



ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CONNECTIONS

A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

New Beginnings

Advent is a season of new beginnings. It serves as the first season of the church year, meaning that our lectionary cycle, our collects, and our liturgical calendars all start over about a month before our secular calendars flip over to their new year. While some of these liturgical details may only be noticed by church nerds like me, other signs of the changing season are hard to miss: the trees, the Advent wreath, the return of familiar tunes like “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Throughout the season, we hear the stories of beginnings in scripture as well—stories of John the Baptist, stories of the prophets waiting expectantly for the fulfillment of God’s promises.



This season of new beginnings seems an appropriate time for our Youth Service on December 7 and the Bishop’s Visitation on December 14. Five youth participated in the Youth Discovery Class this fall. In addition to learning about the history, beliefs, and worship of the Episcopal Church, they worked together to craft the Youth Service and will help lead it on the 7th. The following week, many of these youth, along with a number of adults, will be confirmed by the bishop. Throughout the Discovery Class, I’ve impressed on the youth that confirmation is not an ending, but a beginning. It’s an opportunity to profess before the whole community how they will live out their faith as they move into adulthood.

The theme of new beginnings also feels relevant as we move towards 2026. Next year will be the 70th anniversary of St. Timothy’s, which was founded in 1956. Anniversaries like this one are always wonderful chances to look back at our history, but they are also opportunities to look forward. As we celebrate seven decades of being the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in West Des Moines, we are eager to see what new ways God may move among us in the decades ahead. I’ve already assembled a group of parishioners to discuss the ways we might mark this important milestone in 2026, and I look forward to sharing more with you as we move into the new year.

Advent is a season of anticipation, of standing with bated breath as we wait to see what new thing God may be doing. Like the prophets whose words we read in this season, we look with eager longing for the day when all people “will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks” (Isaiah 2:4), when “waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert” (Isaiah 35:6). As we move through Advent, to Christmas, and into the new calendar year, may we embrace these new beginnings with hope and joy, faithfully following the path where Christ is leading us.

Youth Service

Sunday, December 7

Join us on the 2nd Sunday of Advent for worship planned by and led by our youth. The Youth Discovery Class shaped this service by choosing the scripture passages, hymns, and helping craft the Prayers of the People. The youth will share reflections on the scripture and fill a variety of liturgical roles.



Christmas Flowers and Greens

Each Christmas, parishioners have an opportunity to make donations to provide for the flowers and greens that adorn our sanctuary. Donations can be made in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for the blessings in your life, and dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please use the form available in your bulletin during Advent or make a donation online at sttimothyiowa.org/donate/.

If donating online, select "Altar Flowers" from the menu and include the dedication in the "Special Instructions" area. Contributions must be submitted by December 17 to have the dedication included in the bulletin.

Bishop's Visitation

Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14

Bishop Betsey Monnot will join our regular Saturday and Sunday services to preach and administer the rites of Confirmation and Reception on those who have completed a course of preparation.



Adult Forum

**Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Gathering Center
Incarnation and the Christian Life
November 23-December 21**

Join us for this Advent series discussing how Christ's incarnation affects our life with God.

11/23 Advent as Discipleship

11/30 Mary, Theotokos and Prophet

12/7 First Sunday Breakfast - No Adult Forum

12/14 Embodied Faith

12/21 What Does It Mean That God Became Human?



Blessing of the Animals

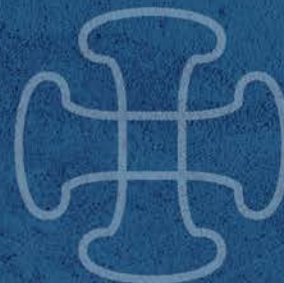


Blessing of the Animals



Parish Picnic

CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S



Christmas Pageant Service

December 21 at 10:15 a.m.

Service of Remembrance and Hope

December 21 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24 at 5 p.m. (with children's sermon) and 9 p.m.

Christmas Day Service at St. Paul's Cathedral

December 25 at 10 a.m.

Angel Tree

This year, we are again adopting ten families for whom we will purchase Christmas gifts. Our Angel Tree will be set up in the Parish Hall beginning November 30 with ornaments featuring the name of someone from one of the ten families with suggestions for gifts that person would like to receive.



Our task is to choose an ornament, purchase gifts for that person, and bring them to the church wrapped and labelled by December 14, when we will bless the gifts before delivering them to the families.

This ministry is a wonderful way of spreading Christmas cheer and being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

Second Offering Partners for Coming Months

DECEMBER 2025

Angel Tree & Faith and Food Fund

FEBRUARY 2026

Simpson Youth Academy

JANUARY 2026

Faith and Democracy Youth Pilgrimage

MARCH 2026

Women at the Well



Thank You to All Our Capital Campaign Donors!

Thanks to your generous pledges, we officially met our pledge goal of \$400,000 this summer. Some of those pledges include donations still to be given in the remainder of 2025 and into 2026, so a reminder that the fulfillment of your pledges will go a long way toward supporting our capital improvements.

Thus far, these funds have allowed us to complete our East Campus Renewal, repave the north parking lot, and finish the majority of the work of replacing our air conditioning system. Each of these projects was a significant undertaking, and we couldn't have done them without you!

Questions about the Capital Campaign or our property projects? Please reach out to Jacob Bylund or members of our Long-Range Property Planning Team: Tim Goldman, Larry Anderson, Bev Blaha, Jacob Nastruz, and Scott Andrews.

PLEDGED:
\$424,008.84

RECEIVED:
\$352,518.46



Faith and Democracy Youth Pilgrimage

June 6-12, 2026

Approximate Fees: \$500 per youth, \$1,000 per adult shepherd. If the fees are a barrier for a youth to attend, please contact the church office about a scholarship.

Youth currently in 6th grade on up are invited to join St. Timothy's Faith and Democracy Pilgrimage to Philadelphia and New York. With next summer marking the semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of the Declaration of Independence, it's the perfect time to explore the rich history of these cities and the role they played in both the founding of the country and the origins of the Episcopal Church. As the youth prepare and undertake their pilgrimage, they will explore topics like the intersection of faith and civic life at the country's founding and the role faith should play in a pluralistic democracy today.

Keep an eye out for upcoming pilgrimage fundraisers, including a Parent's Night Out childcare fundraiser in December.

SAVE THE DATE!

Epiphany Celebration
Sunday, January 4

St. Timothy's Day and Annual Gathering
Sunday, January 25

