



THOSE WHO DREAM

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of a time like no other. But the Season of Advent remains the same. A time to breathe deeply. A time to remember that God has a dream for us filled with grace and mercy and peace and justice. Will we say yes, once more, to God's invitation to be God's Beloved Community, the kingdom of heaven on earth?

*During this season of preparing our hearts to receive God's invitation to **DREAM**, to receive God's gift of **LOVE** in the form of a child, I invite you to join with fellow seekers as we prepare our hearts to see and experience God's **DREAM** for us anew and to give thanks to God who calls us Beloved and sends Jesus to be our guide and our companion. May this Advent be a time to reconnect and renew our relationships with God and one another.*

Peace, Mary+

What is the Season of Advent?

The four weeks leading up to Christmas are known as the Season of Advent. It is a time to prepare ourselves through prayer, worship, study, and action to receive the gift of the Christ Child and to dream how we might reveal this gift more fully to the world.

How will we worship together?

Thanks to Neil Guy and to those who generously gave to the Live-Stream Fund, our worship service will be live-streamed from the sanctuary beginning The First Sunday of Advent on November 29. Links to the service will be posted in the E-News, our website, and the Friends of St. Timothy's Facebook page

ALL IN ALL

It takes strength to dream.
I imagine it's that same strength that leads
people to say, "I love you" first,
Those three vulnerable words,
Wrapped in heart strings,
Whispered,
Because what could be
Is too good to keep quiet about.
It takes strength to choose joy.
It takes strength to push the covers
Off our weary bodies morning after morning,
To plant weary feet on solid ground,
And look for signs of beauty.
It takes strength to remember that
we are not alone,
But the story starts with bone of bone and
flesh of flesh.
That feels like so long ago.

Oh yes,
It takes strength to dream.
I imagine that's why many choose not to,
For it would be far easier to simply sleep.
But there are always those who dream,
Those who are up at night picturing
what could be,
Because this world is too good not to.
So we say, "I love you."
We push the covers off.
We find solid ground.
We look for beauty.
And we dream.
We dare to dream.

~The Rev. Sarah Are

ADVENT

Live Stream Services

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29
10:15 AM - Service of Holy Eucharist

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 6
10:15 AM - Service of Holy Eucharist

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13
10:15 AM - Service of Holy Eucharist

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20
10:15 AM - Service of Holy Eucharist
with Christmas Pageant

CHRISTMAS

Live Stream Services

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24
5 PM - Candlelight Service
with Holy Eucharist

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27
10:15 AM - Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3
10:15 AM - Service of Holy Eucharist

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Service of Remembrance + Hope

During this Season of Advent, as we prepare for birth of the Christ child, not all of us are filled with joy or anticipation. The whole world seems in mourning this year. This healing liturgy is one way to lament our burdens and our losses to the One who shares in our sorrow and pain and longs for our renewal.

Holy Eucharist
Live Stream Service
Monday, December 21, 7 PM
www.sttimothysiowa.org

ADVENT CONNECTIONS

OFFERING COMMUNION in Advent and Christmas

After each Sunday's 10:15 am service, contactless communion will be available in the circle drive from 11 - 11:30 am for each of the Sundays in Advent, 5 pm Christmas Eve (communion available from 6-6:30 pm), and the Season of Christmas Sundays (December 27 and January 3).

AND this will give you an opportunity to drop off your Reverse Advent collection (see page 4) or Angel Tree gifts (see page 5). For contactless drop off, please place your items in the back of your vehicle or in the trunk. After communion, drive to the parking lot door, open the back of your vehicle and one of our Advent angels will retrieve the items.



SHARING JOY THIS SEASON

Connect with one parishioner each week in Advent who you haven't seen for awhile by sending a Christmas card.

Share some holiday cheer with parishioners by delivering a poinsettia to their home the week of December 21. Watch the E-News for more details.

Fill the Advent altar frontal with your prayer notes. Abigail Livingood invites us to share our thoughts and prayers about God's dream for us. More details to follow in the E-News.

O Great Dreamer,
You dreamed up the stars in the sky.
You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream sinks into coffee.
You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music.
You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen and the pure magic that is a six-foot-tall sunflower.
And in the midst of all of that, you dreamed up a dream for your people—
a dream of hope and justice,
a dream for eyes wide open, to both the world's suffering and the world's beauty.
So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you would plant that same dream in us.
Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may see what you see, and dream what you dream.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

~The Rev. Sarah Are

ADVENT IN THE HOME

REVERSE ADVENT

(brought to you by our good friends at Building Faith | A Ministry of Virginia Seminary)

Reverse & Reach Out

Turn your “want list” into someone else’s “need list” as you focus this Advent season on the journey to Bethlehem. In a time of uncertainty, Mary and Joseph gathered what they had and traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. What would they eat? Would they be warm? What did they need for themselves & a baby?

