



ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE

1020 24TH ST., WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

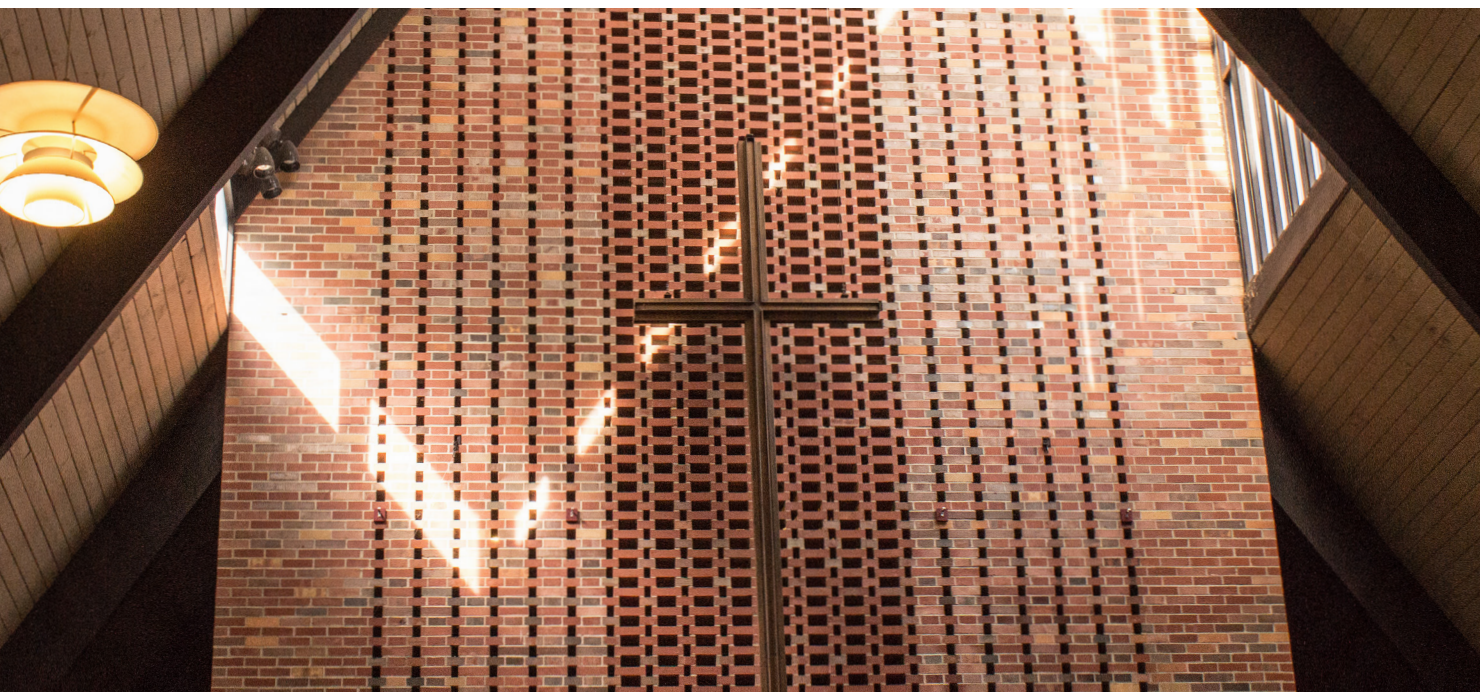
sttimothysiowa.org



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Our parish profile provides an overview of the community of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and the ways in which we seek to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ in the world. St. Timothy's is a suburban progressive parish with members who are well-educated and have a strong desire to fully embody the spirit of the gospel in their daily lives and work and share their faith with those around them. Please join with us in asking the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment.

ST. TIMOTHY'S SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dan Montgomery, *Chair*

Alexandra Bylund

David Giildenzopf

Marjorie Joelson

Maggie McGill

John McKinney

Uzo Okpokiri

Rick Ballinger, *Liaison to Vestry*

ST. TIMOTHY'S SEARCH PRAYER

O God the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart differing opinions and to protect us from unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from ungodly union and concord; that, as there is but one body and one spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you. Guide us as we work together to discern your will for the future of St. Timothy's and be with us and the individual we seek. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.



