The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.

*Having trouble viewing any of the images in the email? View as Webpage*

# The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

## In This Issue

- From the Bishop
- Contemplative Prayer Workshop
- Transitions
- End of Year Reminders for Congregations
- Christmas Playlist
- Becoming Beloved Community
- Behavioral Health Ministry Team
- Safe Church, Safe Communities
- Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Older Adult Ministry
- GILEAD Grants
- UTO Grants
- Resources


## From Bishop Monnot

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod;
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!
(Hymn 75, The Hymnal 1982)

Advent is a time of preparation, a time of clearing away all that stands between ourselves and God, a time to do what we can to create a direct path, a highway, for God to come and enter into our hearts, our lives, our world. As we prepare our hearts and our lives, we may find that in some instances preparation looks like transition. If so, that is as it should be: our lives are full of transition and transformation. Advent simply pulls back the veil and shows reality to us more clearly. Everything in creation changes: God's love is the only enduring constant.

We are celebrating some transitions within our diocesan community, some of which you may already know about and others of which may be news to you. I have appointed the Rev. Tom Early as Priest-in-Charge of St. John's-by-the-Campus in Ames. Tom has been serving in this diocese at St. Alban's, Spirit Lake, and he will begin at St. John's in January. I have also appointed the Rev. Brian Gross, formerly the Dean of St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral in Laramie, Wyoming, as Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church in Cedar Rapids. Brian will begin at Christ Church in December. Most recently, I have appointed the Rev. Nora Boerner as Interim Beloved Community Missioner at the Beloved Community Initiative in Iowa City. Nora has already begun her work with BCI and is serving as an intentional interim as the BCI advisory boards discern the future direction of the work of BCI. Nora's position is quarter-time, and she also continues in her position as Curate at Trinity, Iowa City for three-quarters time.

Together as a diocese we are also preparing the way for God to come. As you know, at Diocesan Convention I announced the three areas of focus for us for the next year: strengthening congregations, supporting clergy and lay leadership, and deepening our connection to God. This work has already begun and will continue, through a variety of workshops and other transformational opportunities that will enable us to be flexible and responsive to the work that God places before us.

One path to deepening our connection to God is contemplative prayer, and Br. James Dowd of the Benedictine Way will be leading us in workshops four times over the next year in different regions of our diocese. These workshops are appropriate for both people new to contemplative prayer and for people who wish to strengthen and deepen their practice. I invite you to join me at one of these events. The first will take place on Saturday, December 10, 10AM-1PM at St. John's, Mason City. More detailed information about this workshop is elsewhere in this e-news, and more dates and locations will be announced soon.

In the area of supporting clergy and lay leadership, our diocese is partnering with Holmes Coaching to offer coaching training to clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese of Iowa. The clergy of the diocese saw a demonstration of coaching when they gathered at Diocesan Convention, and many were able to see the value of a coach approach to leadership. There is still space available for these training sessions, and you can find more information and register below.

In support of these areas of focus at Diocesan Convention, I announced the creation of the Opportunity Fund. Your Board of Directors has created an Opportunity Fund Task Force to begin to bring the Fund into being, and their meetings are full of energy and excitement about the possibilities for our diocese going forward. You will hear more from them soon.

In the meantime, as we continue to prepare the way for God to come into our hearts and into our world, please join me in praying for our diocese.

One Church, one Body, united in Christ's love: the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa.