Reverse Advent:

A Spiritual Discipline of Reaching Out

1. **Gather** 4 plain brown paper bags (one for each week of Advent)
2. **Attach** a sign on each bag indicating the items to be collected.
3. **Decide** as a family when and how you will practice this spiritual discipline of Reaching Out. You may choose to fill your bag all at once or add one item each day during Advent. The choice is yours.
4. On Sunday morning, come for drive-up, contactless communion in the circle drive between 11 and 11:30 am (after the 10:15 am live-stream service), then **deliver** your filled bag (or monetary contribution) to the parking lot entrance. To make this a contactless drop off, please place your bags in the back or trunk of your vehicle. When you see the volunteer, please open the back of your vehicle and the volunteer will retrieve the bags. *If you are not able to drop off your items on Sunday, please place items in plastic totes near parking lot doors.*

ADVENT 1 | November 23-29

What food would they need for their journey to Bethlehem?

Place non-perishable **FOOD ITEMS** in bag #1 for those living with food insecurity. Talk about the role of food in your own life. Pray for the families in our community who are living with food insecurity.

ADVENT 2 | November 30-December 6

What did they need for warmth?

Place **WARM CLOTHES** (hats, gloves, scarves, socks) in bag #2 for the homeless. Talk about the clothes you wear to stay warm in the winter. Pray for those who have little or no shelter from the cold.

ADVENT 3 | December 7-13

How would they care for themselves?

Place **BASIC TOILETRIES** (toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, deodorant, soap, shampoo, nail clippers /file) in bag #3 for the housing insecure. Talk about the things you need each day to care for yourself. Pray for those who often have to choose between food and basic care items for survival.

ADVENT 4 | December 14-20

How would they care for a baby?

Place **BABY ITEMS** (bottles, diapers, wipes, etc.) in bag #4 for the infants and toddlers. Talk about the many ways babies depend on their caregivers for basic needs. Pray for those who are caring for infants and toddlers.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy.
~Luke 1:53-54

What on earth is Angel Tree? Angel Tree is our way of using the Advent season to make Christmas a brighter time for families with needs beyond their means. It's a way we can use our blessings to bless others.

This year, St. Timothy's has adopted four families with a total of 15 children. The parents have specified for each child something they want, something they need, something to wear, something to read." That means we have a total of 60 gift opportunities for these children. In addition, we will try to provide parents with grocery gift cards and, perhaps, a gift or two.

We have only a "virtual" Angel Tree this year, So you can't come in to pick an "ornament" off our tree as in previous years. Therefore, if your family would like to participate, please contact Mary or Jeanie or the office and we'll supply you with a child's name and something from his or her list, or if you prefer, a family name for you to gift with a grocery gift card. We ask that gifts be returned, wrapped and labeled, as part of the post-communion drop-off on one of the Sundays in Advent, but no later than December 20. Questions: Contact Deacon Jeanie at deacon@sttimothyiowa.org.

We are Christ's hands + feet + voice in the world



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



December 1

Cash Donations

Due to the pandemic, West Des Moines Human Services has revamped this year's Children's Shopping Spree. They are asking for cash donations to purchase gift cards and presents which they will coordinate internally. This process was put in place to keep everyone safe. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Donations are needed by December 1. Make your check out to St. Timothy's, mark COG Christmas Shopping Spree and mail it to the church at 1020 24th Street, WDM 50266. Or make an online donation via our website at sttimothysiowa.org.

Questions? Please contact Rosemary Drake at dhd36q.com.



2021

January - March Second Offering Partners

JANUARY

Center for Social Ministry offers education to empower social justice. Educational series include Faith and Poverty, Faith and Race, and Engaging Spirituality. CSM also offers ReThink Poverty Simulations, and Urban Immersion programs.

FEBRUARY

JOPPA helps homeless people survive, find housing and rebuild their lives. JOPPA's mission is "to create communities of unconditional love, support, and hope for the homeless, as we work together to prevent and ultimately end homelessness."

MARCH

Women at the Well is a prison ministry congregation serving the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville. Its vibrant programs provide "inside" worship, prayer groups, and reentry preparation, as well as "outside" support for women reentering society after incarceration.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We're "Forming" as Christians! How?

We're trying to form ourselves – all of us, kids and adults alike – into better and better Christians. That's hard during this pandemic time when we can't gather together in person. But we're still trying!

