

Oct. 22, 2020

**Diocesan Convention is this Saturday, Oct. 24**

Lay delegates and clergy will take part in the 161st Annual Convention of the diocese this Saturday, Oct. 24. Each of the diocese’s 11 minsters has a site where those who wish to gather to participate together, with masks and physical distancing required, will participate in the meeting via Zoom. Others will be logging into the Zoom meeting individually.

Together this network of people in places across the diocese helps to make manifest the theme of this year’s convention, “joined and knitted together,” from Ephesians 4:16.

Convention begins at 9 a.m. with Morning Prayer and the bishop’s address, with business to follow. At noon the meeting will recess for Noonday Prayers lunch, and at 1 p.m. those in each minister will gather in Zoom breakout rooms for discussions.

Everyone returns to the main Zoom meeting at 2 p.m. for any unfinished business, to view videos of the recipients of the annual awards for outstanding ministry, and to watch a video of the convention service of Holy Eucharist with spiritual communion.

For those who are not voting members, the convention Zoom meeting will be livestreamed to YouTube, where it can be viewed: <https://www.youtube.com/c/episcopaldioceseofkansas>).

Many of the documents delegates and clergy, as well as the service booklet for the Eucharist, are on the diocesan convention page: <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/life/convention.php>

**Registration for convention is closed**

Registration for Diocesan Convention is closed. **No additional registrations are being accepted, and those who are not registered may not attend minister gatherings.** Anyone not registered should plan to watch the convention on the diocese’s YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/episcopaldioceseofkansas>.

**Bishop Kemper School plans service for election night**

The school invites others to join them in a prayer service on Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7–7:30 p.m. The service will take place over Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83970442317?pwd=MWttQkhWQ3g3eEZWSnE0UXhIL0doZz09>

**Presiding Bishop to lead prayer service for healing and wholeness on Nov. 1**

Presiding bishop Michael Curry will lead a prayer service from Washington National Cathedral on All saints Sunday, Nov. 1, from 3–4:30 p.m. Central time. It is entitled “Holding on to Hope: A National Service for Healing and Wholeness.”

In the midst of a pandemic, racial reckoning and an historic election, the service will gather Americans for prayer, song, lament, hope, and a call to love God and neighbor.

The service will feature an ecumenical and multifaith array of voices, musical offerings and prayers.

In addition to Bishop Curry’s sermon, reflections will be offered by the Rev. James Martin, SJ, a noted Roman Catholic commentator on American life and values; and Valarie Kaur, a Sikh author, filmmaker and civil rights attorney.

Officiating will be Diocese of Washington Bishop Marianne Budde, Washington National Cathedral Dean Randy Hollerith, and the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, canon to the presiding bishop.

The service will be livestreamed at [www.cathedal.org](http://www.cathedal.org) and [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org).

**Prayer initiative offered in advance of US elections**

Forward Movement and the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations are calling Episcopalians and all others to join in “A Season of Prayer: For an Election.” This prayer novena – nine days of devotional prayers – calls upon God for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation.

The season of prayer begins Tuesday, Oct. 27, and continues through Nov. 4, the day after the elections in the United States.

All prayers come from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and materials include a brief litany to use each day.

Printable materials for individuals, churches and families are available for download at <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/Item/15381/Season-of-Prayer.aspx>

**Prayers to pray at the polls**

Two Topeka priests have written prayers that can be offered by people before and after casting ballots, and for those who assist as poll workers:

*A Prayer before Casting a Ballot (from the Very Rev. Torey Lightcap)*

O God our Governor, giver of discernment, from whom all wisdom comes: Help me always to know what you would have me do and pursue it to the end. Guide my hand and steady my resolve, secure that in this action I may aid in the perfection of your will. Then, I pray, send your Spirit to attend and cheer me, and let me rest again in your perfect peace. I ask this for the sake of Christ. Amen.

*A Prayer after Casting a Ballot (from the Very Rev. Torey Lightcap)*

Gracious and everliving Lord, King of Glory, bless this offering. May my vote and the collective actions of others reflect the values of the kingdom for which your Son our Lord Jesus Christ has given himself. Grant me, I humbly pray, the tranquility of a clean conscience; and give us all a spirit of forbearance and reconciliation in the days to come. Amen.

