

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 1

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe



Pictured above: Members from Sunset, our oldest AA group, volunteering to paint our shed! (photographed & shared with permission)



Sundays in Lent

Coffee Hour Formation 11:30am in the Ed. Bldg.

Nurturing a Rule of Life: Being People of Worship, Service and Love. At its core, the term “Rule of Life” is not about duty to rules but about slowing down and structuring our lives in alignment with our deepest desires. It’s a set of practices and relational rhythms that create space to be with Jesus, become like him, and do as he did. [Watch this video to learn more!](#)

Wednesdays in Lent

Evening Prayer 5:30pm in the Chapel

You are invited to leave the constant chatter of the world at the door and gather with us for a Lenten prayer service in the chapel.

Meatless Potluck 6:00pm in the Parish Hall

Bring your favorite meatless dish to share and join us in the parish hall to share a meatless potluck-style meal and fellowship time!

Lenten Formation Series 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

Encountering Faith Through Women in Scripture. Join us in this exploration of alternative bible lessons through stories of women in the Bible.

More info & “Lent at Home” resources are [found on our website](#)

Sunday at Epiphany

The Second Sunday
in Lent

Celebrant:

The Rev. Canon Stephen
Schaitberger

Lay Ministers 8:00AM

Greeter:

Pam Waterman

Reader:

Stanlie James

Acolyte:

Joe Moritz

Eucharistic Ministers:

Stanlie James

Lay Ministers 10:00AM

Greeters:

Cece Wilhite

Readers:

Karen Ford, Mary Harthun

Acolyte:

Eucharistic Ministers:

Nancy Keith, Dave Bauer

Music:

Dr. Miriam Hickman, Matt Fora,
Choir

A/V Ministers:

Cassandra Kariuki

Join us in-person at 8:00 or 10:00, or
[online at 10:00](#)

Worship | Serve | Love

First Sunday Offering Rector's Discretionary Fund Monthly Update: February

Gas cards, food cards, help with utility payments, help with car payments--these are just a few of the things that folks need assistance with every month to stay afloat. When they knock on the Farmhouse door, we can offer reasonable assistance with these thanks to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. But the RDF is also used to help members of our parish when they fall on hard times. This month we were able to provide a fellow parishioner with rental assistance and prevent them from being evicted. Each month on the first Sunday, the loose plate offerings go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Your gifts help us be the merciful hands of Christ.



Lenten Cereal Drive Starts Sunday!

Thank you, Epiphany, for bringing in 102 **June Crane** boxes and bags of cereal to start off our annual Lenten Cereal Drive. We will be collecting cereal for the food banks at Matthews Crossing and Paz de Cristo every week in Lent. Donations go in the grocery cart or specially marked box that will be outside the west Parish Hall doors on Sunday mornings. If you would prefer to donate money, cash or checks (made out to Church of the Epiphany with Cereal Drive on the memo line) cheerfully accepted. Cash or checks need to be clearly marked for the Lenten Cereal Drive and placed in the offering plate at the back of the church. Donations of other staple food, paper products, and personal care items for Matthews Crossing are always welcome in the grocery cart too. Remember, our goal is 700 boxes so let's keep'em coming!



PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

The Property Management Committee team meeting is next Sunday, March 8, at 9am in the education building. They meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month to discuss current and future projects around the parish. Many of these projects are taken on by the Saturday Sod Squad, which is open to all who would like to spiff up the Epiphany Campus. They clean-up the Courtyard and entryways for Sunday mornings and sometimes do minor repairs to save on costs of the pros. If you're interested in giving your talent to this ministry, these team meetings are a great way to learn more and get involved!

Coffee in the Courtyard



**Sundays after the 10am service.
Enjoy the weather and fellowship!**

Join us outside! If you attended any of these gatherings last winter, you know they offered the chance for a fresh-air sit-down and relaxing chats. There will be sign-up sheets for snack donations and for the all-important putting-away-tables/chairs-task. Please take five minutes to help so we can all enjoy and be done by noon.

Worship | Serve | Love



Creation Care Corner

Offering ideas and inspiration for sustainable discipleship

Lent is a time that we fast in order to prepare for Easter and commemorate the forty days that Jesus fasted in the desert. This year, you might consider a less traditional “fast for the earth” that involves individual acts that care for God’s creation. Click the calendar below from Green Anglicans for ideas.

