One Step Closer

HOSPITALITY TOGETHER

ONLINE GATHERING

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 | 11:00 AM EST / 6:00 PM Israel | Live from Magdala and the United States

“That they may all be one…” • John 17:21

SECTION I • MAGDALA

Encounter at the Sea of Galilee

11:00–11:14	**Welcome: Why We Are Here** John 17:20–23, ministry and marketplace perspectives, and opening prayer.	Pastor Scott Newton; Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC; Don Bulla; Pastor Frankie Jones; Roy Morgan
11:15–11:24	**Jesus’ Galilean Ministry** Luke 8:1–3, reflections on the women who supported Jesus, an Armenian Christian witness, and prayer.	Gail Stewardson; Pastor Becky Keenan; Fr. Vazgen Alekyan; Lydia Bulla
11:25–11:35	**The Magdala Phenomenon** Magdala as a place of encounter, reconciliation, renewal, and friendship across Christian traditions.	Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC
11:35–11:40	**Public Witness** Voices from Washington on cooperation, reconciliation, and overcoming division.	Rep. Tom Emmer; Rep. Tom Suozzi
11:40–12:00	**How Magdala Changes People** Live conversation and testimonies on what visitors carry home from Magdala and the Holy Land.	Moderator: Pastor Frankie Jones; Juan Carlos Martínez; Jan Barendse; Lauren Patterson; Pastor Glen Megill
12:00–12:02	**Hospitality Prayer** Prayer marking the transition from the Magdala experience to the One Step Closer vision.	Sister Elisaveta

SECTION II • ONE STEP CLOSER

Hospitality Together and the four stepping stones

12:05–12:17	**John 17: The Biblical Foundation** John 17:20–23, its Scriptural roots, and an Orthodox reflection on Jesus’ prayer for oneness.	Pastor Scott Newton; Dirk Quartemont; Dr. Wave Nunnally; Archpriest Vladimir Chernyshev
12:17–12:24	**How One Step Closer Was Born** The history of OSC, shared joy in Christ, the four stepping stones, and the John 17 Landmark.	Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC
12:24–12:29	**Stepping Stone: Volunteering** A short film on hospitality, service, ecumenical friendship, and personal transformation.	Michael Folta; Martín and Katalina López; Brad Pease
12:29–12:39	**Stepping Stone: Artwork** Art for Oneness: a worldwide creative initiative giving visual expression to John 17.	Laura Uccello
12:39–12:44	**Stepping Stone: Worldwide** From Galilee to Washington and beyond: the growth of an international John 17 network.	Pastor Scott Newton; OSC Washington video
12:44–1:00	**Church and Marketplace** How churches, pastors, ministry leaders, and marketplace leaders can practice OSC in their own communities.	Pastor Scott Newton; Pastor Frankie Jones; Vance Patterson; Don Bulla
1:00–1:04	**The John 17 OSC Toolkit** Practical tools for prayer, encounter, pilgrimage, volunteering, communication, local action, and partnership.	Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC

SECTION III • 2027 PLAN & PRIORITIES

From vision to concrete action

1:05–1:10	**The 2027 Goal** Forming active John 17 disciples and advocates; Scripture calls participants to go into the deep and build on rock.	Pastor Scott Newton; Pastor Julio Rodriguez
1:10–1:15	**The 2026–2033 Horizon** A long-term vision leading toward the 2,000th anniversary of the Redemption.	Pastor Glen Megill
1:15–1:20	**The 2027 Action Plan** Applying the OSC Toolkit locally and advancing the Landmark, artwork, volunteering, Mosaic, and network.	Pastor Steve Wingfield
1:20–1:25	**The Magdala Mosaic** A visual overview of the Mosaic and practical ways to participate.	David Delgado; David Beam
1:25–1:31	**Invitation to Participate** Opportunities for individuals, churches, organizations, donors, and foundations to take a concrete next step.	Don Bulla; Pastor Steve Wingfield
1:31–1:36	**Participant Reflections** Brief responses and impressions from the gathering.	Sandra Adu Gyamfi; Robert Poole
1:36–1:41	**2026 OSC Contributor Award** Recognition of outstanding behind-the-scenes service to One Step Closer.	Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC; Don Bulla; David Beam
1:41–1:46	**Conclusion and Closing Prayer** A final invitation to carry John 17 into churches, workplaces, ministries, families, and communities.	Pastor Frankie Jones
1:46–2:15	**Optional Connection Time** Informal conversation, introductions, and next-step connections, if available.	Moderators and available contributors

OUR SHARED AIM
To form Christians who pray, build relationships, cross divisions, and make Jesus' prayer for oneness tangible in their own churches, workplaces, ministries, and communities.