WHO WE ARE

We are the hands, feet and voice of Christ in the world.



St. Timothy's is driven by the mission to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ in our community. This is the primary motivator behind our faith, worship, ministries, outreach and relationships with each other. We strive to be a welcoming, accepting and engaging church home for an everchanging society. We are proud of the history we have built since our first service in 1956. We have grown in membership, physical footprint and facilities, ministries, and advocacy throughout the decades.

According to the results of a recent parish survey, we are a high satisfaction, high energy congregation made up of 170 (Pre-COVID-19) regularly attending members. Our highest priorities include attracting new members to the church, including youth and families, and creating opportunities to form meaningful relationships with each other. We are a financially solvent church with no debt, despite a recent renovation and expansion of our church buildings.

We are hopeful that our next Rector will possess the qualities needed to help us continue to grow and adapt to the evolving landscape of church in our society, while valuing the traditions and history upon which we are built.



LITURGICAL LIFE

Through our liturgy, we are the voice of Christ in the world.

Liturgical worship is central to our parish life. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we held worship on Saturday evening as well as twice on Sundays. The choir sings during the 10:15 a.m. service and the psalm is sung on feast days. Rite II is commonly used, with occasional substitution of Rite I during Lent. In addition to the 1982 Hymnal, service music and hymns are frequently chosen from the Gather hymnal. The “Gloria” from Gather is a special favorite of our parish.

St. Timotheans enjoy flexible liturgy and adaptation from other denominations including the Methodists, Presbyterians and the UCC. With the permission of Bishop Alan Scarfe, our worship using the Book of Common Prayer is supplemented with other sources of worship including liturgical resources created by Sanctified Art LLC, prayers from Progressive Christianity.org, and the New Zealand Prayer Book.

Small children learn about the Bible and sacraments during the Children’s Ark, held concurrently with the 10:15 a.m. service. They join their parents for communion.





Weekly hymns are selected to align with the readings from the Sunday lectionary. We try to project our support for social justice and equity through musical selections, while rejoicing in the rich musical traditions of the Anglican communion. Music from the choir is accompanied on the organ or keyboard. Replacement of the organ is on our list of capital improvements. Our hope is to have a new instrument within the next couple of years. A chime choir expands our music ministry beyond members of the choir and presents special selections throughout the church year.

Each year on St. Francis' feast day, animals are blessed in the church parking lot. At least bi-annually, an instructed Eucharist is held to provide additional detail behind the liturgy used in our weekly service.

We hold a weekly Wednesday Morning Prayer service by Zoom. We have provided an informal Eucharist with light breakfast and study during Advent and Lent, as well as Evening Prayer led by lay readers. Each Good Friday, Stations of the Cross are recited typically at two services, one geared towards children and families. Our joyous Easter celebration begins with the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night, followed by a festival Easter Eucharist on Sunday morning. At the conclusion of our Sunday Easter service, we hold an egg hunt on our expansive church campus.



Children play an active role in our services by serving as acolytes, litanists and lectors. A large roster of parishioners has been trained and serves as eucharistic ministers, litanists and lectors. Ushers distribute service leaflets and Gather hymnals in the nave of the sanctuary prior to the service. The Altar Guild cares for sacred linens and communion vessels and dresses the sanctuary with banners during the different liturgical seasons.



A recent enhancement to our worship allows us to truly become Christ's voice in the world. Parishioners have been trained to use video streaming equipment to both live stream the Sunday service and to record it for rebroadcast on YouTube. This change was one of the blessings brought about by COVID-19. This has opened our eyes to new ways to worship and spread the Good News.





CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We have a vibrant and active Christian formation program for our children, youth and adult congregants. We see Christian formation as a way to introduce the idea of being the hands, feet and voice of Christ and to provide actionable steps to live out our faith. Our Christian formation team has worked very hard over the past year to continue providing quality programming remotely and safely during the pandemic.



THE ARK

The Ark is offered for children aged 3-5. The children learn bible stories, sing songs, and learn about communion and different parts of the liturgical year. They learn the Lord's Prayer and practice saying their prayers to God. Each week the children bring an item to be donated to the food pantry and are able to present that as an offering during the service.

GODLY PLAY

For children in grades Kindergarten-3rd grade we use the Godly Play curriculum. Sunday morning classes focus on practicing prayer, building relationships, and learning about various Bible stories and how those stories relate to the childrens' own lives and relationships with God. Godly Play encourages children to wonder and explore their developing spirituality.



WELCOME TO THE BIBLE

Our kids in 4th and 5th grade participate in Welcome to the Bible. All kids are given their own Bible at the start of the program and encouraged to make it their own. With the guidance of incredible adult leaders, the kids work their way from the Old Testament and into the Gospels while exploring questions, curiosities and how the text applies to their lives.

FAITH IN ACTION

Our junior high-aged youth form a Pre-Confirmation group. Kids discuss where they see God in the issues of the day; what the church is, is not and should be; where their relationship with God is in their lives; and some church history and governance. A strong focus is on building relationships with their peers and with trusted adults who are not their parents.



During the sermon on Sunday mornings our kids in K-4th grade who choose to do so participate in Children Living the Word. This program focuses on teaching our kids to become the hands and feet of Christ. They take what they have learned in their formation classes and also in storybooks that address various social justice issues, and put it to use with various service projects.

Our High School youth Christian formation focuses on the teachings of Christ and building connection and relationship with peers. We utilize a combination of discussion groups, service projects, and social activities to achieve these goals.

We have a vibrant and engaging confirmation program which focuses on the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement through word, story, song, pictures, discussion and worship.

We have used pilgrimage trips to England, Washington D.C., New York City and Israel in recent years to focus on becoming friends with each other, our neighbors near and far, and Christ through travel, prayer, contemplation, team building, play and worship.

As with so many other programs both inside and outside of our church, formation will adjust to meet the needs of our parishioners, their families and our community as long as is needed in the time of COVID-19. The use of technology has allowed both adults and children to continue meaningful formation and be in community and we will continue to use it to the benefit of all.



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Our approach to Christian Formation for adults is very much rooted in discovering together. Whether in Bible Study or in Sunday Morning Adult Forum, we endeavor to read or view our source material together and then discuss our varying understandings and insights. We try hard to avoid didactic “classes,” where there is a teacher and learners.

Our Sunday Morning Adult Forum is generally geared to a larger audience, with people who drop in occasionally and others who attend each week. Therefore, we try to present material that does not rely on knowledge from one session to another. Instead we approach each week individually, tackling topics that range from Biblical history to contemporary issues, and everything in between.

Bible Study, conversely, usually is attended by a static group, which allows us to build our knowledge of the subject matter and of each other in community. We have studied individual books of the Bible, the books in the Apocrypha, the hard sayings of Jesus, and this year, what the Bible actually says about what happens to us when we die.

Regularly meeting groups include our Books, Brew and Banter Book Club that meets to discuss books of all genres. This group reads and discusses all varieties of books, both secular and spiritual in nature. Our blog, sttimsbbb.blogspot.com, has reviews of many of the books we’ve read. We also have a men’s group that gathers for lunch at Palmer’s Deli.



MINISTRIES

We are the hands, feet and voice of Christ in the world.

St. Timothy's parishioners participate in a variety of ministries in which we both partner with and serve our community. Each month we choose a community organization with which to partner in our 2nd Offering program. We have a representative of that organization speak with our congregants about their work in the community, provide financial and material support, and pray for the organization in worship. This program has been instrumental in building community relationships and in allowing us to grow in our capacity to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ.



