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# The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa



## MARCH E-NEWS

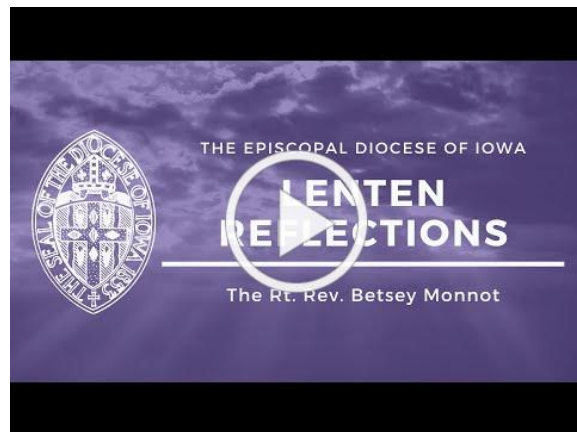


### In This Issue

- **From the Bishop**
- **Upcoming Events & Opportunities**
- **Leadership Reminders & Trainings**
- **Diocesan Ministries and Formation**
- **GILEAD Grants: Spotlight**
- **Online Offerings Around the Diocese**
- **Resources**
- **Website Updates**

### From Bishop Monnot

Join us each week during Lent for a video reflection. The videos explore **The Cloud of Unknowing Distilled**, by Daniel London, a book that invites us into the mystical tradition of contemplative prayer as first described through the anonymous fourteenth-century author of the mystical classic, *The Cloud of Unknowing*. Videos will post to our **Facebook** and **YouTube** pages on Mondays at 10AM.



Yours in the abundant life of Christ,  
+ Betsey

The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Bishop of Iowa

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities

## LENT



**MARCH 1, 8, 22 & 29 AT 7PM  
ON ZOOM**

### Wednesdays:

Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about Mental Health? Or if any of the people we read about in the Bible dealt with mental illness? Join Rev. Kris Leaman, Amy Mellies and special guest, David Galvan, as we dive into the word of God and discuss how the Bible talks about mental health and how we use that information to break down the stigma around this issue and help educate others.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Find links to daily meditations, stations of the cross, activities, and other resources on our website.



### April 3 at 11:00 AM

The Chrism Mass is a service during which oils are blessed for use in the churches, and these blessed oils are called "chrism." Chrism is used at baptisms, and may be used at Confirmations, throughout the year. All of us will have the opportunity to renew our baptismal promises, and ordained clergy will renew the vows appropriate to their order. The service will be both in-person and live-streamed, and all are encouraged to attend. All are welcome! Attend in-person or watch online [HERE](#).

## Contemplative Prayer Workshops

- Do you struggle with how to be still or how to gain some inner silence?
- Have you wondered what centering prayer is?
- Want to know more about it?
- Looking for a new and meaningful prayer practice?

The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa is pleased to partner with Br. James Dowd, who will



present workshops on Contemplative Prayer. Br. James has practiced for many years as a Benedictine monk, and he will share his wealth of knowledge and experience with us. These are open to everyone; ALL are invited to these special events.

## NEXT UP:

### March 25 in Denison

Click the image above to download it

Or [click here for flyer](#)



April 22 in Davenport

(click image to download) ([click here for flyer](#))

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## Genesis II



Seven congregations from across the state are participating in Genesis II and will get up to 2 years of FREE coaching, support, and resources from trained leaders in The Episcopal Church that are focused on helping develop more faithful, healthy and effective communities of faith. Each of the seven churches has lay leaders who have committed to come together 2x per month on Zoom for 90-minute sessions under the leadership of coaches trained in group coaching and experienced in church leadership. Learn more and follow along with their learnings and activities at:

<https://www.iowaepiscopal.org/genesis-ii>

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## Agape Cafe

The **Agape Café** serves a free, hot, breakfast dine-in or to-go for their neighbors in the Iowa City area experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurity. In celebration of their 30th anniversary, help sustain their mission by donating today!

*"The Café means respect. You're treated as a person here. I've been homeless a lot of years*

**Happy 30th  
Anniversary**



Serving food with  
dignity since 1993

*and this is the first place where you sat with us, took our order and I didn't have to stand in line for a ladle of food." --Beth, guest*

[Donate](#)

## The Episcopal Church Educational Scholarships

**EDUCATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE**

from The Episcopal Church

Deadline to apply:  
April 12, 2023



  
**GRANTS AND  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Applications are being accepted for a wide variety of educational scholarships from The Episcopal Church for the 2023-2024 academic year. The deadline to apply is April 12. All applicants must be Episcopalian.

