

Current Itinerary for Achol Kir's Visit to Pittsburgh Presbytery

Friday, September 29-Tuesday, October 3

Achol (see bio below) will be staying in Jim and Pam Leuenberger's home throughout her visit. The Leuenbergers live at 1609 Vermont Avenue in White Oak. There are openings in the schedule for churches/groups that want to host Achol for an event. All the events listed on the schedule below are open events except for the breakfast on Saturday morning. Contact Jim Leuenberger to schedule time with Achol at 724-813-1295 (cell) or 412-678-2000 (church), email him at jpleuen@gmail.com.

Friday, September 29

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| Afternoon | Jim Leuenberger will pick up Achol (2:00 PM) in Cranberry Township who will be coming from Shenango Presbytery |
| Evening | Open |

Saturday, September 30

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| Morning | Breakfast meeting with McKeesport Presbyterian Church Mission Committee |
| Afternoon | Lunch with Sharon Stewart and others at an Ethiopian restaurant in East Liberty |
| Evening | Rest and preparation for Sunday activities |

Sunday, October 1

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| Morning | Sunday School Presentation (9:30) and Worship (10:30) at McKeesport PC |
| Afternoon | Lunch (12:30) and presentation at East Liberty Presbyterian Church; RSVP for lunch by Friday, September 30, to Kay Shissler at 412-681-2047 |
| Evening | Traveling with Jim Leuenberger to Shenango Presbytery to participate in their "Celebrate Sudan" event |

Monday, October 2

Morning	Open
Afternoon	Interview (4:00 PM) at the presbytery center with Gregg Hartung of Presbyterian Media Mission
Evening	Dinner (6:00 PM) and presentation by Achol at the presbytery center for all churches and members of the presbytery

Tuesday, October 3

Morning	Achol will fly out of Pittsburgh International Airport (8:35 AM) departing for North Carolina
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Achol Majok Kur Kier

South Sudan

(available September 22 –October 8 only)

Achol Majok Kur Kier chairs the Women’s Desk and is a deacon in the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC). The work of the SSPEC Women’s Desk has included trauma healing, working with internal refugees in UNMIS protection camps, and organizing SSPEC women to take part in the national dialogue called for by the President of the Republic of South Sudan. Madam Achol has also served as a member of the executive committee of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), actively participating in all the peace initiatives of South Sudan since December 2013. She remains actively engaged in peace and reconciliation. Her areas of expertise are peace & reconciliation, stability, education particularly for girls, and poverty alleviation. She states that, “in the absence of peace there will be no education, no health services, no food, no development.” Madam Achol was born in Bieu village Western Upper Nile Province to parents of the Dinka tribe and grew up in Bentiu district, a multi-cultural area where Nuer, Dinka and Chuluk co-exist. As a Dinka, she has broken tribal norms to complete her education before getting married and to marry a Nuer man during the 1991 split. Early in her career as a professional teacher she mobilized Southerners in displaced camps around Khartoum, Kostis and Kinana to send their children to school believing that education is a right even in emergency situations. Madam Achol states that she is “strongly convinced that education was one of the key contributing factors to the devastatingly long war in the Sudan.” In 1999 she joined the Southern Sudan struggle movement and worked with UNICEF’s Operation Life Line, facilitating education programs in the Greater Upper Nile Region. Madam Achol holds a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Juba. She is the mother of two and speaks English and Arabic.