Yours in the abundant life of Christ,
+ Betsey

The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Bishop of Iowa

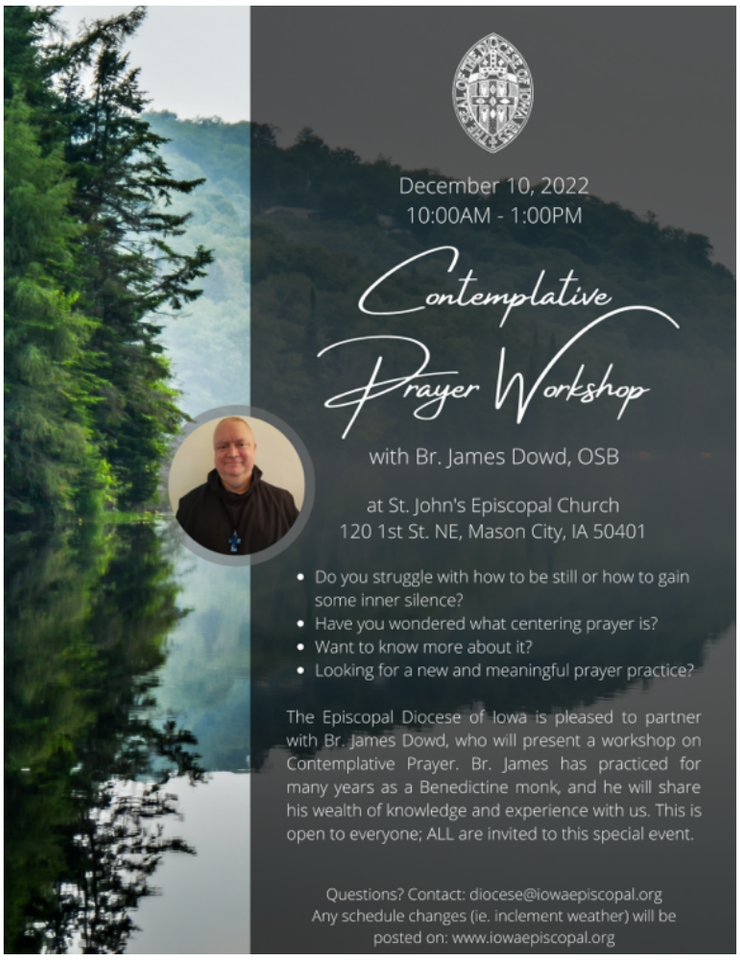
---

For more information on the Coach Approach Skills Training (CAST) Opportunity:

Register Here

View Flyer Here

## Contemplative Prayer Workshop




Don't worry if you aren't able to make this workshop. Other dates will be announced in the near future.

## Transitions

**God willing and the people consenting,**
**The Right Reverend Betsey Monnot**
**Bishop of Iowa**
**will ordain**

**Elizabeth Abbott Wells McElroy**
**Catherine Ann Schroeder**

**to the Sacred Order of Deacons**
**in Christ's holy catholic Church**

**Saturday, December 3rd**
**Two thousand twenty-two**
**at two o'clock in the afternoon**
**St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral**
**815 High Street, Des Moines, Iowa**

**Your prayers and presence are requested**
**The festal color is red** **Streaming is available**

WATCH LIVE

ORIDNATION BULLETIN

- Bishop Monnot has invited the Rev. Nora Boerner to serve as the quarter-time interim, beginning November 15, 2022. Rev. Boerner will also continue to serve, now at three-quarter time, as Curate at Trinity Episcopal in Iowa City.
- Christ Episcopal Church in Cedar Rapids will welcome the Rev. Brian K. Gross to serve as Priest in Charge, effective December 5, 2022. Rev. Gross most recently served as the Dean of St. Matthew's Cathedral in the Diocese of Wyoming.
- The Rev. Raisin Horn will retire from Christ Church in Clinton at the end of 2022. Christ, Clinton has formed a transition committee and will be searching for a priest in charge in 2023.
- The Very Rev. John Horn will retire from Trinity Cathedral in Davenport at the end of 2022. Trinity Cathedral has formed a search committee and is beginning their search process for a dean. They would love to have an interim dean serve with them during the search process so if you know of someone who might be interested, please be in touch with Canon Wagner (**mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org**)
- St. John's by the Campus in Ames will welcome the Rev. Tom Early as Priest-in-Charge beginning January 1, 2023. Rev. Early will be coming to St. John's after being the Priest-in-Charge and Rector of St. Alban's in Spirit Lake for over five years.
- The Rev. Lauren Lyon has announced the conclusion of her time at Trinity Episcopal Church in Iowa City in April 2024. The vestry is working with Canon Meg and plans to form a search committee in early 2023, with the intention of calling a new rector to serve with them after Rev. Lyon's retirement.
- St. Matthew's by the Bridge in Iowa Falls is seeking a half-time priest in charge. Clergy interested in applying should submit portfolio, resume and letter of interest to **mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org**

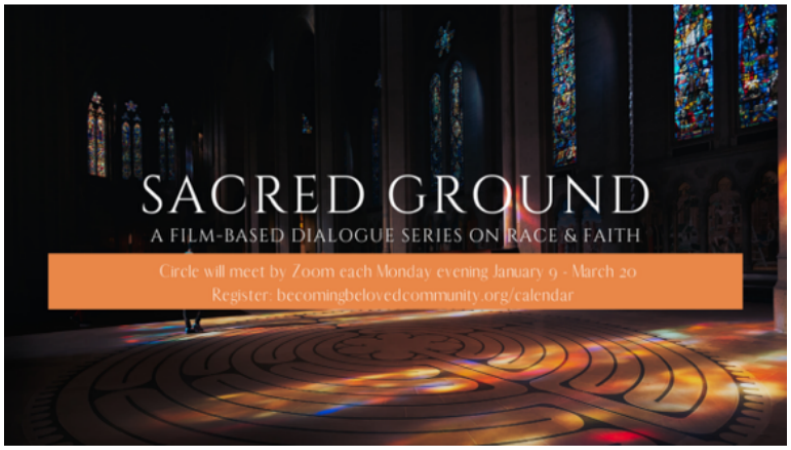
## End of Year Reminders for Congregations