FAITH & GRACE GARDEN

For decades, the Faith & Grace Garden has been growing food to feed our neighbors. We are strictly a “food pantry garden,” donating fresh vegetables and fruit to the Des Moines Area Religious Council which operates 11 food pantries in the metro area, the Eddie Davis Community Center and the food distribution program at Trinity Las Américas United Methodist Church. Last year the garden was able to donate 15,812 pounds of fresh produce to these organizations. Through its recently constructed greenhouse, the garden also provides starter plants to community gardens all over the metropolitan area. The garden also provides a way to connect with community members as we work with a variety of volunteers, including retirees, church groups, civic groups, students, neighbors, and others.



FREESTORE

The FreeStore was started by members of St. Timothy's in 2001 to provide furniture to women and children leaving domestic violence situations. In that first year, the FreeStore served seven families. Today, the FreeStore is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that helps over 250 families per year. The FreeStore is entirely run by volunteers, with no paid staff.



WOMEN AT THE WELL

Women at the Well is a prison congregation at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, Iowa. Because it is a prison congregation whose members are all incarcerated women, it will never be able to be self-sustaining. Other churches, mostly United Methodist, but some Episcopal and some ELCA, support this ministry with their dollars, their volunteer work and their prayers. St. Timothy's is one of these partnering churches. Our members have attended worship with the women inside the prison walls; have formed Reentry Teams to support newly-released women; have participated in a weekly prayer group inside the prison; and are members of the governing council of Women at the Well.



YOUTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Youth Justice Initiative (YJI) is a community-based restorative justice program that serves youth from ages 10-18. Youth Justice Initiative engages the community to encourage positive changes in young people's attitudes toward family, community and academics. YJI provides individualized services for youth ages 4-18 who are at risk and for those who have offended in the West Des Moines (WDM) community. St. Timothy's has become a central part of the Youth Justice Initiative's success in serving the youth of the West Des Moines Community. Thanks in part to its partnership with St. Timothy's, YJI was able to serve over 150 students and lessen their risk of offending and actual crime. YJI's partnership with St. Timothy's Church includes:

- Unwavering support of youth in the community by church volunteers.
- Study Tables (ST) and Wings provide support with education for youth who range in age from 6-18 years old. The church provides members/volunteers who assist with a healthy meal and homework on a weekly basis throughout the school year. This includes participating in YJI's end-of-year celebrations at various locations.
- Community service events including garden work and making meals for food pantries.
- Providing space for activities including the Youth Advocacy Leadership Team.



DIOCESE OF NZARA

One of our most sacred ministries is our companion relationship with the Diocese of Nzara, South Sudan. Their first bishop interned at St. Timothy's after meeting our clergy while in Seminary. All of our clergy and many of our parishioners have visited Nzara and we have built treasured friendships. They pray for our congregation and we pray for them. We support their priorities of evangelism, health and education.





ST. TIMOTHY'S PRESCHOOL

Where hearts and minds grow.

Although the resurgence of COVID-19 has caused us to suspend operations during 2021-22, St. Timothy's is proud to have supported one of the longest continually run preschools in the West Des Moines community. What started as a Mother's Day Out program in 1961, is now a state-licensed, non-profit preschool program offering high quality and loving education. Our programs have been designed to provide children with an atmosphere that facilitates respect for individuals, love for one another, and caring for each other in a manner that develops self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-reliance. One of the things that makes this program unique from other local preschools is that we offer an academically focused class for 2 year olds.

Historically, our preschool served an average of 50 families per year between our 2-3 year old and 3-4 year old classes. We also offered a weekly religious educational program utilizing the Godly Play curriculum. The preschool is typically staffed by 5 employees: a preschool director, 2 lead teachers and 2 assistant teachers, with our rector at its head. During the 2020-2021 years, enrollment and staffing were greatly reduced due to the pandemic.

Discussions concerning the re-opening of our school for 2022-2023 will continue through this year.