-Amy Douglass



FAST FOR THE EARTH

RESTORATION 202Fix

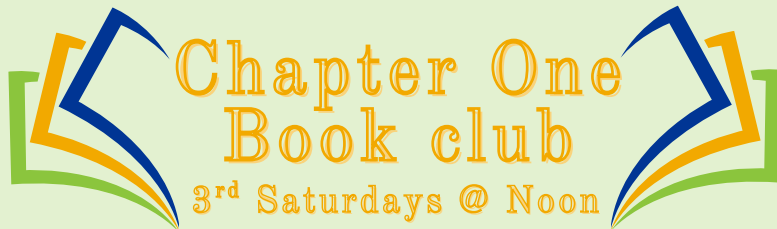


	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
WATER	#MeatFreeMonday	Plastics must fall! Say no to the use of single use plastics: straws, bags, bottles.	Ash Wednesday Prayer of confession “Remember that you are soil and to soil you will return” Genesis 3:19	Plastic Pledge Commit to reduce plastic usage for the season	Food pledge Commit to reduce food waste for the season #fish4friday	Transport/Energy Pledge Commit to reduce energy consumption for the season	First Sunday “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” - Matthew 6:19-21
NATURE	#MeatFreeMonday	Switch it off! Commit to switching off devices.	Kids Give-away Instead tossing out old stationary, donate it to a creche or another home.	Rethink Packaging Check the packaging before you buy. Is it recyclable - biodegradable?	Advocate for Change Challenge your local shop to take action (eg. stop using plastic bags, stop selling food in Styrofoam etc) #fish4friday	New Year wardrobe! “Embrace vintage” by buying second-hand or donate old clothes to a worthy cause.	Second Sunday See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. - Ephesians 5:15-16
FOOD	#MeatFreeMonday	Think about the Waste Picker. Separate your recycables and food waste.	The more the merrier! Make an arrangement to - lift club use public transport or cycle.	Power down! Check out your electronic gadgets. Is your geyser on a timer/reduce temperature? Is your washing machine on cold?	It's Game Time! Turn off electronics and bring out the board or card games #fish4friday	Be the change! Say no to new oil and gas explorations. Sign the FFNPT (www.fossilfuel treaty.org)	Third Sunday Then God said, I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food - Genesis 1:29
ENERGY	#MeatFreeMonday	Roots for Tomorrow For your next celebration (birthday/anniversary) aim to plant a tree at Church or home	The Year of the Paper Bag Take alternative bags to shop with and avoid plastic for groceries and veggies	Garden or Compost Start a compost heap/bin or start your own vegetable garden.	Love Local Support local vendors. Buy fruit and vegetables from hawkker stands. #fish4friday	Five loaves and two fish Go through your cupboard and take out all food that you won't eat before its sell by date. package it up nicely and give to someone who needs it.	Fourth Sunday “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you.” - Job 12:7-8
CONSUMERISM	#MeatFreeMonday	Repurposed water Place a bucket in the shower to use the water in the toilet.	Natural Beauty Take photos of nature's beauty and share it on your socials with a hashtag #Restoration202six	Green gifts! Buy some indigenous plants/succulents and grow them to give as presents.	Popcorn for the Planet Watch a nature movie tonight #fish4friday	Enjoy the Sunshine Have an early morning prayer at sunrise or a sunset picnic.	World Water Day Sunday “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.” - Revelation 21:6
	#MeatFreeMonday	Water Warrior No hosepipe (car /garden) and water early morning or evening	Single Use vs Reusable Say no to the Single use plastic bottle - buy a reusable one	Every Drop Counts Can you survive on 20 litres per person per day? #fish4friday	Preparing the streets for the Messiah. Walk through your community and pick up litter- plastic will end up in stormwater and make its way to the river	Palm Sunday You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace: the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. - Isaiah 55:12	

Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. - Jeremiah 33:6



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Start Reading for March!

The March pick is A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. Meeting March 21st at noon on Zoom. If you would like to join the book club, need the Zoom link, or have any questions, contact Gillian Murphy at: (480)907-4933 or gillian@kirkyhomes.com.



Join us for our Parish Spring Clean Day as we spruce up our church home and prepare our campus for newcomers and the season ahead! Whether you can lend a hand for an hour or the whole morning, your help makes a difference. There are tasks for all comfort levels, such as cleaning windows, pulling weeds, wiping pews and chairs, restocking pew cards, trimming shrubs, and many more! Check out the signup sheet during coffee hour or [click here to sign up online!](#)

Join the Altar Guild!

Curious about what happens behind the scenes on Sunday mornings? The Altar Guild is a welcoming, hands-on ministry—open to everyone—that prepares the altar for worship and keeps the Sacristy organized and cared for.

Each team serves just one weekend a month, and all training is provided. No prior experience is needed. This is a simple, meaningful way to deepen your spiritual connection at Epiphany. Long-time members have even created a beautifully detailed how-to binder with photos, step-by-step instructions, and a helpful vocabulary guide for those new to Episcopal traditions. Our ministry is aging, and we're especially hopeful for younger members who can help keep this important work vibrant and strong. If you'd like to see what we do before committing, feel free to join a team after worship and observe. If you feel called to this ministry, we would love to welcome you. For more information, contact Pat at (480)322-7359

Capital Project Update: Farmhouse Roofing to begin on Monday, March 9

The Farmhouse Roof is now scheduled to be replaced beginning on Monday, March 9! The work is expected to go through the end of the week. We will be relocating office operations to the Education Building that week. The Wednesday Discipleship group, and other meetings regularly scheduled to meet in the Farmhouse, will also be relocated to the Ed. Bldg. or Parish Hall if they coincide with the roofing work schedule.

