
MESSIAH UNIVERSITY SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

FALL Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

Letter From The Chair



“As we start another academic year, I am filled with gratitude for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Fortunately, we are back safely to our Messiah Family, thanks to His unwavering protection during the summer break.

Looking ahead, I will be stepping down as Department Chair in January 2024 and passing on the baton to Dr. Dinse. I have complete faith in her abilities to lead the department forward and upward.

The Department of Social Work is forever committed to nurturing and educating professionals who will become competent and ethical leaders in their respective fields. Our goal is to equip our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to positively impact society.

Let us continue to keep one another in our thoughts and prayers.”

Best regards,
Charlene Lane, PhD., LCSW

Announcing Our MSW Program

We are thrilled to announce the commencement of the master's in social work program at Messiah University. The proposed start date for MSW classes is Fall 2024. Students who meet the GPA criteria can earn an MSW degree with just one additional year after completing their BSW. We look forward to exciting opportunities and new beginnings.



New Team Members

**Dr. Dinse,
Assistant Department Director
& Chair**

Dr. Dinse is a seasoned practitioner and has been a PA-licensed social worker for 26 years. She has been in higher education for over a decade and is an active speaker in the areas of racial reconciliation, marriage enrichment, intentional dialogues, human trafficking, and social justice. Dr. Dinse enjoys academic research, and her research topics are centered on encouraging relational healing. Her current research topics include understanding church trauma and the development of civil conversations. Originally from Hong Kong, Dr. Dinse completed her B.A. and MSW degrees at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Dinse received her Doctor of Social Work degree at Millersville University, PA. Dr. Dinse has been married to her husband, Dr. Dan, for 32 years, and they have two adult daughters and a son-in-law.



**Professor Piechowicz,
Adjunct Faculty**



Tara is a proud Messiah alum, having graduated with a BSW, she went on to receive a MSW from the University of Pennsylvania. She has been working in macro social work ever since -- from social policy to government administration, and currently as a Vice President for a private consulting company. When Tara is not working, she is typically doing something outdoorsy with her family or enjoying cuddles with her new baby.

Welcome Back Party



On August 30, 2023 the Social Work Department hosted an annual welcome back party to celebrate the beginning of the school year with new and returning student.

Phi Alpha

"Phi Alpha is a national and international honors society for social work students and professionals. Phi Alpha as an organization is dedicated to recognizing outstanding social work and academic achievement. Social Work students at Messiah can earn membership after 2 years in the major and through maintaining an overall GPA of 3.0 and a social work major GPA of 3.5 or higher. Phi Alpha organizes a service project and hosts several events each semester for professional development and fellowship. Many events are open to all social work majors! Follow Phi Alpha on Instagram at [@phialpha.lambdapsi.mu](https://www.instagram.com/phialpha.lambdapsi.mu)."

- Darren Miller BSW '24 &
Kyra Shoenberger BSW '24



SOCIAL WORK CLUB

Prayer Chaplain

“The Prayer Chaplain will be holding prayer walks and prayer meetings throughout this semester. This is a time for us to come together and lift one another up. The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites student to create prayer shawls, scarves, baby blankets, hats, or other fiber crafts. These garments are then prayed over by multiple people, passing along messages of health, healing, growth, and peace.”

-Madeline Pendleton, BSW '25

Cultural Diversity Liasion

“The responsibility of the Cultural Diversity Liaison is to host at least one event (but hopefully more!) each semester that highlights current events in the world that bring awareness to current social justice issues and host events that improve upon cultural diversity knowledge.”

-Hannah Sollenberger, BSW '25

Peer Mentorship

“The peer mentorship program’s mission is to foster community in the social work department. By connecting underclassmen with upperclassmen, students can learn from others’ experiences and gain valuable insight from their peers. Mentors and mentees are able to grow their friendships by meeting throughout the year and at fun events hosted by the peer mentorship coordinators.”

-Annie Carter, BSW '24 &
Selah Stoltzfus BSW '26



Overview

“The Social Work Club oversees three main programs that foster spirituality, connection, and growth. The first program is facilitated by the club’s prayer chaplain and focuses on spiritual health. This year, the club is bringing back the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which allows students to handcraft and pray over shawls that are then distributed to individuals in need. The second program is facilitated by the club’s peer mentor coordinators and serves to connect underclassmen with upperclassmen students in an intentional relationship that provides guidance and enhances fellowship. The third program is facilitated by the club’s cultural diversity liaison and promotes the development of cultural competency through unique events highlighting diversity. All together, the club strives to advance the professional standards of social work students. The club aims to accomplish this through the establishment of a tight-knit community within the department and with the student body as a whole.

Follow us on Instagram at
[@messiah_socialwork_club.](https://www.instagram.com/messiah_socialwork_club)”

-Emily Caulfield, BSW '25 &
Olivia Winton, BSW '25



For more information on our program, go to our website!



Department of Social Work

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