The scholarships—derived from annual income of more than 45 trust funds established through bequests to The Episcopal Church—range from assistance for children of missionaries, bishops and clergy to individuals seeking theological education and training. The maximum award is \$10,000 per student.

## Leadership Reminders & Trainings

### Joint Chapter Meeting - Save the Date



[REGISTER HERE](https://tinyurl.com/ChapterMTGSpring23)

## Dismantling Racism



**Upcoming Dates:**  
June 3, September 16 & November 4

### [Becoming Beloved Community](#)

Grounded in The Episcopal Church's commitment to dismantling racism as essential to our formation as Christians, this ONLINE training is open to all persons who would like to deepen their understanding of racism, prejudice, and privilege.

This training is required of all lay and ordained leaders in The Episcopal Church (including vestries, search committees, diocesan leadership, etc.). The training will consist of 2 sessions from 10:00am-12:00pm and 12:30pm-2:30pm.

## 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](#)



[LEARN MORE](#)

Some email servers may shorten our newsletter. Click [View as Webpage](#) to see the newsletter in its entirety.

## Diocesan Ministries & Formation

### Older Adult Ministry



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

Don't miss the opportunity to include an Older Adult Ministry event in the life of your church. With one of several programs offered through the diocese, older adults in your congregation can explore some of the major spiritual issues and opportunities of aging. Instead of viewing and experiencing aging as a dreaded decline, a workshop or reading group could help your older adults discover and develop their abilities to be elders.

Contact Bob Sessions at [sessions.bob@gmail.com](mailto:sessions.bob@gmail.com) or Stacey Gerhart at [spgerhart@gmail.com](mailto:spgerhart@gmail.com)



Stay up-to-date on all of our upcoming events [HERE](#).



[YMDT March Newsletter](#)

[40 Acts of Service](#)

**Small Acts, Big Impact (9th-12th)**  
 March 25-26 | All Saint's, Storm Lake

# SMALL ACTS, BIG IMPACT

HS YOUTH  
MARCH 25-26  
ALL SAINTS STORM LAKE



Our year of service continues with Small Acts, Big Impact. This March event is for high school students. We will be working with NW Iowa churches to serve their communities.

Check the [website](#) for more information.

REGISTER HERE



REGISTER HERE

## Small Acts, Big Impact (6th-8th)

April 29-30 | Grace Church, Cedar Rapids

Youth will meet and stay overnight at Grace Church, Cedar Rapids and will also be visiting local congregations in the Iowa City area and learning about their outreach ministries as well.

The fee for this event is \$35. Scholarships are always available and you can fill out the request form [HERE](#).

## EPIC Summer Camp

**Jesus: The Person, The Myth, The Legend**

June 26-30, Christian Conference Center, Newton

Join us for EPIC this year at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa. We have an exciting week of activities planned including Christian formation programs for youth entering grades 4-12, summer camp traditions such as swimming, arts and crafts, nature hikes, star gazing, campfires, and s'mores, all led by caring and professionally trained staff!

REGISTER HERE



WHO: All youth entering grades 4-12 (not limited to Episcopalians!)

WHEN: June 26-30, 2023

WHERE: Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa

HOW MUCH: \$350 per camper.

Scholarships are always available!

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## Young Adult Ministry

SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 8-17, 2023



## Young Adult Pilgrimage

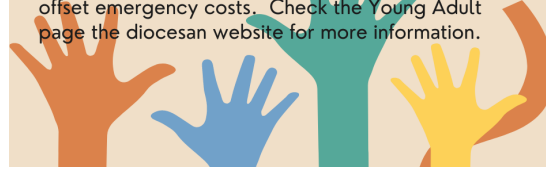
IOWA



This is the third leg of a young adult (ages 18-30) pilgrimage between Iowa's companion dioceses of Brechin in Scotland and Swaziland in eSwatini. In 2023 young people from each diocese will meet together in Iowa.

## Service Corps Emergency Fund

Are you a service corps member looking for emergency funds for a medical bill, travel home or other expense that your stipend does not cover? If so, we've got your back. Through a GILEAD grant we can offer you funding to help offset emergency costs. Check the Young Adult page the diocesan website for more information.



### August Pilgrimage

Join young adults from the Diocese of Brechin in Scotland, the Diocese of Swaziland in eSwatini, and the Diocese of Iowa, on a pilgrimage in Iowa from August 8 - 17, 2023. Get to know fellow young adults as we spend time together learning, exploring, and having fun! Our activities and discussions will focus on the topics of Mission & Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation Care.

Open to young adults ages 18-30.  
More information, including cost & application, coming soon...

