



The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

MAY E-NEWS

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From Bishop Monnot

It is springtime, and when I look out the window at the tiny, light green leaves on the large oak tree on my front lawn, I am reminded that this is a time of transition and transformation. Those leaves are growing larger and darker, and soon will be at full strength, collecting sunlight and manufacturing energy for the tree all summer long.

It's not just my oak tree: the rest of our world is in transition also. We are moving further away from the worst parts of the COVID-19 pandemic, discovering and putting to use the lessons that we learned. The political landscape is changing, both in Iowa and on a national and even international level. The effects of global climate change are becoming easier to see on local levels.

Our churches and our diocese are also experiencing transition. This began long before the pandemic came along, but the pandemic brought it into sharper focus. Many of our churches were already seeing their attendance numbers, giving numbers, and overall engagement decline. Since reopening after the pandemic, most of our churches have not returned to pre-pandemic levels in these areas.

Times of transition can be hard and scary, because we don't necessarily know where we are going. Eventually, my oak tree will transition from actively growing and shading my home to dying and likely being taken down and ground up for mulch, giving life and protection to other plants in a completely different form. If the oak tree could think, it wouldn't be able to imagine what that transition would be like, or what it would gain after giving up everything it knows about being a tree. The ability of the tree to nurture new

life is an example of transformation that can arise when we embrace transition.

Times of transition and transformation can be energizing and exciting, if we are able to be open to change and experimentation, and if we have a core of resilience. If we have confidence that we are living the resurrected life of Christ, grounded in the gospel and following God's call, we recognize that transition, and the transformation that accompanies it, are necessary parts of our Christian journey. Transition and transformation are patterned in the very fabric of creation, as my oak tree demonstrates.

In one of Richard Rohr's recent daily reflections (I highly recommend these, you can sign up [here](#)), Richard used the image from the Book of Revelation (3:20) of Jesus standing at the door; "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." The context of this verse is a message to a church that is timid in its faith, "neither cold nor hot" (3:15), comfortable in its life and not willing to take meaningful steps into the life that Jesus promises. Jesus tells them to let him in so that they may learn to live into the fullness of life with him.

The first step is to open the door to Jesus, and I expect that, as Christians, we have opened that door, and seen Jesus standing on the other side of the threshold. We may have invited Jesus in to our hearts and our homes, and opened ourselves to the transformation that he brings. We may be able to recognize that we are changed in ourselves because of our transformation in Christ.

I want to extend the image of Jesus on the other side of the threshold further, and imagine not only that he comes in to be with us in our own homes, inviting us to personal transformation in our own hearts and lives, but also that he invites us out into a new world and into a new way of being with him.

When we have the courage to step over the threshold into the unknown, out into the world, led by Jesus, we move into a time of not only personal transformation, but transformation of the world around us. We can find that courage in the bedrock of our faith, our own relationship with Jesus, and we find companionship with other Christians, so we don't have to go out alone.

Stepping over the threshold is the transition that we in our diocese are called to at this time. As we follow Jesus into the world together, our communities will be transformed and so will the world around us. Some day when my oak tree dies a natural death, it could remain standing for a long time, looking strong even as it weakens inside. Or it could be transformed into a form that gives nourishment and protection to new life. It is for us to decide as communities whether we will cross that threshold boldly in faith, following Jesus' call, or remain inside, content with our own personal relationship with God, resisting further transition and transformation. I hope that, together, we will find the courage to step through the door and follow Jesus out into the world, ready to embrace the transformation that awaits us there.

Yours in the abundant life of Christ,
+ Betsey

The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Bishop of Iowa

St. Paul's Cathedral will be offering services for major feast days throughout the year. All are invited to attend in person or online. This is one way

Feast of the Ascension



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

May 18, 2023
 Potluck Supper 5:30 pm
 Art History Presentation 6:00 pm
 Bishop Monnot Presiding Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm

Worship In Person or Online
 815 High Street Des Moines † www.stpaulsdm.org

for our diocese to connect in worship, especially for congregations who don't have a local observance of these feast days. Please join if you are able!

[Watch Online](#)

Ordinations



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

Catherine Ann Schroeder
 to the Sacred Order of Priests
 in Christ's holy catholic Church

Saturday, June 3rd
 Two thousand twenty-three
 at two o'clock in the afternoon
 Grace Episcopal Church
 707 Eighth Street, Boone, Iowa

Your prayers and presence are requested
 Festal color is red Streaming available

[Watch Online](#)



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

Elizabeth Abbott Wells McElroy
 to the Sacred Order of Priests
 in Christ's holy catholic Church

Sunday, June 18th
 Two thousand twenty-three
 at four o'clock in the afternoon
 Episcopal Church of St. Martin
 640 Hawthorn Lane, Davis, California

Your prayers and presence are requested
 Festal color is red Streaming available

[Watch Online](#)

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

SMSR



2023

**Early Bird Registration
 Deadline: May 19th**

Summer Ministry School & Retreat
 Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

June 23-25th at Grinnell College

Join us for the 33rd annual Summer Ministry School & Retreat!