Program subject to minor timing adjustments during the live gathering.

One Step Closer
HOSPITALITY TOGETHER

Participant Bios

Pastor Scott Newton

Lead Pastor, HopeCity Church, North Carolina

Pastor Scott Newton is the lead pastor of HopeCity Church in the Winston-Salem and High Point area of North Carolina. He helped plant the congregation in 2011 and has emphasized practical service to the surrounding community, including food outreach initiatives that grew into Hope Food Co., Hope Truck Food Co., and Given Coffee. HopeCity has been recognized within The Wesleyan Church for its focus on life transformation and community engagement. Through One Step Closer, Pastor Scott has helped connect church leadership, marketplace relationships, and the call of John 17 to visible Christian cooperation.

Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC

Vice Director of Magdala; One Step Closer

Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC, is an Irish priest of the Legionaries of Christ who has served in the Holy Land since 2007. Based at Magdala on the Sea of Galilee, he accompanies pilgrims and teaches on Scripture, prayer, archaeology, hospitality, and Christian unity. He previously served at Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and has ministered in Europe and the United States. Fr. Eamon is closely involved in Magdala's development and is a principal visionary behind One Step Closer, an initiative that invites Christians from different traditions to live Jesus' prayer in John 17 through shared hospitality, service, friendship, and practical action.

Don Bulla

Marketplace Leader; HopeCity Church; OSC Development Team

Don Bulla is a physician assistant, pharmacist, healthcare executive, and marketplace leader based in North Carolina. He earned a pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed physician-assistant training at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Don has served patients in the Triad region for decades and has held senior provider-leadership responsibilities at Bethany Medical. Within HopeCity Church and One Step Closer, he brings a practical marketplace perspective, helping connect Christian unity with leadership, generosity, relationships, and concrete implementation. He and his wife, Lydia, have been active supporters of Magdala and OSC.

Rev. Dr. Frankie T. Jones, Sr.

Senior Pastor; President and CEO, Phoenix One Enterprise

Rev. Dr. Frankie T. Jones, Sr., is the senior pastor of Brown's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in North Carolina and president and CEO of Phoenix One Enterprise. His career spans pastoral ministry, corporate consulting, strategic communications, crisis management, philanthropy, and community relations. He previously served as president and chief operating officer of B&C Associates and is a retired United States Air Force senior officer. Dr. Jones has also served in Baptist and ecumenical leadership roles, including the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Baptist World Alliance, and World Council of Churches. He brings OSC a combined pastoral, marketplace, operational, and global-church perspective.

Roy Morgan

Marketplace Leader; Museum of the Bible Supporter

Roy Morgan is a marketplace leader and longtime supporter of Bible-centered cultural and ministry initiatives. In the OSC program, he is recognized for helping host the Magdala Stone in North Carolina and for supporting the 2025 One Step Closer gathering at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. His contribution focuses on inviting business leaders, churches, and supporters into meaningful relationships with Magdala and the wider John 17 vision. Museum of the Bible Board Member.

Gail Stewardson

Orthodox Christian Reader and Charitable-Sector Volunteer

Gail Stewardson is an Orthodox Christian who is active in charitable service and has a particular devotion to St. Elizabeth the New Martyr, St. Mary Magdalene, Gethsemane, and the Holy Land. In the gathering, she reads Luke 8:1–3, the passage naming the women who accompanied and supported Jesus during his Galilean ministry. Her role helps connect Magdala's archaeology, the Women's Atrium, and the living witness of Christian service.

Pastor Becky Keenan

Senior Pastor, Living Hope Houston; Founder, One With Israel

Pastor Becky Keenan is a senior pastor of Living Hope Houston, a non-denominational, multicultural evangelical church she leads with her husband, Pastor Joe Keenan. Born in Germany to Puerto Rican parents, she is a bilingual ministry leader and speaker with extensive experience addressing churches and civic groups. In the OSC gathering, she reflects on Luke 8, the women who supported Jesus' ministry, and Magdala's witness of hospitality and shared discipleship.

