



NEWSLETTER



St. John's by the Campus
Episcopal Parish and Student Center
April 2023

Grace and Peace to You!

As we prepare for the Easter Season, I wanted to write about one of my favorite prayer practices. When Sara and I were involved with a young adult community in Cedar Falls called Simple Supper, our friend Emma suggested a game called Rose, Bud, Thorn. It was an icebreaker of sorts. We each went around the table and named a good part of our day, a bad part of our day, and something exciting yet to come; a rose, a thorn, and a bud. This became one of our favorite parts of our time together.

When Sara and I went to seminary we found ourselves teaching the Kids of Seminary, sometimes shortened to KOS and pronounced like the word "chaos," we wondered what we might offer these wild and thoughtful children. Sara suggested we finish each night with Rose, Bud, Thorn.

I was wary at first but after some silly answers and giggles, the kids slowly started opening up about their joys, fears, and hopes. Gradually it became the most important part of our youth nights. After a few weeks, we introduced a new category: roots. The roots of one's day were where one saw God. Once again, we were nervous, but the kids rose to the challenge and pointed toward God in their life in inspiring ways. Soon my classmates were pulling me aside in the hall asking what Sara and I had done to their kids. They said, "we can't eat our family suppers anymore without Rose, Bud, Thorn!"

This process of looking back on your day is part of an ancient prayer practice called The Daily Examen. It comes from a branch of spirituality associated with the founder of the Jesuit monastic order, St. Ignatius. The Daily Examen reminds us that God's infinite creativity is the source of our every moment. God's love is constantly pursuing us if we take the time to notice. We are called into deeper conversion as Christians when we recall the day that is past and track down God's fingerprints.

To pray with the Daily Examen, one need only find a quiet place in one's day and in one's home and work through the following steps: 1. Become aware of God's presence; 2. Review the day with gratitude; 3. Pay attention to your emotions; 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it. 5. Look toward tomorrow.

Whether you choose to use the Rose, Bud, Thorn method or the more formal one, I highly recommend this practice. As we prepare to feast and celebrate both Christ's saving actions and the defeat of death itself, this is a great season to notice how that same God is breaking into your daily life. I hope Lent has been a time of revival in your hearts and that you will bask in Paschal joy in the days to come. May you persist in whatever prayer pattern you practice or as my friend at the University of the South used to say "y'all stay prayed up!"

In Christ,
Father Tom+

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE



Palm Sunday 4/2

8:00 am Eucharist
9:00 am Adult Forum
10:00 am Eucharist

Wednesday 4/5

10:30 am Stations of the Cross
12:05 pm Eucharist
7:00 pm Youth Movie Night
8:00 pm Zoom Compline

Maundy Thursday 4/6

6:00 pm Agape Meal
7:00 pm Eucharist

Good Friday 4/7

7:00 pm Service

Holy Saturday 4/8

8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter
at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
815 High Street, Des Moines, IA 50309
Fr. Tom Early will be preaching

Easter Sunday 4/9

10:00 am Eucharist

During Holy Week and Easter Christians remember and reenact the events that lead up to the death and resurrection of Jesus and celebrate the central tenant of their faith. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday, which celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

You are invited you to join us for Holy Week services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

St. John's by the Campus
2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014
church@stjohns-ames.org
www.stjohns-ames.org



Parish Office

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Episcopal Parish and Student Center
2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014

Clergy

The Rev. Tom Early, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland, Assisting Priest

Parish Assistants

Rachel Thevenot, Church Admin/Bookkeeper
David Moore, Chaplain
Dr. Miriam Zach, Music Director/Organist
Joan Aiton, Treasurer
Jane Galyon, Newsletter Editor

Vestry 2023

Elizabeth Charbonnet, Brenda Freeman,
Diane Gillott, Debbie Haywood,
Leigh Ann Long, Amy Mellies,
Cristine Mincheff, Tim Muggli,
Marlene Strathe