WEBSITE

Email [diocese@iowaepiscopal.org](mailto:diocese@iowaepiscopal.org) for more information.

SCEF FORM

## Behavioral Health Ministry Team



### BHMT Lenten Reflection:

My daughter heard and saw a robin in Des Moines a week or so ago. Robins, in February?! It won't be too long when we hear the music of nature through the singing of robins and sparrows, and love songs of cardinals. Ever so slowly the earth is waking up from a long winter's sleep.

That said, March can be as brutal for blizzards and such, so we're not off the hook quite yet.

We are officially in the season of Lent!

A time for reflection.

Prayers.

Confession, if you feel called.

A time for fasting.

READ MORE HERE



# Becoming Beloved Community



Download these toolkits for changes to language and materials for each story. Be sure to read the introduction to learn more about our process and ideas for doing an equity audit of other stories and materials.

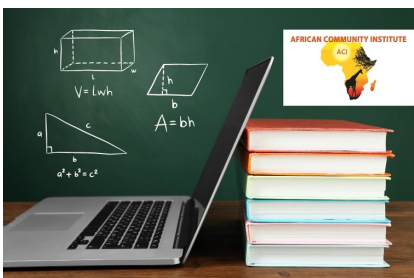
The Godly Play Equity Audit team has been busy developing materials and script toolkits to ensure our materials reflect the beauty of God's diversity. The team is thrilled to share with you the materials and toolkits for our first three stories.

- [Equity Audit Toolkit Introduction](#)
- [Creation Toolkit](#)
- [Parable of the Good Shepherd Toolkit](#)
- [Circle of the Church Year Toolkit](#)

Skilled artists developed these materials, and the team is committed to paying them well for their work.

## GILEAD Grants

### 2022 Recipient Spotlight: African Community Institute with St. Anne's, Ankeny



**Strengthening an Existing Ministry Grant -- \$5,000**  
African Community Institute (ACI) is a non-profit that seeks to increase the educational skills of refugees and immigrants by providing citizenship, language, and tutoring services/workshops. GILEAD Grant funds will be used to help pay for tutors, trainers, and teachers, and for any needed learning materials for these services/workshops.



**Expanding Tools & Technology Grant -- \$5,000**  
African Community Institute helps children and adult refugees and immigrants with computer knowledge, and the technology also allows ACI to provide language classes, tutoring services, Bible studies, and other workshops. GILEAD Grant funds will be used to expand ACI's technology, including computers, printers, iPad, and laptops.

[St. Anne's Website](#)

[Read more about these and other 2022 recipients here.](#)

## Online Around the Diocese

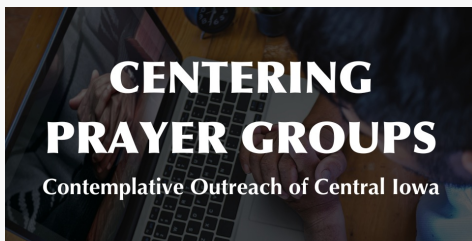
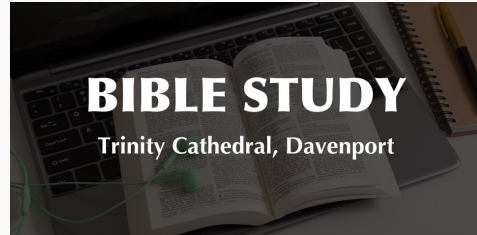
Do you have an online offering you'd like to share with others in the diocese? Let us know! Email: [tpetty@iowaepiscopal.org](mailto:tpetty@iowaepiscopal.org)



We'll highlight it here in the e-news, and there's a new page on the website [HERE](#)

### Online Saturday Mornings

Meets Saturdays on Zoom for Morning Prayer at 8:30 am followed by Bible study from 9:00-10:30. Email Greg Braid [gbraid@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbraid@sbcglobal.net) for the Zoom information.



### In-Person & Virtual Groups

To sign up to attend a prayer group, and for more information on upcoming opportunities and resources, visit the Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa website [HERE](#).

## Resources





# WEBSITE UPDATES IN PROGRESS

*Thank you for your patience as we update  
and move a few things around.*



## Staff Page

Check out the updated staff page on the website! Now with a list of topics and ministry areas for each person so you can find who to contact for what. Follow along on [Facebook](#) as we introduce everyone for #Team Member Tuesdays.

Having trouble finding something on the website as we update and move a few things? Contact Traci Ruhland Petty  
[tpetty@iowaepiscopal.org](mailto:tpetty@iowaepiscopal.org)

### **NOTE ABOUT UNSUBSCRIBING:**

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