WORSHIP. LEARN. RELAX.

Register by **May 19th** to take advantage of **Early Bird pricing**. Registration Deadline: June 9th

[REGISTER HERE](#)

"ALL WE NEED IS HERE."

For over 30 years Episcopalians in Iowa have gathered for a weekend in the summer to learn church leadership skills, explore personal spirituality, or just find Sabbath time. Praying together sets a rhythm and tone for the weekend that culminates in Eucharist on Sunday morning. During the weekend, 8 hours are set aside for “track time” to get in-depth study in one track topic of your choice (track offerings change each year), or choose to do a solo retreat. Spend time catching up with friends and making new ones during meals and morning and evening social times, and enjoy free time built into the weekend’s schedule to socialize, rest, or do an activity.

2023 TRACK OFFERINGS:

STRENGTHEN CONGREGATIONS

TRACK 1: Transformative Worship in the Absence of a Priest -- *The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot*

TRACK 2: Nurturing Spiritually Vital Congregations -- *The Rev. Cn. Meg Wagner*

TRACK 3: What is a Deacon? -- *The Ven. Judith Crossett & The Rev. Patricia Johnson*

SUPPORT CLERGY & LAY LEADERSHIP

TRACK 4: Church Office Administrator Retreat -- *Ms. Elizabeth Adams & Ms. Tina Austin*

TRACK 5: Ministry Amid the Eldering Process -- *Mr. Bob Sessions & The Rev. Stacey Gerhart*

DEEPEN OUR CONNECTION TO GOD

TRACK 6: In Times Like Ours: The Prophets Speak Today -- *The Rev. Jean McCarthy*

TRACK 7: Deepening our Connection to God through Art and Storytelling -- *Ms. Alescha Caldwell*

TRACK 8: Into The Oneness -- *The Rev. Dr. Catherine Quehl-Engel*

TRACK 9: Solo Retreat/ Spiritual Direction*

*optional Come Away and Rest -- *Ms. Helen L. Keefe & The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland*

[LEARN MORE](#)

[BROCHURE](#)

[CHILD CARE](#)

[BULLETIN INSERT](#)

Leadership Notices & Upcoming Trainings

Dismantling Racism

[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.



**TRAINING FOR
CHURCH LEADERS**

JUNE 3

Upcoming Dates:

September 16 & November 4

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.

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

Diocesan Ministries & Formation



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



YMDT MAY Newsletter



EPIC Summer Camp

Jesus: The Person, The Myth, The Legend

June 26-30, Christian Conference Center, Newton

Join youth from around the diocese as we learn about Jesus: The Person, The Myth, The Legend. Jesus was a person and sometimes we forget that. Our theme for EPIC focuses on the human being Jesus was. What did Jesus feel? How was his mental health? Did he deal with the same body aches I do?

Come learn about Jesus and have fun doing typical "camp" things: Singing, roasting marshmallows, swimming, hiking, doing crafts and building community in a safe, welcoming environment where you can be

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: \$375 per camper.
Scholarships are always available!

EPIC BULLETIN INSERT

100% you. We have trained and caring staff who will walk alongside our youth and be there for them, whatever they need. Registration is now open! Cost is \$375 for the week and scholarships are always available.

REGISTER HERE



Congratulations to all of the graduates!! Whether high school or college we know you have put in the hard work and deserve to be celebrated. Many blessings on the road ahead!

For those graduating high school, contact Amy Mellies at amellies@iowaepiscopal.org or Traci Ruhland Petty at tpetty@iowaepiscopal.org to let us know your next steps and so we can send you some goodies next year!

Young Adult Ministry



Gather at the River: Young Adult Companion 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. Applications are open until **May 21**. The total cost is \$750 and \$100 deposit is requested at the time of applying.

APPLY NOW

INFORMATIONAL SESSION ZOOM
REGISTRATION

Questions about the pilgrimage?
Want to learn more?

May 16 at 7pm

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

You must register to attend.

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. Contact Tiffany Farrell or Amy Mellies at _____



Email diocese@iowaepiscopal.org for more information.

SCEF FORM

Older Adult Ministry



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

SMSR WEBSITE

If you're attending Summer Ministry School & Retreat? If so, don't forget to sign up for the workshop: **Ministry Amid the Eldering Process (Track 5)**. There will be much in this experience to help you and your congregation deal with many of the important, but often ignored, spiritual dimensions of growing old.