April Birthdays

- 1 Chuck Deppe
- 2 Molly Ethridge
- 8 Stacy Joiner, Corey Peterson
- 10 Grace Warren
- 13 Summer Marr
- 14 Alex Galyon
- 15 Jacob Baker
- 17 Katherine Klingseis
- 18 Lisa Frangos
- 19 LeAnn Hillier
- 20 Nancy Ballard, Jim Fisher
- 21 Bill Gutowski
- 22 Sherry Washburn
- 23 Katherine Joiner, Abigail Rioux

Anniversaries

- 11 Sandra & Chuck Deppe
- 22 Wendy Ware & Gene Warren
- 27 Summer & Mike Marr

How to Communicate

St. John's Office: (515) 292-6655
Office: church@stjohns-ames.org
Fr. Tom Early: tom@stjohns-ames.org
Dr. Miriam Zach: miriamzach@gmail.com
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davidmoore@stjohns-ames.org
St. John's Website: www.stjohns-ames.org
Diocese of Iowa: www.iowaepiscopal.org

April 2023 Newsletter Vol 29, Num 4

This Newsletter is published monthly except in July by the Episcopal Parish of Ames, a non-profit organization, 2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014. Comments or inquiries may be sent to the church office. The deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, April 24.

Please submit articles via email to
church@stjohns-ames.org or
jgalyon@iastate.edu.

Diocese of Iowa Chapter Meeting, April 1, 10 a.m.

Each congregation in the diocese is part of a "Mission Chapter" and in recent years, it's been the pattern that all Chapters meet jointly twice a year. The first part of the meeting has information/updates/news relevant to everyone, and then each Chapter goes into its own breakout room for check-in and discussion with area churches. All are welcome to attend, and diocesan convention delegates and any in congregational leadership roles (clergy, vestry, wardens, treasurer, communications, etc.) are encouraged to come and bring a friend.

You must register to receive the Zoom link.

The Zoom link you'll receive when you register is unique to you - do not share it with others. To register, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/chaptermtgspring23>

