



DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of May 19, 2020

Bishop Megan issues a Pentecost challenge



On Thursday, during the COVID-19 leadership call, Bishop Megan laid down a challenge to the whole diocese. While showing a bucket of sidewalk chalk on the screen, she asked that everyone use their own supply, create a piece of sidewalk art, and submit it on social media for Pentecost. **#PentecostChalkChallenge**

What will you draw: maybe a heart, some flowers, perhaps the flame or a dove to symbolize the Holy Spirit? If you don't feel particularly artsy, why not use your chalk to put your favorite quote on the sidewalk? Then, take a picture and share it with us on social media. Make sure you post it with the hashtags **#PentecostChalkChallenge** and **#NorCalEpiscopal**.

We also hope you'll like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Each of those accounts is linked in the icons below: Click, Follow (or like), and Post!



(If you're not on social media, send your photos to communications@norcalepiscopal.org and we will add the to an album on Facebook)

Growing: God working in and through our grateful hearts

It begins with the simple act of inviting others to give; a moment of connection between emotion and generosity. The opportunity to give invites others to draw closer to a life-changing presence of God in their lives. Yet, donor centered research tells us that sixty-percent of first-time donors do not make a second gift. Why? Because their gift

Give Now



was not acknowledged.

Donors are looking for something quite simple: a prompt, meaningful thank you. That's it. Eighty percent of donors say that a personal thank you would convince them to make a second gift. [Read more...](#)

Stewardship in the time of COVID-19

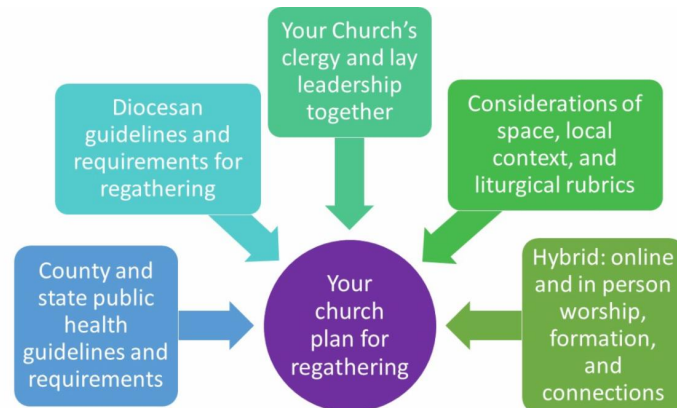


Stewardship and Online Giving

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Diocesan guide for regathering

- Priests in charge of congregations, and their wardens, are using this as a working guide to **create plans for regathering**
- During this planning phase, churches **remain in online worship** with existing restrictions in place



- [Click here](#) for the document
- [Click here](#) for a PowerPoint to use in presenting this plan to a group.

The Good Book Club: The Gospel of Matthew | Easter 2020



- También disponible en español: goodbookclub.org/espanol/

Health and Safety: COVID-19

Many of you have asked about music and singing in your services. Here are some resources:

- [Chorus America: Choruses and COVID-19](#)
- [May 5 Webinar: What Do Science and Data Say About the Near Term Future of Singing?](#)
- [jennyshouldblog: The Tears of the Choir World](#)



Health and Safety: COVID-19

[CARES Act legislation guidance and resources](#)

There are new rules on giving to religious, charitable and educational organizations associated with the passage of the CARES act, allowing more deductions for your giving. The new rules are:

- Taxpayers who don't itemize can deduct up to \$300 in an "above the line" deduction
- Taxpayers who do itemize can deduct 100% of their adjusted gross income in cash donations, raised from 50%
- Corporate donations will see their cap lifted to 25% of taxable income, raised from 10%

CARES Act Legislation Resources

The CARES Act is summarized on our webpage [here](#) with details about charitable giving on page 8.

The full text of the CARES act is located [here](#) and details about this subject start on page 65.

RESOURCES AND LINKS

[Resources for Online Worship](#)



[Mental health resources from Ministries of Health](#)

During this challenging time of pandemic, mental health may be more significantly impacted. We hope these resources give you additional tools to add to the wonderful work in which you are currently engaged. [Click here for resources...](#)

Be well...

Diocesan Partners in Ministries of Health
Susan Wahlstrom RN, Coordinator
Questions? (209) 304-8321 email: wahlstrom@volcano.net



Here are [additional resources](#) from Church Publishing on mental health.

NEWS AND EVENTS IN AND BEYOND THE DIOCESE

[Feeding the hungry in pandemic at Epiphany, Vacaville](#)



Members of Epiphany, Vacaville prepare to-go meals while observing social distancing and careful food preparation protocols. From L-R: Nancy Faulk, Nick Smith, Valerie Smith, and Becca Smith

For nearly 20 years, rain or shine, global pandemics or not, the Church of the Epiphany in Vacaville has helped provide meals for the hungry and the homeless. What began as simply a once-a-week-all-are-welcome meal, has grown into a city-wide ecumenical and interfaith effort, with support from our two Catholic churches, the Mormon Church, our local ELCA and Unity congregations, members of our local Muslim community, and others.