PARISH LIFE AND FELLOWSHIP

At St. Timothy's, we are proud of the welcoming and friendly community we have built. This community provides us with the foundation to carry out our purpose of being the hands, feet and voice of Christ. We place a high priority on making all of our congregants and visitors feel welcome. Our newly renovated parish hall has provided many opportunities for fellowship. Prior to COVID-19, parishioners would gather before and after our Sunday services for coffee, refreshments and conversation. We are very much looking forward to this resuming!



We frequently host connection dinners where we bring together parishioners of all ages, life stages and backgrounds to build relationships. These dinners take place at both homes of our parishioners and at the parish hall and are a great way to foster community.

The men of our parish provide breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. Each breakfast provides a wonderful opportunity to come together and build relationships, while also providing a spotlight on our Second Offering Partner organization for the month.

One of our favorite annual events is the picnic that kicks off the program year in September with food, children's activities and fellowship. Each year we hold some special events that have recently included a fish fry fundraiser for our London pilgrimage, a trivia night, an Epiphany party, Trunk or Treat, a tailgate party in the parking lot and trips to the Iowa Cubs baseball games and Iowa Wild hockey games.



Our youth also experience fellowship and community building through our relationships with other local parishes. We hold Vacation Bible School each summer with St. Andrew's and St. Paul's for kids ages 3-12. Our middle and high school youth have opportunities to participate in EYC events with other youth in the Diocese such as Happening, New Beginnings, and the annual ski trip. We have also had high school youth participate in the Simpson College Youth Academy.

Our congregation supports each other in our faith through the use of a prayer chain that incorporates many members in lifting each other in prayer in times of need. With this kind of community and support as our foundation, we are able to live out our mission of being the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in the world.



FINANCES | STEWARDSHIP

St. Timothy's ended 2020 with a \$34,700 budget surplus, which the vestry allocated to funds and ministry's including our diocesan share asking. Pledges (103 pledges) continued to be strong during the COVID-19 pandemic with an accompanying reduction in expenses.

	2021	2020	2021 v. 2020
OPERATING FUND	FINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	% CHANGE
INCOME			
Loose Plate	\$2,228	\$4,050	-45%
Non Pledge Contributions	\$9,570	\$17,400	-45%
Pledges	\$393,008	\$392,432	0%
Easter/Christmas	\$6,500	\$6,500	0%
Flowers, Candles, VBS, Rentals	\$3,550	\$3,550	0%
Interest	\$835	\$835	0%
Designated Funds Transfer	\$20,995	\$26,018	-19%
Preschool Reimbursements	\$9,744	\$12,180	-20%
TOTAL INCOME	\$446,430	\$462,965	-4%
EXPENSE			
Diocesan Pledge	\$50,000	\$51,450	-3%
Community Ministries	\$3,600	\$3,600	0%
Christian Formation	\$2,788	\$2,985	-7%
Music	\$6,895	\$8,460	-18%
Liturgy	\$7,480	\$9,360	-20%
Pastoral Ministry	\$700	\$500	40%
Parish Life	\$3,800	\$4,800	-21%
Personnel	\$219,925	\$244,870	-10%
Office	\$16,746	\$15,190	10%
Communications	\$5,009	\$3,859	30%
Property	\$129,487	\$117,891	10%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$446,430	\$462,965	-4%



ENDOWMENT

St. Timothy's endowment account is managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Unlike some endowments, the corpus of our account is not locked. While the uses for the funds are restricted, the amounts withdrawn are not. The endowment policy was updated in 2020. The Finance team is working with the Vestry on a process and timeline to begin promoting gifts to the endowment and utilizing the funds outside of the annual operating budget. The balance in the endowment as of March 31, 2021 is \$231,000. It is divided into three separate funds: Capital Permanent Fund \$136,100; Community Outreach Fund \$20,400; and Columbarium Fund \$74,900. The Vestry recently approved some major capital repairs to our building which will be completely funded from the permanent fund. A schedule of major replacements (roof, parking lot, HVAC) is kept and monies set aside in anticipation of the financial needs for those improvements.