Agenda

Welcome & Prayers

Opportunity Fund

GILEAD Grants

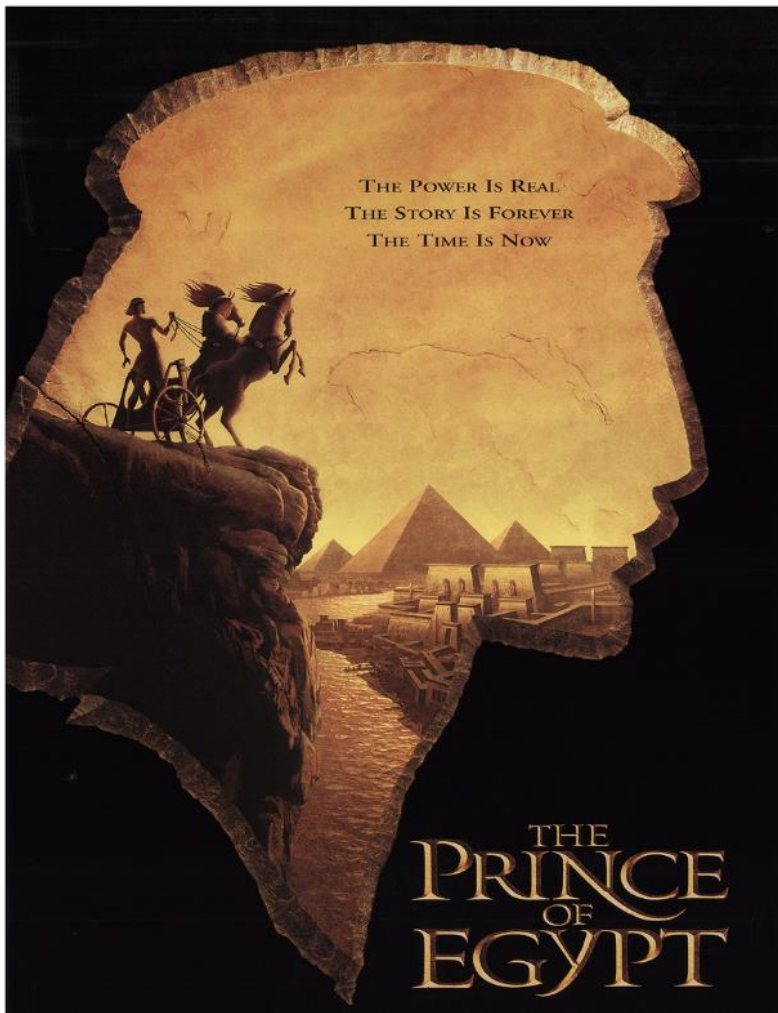
Clergy & Lay Leadership Support

Youth Events

Young Adult Pilgrimage

Calendar Highlights

Breakout Rooms Open for Regional Chapter Meetings



ST. JOHN'S
YOUTH
MOVIE
NIGHT:
THE PRINCE
OF EGYPT

APRIL 5 AT
7PM

A MOVIE,
SNACKS, AND A
PRIEST

Eastertide Conversations

Acts 2: 17 “God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams.” The Easter Season calls us to contemplate Christ’s invitation to renewal and imagination. It is fitting in this Queen of Seasons that we rededicate ourselves to two of St. John’s historic and noble ministries.

On Tuesday, April 18, we will hold a stakeholder’s meeting of sorts for reimagining how we might serve the youth of our church and community. On Tuesday the 25, we will hold a similar meeting with a focus on young adults and college students. If you are excited about how Jesus might be calling our church to serve these two populations, come and help us listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying. Eastertide is also a time when hospitality should be emphasized. Food and childcare will be provided at both meetings.

Walking the Labyrinth

The Prayer Labyrinth is up in the Parish Hall. The labyrinth will only be up through the Lenten season, so if you have 30 minutes or more, take your chance now and come walk the labyrinth. All ages are welcome! When walking the labyrinth, we ask that you please remove your shoes and wear socks to help protect the life of the canvas. Learn more at <https://www.stjohns-ames.org/s/Labyrinth-Brochure.pdf>.

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) Fundraiser April 16, 2023

On Sunday, April 16th after the 8 am and 10 am services, a breakfast fundraiser will be held for youth going to EYE in July. Please join us for breakfast after the 8 am or 10 am service!

Jottings from the Junior Warden

Work has begun on addressing the lighting issues in the church with florescent lights being replaced in the hallways, restrooms, and the kitchen. A number of the 'up lights' in the parlor/library have been replaced as well as some bulbs in the nave, the altar area, and the columbarium. Replacement bulbs for the sanctuary area are proving to be difficult to find and alternatives are being considered as to how replacements can be made. A similar issue exists with regard to the light fixtures in the parish hall. If replacement parts are unable to be found or are too expensive, consideration will need to be given to the replacement of the fixtures. Several exit signs have been replaced as well as the batteries to two emergency lights. Work continues on the exterior lighting of the church.

Aspen Waste Management system was contacted, and a new dumpster has replaced the previous one which had significant deterioration. Bids have been sought for the replacement of the fence surrounding the dumpster as well as issues related to the storage shed floor as well as holes in the roof of the structure. It is hoped that these projects can be completed in the coming month.

A THANK YOU to Bronwyn Frame and Ed Gillot who have purchased and delivered to the church the Cyprus mulch and Preemergent for the spring cleanup and bedding areas. Bronwyn's 'comparison' shopping enabled the parish to purchase a larger amount of mulch at a very favorable price!!

Working with Doug McCay, a proposal for the enhancement of the long-term maintenance fund has been submitted to the finance committee for their consideration at the April meeting. As a parish we need to identify ways to fund those larger maintenance projects such as furnace/air conditioner replacements as well as kitchen enhancements.

If you have ideas, questions, or concerns I would welcome your phone calls or personal visits to discuss any issues of concern you may have.

Thank you for your support of St. John's, be it your time, talents, or treasures.

Marlene Strathe

970-227-7970 | drstrathe@gmail.com



EPIC Summer Camp (4th - 12th grade), 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 100% you. We have trained and caring staff who will walk alongside our youth and be there for them, whatever they need.

WHO: All youth entering grades 4-12 (not limited to Episcopalians!)

WHEN: June 26-30, 2023

WHERE: Christian Conference Center, Newton, IA

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

Camp check-in is Monday, June 26 from 3-5 p.m., and pickup will be between 12-1 p.m. on Friday, June 30. Scholarships are always available and you can fill out the request form at the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8SKXQ_8_zL3p1BNSv4d4arOltf8OSKeDXYxrsKO3l8LXJNg/viewform.

SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER



Bible Study

The Bible Study group meets on Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Next Wednesday, April 5 will be **Stations of the Cross**. Everyone is invited to join us that morning as we do the Stations together!

The following Wednesday, April 12, will be our last study in the booklet Jesus Final Week from the Lifeguide Series. It is entitled "Sunday: Resurrection," Luke 24:1-43. Everyone in the small group seems to have truly enjoyed this study.

The week of April 17 will begin a new study. If you have any questions about this group, please contact me. We look forward to having some new members!

Sarah Terrones, Bible Study Coordinator
sterrones817@aol.com | (515) 290-6931

Civility is Focus of April 4 Community Conversation Sponsored by the City of Ames

The community is invited to attend a presentation called "Civility in Conversations." This event is intended to be an interactive presentation exploring the importance of civility and civil discourse in addressing the challenges of mental health issues we face both from an individual perspective as well as public engagement. The event will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, at Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave. The event is hosted by the City of Ames featuring speaker Scott Raecker, Executive Director of The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. Raecker will lead this interactive presentation, incorporating key strategies that will focus on how we each play a role in creating a culture of civility. Participants will engage with research-based strategies to enhance individual actions that create a culture of civility that is motivated by relationship building, integrity, respect, and accountability.

This event supports Ames City Council's goal to identify opportunities to improve mental and physical wellness together with community partners and is the fifth in a series of mental health Community Conversations. These events are free and open to the public.

Future Community Conversations are planned:

- Tuesday, May 2: "Navigating Mental Health/Substance Use Systems," 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Watch for updates and view the Community Conversation video archives at

<https://www.cityofames.org/living/mental-health-initiative>

EfM seminar at St. John's

What is EfM? "Education for Ministry (EfM) invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. EfM seminar groups meet in local settings and online and provide a four-year curriculum that develops a theologically informed, reflective, and articulate laity." This is not a class just for those seeking ordination. Every baptized person is called to ministry. The EfM program is administered by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, and the tuition is \$330. Since its inception in 1975, more than 100,000 people have participated in this vital program. EfM groups meet regionally in nearly every diocese of The Episcopal Church, in six provinces of the Anglican Communion, and some in virtual classrooms with participants from across the globe.

There are 10 participants currently in the class at St. John's led by Rev. Diana Wright. This is an online class using the zoom platform that meets on Sundays at 6:30 pm for 90 minutes. Classes begin with a review of the reading for that week, followed by some form of a theological reflection. The 36 week course meets every week from September through May. The best way to learn more about EfM is to talk to an EfM graduate or visit with one of the current students. On a personal level, I graduated from EfM in 2010, but have enjoyed participating with this group as a co-mentor over the last 3 1/2 years. The study materials have been updated since I took the course and I find that participating in the study and reflection each week continues to challenge me and provide insight into my relationship with God. Registration for the 2023-24 class will be available this summer.

1st year students: John Levis and Josiah Sutton
3rd year students: Diana Walsh, Mary Jo Pfeifer Wulf, Scott Thomson

4th year students: Brenda Freeman, Greta Muller Levis, Kathleen Sallee, Wendy Ware, and Kimberly Patterson

Mentors: Rev Diana Wright and Ed Gillott
Submitted by Ed Gillott



JULY 4-8, 2023
UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND,
COLLEGE PARK

EVERY THREE YEARS THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CONVENES AN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EVENT SO “THAT THE ENERGY OF THE YOUTH OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CAN CONTINUE TO BE UTILIZED IN ACTIVE MINISTRY AS MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.” THIS IS AN EVENT FULL OF WORSHIP, LEARNING, MEETING NEW PEOPLE AND HAVING A LOT OF FUN WITH EPISCOPALIANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS IN EYE23 MUST BE ENROLLED IN 9TH, 10TH, 11TH, OR 12TH GRADE DURING THIS SCHOOL YEAR. PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE TURNED AT LEAST 15.