- Remember that charitable donations must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2022, in order to apply to 2022.
- Approve and return your congregation's 2023 Stewardship Share pledge from the Diocesan office.
- Remit final payments due for 2022 Stewardship Share, *Iowa Connections*, and Revolving Fund Loans to the Diocesan office.
- Remit amounts collected in 2022 for special offerings (Bishop's Discretionary Fund, United Thank Offering, Episcopal Relief & Development, Good Friday Offering, and Theological Seminary Support) to the Diocesan office.
- Send a copy of your 2021 **Church Audit/Financial Review** to the Diocesan Office. This annual review is a requirement for all Episcopal Churches due on September 1 each year.
- Designate a 2023 Housing Allowance for your Priest.
- Update your church's subscription list for *Iowa Connections*. Diocesan policy requires that every Episcopal household receive this quarterly mailing. For more information, contact Elizabeth Adams at **eadams@iowaepiscopal.org**.
- Review and renew **Licensed Ministries** for your congregation that are due to expire on December 31, 2022. **https://www.iowaepiscopal.org/licensed-lay-ministries**

## Diocesan Christmas Playlist

Have a favorite song you'd like added? Email it to **tpetty@iowaepiscopal.org**

## Becoming Beloved Community




## Behavioral Health Ministries Team

### Bulletin Insert

### Mental Health First Aid Training

Saturday, February 4, 9am - 3pm

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. This training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

**Register Here**

---

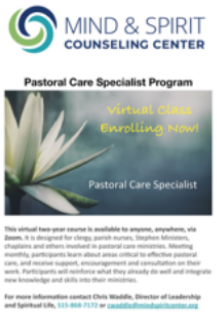
### BHMT Newsletter

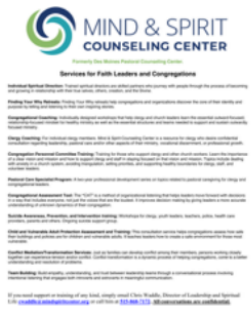
What makes you happy?
What brings you joy?
Isn't it the same thing?
Well, no it isn't.
Feeling happy is an external emotion, according to Christianity.com whereas joy is a feeling of internal contentment.

**READ MORE HERE**

---

### Mind & Spirit Counseling Center, formerly Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, offerings




**MINDSPRING FREE WEBINARS** **NAMI CENTRAL IOWA**

## Safe Church, Safe Communities

**Who needs to take the training?**
Everyone! As members of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we are all called to take part in keeping all people in our church safe. Training is a requirement for those in leadership roles.

**Which courses do I need to take?**
Depends on your role -
See the chart **HERE** for which courses (#1-9) you should take.

There are 8 active courses. Find all **Safe Church** information on the diocesan website.

**Some email servers may shorten our newsletter. Click View as Webpage to see the newsletter in its entirety.**

## Youth Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY
Diocese of Iowa

Stay up-to-date on all of our upcoming events **HERE**.

### Ski Trip: February 11-12, 2023

Join youth from around the diocese for a day of fun on the slopes of Seven Oaks Ski Resort in Boone! Youth 4th-12th grade can come ski/snowboard from 10am - 4pm at Seven Oaks. Lodging, if you wish to stay overnight, will be provided by St. John's, Ames including dinner and breakfast. You can find more information on our **website** and register **HERE**.

Applications are live **HERE**.

### EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) 2023

Every three years the Episcopal Church convenes an international youth event so "that the energy of the youth of the Episcopal Church can continue to be utilized in active ministry as members of the Body of Christ."
Youth participants in EYE23 must currently be enrolled in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade during this school year. Participants must have turned at least 15 and be no older than 19 by July 4, 2023.

## Young Adults

### Episcopal Service Corps.

"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is." — Frederick Buechner

Young adults 21-32 are invited to consider an ESC Year, a time apart to listen to your life, to make new friends in a new place, and to consider how you can use your unique gifts and experiences to create real, meaningful transformation in yourself and the community around you.

DISCERNMENT QUIZ

APPLY NOW

### Service Corps Emergency Funds

The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, through a GILEAD Grant, has limited funds to assist service corps members with emergency or travel funds. Fill out the form for assistance with travel to and from home, moving expenses, car repairs, medical emergencies, etc. The funds will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. You can find the form on the diocesan website or click the button below.

