

The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

May 2026 - The Week of IV Easter

The Ascension of Christ, ca. 1745-50, Public Domain

Annual Spring Hat Challenge

As is now tradition for early May in the Diocese of Springfield, Bishop Burgess is extending an invitation to the women of the Diocese to wear spring hats on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 10th). Last year, roughly 60 participants were counted toward a generous donation of \$425 from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Those who wish to participate this year are asked to submit a picture featuring their spring hats and submit it to communicator@episcopalspringfield.org. For every hat worn and documented, Bishop Burgess will donate \$5 to Contact Ministries; a non-profit, faith-based organization providing free services to impoverished mothers, families, and individuals in the Springfield area. As always, hopes are set on exceeding last year's numbers in participation and generosity.



UPCOMING:

- 5/01 - Saints Philip & James
- 5/08 - Julian of Norwich
- 5/09 - Gregory of Nazianzus
- 5/14 - Ascension Day
- 5/21 - Lydia of Thyatira
- 5/24 - Day of Pentecost
- 5/26 - Augustine

Save the Date - Bishop's Reception & Dinner

On the Feast of the Holy Cross (Monday, September 14, 2026) Nashotah House Theological Seminary alumni, Board members, seminarians, family, and friends will gather within the home of Bishop Brian and Denise Burgess for an evening of fellowship, prayer, renewal of familiar relationships and fundraising.

Dean Lauren Whitnah has accepted the Burgess' invitation to be with us that evening and has expressed her desire to extend their invitation to other seminary staff, faculty and administration.

The evening will begin with a reception at 5:30 PM, continue with the Dean's condensed report on campus life and current priorities, include the observance of an expression of common prayer appropriate for the Evening, and dinner. As the Dean and other administrators will be present, clergy are asked to please wear appropriate clerical attire for the evening (spouses – business casual).

The Burgess' home is on Lake Petersburg just north of Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site and immediately south of the city of Petersburg, west of Illinois State Road 97. A block of rooms has been reserved at the River Bank Lodge in Petersburg in the name of the Diocese of Springfield for those who plan on traveling a great distance and would benefit from not having to return home until the morning of the 15th.

Old Fashioned Garden Tea Party

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle (815 South Second Street) is hosting an Old-Fashioned English Garden Tea party and celebration of their 190th Anniversary on Saturday, June 6th at 11:30 AM. Those interested in attending can RSVP at stpaulscathedralevents@gmail.com



Evensong in Champaign

The Chapel of St. John the Divine will present Choral Evensong on May 24th, Pentecost, at 4:00 pm. A picnic reception follows the service.



Noel/Herbst Scholarship

The Trustees of Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church are accepting applications for this year's Noel/Herbst Scholarship. The Noel Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by the Noel Family in 1990 in honor of the late Dorrell S. Noel and Melissa Morrissey Noel. The Herbst Scholarship Fund was established by the Noel Family in 1998 in honor of Emmanuel's 10th Rector, Fr. Alan A. Herbst, o/ssje. The funds provide scholarships to assist with secondary education, undergraduate college education, graduate education, or seminary education to members of

Emmanuel Church and, at the trustees' discretion, to other applicants from the Diocese of Springfield. Scholarships are awarded based on need, participation in the life of the Episcopal Church, and Christian character and lifestyle. Applications are available on [Emmanuel's website](#). To be considered, please submit application materials by email (office@emmanuelmemorialepiscopal.org) or by mail to 102 N State St., Champaign, IL 61820 by June 1.



Trinity Church

Our church school students celebrated their successful Lenten project, collecting more than \$2700 for Heifer International. Here they are singing All Things Bright and Beautiful at the April 19th service.

Outreach at Emmanuel

Every year as we begin our budgeting process, our Deacon Chris Hopkins, gathers the Outreach Committee to discuss the community organizations which we will support financially in the upcoming year. There are usually a few new groups which committee members bring to our attention, but the majority of the groups have received support for many years. There are also a few which have a deeper relationship with the parish.

DREAAM, Driven To Reach Excellence for African American Males, a youth outreach program, is a group with which we have worked closely for several years. Their programs are designed to increase academic achievement and the high school graduation rates of young people while also teaching them life skills. In the past, parishioners have tutored students and the students have come to Emmanuel for work days. Every year, we donate new shoes for students in their program as one of our outreach projects.

This year, they came to us with a specific request which allowed us to help in a more direct manner. They asked to use one of our classrooms to set up a Hydroponic Garden. Students would assemble the structures, tend to them, plant the new plants in soil when the plants had grown sufficiently, and eventually sell the produce at the local Farmer's Market. We were happy to agree with this request.



In January, 4 students and 2 advisors came to Emmanuel and began this process. They set up their hydroponic towers with the required light and water and waited for their seeds to grow. The students come to check on their gardens three times a week. They maintain water levels, check lighting and troubleshoot as needed. They mentioned that it was difficult to wait for the seeds to germinate, but once the plants started to

grow, it was exciting to see the changes in their plants every week. They each chose which plants they wanted to grow, although tomatoes and peppers are the most popular choices. They are proud of the gardening skills they have learned and are looking forward to selling their first crop.