THE REGISTRATION COSTS FOR EYE IS \$400. THIS INCLUDES 5 DAYS AND 4 NIGHTS OF ALL EVENTS, MEALS, AND LODGING. AIRLINE TICKETS, TRANSPORTATION, AND ADDITIONAL MEALS WILL BE AN EXTRA COST. YMDT HAS FUNDS RESERVED FOR YOUTH TO ATTEND EYE AND HOPES TO COVER 1/3 OF THE COST.

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE.



Music News

You are invited...

Holy Week services - St. John's Episcopal Church

Saturday, April 15 (1 p.m. Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall) - ISU organ studio concert

Saturday, April 22 (1:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church) - ISU organ studio concert **Office Hours**
St. John's office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Online Parish Services

The 10 am Sunday service is livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

www.youtube.com/@stjohnsbythecampus

What is going on around the Diocese of Iowa?

Check out the updates at the new and improved Diocese of Iowa website:
www.iowaepiscopal.org. Includes a link to the monthly e-newsletter.

The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting St. John's by the Campus February 15, 2023, 6:30 pm

Present: Fr. Tom Early (Priest-in-Charge), Amy Mellies (Sr. Warden), Marlene Strathe (Jr. Warden), Joan Aiton (Treasurer), Leigh Ann Long (Clerk), Cristine Mincheff, Tim Muggli, Debbie Haywood, Diane Gillott, Brenda Freeman, Elizabeth Charbonnet.

Minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting were approved.
Financial Report for January 2023 was accepted.

New Business:

2023 Goal Setting: A subcommittee (Fr. Tom, Amy, and Marlene) was created to develop a short list of 2023 goals to present at a future vestry meeting. This subcommittee will review the posters developed from Bishop Betsey Monnot's visit and from the brainstorming session held with the parish.

Greta Muller Levis Candidacy Forms: Vestry approves candidacy for ordination to the diaconate.

Opening Nursery: A subcommittee (Amy and Elizabeth) was created to look into the approach for reopening the nursery. There is interest from some older parish youth in developing childcare experience. Additionally, the possibility of hiring college students through a scholarship program was discussed.

Credit Card Use Policies: Vestry approved canceling of current credit cards and reissuing new numbers to Rachel and David (Fr. Tom's card was newly issued and does not require reissue). This action will be taken as soon as all reoccurring payments are identified for transfer to a new number. A note in the Bulletin will be included to notify the parish that the card numbers will change. Additionally, a subcommittee (Joan, Debbie, and Diane) was created to develop a document for best practices regarding future credit card use.

Pledge Thank You Cards: Thank you card templates for parishioners who pledged for 2023 were distributed to vestry members.

Parochial Report: This year's parochial report will be developed by Fr. Tom and sent to the vestry electronically for approval.

Child Serve Program: Vestry approved use of church for summer Child Serve program. Child Serve to inform vestry if St. John's facilities are selected.

Old Business:

The 1st Quarter Vestry Sunday Schedule is complete, and all dates have been filled.

Priest-in-Charge Report: Fr. Tom noted that he has restarted care center services, is attending the Companions in Ministry program, and is attending the Campus of Collegiate Ministers meetings.

Sr. Warden Report: Amy thanked St. John's for hosting the youth ski trip.

Jr. Warden Report: Marlene conducted a walkthrough of the church grounds and compiled a list of long term maintenance items that are needed. This list includes replacement of aging furnaces, replacement of non-functional lighting, kitchen improvements and safety concerns, replacement of broken stained glass plexiglass cover, garbage fence and storage shed concerns, and roof repairs. She recommends moving 2% of the endowment fund returns to the long term maintenance fund on an annual basis. This recommendation will be reviewed at a future vestry meeting. Marlene also noted she is in the process of determining costs and priority for the needed repairs. Vestry members also noted that adding a bike rack and potentially replacing the outdoor sign could also be considered. The vestry also wanted to thank Steve Prater for his leadership in resolving the ongoing sewer issue.

Parking Lot Committee Report: This committee is working on a parking lot policy and is working with the trash company to replace the aging dumpster. Vestry members requested a dual lid on a new dumpster if possible.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm with prayer.

Submitted by Elizabeth Charbonnet
Edited by Rachel Thevenot, Office Administrator/Bookkeeper