Fr. Vazgen Alekyan

Chief Dragoman, Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Fr. Vazgen Alekyan serves as Chief Dragoman of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. In this historic ecclesiastical role, he helps facilitate communication, protocol, representation, and relationships between the Armenian Patriarchate, other Christian communities, and civil authorities in the Holy Land. He regularly participates in inter-church and ecumenical settings, representing one of Christianity's ancient apostolic traditions. His contribution to the OSC gathering offers a profound Armenian Christian reflection on Jesus' Last Supper prayer for oneness with practical applications to hospitality.

Lydia Bulla

HopeCity Church; OSC Partner

Lydia Bulla is a HopeCity Church member and One Step Closer partner who has supported Magdala through prayer, relationships, service, and generosity alongside her husband, Don Bulla. In the program, she closes the Luke 8 section with prayer, linking the women who supported Jesus' Galilean ministry with the practical service of Christians today. Her participation reflects the importance of couples, families, local churches, and lay leaders in the OSC vision.

Rep. Tom Emmer

U.S. Representative for Minnesota's Sixth District; House Majority Whip

Congressman Tom Emmer represents Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District and serves as Majority Whip in the U.S. House of Representatives. First elected to Congress in 2014 and sworn in in 2015, he previously served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives and chaired the National Republican Congressional Committee. A lawyer and former small-business owner, he earned a degree in political science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law. His OSC contribution reflects on Magdala, Washington, and the need to overcome division through relationship and cooperation.

Rep. Tom Suozzi

U.S. Representative for New York's Third District; Co-Chair, Problem Solvers Caucus

Congressman Tom Suozzi represents New York's Third Congressional District, covering parts of Long Island and Queens. Trained as an attorney and certified public accountant, he previously served as mayor of Glen Cove and Nassau County executive before entering Congress. Suozzi is a co-chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus and is known for emphasizing consensus-building and practical cooperation across party lines. He serves on the House Ways and Means Committee and has also worked on national-security and foreign-policy issues. His OSC testimony provides a bipartisan public witness to bridge-building, reconciliation, and shared responsibility.

Rev. Juan Carlos Martínez

Pastor, The Woodlands Reformed Church

Rev. Juan Carlos Martínez has been an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America since 2013 and serves as pastor of The Woodlands Reformed Church in Texas. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Rice University and worked for nine years as a semiconductor design engineer before pursuing pastoral ministry. He later earned a Master of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and has served on the seminary's Board of Trustees since 2021. His OSC contribution focuses on the impact of Magdala and the Holy Land on students, pastors, and Christian formation.

Pastor Jan Barendse

Pastor and Co-Leader, Encouragers Unlimited Europe

Pastor Jan Barendse and his wife, Mies, are veteran Pentecostal leaders with decades of ministry in the Netherlands, Germany, Israel, and other nations. After Jan's conversion in 1970 and study at an Assemblies of God Bible school in The Hague, they helped establish the first Teen Challenge rehabilitation program in the Netherlands, pioneered church ministry in Mainz, Germany, and later pastored a historic Pentecostal congregation in Amsterdam for more than two decades. Through Encouragers Unlimited Europe, they strengthen Christian leaders and serve Messianic Jewish and Arab Christian communities in Israel. His OSC testimony reflects Magdala's lasting impact on visitors.

Lauren Patterson

Living Stones Today; Holy Land Ministry Partner

Lauren Patterson participates in Living Stones Today, a ministry connecting American Christians with local Christian communities across the ancient Bible lands through educational travel, relationship-building, service, and support projects. Her short OSC testimony contributes a personal perspective on encountering the Holy Land and its diverse Christian communities.

Pastor Glen Megill

Founder and President, ROCK of Africa Mission

Pastor Glen Megill is the founder and president of ROCK of Africa Mission, an organization with long-term ministry and humanitarian engagement in southern Africa. His work has included church partnership, relief efforts, leadership encouragement, and relationships with Christian communities in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and the wider region. Glen has also spoken publicly on faith, service, and the responsibility of Christian leadership. In the OSC gathering, he contributes both to the Magdala-impact panel and to the 2026–2033 vision, helping frame a long-term horizon for forming John 17 advocates, strengthening volunteers, and engaging churches across denominations and nations.

