

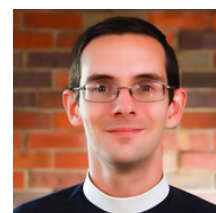
# ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# CONNECTIONS

## A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

## Hospitality and Mission

I was recently thinking about all the people who set foot on St. Timothy's campus in a given week. As I reflected, I thought not just about our regular parishioners coming to worship or to take part in one of our ministries, like Bible Study or making casseroles, but also about the newcomers who experience our parish for the first time and the many outside groups who use our space—Head Start families, YJI kids, Boy Scouts.



Calling to mind all those who find their way to St. Timothy's each week helps remind me of the importance of hospitality, and how it begins with caring for our physical space. A lot of times “building and grounds” feels like the boring work, like the stuff we have to take care of so that we can get to the real meat of ministry. But caring for our campus is at its heart about welcome, about creating a space for community connections and a base from which we can be in ministry to the world.

Thanks to the generous contributions made to our Capital Campaign over the last year and a half, we are currently undertaking some major projects on our property. And major projects, of course, often cause some disruption to our routines. As I write, our parking lot is currently under construction, which is forcing us to park a little farther away than we are used to. And in the fall, our air conditioning system that cools the main part of the building (sanctuary, offices, formation area) will be replaced. That means that part of the building will be without A/C for a couple of weeks, and as a result, we plan to worship in the Parish Hall (which will have A/C because it runs on a different system) for a couple of weekends. While these disruptions often feel inconvenient, we are excited about the end result, which will help maintain our property as a place of hospitality and welcome for years to come.

And of course, the purpose of all this work is ultimately to help us further our mission of being Christ's hands, feet, and voice in this world. For that reason, we are especially excited that this fall we are launching a program offering a new annual Outreach Ministry Grant that will fund new or existing outreach efforts at St. Timothy's. Have you ever had an idea for an outreach project, but worried about having the funds to get it started? The Outreach Ministry Grant could help turn that idea into reality! Be on the lookout for more information in the weeks ahead.

**As we move into the fall, I look forward to seeing all the ways God will move among the people of St. Timothy's this program year!**

## Program Year Kick-Off and Parish Picnic

**Sunday, September 7**

Christian Formation for all ages kicks off the Sunday after Labor Day. Please join us for a picnic in the Parish Hall following the service. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and enjoy fellowship as our program year begins.

## Adult Forum

**Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Gathering Center**  
**Faithful Imagination in a Fractured World**  
**September 7-28**

We are delighted to have parishioner Joe Rounceville lead us in this four week series about how our faith intersects with the modern world.

- 9/7 Lament and Hope in a Troubled World
- 9/14 How Do We Discern God's Will Today?
- 9/21 Christian Nationalism: Gospel or Heresy?
- 9/28 Prophets, Peacemakers, and the Public Square

## Bible Study

**Thursdays, Resuming September 11**  
**9:30-11 a.m. in the Gathering Center**

This fall, we are starting where we left off in the Spring: Reading and talking about the epistles that are NOT attributed to Paul — Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude. If you'd like to join us, check in with Jeanie (515-554-3764 or [deacon@sttimothyiowa.org](mailto:deacon@sttimothyiowa.org)) and she'll send you what we're reading and discussing each week.

## Book Club

**Fridays at 10 a.m.**  
**In the Gathering Center and via Zoom**

Starting in September, we'll be reading *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by Monica Wood, *River of the Gods* by Candace Millard, *The Master Butcher's Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich and *I Swear: Politics is Messier Than My Minivan* by Katie Porter. Join us any time. If you want to join by Zoom, check in with Jeanie (515-554-3764; [deacon@sttimothyiowa.org](mailto:deacon@sttimothyiowa.org)) for the link.



# Discovery Class (Confirmation Prep)

We will hold Discovery Classes for youth and adults this fall. The Discovery Class invites participants to explore the worship, history, and teachings of the Episcopal Church as a way of strengthening our spiritual walk with Christ.

This class serves as preparation for those who wish to receive the rite of Confirmation (or Reception for adults who have been confirmed in another tradition), which is the process for becoming a “full-fledged, card-carrying” Episcopalian. Those who participate in the class will have the opportunity to be confirmed or received **when the bishop visits on December 14**. While the class is required for those planning to be confirmed or received, it is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the Episcopal Church.

## FOR ADULTS

**Sundays, September 21, 28 and  
October 5, 12, and 26 at 9:15 a.m.**

## FOR YOUTH (generally 8<sup>th</sup> grade or older)

**Tuesdays, September 23 – October 28  
6:30 – 8 p.m.**

The youth class on Tuesday nights will include a meal. We will ask parents of teens attending the class to sign up to help provide the food at one of the six sessions..

If you or your child is interested in attending our Discovery Class, please contact Kyle at [rector@sttimothyiowa.org](mailto:rector@sttimothyiowa.org).

# Children's and Youth Formation

Sundays at 9:15 a.m., Resuming September 7

## The Ark (age 3-kindergarten)

Children will learn important Bible stories and church practices, as well as crafts and songs. They will explore the importance of prayer by learning the Lord's Prayer.

## Godly Play (1<sup>st</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> grade)

In this interactive class, the storyteller will use objects that represent aspects of the story and make it easier for children to visualize. The teacher will end with “wondering” questions to help the children try to connect with the story in their own way and find their own way into their own faith.

## Shine (5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grade)

In this class, youth become familiar with the overall narrative of the Bible by proceeding through essential Bible stories. The curriculum uses thoughtful lessons that help youth connect what they're reading with their daily lives.

## Hands, Feet, and Fun (9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Our High School youth engage in fellowship and outreach projects on a rotating basis.

**First Sunday** – Youth will hear about that month's 2nd Offering Partner at our First Sunday Breakfast.

**Second Sunday** – Youth will help package meals in the Parish Hall for Joppa, a nonprofit organization serving the homeless community. They will then go out to breakfast during the worship service time. After breakfast, they will deliver the meals they prepared to Joppa.

**Third Sunday** – Youth will participate in an outreach project.

**Fourth and Fifth Sunday** – Youth choice: youth may volunteer in one of the other formation classes, join the adults for Adult Forum, or spend unstructured time in the Youth Hangout Room.





## Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who has pledged and contributed to our Capital Campaign! Thanks to your generosity, we've surpassed our pledge goal with pledges of \$422,533 so far, of which we've collected \$349,478. In addition to the work already completed on our East Campus, these funds are supporting the work being done right now and in the coming weeks on our parking lot and HVAC system. This is much-needed property work at St. Timothy's, and we couldn't be doing it without you!

## Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 5 at 4 p.m.  
South Lawn of the Church**

All creatures great and small are invited to the annual Blessing of the Animals. That includes pictures of friends unable to attend and your favorite stuffed pals. Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi's particular appreciation for all creatures of the earth, we will have a short liturgy of thanksgiving and then say special blessings for each pet. We will have a treat for each dog and cat as well.

Please make sure your pets are leashed, crated, or otherwise contained for safety.



## Diocesan Convention Weekend

**November 8-9**

There will be no services at St. Timothy's on Convention Weekend. Instead we encourage you to join with other members of the diocese for the Close of Convention Eucharist at St. Paul's Cathedral in Des Moines at 10 a.m. on November 9.

