, speakers, and registration details coming late Fall. Workshop is approved for PA Act 48 professional development hours and *will be held March 15 at Carlow University.*

## Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer for Abused Children

**BBE** provides pastors with up-to-date prevention resources for use/distribution to parents and others who care about children. *In 2025, Blue Sunday will be held April 26.*

## Educator Recognitions

In celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Month, held annually during May, pastors select a Sunday worship service to honor all from their congregation who minister to students. Pastors choose the recognition format and **BBE** provides up to 30 educator thank-you gifts. *Recognitions may be scheduled during May, June, or early September.*

## BLESSED BE EDUCATORS 2024-2025 Primary Programs and Membership Benefits (See brochure content for additional details)

<p><b>Virtual Book Club Begins 5 Monthly Sessions</b> Open to All</p> <p><b>October 18, 2024</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm</p> <p>Facilitator: Rev. Rhonda Higgins</p> <p>Chosen Book: <i>The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness</i> <i>Preparing to Practice</i> by Rabbi Rami Shapiro</p> <p><b>Participants purchase own book.</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Prayer Breakfast Children Welcome</b> Open to All</p> <p><b>October 26, 2024</b> 9:15am - 11:30am</p> <p>Church of the Redeemer 5700 Forbes Avenue Squirrel Hill</p> <p><i>Prayer and Worship, Hot Breakfast,</i> <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Dr. Kathy Wilson Humphrey, Carlow</p> <p><b>\$10/Adults; \$5/Children</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Christmas Giveaways</b> Membership Benefit</p> <p><b>Mid-December 2024</b> Members request donated items to be distributed.</p> <p><b>Educator Workshop</b> Open to All</p> <p><b>March 15, 2025</b> 10:00am - Noon</p> <p><i>Teen Depression and Suicide Prevention</i> Carlow University</p>	<p><b>Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer for Abused Children</b> Membership Benefit</p> <p><b>April 26, 2025</b> Members receive up-to-date resources for use and distribution.</p> <p><b>Educator Recognitions</b> Membership Benefit</p> <p><b>May and June 2025</b> In celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Month, members receive thank-you gifts for educators.</p>
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