Life skills learned, delicious produce grown. This has been a great project for us to have been part of at Emmanuel and a wonderful opportunity to support one of our community outreach partners.



ECCI Registration is Open

Registration for Episcopal Church Camp of Illinois 2026 is open! This year's week of camp will be held from Sunday, June 21st through Friday, June 26th. ECCI is a wonderful place for both youth and adult participants alike to be enriched through experiencing life in Christ together out in nature. This year's week of camp will once again be hosted at Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, Illinois. Parents should take note that this year's pickup date is on Friday, not on Saturday as it usually is. Sign up now to take advantage of the \$25 early bird discount. Additional discounts are available for first time campers (half off!) and students that refer a first time camp attendee. To register, click [here](#).

Province V Big Provincial Gathering & Provincial Youth Event

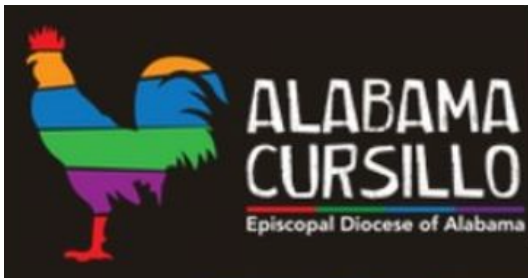
Episcopalians from across the Midwest will gather in Kalamazoo, Michigan, this summer for the Big Provincial Gathering (BPG), a dynamic, collaborative event designed to inspire, equip, and connect lay and clergy leaders in ministry. Hosted by Province V of The Episcopal Church, the gathering will take place July 30–August 1 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and nearby partner sites. Running concurrently with the Big Provincial Gathering is the Provincial Youth Event (PYE), a parallel program for students who have completed grades 6–12. Centered on the theme "We Will, With God's Help," the youth event invites participants into a shared exploration of the Baptismal Covenant and what it means to live faithfully in community. Registration is now open for both events. For more information, contact the Rev. Heather Barta at provincevcoordinator@gmail.com.

Invitation to Cursillo

The next Cursillo weekend is set for October 1-4th at Toddhall in Columbia, IL. The Cursillo weekend, a three-day retreat, designed to deepen relationships with Christ, ignite faith renewal, and foster growth in Christian service, while strengthening faith through fellowship, prayer, daily worship, music and spiritual reflection. This year's Cursillo begins on Thursday evening, October 1st and concludes late Sunday afternoon the 4th, offering a powerful experience for committed Christians seeking spiritual exploration. Additional information is available in the Canterbury Room or through discussions with anyone who has attended a weekend in the past.



Cursillo Logo



A logo helps identify the organization, its mission, and serves as a recognizable “brand” that can become visible in the community. The collage above shows some examples of logos from other Episcopal ministries as well as some from other 4th Day ministries in other denominations. Do you have an idea for a logo? Submit your idea (graphic) and a short narrative description about how the logo supports the mission of our Cursillo. Email submissions to Dawn Jung at dawnjung@juno.com by June 30th. Entries will be reviewed by the Secretariat. There is a ton of talent in our community – lets come up with something cool!





United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering

All UTO Coordinators are reminded that this is the season for UTO Spring Ingathering. If you have not had your Spring Ingathering, please plan to have one by May 17th. Many thanks for your support to UTO Ministry. Blessings to all for a wonderful Spring and Summer! With gratitude, Joyce C. Wright (UTO Diocesan Coordinator).

The Tree of Life Conference at Nashotah House

Artists and art-lovers alike are invited to The Tree of Life, an arts retreat hosted at Nashotah House from June 15-19, 2026. Over the course of the week, we will gather in prayer, shared meals, and the joy of artistic collaboration as we participate in discussion groups, studio demonstrations and instruction, and, most significantly, make art together. Drawing on philosopher Hans Georg Gadamer’s inspirational essay “The Relevance of the Beautiful” on the tripartite nature of Beauty — play, symbol, and festival — retreat participants and instructors will collaborate in serious play to produce meaningful and beautiful symbols, designs, objects, and images, culminating in a festive final group installation piece. Registration is due by May 15th. For more information or to register, [click here](#).



Please include those in our Diocese who are pursuing Holy Orders in your prayers:

Danny Shuler, Candidate, St. Thomas, Salem
Andrew Mead, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
Zach Buscher, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
Jeff Wenzel, Candidate, The Cathedral
Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Springfield
Len Harris, Postulant, Church of the Redeemer, Cairo

You can visit our website to check out the most up-to-date prayer calendar ([click here](#)) or our diocesan calendar ([click here](#)) with feasts and other events listed for around the Diocese.



Pentecost, Public Domain



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