AUDIT

An audit of St. Timothy's accounting records, delayed from 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, is scheduled for third quarter 2021.



NOMINATIONS FOR RECTOR OF ST. TIMOTHY'S

We welcome your participation to identify good candidates to become our next rector. Please advise persons who would be a good fit to see our ads in the Episcopal News Service or the Living Church or visit the Churches in Transition page on our diocesan website: iowaepiscopal.org/churches-in-transition



THE LEADERSHIP WE SEEK

To prepare for the search for our next rector, we engaged Holy Cow! Consulting to assist us with the administration of a Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) to identify our collective sense of the state of our parish and our future needs. The survey demonstrated that St. Timothy's is a parish of high energy and high satisfaction. Our members believe that participation in church is important and enriches our lives in the world. Across all age groups, the top three priorities identified through the survey are to: 1) make changes to attract families with children and youth; 2) develop and implement a strategy to reach new people and incorporate them in the life of the church; and 3) create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals). Younger members less than age 35 are particularly interested in outreach activities to reach those on the margins of society. Older respondents recognize that newcomers need to follow them in the pews to ensure the ongoing viability of the parish and thus have particular interest in attracting new persons and incorporating them in the life of the church.

We identify ourselves as progressive and flexible in worship style. Survey results suggest a correlation between our willingness to make change and our goals to attract more persons to our membership. We are friendly and welcoming but think we can benefit from additional training on ways to welcome newcomers.

We want a rector who engages people with a message that connects our Biblical tradition and teachings to our lives in the world. Our rector should demonstrate genuine care and concern to our members in their time of need. We expect high quality worship with spiritual content that helps us expand our outreach. We support an environment where there is a place for everyone at the Lord's table.

We want to be challenged by a rector who can help us exceed our dreams, including preaching, membership growth, and joyful worship. We encourage candidates interested in helping us shape our future, including those from under-represented groups such as indigenous persons, LGBTQ and other minority groups, to express their interest in becoming our next rector.

We need your help in continuing to embolden St. Timothy's as the hands, feet and voice of Christ in our world.

Thank you for considering partnering with us.



OUR PARISH | PAST + PRESENT

St. Timothy's first sought to become the hands, feet and voice of Christ in the world in the mid-1950's.



At that time, the parishioners of St. Paul's Cathedral in downtown Des Moines, supported the planting of a new church in the growing suburb of West Des Moines. That vision was realized on September 9th, 1956, when St. Timothy's Episcopal Church held its very first church service – without a building, but with a site and a plan for the future. Worship was held in municipal buildings and then in the current parish hall, after funds were raised to begin construction of a church building. One notable event in our parish history occurred in June, 1965. The arches supporting the distinctive sanctuary, under construction at the time, were flattened by 65 mile an hour winds. Not to be deterred, those founders rebuilt the church and charted its future, leading to our vibrant presence in the community today. We are fortunate that some of those founding members are still active with us, reminding us of their faith and perseverance through decades of leadership, service and worship.

In the decades since the last brick was laid, we have continued to partner with our community in new and creative ways. The FreeStore and Faith + Grace Garden were incubated in the pews of St. Timothy's and have grown to serve communities beyond our city limits. Partnering with Women at the Well has

allowed us to build re-entry teams to support women recently released from prison. The Youth Justice Initiative and WINGS programs have given us the opportunity to engage with at-risk children and young people participating in restorative justice programs by providing tutoring, study space, adult mentoring and a healthy snack or meal on our host days. We have produced Salvation Army casseroles for local food pantries and filled a friendly freezer with food for drop-in needs. We have provided groceries through our Backpack Ministry to food-insecure members of our community. Each year, St. Timothy's has joined with other West Des Moines churches to support the Church Opportunity Group's (COG) Christmas Shopping Spree, where volunteers provide funding and accompany children as they purchase gifts for their family members. A Boy Scout troop meets weekly in the parish hall and assists us with our semi-annual clean-up days. We have an active and committed relationship with the Diocese of Nzara in South Sudan. Several members of St. Timothy's have traveled there to worship and identify ways we can support their communities and learn from them. We eagerly anticipate the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and our ability to resume all church activities in the future.