Email **diocese@iowaepiscopal.org** for more information.

SCEF FORM

## Older Adult Ministry

An increasing percentage of members in Episcopal churches in Iowa are older adults. This stage of life offers unique challenges and opportunities for ministry. Several people in our diocese have put together an **extensive set of resources** on the spiritual, moral, and practical dimensions of becoming an elder and are happy to work with congregations to help them take advantage of these helpful materials.

Our initial conversation with church members or leaders could be via phone or zoom. We can then tailor our offerings to fit the needs of the congregations. Possibilities include a Sunday after-church forum led by one of our team members or a workshop that might last for a half-day or full-day, either in person or via Zoom. Topics might include: Becoming an Elder, The Spirituality of Aging, or Dealing and Learning From Our Difficulties.

For more information, please contact the diocesan office or team leaders Bob Sessions (**sessions.bob@gmail.com**) or Stacey Gerhart (**spgerhart@gmail.com**).

## GILEAD Grants

Congratulations to our 2022 Grantees! Check out this video to hear from this year's grantees about their projects and the grant process.

2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

GILEAD GRANTS

## United Thank Offering Grant Applications

**The 2023 United Thank Offering UTO Grant application materials are open and available HERE.**

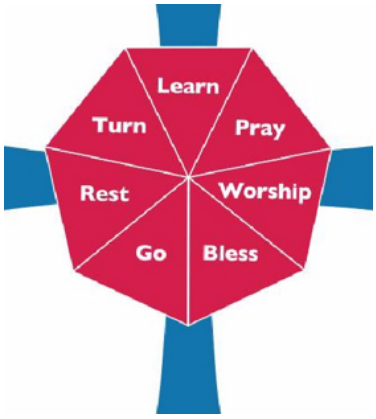
Over the next 3 years, The United Thank Offering, in the spirit of Matthew 25:36, will focus on areas of ministry that serve those who society has left out and left behind. Therefore, the UTO grant focus for 2023 will be on innovative mission and ministry projects addressing all aspects of the worldwide incarceration crisis, specifically preventative programs, and intervention, prisoner support outreach, prison reform work, or post-prison re-entry.

**The diocesan due date for submission of grant applications from within The Episcopal Church -- February 10, 2023** -- allows time for the grants to be reviewed by the diocesan grant review committee and for the Bishop's endorsement.

**For the Anglican Communion or those needing translation support**, there are two deadlines. The Iowa deadline for diocesan partnering with these types of grant applications is **December 6, 2022**. The first deadline with The Episcopal Church UTO office, Friday, January 6, 2023, ensures that your application is in the process, no new applications will be accepted after this date. Read more **HERE**.

Questions?
Email: **diocese@iowaepiscopal.org**

## Resources




MORE INFORMATION HERE

### Journeying the Way of Love Advent Curriculum

For the season of Advent, Journeying the Way of Love offers four sessions to be explored as we await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the **Way of Love** as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world. The sessions are specially designed for use during the Christian formation hour before or after worship. Facilitation instructions accommodate small or large groups.

---

AdventWord is an offering of Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church.
Learn more about our ministry at **forwardmovement.org**.

### Advent Word

AdventWord is an inspirational online Advent calendar. Our community helps deepen our understanding of the coming of Jesus into the world through the practices of shared meditation and prayer. Come pray with us!
There are many ways to participate in AdventWord! And all of them are correct!

- Read and pray over the daily emailed meditation during Advent
- Connect and discuss the day's word with other disciples on our social media pages
- Share your own personal meditation to inspire others—whether visual or written. Haikus and poems, paintings, photographs, personal reflections, and more are all encouraged.

---

- **Joint Intercession List**
- **Mental Health Resources**
- **COVID-19 resources**
- **Faith in Action Facebook Page**
- **Episcopal Relief & Development**
- **The Partner's Path** (support for spouses of Episcopal clergy)

***NOTE ABOUT UNSUBSCRIBING:***
*if you click "Unsubscribe" below it removes you from ALL diocesan emails (including the e-news, letters from the Bishop, etc.) and our office cannot re-subscribe you. You'll need to re-subscribe yourself by clicking on "start sending me the news!" at this link: https://www.iowaepiscopal.org/news. If you wish to be taken off of a specific email list or have questions, contact diocese@iowaepiscopal.org*

Episcopal Diocese of Iowa | 225 37th Street, Des Moines, IA 50312

Unsubscribe awagner@iowaepiscopal.org

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by diocese@iowaepiscopal.org powered by

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!