*A Prayer for Poll Workers (from the Very Rev. Vicki Smith)*

O God the creator and preserver of all humankind, I am grateful for the opportunity to facilitate the wellbeing of our democracy by serving as an election poll worker. As I undertake this important and sacred work, help me to be gracious to all who come before me. Shield me from frustration with processes that may be confusing. Empower me with clear thought and speech. Keep me ever mindful that while election choices may separate us, we are all united by your love as citizens of your kingdom. In humility and gratitude, I pray. Amen.

**Workshop offered to help welcome people into the church**

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas will offer a two-night, online workshop for those interested in welcoming new people into the church.

It will wake place on Dec. 8 and Dec. 15 beginning at 7 p.m. and is open to all members of the diocese, clergy and lay

The workshop leader will be Jerusalem Greer, the Staff Officer for Evangelism for the Episcopal Church.

“Welcome and Belonging in the Digital Sphere” will look at how to connect with those who are joining congregations digitally, proclaiming Good News in ways that take people from watchers to active participants on Sundays and beyond.

Over two weeks Greer will lead participants in a workshop experience that will include reflection on scripture, story sharing, and practical tips and exercises.  Week 1 (Dec. 8) will cover how to make the pivot from in-person expectations to online expressions, as well as the "why" of this work, and how community can happen.  Week 2 (Dec. 15) will cover what digital hospitality really looks like, why engaging everyone in the work matters, and what's next.

For more information contact the Rev. Gar Demo at [gdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:gdemo@stthomasop.org)

**Youth news**

**>> YouthTide! registration priority deadline is tomorrow.** YouthTide! is an event where participants learn more about the entire Episcopal Church calendar. Come ADVENTure with us through **all** the seasons of the Episcopal church year!

* **When:** Nov. 6–8; three sessions and a worship service (youth may sign up for any and all sessions)
  + Session 1: Advent and Christmas: Friday, Nov. 6, 7–8:30 p.m.
  + Session 2: Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week: Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.–noon
  + Session 3: Easter, Pentecost, Season after Pentecost: Saturday, Nov. 7, 2–4 p.m.
  + Session 4: Worship with spiritual communion: Sunday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.–noon
* **Where:** ONLINE, with “YouthTide-in-a-box” sent to all youth who register by the **priority registration deadline, Oct. 23**
* **Who:** Youth currently in grades 6-12 at the time of the event
* **Fee:** $10 suggested donation to pay for your event box
* **Registration**: Available in UltraCamp: <https://www.ultracamp.com/clientlogin.aspx?idCamp=986&campCode=1sC>
* **Questions?** Contact Michael Funston, Associate for Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, [mfunston@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:mfunston@episcopal-ks.org)

**>> Monthly youth game night and Compline.** On the first Sunday of the month, there will be a youth game night for all youth in the diocese in grades 6-12. We’ll play charades, Jack Box games, Family Feud and lots more. We’ll end with our traditional youth Compline each night.

Join us:

* Sunday, Nov. 1, 7–8:30 p.m. we’ll be doing Evening Prayer for the Season of an Election instead of Compline. You can watch the service at 8 p.m. on the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Formation YouTube channel.
* Sunday, Dec. 6, 7–8:30 p.m.

Email Karen Schlabach for the link and password: [kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org).

**Information about the ‘Old Saints for New Days’ service for Oct. 19**

Scheduling difficulties meant there was no weekly “Old Saints for New Days” chapel service on Oct. 19. The Propers for that day are the ones being used for the Diocesan Convention Eucharist, which will be shown on YouTube as part of the convention (<https://www.youtube.com/c/episcopaldioceseofkansas>).

The service by itself also will be available on YouTube at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Bishop Bascom has made available the manuscript of the sermon she would have preached on Monday, Oct. 19, for anyone who wants to use it. Note that this is different from the sermon included in the convention Eucharist service.