An increasing percentage of members in Episcopal churches in Iowa are older adults. This stage of life offers unique challenges and opportunities for ministry. During this track, we'll examine the spirituality of aging, the eldering process, understand the changing role/purpose of this stage of life and use those understandings to find purpose in the life-cycle of the church. Several people in our diocese have assembled an extensive set of resources on the spiritual, moral, and practical dimensions of becoming an elder and can connect you to those resources as they pertain to your situation.

Track Leaders: Mr. Bob Sessions and The Rev.

Behavioral Health Ministry Team (BHMT)



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. All month long the Behavioral Health Ministry Team will be sharing ways you can care for your mental health and how you can look for signs in others who may need mental health assistance.

Just scan the QR code to follow along on our Facebook page as we share ideas from Mental Health America.



If you need someone to speak to at any time call 988 to speak to trained individuals.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

BULLETIN INSERT

BHMT Partner Organizations:

Pastoral Care Special Program

This virtual two-year course is available to anyone, anywhere, via Zoom. It is designed for clergy, parish nurses, Stephen Ministers, chaplains, and others involved in pastoral care ministries. Meeting monthly, participants learn about areas critical to effective pastoral care, and receive support, encouragement, and consultation on their work. Participants will reinforce what they already do well and integrate new knowledge and skills into their ministries.

Pastoral Care Specialist Program



This virtual two-year course is available to anyone, anywhere, via Zoom. It is designed for clergy, parish nurses, Stephen Ministers, chaplains and others involved in pastoral care ministries. Meeting monthly, participants learn about areas critical to effective pastoral care, and receive support, encouragement and consultation on their work. Participants will reinforce what they already do well and integrate new knowledge and skills into their ministries.

For more information contact Chris Waddle, Director of Leadership and Spiritual Life, 515-868-7172 or cwaddle@mindspiritcenter.org

FLYER



New Topics + More Webinars

As always, these events are absolutely free and everyone is welcome
Reserve your [virtual] seat today

VIEW UPCOMING WEBINARS

GILEAD Grants

A graphic for GILEAD Grants. It features a central logo of three green leaves. Below the logo, the text "GILEAD Grants" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "Applications Open May 15th - July 15, 2023" is written in a white, sans-serif font on a light green background. At the bottom, the website "www.iowaepiscopal.org/gilead-grants" is listed. The graphic is surrounded by several circular images: a hand with fingers spread, a group of people holding signs, a group of people in a field, a laptop keyboard, and a person in a blue shirt.

GILEAD Grants Website

Do you have an idea for:

- a new project or ministry?
- reaching people in new places or in new ways?
- growing an existing ministry?

And are you a congregation, worshipping community, chapter, or an individual member of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa?

If so, you may be eligible for a GILEAD Grant. Applications open May 15th. Check out the grants page of the website or contact **Traci Ruhland Petty** for more information.

Reminder: meeting with the GILEAD Grant Review Committee prior to submitting an application is required.

2022 Recipient Spotlight:



Behavioral Health Ministry Team in partnership with Rev. Kris Leaman & Amy Mellies -- \$5,000

Last year, a GILEAD Seed Grant helped fund the forming of a diocesan Behavioral Health Ministry Team (BHMT). The team is composed of clergy, laity and community advisors in the fields of mental health, and works to identify, support, and lend assistance to clergy, parishes, families and all those in between with mental health needs. BHMT is committed to building a support system and referral resources for all in the diocese, and thus worked to build partnerships with mental health organizations such as L.E.A.D., Mindspring Mental Health Alliance, NAMI of Central Iowa, and the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center. With this grant, BHMT hopes to strengthen their ministry by expanding outreach opportunities, partnerships, and trainings/educational workshops. GILEAD Grant funds will be used to help cover the cost of offering and/or participating in trainings and educational workshops, consultation fees with partner organizations, and other materials/educational resources.

[Learn More](#)

Clergy Support at St. Andrew's, Des Moines -- \$24,000

St. Andrew's has embraced mutual ministry through a team-based ministry structure and established many new relationships that have led to ministry partnerships. Rev. Lizzie has been an integral part of Mutual Ministry to bring St. Andrew's into a post-pandemic world, building intentional relationships with the community, city, and organizations, helping to chart an innovative, sustainable course for the congregation. She's built a partnership with the Northwest Community fridge, which led to St. Andrew's housing the fridge on their property when the fridge was forced to relocate - check out the recent ENS article featuring this story! She's worked with Deacon Mahr to form a relationship with Lutheran Service in Iowa, which has led to St. Andrew's becoming a site for LSI's Global Greens garden program for refugees; she takes an active role in community events, including City Council meetings, Neighborhood Associate meetings, vigils at the Des Moines police station, serves as a Courtroom Chaplain to support families (several defendants were charged with crimes connected to Black Lives Matter protests), and more. GILEAD Grant funds will be used to help pay Rev. Lizzie Gillman's salary and benefits.

[Website](#)

[ENS Article](#)

[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

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

Resources



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

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