During this global pandemic, with sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduced access to community resources, we've been able to continue feeding the homeless and hungry twice a week with to-go lunches on Tuesdays and to-go dinners on Fridays. With the help of Vacaville's police department, we've also placed a portable toilet and hand washing station in Epiphany's parking lot, since most of our guests cannot access the bathrooms that were once available in public facilities.

Though we are blessed to be able to continue serving meals during this time, in addition to the general anxiety felt about the virus, there is also a sense of grief and loss. Because all meals are now served to-go, there is no opportunity to connect and enjoy the sense of community that has been such an important part of our meal program for us and for our guests. We look forward to the day when we can gather once again in Epiphany's parish hall, and continue to build the relationships that are so critical to ending the homelessness that so many of our guests experience.

Contributed by The Very Rev. Mack Olson - Dean of the Wingfield Deanery and Rector of Epiphany, Vacaville

Pathways 2020, a virtual pilgrimage

As youth in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, we are called to join together and learn about supporting our current communities, our history, and explore our relationship with our faith. We have done that for the last few summers through Pathways Pilgrimage.

Due to COVID-19, it was decided that an in-person Pathways Pilgrimage is not safe. To maintain and build our community while continuing our educational and spiritual journey, we will be meeting throughout the summer for a virtual Pathways through Zoom and social media. This summer, our theme will continue to explore various social justice topics, but will center more around taking care of ourselves!

[Please fill out this survey](#) if you would like to learn more about summer of 2020 Virtual Pathways. We would like to gather contact information and interest levels as we plan. All youth from 7th grade and up are invited to join us, even if you have not been on a previous Pathways trip!

[Check out what we did on Pathways 2019.](#)

Contributed by Elizabeth Potts - Epiphany, Vacaville

2020 Clergy Conference

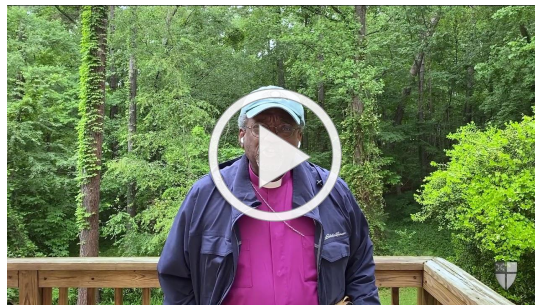


Our conference this spring will be a simple, online gathering shaped to have focused and precise presentations from dynamic and engaging speakers.

Please join us to spend time with your Bishop in prayer, community and continuing to build personal connections. Our two speakers, The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek and Ms. Patricia (Pat) Lewis Finnell will be sharing tools and ideas to help us look to the future.

[Click here](#) for the schedule and more information.

This week's "Habits of Grace" video



Racial reconciliation and healing training

Commission for Intercultural Ministries



Episcopal Church
Becoming Beloved Community

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries invites you to join a Zoom-based Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle beginning on May 21, 2020.

Sacred Ground is a 10-session, film-based dialogue series on Race and Faith offered through the Episcopal Church as part of the Becoming Beloved Community initiative.

It is built around powerful documentary films and readings which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue. [Click here](#) to read more and register.

2021 UTO Book of Prayers

Every three years, the United Thank Offering assembles a small book of gratitude-related prayers, one of the most popular items we give out at each General Convention/Triennial. We get these prayers from everywhere throughout The Episcopal Church, and it's time to start



working on prayers for the 2021 edition.

We are looking for original prayers in the following categories: Gratitude, Guidance, Healing, Love of God & Creation, Sorrow or Fear, Prayers for Morning, Prayers for Midday, Prayers for Night, and Other.

Interested? [Click here.](#)

POSTPONEMENTS AND CHANGES

Summer camp changes

The Bishop's Ranch and St. Dorothy's Rest

Concerns about COVID-19 have prompted both The Bishop's Ranch and St. Dorothy's Rest to make the tremendously difficult decision to cancel 2020 summer camp programs. Both the Ranch and St. Dorothy's made their choices out of great care for the health and safety of campers and staff. For more details and information on how you can help support our camp and conference centers during this challenging time, please read the following two statements:

[The Bishop's Ranch 2020 camp update](#)

[St. Dorothy's Rest 2020 camp update](#)

Camp Galilee

The staff and Galilee Board of Trustees have made the very difficult decision to cancel our 2020 summer camp residential program for youth. We have spent the last month considering various options to allow us to offer the program and it just does not seem possible to keep our staff, campers, and their families safe and healthy, both for youth residential and day camp programming. Our disappointment and sadness with this decision matches your own.

[Camp Galilee 2020 camp update](#)

[Donate to Camp Galilee Emergency Operations Fund](#)

[College for Congregational Development \(CCD\)](#)

To submit news/events, please email communications@norcalepiscopal.org. The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ

www.norcalepiscopal.org