The bishop’s manuscript, along with manuscripts of all prior services and videos of the sermon, can be downloaded from the diocesan Dropbox at <https://www.dropbox.com/home/Diocese%20of%20Kansas's%20shared%20workspace/Sermons-Old%20Saints%20for%20New%20Days>.

This link also is at the top of the main resources page on the diocesan website at <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/resources/>.

**Health insurance open enrollment to start soon**

Open enrollment for those covered by diocesan health insurance plans will begin on Oct. 28 and continue to Nov. 18. All those currently enrolled will receive information about open enrollment the week before Oct. 28.

Anyone with questions should contact Comptroller Jay Currie at [jcurrie@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:jcurrie@episcopal-ks.org) or (785) 235-9255.

**For parishes with histories with the Boy Scouts of America**

Does your parish have a Boy Scout or Cub Scout troop? Has your parish had one in the past?

As the Boy Scouts of America go through legal proceedings related to their filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last February, the Episcopal Church has advised dioceses and parishes to file time-sensitive documents attesting to their history with the BSA.

As the diocese considers filing and seeks to advise parishes on filing, please share your history – as soon as possible – with Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Patrick Funston at [apfunston@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:apfunston@episcopal-ks.org).

**Covid-related rental assistance is available in Kansas**

The Covid-relief committee appointed by the governor has designated part of the CARES federal funding received by the state for relief for renters who are in arrears on rent payments because of the pandemic and resulting recession.

The Kansas Eviction Protection Program is administered through the Kansas Housing Corporation. It provides rental assistance to households that have missed one or more rent payments as a result of the pandemic. Landlords and tenants apply through a joint online process. If the application is approved, the landlord receives rental assistance funds directly from the program and applies the money to the tenant’s account. Late fees also are to be waived for the months for which KEPP funds are received.

Approved tenants are eligible for a maximum of nine months of assistance, not to exceed $5,000 per household.

More information and the application forms are online at <https://kshousingcorp.org/eviction-prevention-program/>.

**Yale Divinity School provides free Bible study resources**

Churches seeking to begin a Bible study or wanting to refresh existing study groups have new resources thanks to Yale Divinity School’s online Bible study resources.

Each biblical book in the Yale Divinity Bible Study includes a series of 15–30 minute online video conversations between two Yale Divinity School associated professors or ministers. Each of the conversations offers expert and accessible biblical interpretation. The video conversations may be viewed online by individuals or projected for groups.

Featured courses currently are Genesis, Exodus, the gospel of Matthew, the gospel of Luke, Romans and 1 Corinthians.

More information is available at <https://yalebiblestudy.org/>.

**People notes**

Two people have been appointed by Bishop Cathleen Bascom as co-shepherds of the Kansas River Minster – **Stephan Mann** and **Deacon Susan Drury**. Their appointment takes effect on Oct. 24.

**The Rev. George Wiley**, canon pastor for the diocese, will be on vacation for the next three weeks. Anyone who needs assistance during this time should contact Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Patrick Funston or Bishop Bascom.

**Anniversaries of ordinations**

Congratulations go to these people as they celebrate the anniversaries of their ordination in the next two weeks:

**Oct. 24**: Deacon Harry Craig, St. David’s, Topeka (34 years); Deacon Deedee Evans, St. James’, Wichita (34 years)

**Oct. 27**: The Rev. Gail Davis, retired (19 years)

**Oct. 28**: Deacon Tom Herlocker, Grace, Winfield (32 years)

**Nov. 1**: The Rev. Sam Criss, retired (62 years)

**Stay in touch with the diocese on social media**

You can find news, features and updates from the diocese on social media. We’re on Facebook – EpiscopalDioceseofKansas (<https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseofKansas>), Twitter – @EpiscoKs and Instagram – @EpiscoKs.

You can find diocesan youth and campus ministries on Instagram, too:

* Youth: @edokyouth
* Canterbury House of Lawrence: @canterburylfk
* Canterbury at K-State: @canterburyatkstate

**Next DioLog**

The next edition of *DioLog* will be sent to subscribers on Thursday, Nov. 5. Information to be included should be sent to Melodie Woerman, diocesan director of communications, at [mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org) no later than Tuesday, Nov. 3.

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