St. Timothy's has strong ties to the Diocese of Iowa. Our members serve or have served the diocese through filling the offices of treasurer, chancellor, members of the Standing Committee as well as many other diocesan committees formed to address specific issues. Each year we strive to meet the diocesan asking. We have participated in the diocesan Gilead Campaign and have also been supported by the Campaign, which partially funded our purchase of the necessary equipment to begin live streaming our weekly 10:15 a.m. service.

The parish hall was renovated in 2015 and the loan used to fund the project was retired early. One feature of the remodeling was the installation of a wall of glass doors which allows us to use the patio area for informal services in good weather. The open wall also allows us to fight the spread of COVID-19 by providing additional air exchange in the parish hall. A commercial kitchen allows us to serve large numbers of people.

Recently, several landscaping projects have improved the appearance of our campus. Our memory garden was renovated, an additional columbarium wall installed and trees trimmed. Exterior improvements to the infrastructure of our building will ensure a solid foundation for many years to come. Our new church sign along Ashworth Road boldly proclaims our vision and commitment to be Christ's hands, feet and voice in our world.



OUR COMMUNITY

Our quest to be the hands, feet and voice in the world begins in the Des Moines Metro Area.

The Des Moines metro area is located at the crossroads of Interstates 35 and 80, is Iowa's capital city, and is the county seat of Polk County. The local government serves more than 215,000 residents throughout 52 neighborhoods with more than 4,000 acres of parkland and 81 miles of trails. The City of Des Moines is a financially strong city with exceptional city services, fostering an involved community in a customer-friendly atmosphere.

Des Moines is the core of one of the fastest growing metro areas (DSM USA). Greater Des Moines is home to many business successes and has received numerous accolades over the past several years. These recognitions include being named one of the top 10 best cities in which to live and work, one of the best cities for jobs, one of the top 10 places with the most job opportunities per capita, and a top metro for economic development projects. Job opportunities are plentiful and, following COVID-19, many employers offer "work from home" options.

St. Timothy's members reside all over the metro area and some in more outlying rural areas. West Des Moines, where St. Timothy's is located, is a close-in suburb and has itself been recognized in several national publications as a great place to live and conduct business.

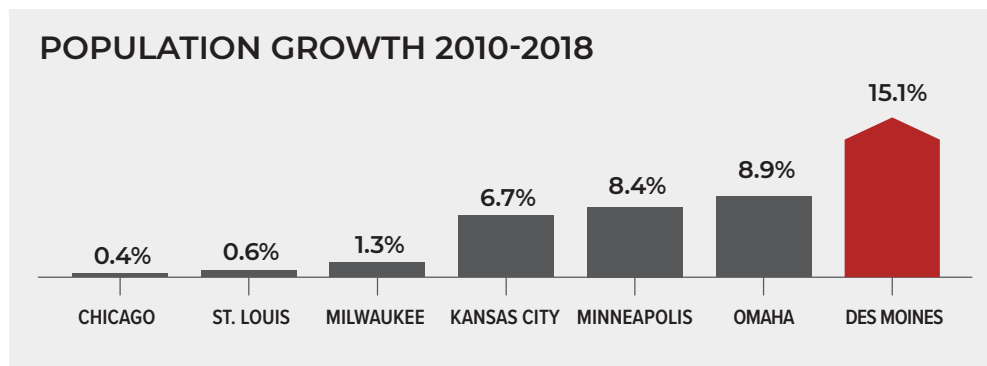
[The Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau Website](#)

[City of West Des Moines Website](#)

[City of Des Moines Website](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

DSM comprises ten counties — Adair, Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek and Warren — totaling 791,706 residents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 estimate).

COST OF LIVING

For DSM residents, it is typical to find combined living cost savings 10% below the national average, according to quarterly surveys by The Council for Community and Economic Research.



SAINT TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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