Sister Elisaveta

Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem

Sister Elisaveta serves within the Russian Orthodox presence in the Holy Land and participates in the OSC gathering on behalf of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem. She closes the Magdala section with the Hospitality Prayer, connecting Christian unity with the vulnerable act of welcoming and receiving Christ in one another. The Russian Ecclesiastical Mission has served pilgrims, maintained holy sites, and supported Orthodox Christian life in the Holy Land since the nineteenth century.

Dirk Quartemont

Christian Ministry Partner and Scripture Reader

Dirk Quartemont is a Christian ministry partner participating in the One Step Closer gathering as a reader of John 17:20–23, the central Scripture for OSC. His role is to help move the program from the experience of Magdala into Jesus' Last Supper prayer that his followers may be one.

Dr. Wave Nunnally

Professor Emeritus of Early Judaism and Christian Origins, Evangel University

Dr. Wave Nunnally is Professor Emeritus of Early Judaism and Christian Origins at Evangel University and an adjunct professor associated with the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary and Jerusalem University College. His academic work focuses on the Jewish backgrounds of the Bible, Hebrew, the Gospels and Acts, Dead Sea Scrolls, rabbinic literature, Josephus, and the geography of Israel. He earned graduate degrees from Jerusalem University College, Reformed Theological Seminary, and Hebrew Union College. Having lived, studied, taught, and led educational travel in Israel since the early 1980s, he brings historical and linguistic context to John 17 and Jesus' Last Supper prayer.

Archpriest Vladimir Chernyshev

Cleric, Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem

Archpriest Vladimir Chernyshev is a cleric of the Russian Orthodox Church assigned to the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem. In August 2026, he was formally introduced to Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem as a newly appointed member of the Mission. The Mission represents the Russian Orthodox Church in the Holy Land, supports pilgrims, and maintains relationships with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem and local Christian communities. In the OSC gathering, Fr. Vladimir offers an Orthodox response to Jesus' prayer in John 17 and the call to visible Christian oneness.

Michael Folta

Media Producer, Magdala; One Step Closer

Michael Folta is a media producer, videographer, and drone filmmaker based at Magdala on the Sea of Galilee. He has led video production, livestream support, podcast-studio development, volunteer camera training, and production coordination for Magdala and One Step Closer. Michael holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Virginia Tech and brings a visual storytelling approach shaped by architecture, landscape, Scripture, and the Holy Land. In the volunteer feature, he reflects on serving in a Catholic environment as an American Protestant with a charismatic background and on learning Christian unity through shared work, meals, prayer, hospitality, and relationships across traditions.

Martín and Katalina López

Former Magdala Volunteers from Mexico

Martín and Katalina López are former Magdala volunteers from Mexico whose testimony describes volunteering as an opportunity to step outside ordinary routines, deepen faith, form friendships, and serve people from around the world. They speak of Magdala becoming a temporary home through relationships with priests, consecrated women, staff, pilgrims, and other volunteers. Their reflections emphasize learning to encounter people before denominational labels and seeing the Sea of Galilee not only as a landscape but as a gift from God.

Brad Pease

Former Magdala Volunteer and Guide

Brad Pease is a retired businessman and a former Magdala volunteer and guide from the Portland, Oregon area who has visited and served at Magdala since the period following the discovery of the first-century synagogue. In his testimony, he highlights Magdala's archaeology, chapels, hospitality, and openness to Christians from different faith traditions. As a Protestant volunteer, he was encouraged to be sensitive to each visiting group and, whenever possible, to tell people about Jesus. He describes serving with the Magdala family, welcoming visitors, and spending time beside the Sea of Galilee as one of the most meaningful experiences of his life.

Laura Uccello

Global Art Markets Advisor and Cultural Partnerships Leader

Laura Uccello brings more than a decade of experience building partnerships between global brands and leading cultural institutions. She has held strategic roles at Christie's, Saatchi Gallery, The National Gallery, and major international events, and she teaches in the MA in Global Art Markets at Regent's University London. She earned an MSc in Art, Law and Business from Christie's Education and was named to Walpole's 2023 Power List for her work connecting luxury brands with cultural organizations. For One Step Closer, she is helping develop the worldwide artwork initiative that will give visual expression to Jesus' prayer in John 17.