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

If you're an early morning person, join us for our Advent 7am Wednesday morning coffee and conversation series (November 25, December 2, 9 and 16). We'll gather via Zoom and talk about the Lectionary readings for Advent. If you're interested, you'll need the Zoom login, so be sure to let us know or check the CONNECTIONS weekly e-news. Here's the good part: You can come in your jammies!

BOOKS, BREW, + BANTER

Books, Brew and Banter continues via Zoom every Friday morning at 10 am. We read a variety of books, fiction and nonfiction alike, and have wonderful conversations. Starting November 27, we'll spend a few weeks with Lief Enger's *Peace Like a River*. If you're vaguely interested, visit our blog, sttimsbbb.blogspot.com. There you'll find a listing of what we've read with reviews of many of them and our plans for upcoming reading. For Zoom login information, contact Deacon Jeanie (deacon@sttimothyiowa.org).

VIRTUAL FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

Children Living the Word (for all ages)

Sunday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom

Bible Class (4th and 5th grade)

Sunday mornings at 11:15-12:00 via Zoom

Faith in Action Class (6th grade)

Thursday afternoons from 4:30-5:15 via Zoom

Questions? Contact Heather Preston at formation@sttimothyiowa.org

Advent Offerings

WEDNESDAYS 7 AM

11/25, 12/2, 9, 16

Coffee + Conversation +
Lectionary Study via Zoom
Questions?

Contact Abigail Livingood at
discovery@sttimothyiowa.org



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20

A pre-recorded Christmas Pageant will be a part of the 10:15 am live-stream service. Please check your email for a note from Heather outlining how your child may participate. Questions?

Contact Heather Preston at
formation@sttimothyiowa.org

VESTRY / FINANCE / BUILDING

With Gratitude for Your Financial Commitment

Each fall we ask you to faithfully consider a pledge of financial support to allow St. Timothy's a full ministry of welcome and worship, of learning and fellowship, of giving and growing in faith for us and service to each other and our neighbors in need. 100% of our operating budget is funded from the generosity of our members. And each pledge extends our reach.

Thank you to those households that have made a financial pledge to St. Timothy's for 2021! Your generosity helps our community to remain strong and vibrant and enables God's work in and through our parish. If you have not made a financial pledge for 2021 yet, please take a few minutes to do so today.

Pledge cards available via mail or email. Questions? Contact Amy Wachter at accounting@sttimothysiowa.org or 515-225-2020.

Matching Gift for Parish Hall Loan

We are blessed to receive a \$5,000 matching gift to our Parish Hall loan. The net loan balance is \$17,000 as of October 31. With this gift successfully matched, we can get our net balance to \$7,000. The finish line is so near. Please prayerfully consider contributing towards the \$5,000 matching gift. Retiring this debt will be a remarkable milestone!

Questions? Contact Treasurer Scott Andrews at scottandrews143@gmail.com

Seeking Vestry Nominations

- Baptismal Covenant is foundational to our work
- Commit to attending all vestry meetings (third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM)
- Attend special functions of the church
- Participate in Connection gatherings
- Liaison to a program team
- Active participation includes an annual pledge of time, talent and money along with prayer, communal worship and study.
- Worship Greeter
- PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

If you are interested in learning more about serving God's beloved through the vestry, please contact the Nominations Team: John McKinney, jmckinney3@msn.com or Bob Soddors, bsoddors@buildwithball.com

**When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."**

~Psalm 126:1-3

PRESCHOOL

Preschool Registration Starts January 11, 2021

We will be registering for the 2020-2021 school year starting January 11th. It will first be open to current preschool families and church families January 11-15. It will open to the public on January 18th. Registration forms will be available in the office and on the preschool website after Christmas.

Questions? Contact Preschool Director Michelle Madden at
psdirector@sttimothysiowa.org

Ministries Staff / Coordinators

Main Office, Jennie McKinney
515-225-2020
extension 104
office@sttimothysiowa.org

Pastoral Care Line - 24 Hours
515-501-2700, direct line
extension 109

Rector, Rev. Mary Cole-Duvall
515-501-2200, direct line
extension 100 when calling main office
rector@sttimothysiowa.org

Deacon, Rev. Jeanie Smith
515-501-2100, direct line
extension 103 when calling main office
deacon@sttimothysiowa.org

Seminarian, Abigail Livingood
515-501-2500, direct line
extension 106 when calling main office
discovery@sttimothysiowa.org

Accounting, Amy Wachter
515-501-2600, direct line
extension 108 when calling main office
accounting@sttimothys

Formation, Heather Preston
515-501-2300, direct line
extension 102 when calling main office
formation@sttimothysiowa.org

Preschool, Michelle Madden, director
515-494-7735, direct line
extension 105 when calling main office
psdirector@sttimothysiowa.org

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL GATHERING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 11:15 AM
VIA ZOOM