Vance Patterson

Executive Director, Living Stones Today

Vance Patterson is executive director of Living Stones Today, which connects Americans with local Christians across the ancient Bible lands through educational travel, service projects, support, and relationship-building. His ministry background includes more than twenty-five years with Young Life in the United States, Middle East, and Africa, along with nonprofit and business leadership roles. He has also served in financial-services and healthcare-related companies and is a licensed pastor. A graduate of Texas Christian University, Vance brings extensive experience in cross-cultural ministry, organizational leadership, and Holy Land travel designed to elevate the voices and stories of local Christian communities.

Pastor Julio O. Rodriguez

Pastoral Intern, The Woodlands Reformed Church

Julio O. Rodriguez is a pastoral intern at The Woodlands Reformed Church in Texas and is completing a Master of Divinity at Reformed Theological Seminary in Houston. Raised in South Texas, he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Texas A&M International University before pursuing full-time ministry. He has served through preaching, teaching, young-adult ministry, church communications, and pastoral formation and is under care of the Houston Metro Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America. In the OSC program, he reads Luke 5:4–5 and Matthew 7:24–25, framing courageous action and building on the rock.

Pastor Steve Wingfield

CEO and Evangelist, Wingfield Ministries

Steve Wingfield is CEO and evangelist of Wingfield Ministries, Victory Weekend, Lodestar Mountain Inn, and Lodestar Guidance. A Virginia native, he has served in ministry for more than forty-five years, first as a pastor and then through full-time evangelism in the United States and internationally. He studied at Eastern Mennonite College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and has taught at the Billy Graham Training Center and other ministry settings. Steve is also an author and ministry trainer with a particular passion for evangelism, pastoral encouragement, hospitality, and equipping new generations of Christian leaders. He presents OSC's concrete 2027 action plan and capital-campaign invitation.

David Delgado

Deputy Development Officer, Magdala Israel

David Delgado serves in development and fundraising for Magdala, helping translate vision into clear pathways for participation, donor engagement, and long-term support. In the OSC gathering, he appears with David Beam in the Mosaic overview, explaining how individuals, churches, and organizations can engage with the Magdala Mosaic and related participation opportunities. His role also includes providing a professional point of contact for people considering significant gifts or needing practical guidance.

David Beam

OSC Project Contributor; Project Management and Martech Leader

David Beam is a project-management and marketing-technology leader who has served as a key practical contributor to One Step Closer. His OSC work has included program development, moderator run books, event logistics, website and Mosaic coordination, Museum of the Bible gathering support, and persistent follow-through across teams and time zones. He combines corporate project discipline with a strong commitment to relationships and Christian collaboration. In the program, he appears in the Mosaic overview with David Delgado and is recognized as the recipient of the 2026 One Step Closer Award for helping move the initiative from vision toward organized implementation.

Sandra Adu-Gyamfi

Corporate Relations Director and Company Secretary, Guinness Ghana Breweries

Sandra Adu-Gyamfi is a Ghanaian legal, governance, and business leader with more than thirteen years of experience in corporate law, regulatory affairs, compliance, board governance, and communications across West Africa. In 2026, she returned to Guinness Ghana Breweries as Corporate Relations Director and Company Secretary after serving as General Counsel and Company Secretary at Fan Milk Plc, part of Danone. She holds an LLM in International Corporate and Commercial Law from King's College London and has been recognized in the Legal 500 GC Powerlist. She contributes a brief response on how OSC's vision can translate into leadership, institutions, and practical action.

Robert Poole

OSC Feedback Respondent

Robert Poole is a father, small-business owner, teacher, mental health clinician, and city council member. He serves in several lay roles at Live Oak Church in Denham Springs, Louisiana, a congregation of approximately 3,000 people. His experience across family life, business, education, mental health, local government, and church service gives him a broad community perspective. In the One Step Closer gathering, he offers a brief response during the feedback section, reflecting on how the John 17 vision can take practical shape in everyday leadership, service, and community life.

Thank you for viewing the One Step Closer Online Gathering and, even more importantly, for participating through the live chat and continued follow-up. All resources discussed during the gathering will be shared in a series of follow-up emails. The recording of the live event will be available immediately to watch again and share with others. From 2:00 to 2:30 PM EST, the program will continue with a virtual meet and greet, giving participants an opportunity to connect with one another. Instructions for joining will be provided on screen. Thank you, and God bless.