As many of you know, the roof replacement was made possible through support of the Diocese. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over \$15,000 so far! Every contribution—large or small—helps us to continue our ministry in the City of Tempe, and celebrates our shared mission and ministry.

Thank you for your continued generosity, understanding, and care for Epiphany. Please keep the workers, our campus, and one another in your prayers.



Attention Thew Note-Writers!

This month's notes to the teachers and staff of Thew elementary are due this Sunday, March 1

-Carol Dalton

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**Being
With**



Only 10 spots
are available
per course!

Being With - Regular Course

RSVP

Sundays, starting April 12 through June 21, 6pm-7:30pm

Would you like to explore your faith with us? We are using a 10 week course developed by St. Martin's in the Field, London that explores the Christian faith from an inclusive and positive understanding of the Christian faith. It's particularly constructed for those who are exploring for the first time or after a significant break.

Being With - End of Life Course

RSVP

Wednesdays, starting April 8 through June 10, 6pm-7:30pm

Join us for a course that creates space for honest conversation, practical planning, and faithful reflection—for those making plans for themselves or navigating recent loss.

Together, we will explore questions of mortality, legacy, grief, and Christian hope—grounded in prayer, Scripture, and the assurance of God's abiding presence.

**Being
With**

**Exploring
Life and Faith
Together**

GET LUCKY
CHANCE TO WIN
\$10,000



Be Someone's Lucky Charm and You Could Win BIG!

Donate March 1-April 5 and you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$10,000 gift card.* Your donation is a lucky charm for patients in need. Schedule today.

Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: **churche**

Church of the Epiphany Episcopal BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2026

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

LOCATED IN ROOMS 7 & 8

2222 S PRICE RD ~ TEMPE

To schedule an appointment, visit vitalant.org (Enter Blood Drive Code: churche) or scan the QR code. For questions, contact Andrea Stewart at (480) 577-2949.



**Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/LuckyGiveaway.*

Find us @vitalant:     

vitalant 



BE A CHANGEMAKER IN TEMPE

**JOIN OUR 54-YEAR LEGACY OF
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE
FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ALL IN TEMPE**

We are currently seeking dedicated individuals to serve on our Board of Directors who want to make a lasting impact on our community.

Why Join Our Board?

- Champion better outcomes for a variety of human service needs
- Play a crucial role in shaping the future of human services in Tempe
- Contribute your skills and expertise to further our mission
- Lead and guide the strategic direction of our organization

If you have leadership experience and are passionate about improving the well-being of our community, we invite you to apply!

Eligibility

Must live or work in Tempe.

Learn More & Apply by **MARCH 8TH**

tempecommunitycouncil.org/board-of-directors/application-form/

Questions?

tccinformation@tempe.gov | 480.858.2300



This Week's Prayers

We are all invited to pray for these people in our personal prayers throughout the week.

- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Saint James the Apostle - Tempe
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Karen Ford, George Harris, Pat Tillery
- **Parish Prayer List:** April, Barbara, Belinda & family, Beth, Carol & Frank & Amanda & Allen, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, David, Dwight, Fifi, Jenn, Jillian, Kathi, Katie, Levi & family, Linda & John & family, Melinda, Michael, Patrick, Sara, Spencer, Stuart & family, Susan, Tony, Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, March 1-** ~Blood Drive from 8:30am to 12:30pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~Rule of Life Formation Series at 11:30am in the Ed. Bldg. ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall. ~Al-Anon at 5:15pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Monday, March 2-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Tuesday, March 3-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~Men's A.A. at 6pm in the Church.
- **Wednesday, March 4-** ~Eucharist at 10am in the Chapel. ~Discipleship Group at 12pm in the Farmhouse. ~Lenten Series: Evening Prayer at 5:30pm in the Chapel, Potluck & Formation follows in the Parish Hall. ~Men's A.A. at 6:30pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Thursday, March 5-** ~Morning Prayer at 9pm in the Chapel. ~Business Networking International Meeting at 9am in the Parish Hall. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Choir Rehearsal at 7pm in the Church.
- **Friday, March 6-** ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

Vestry Leadership

Jan Wagner – Senior Warden
Senior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Jerry Adwell – Junior Warden
Junior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Ann Neal – Treasurer

Andrea Stewart – Clerk

Aaron Van Briesen

Heidi Thomas

Pat Blackman

Kathy Carney

Beth Hunt

Johnny Sullivan

Barbara Peterson

Alex Mather-Charles

Floyce Chavez

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin – Rector
hunter@epiphanytempe.org

The Rev. Martha Seaman – Deacon

The Rev. Tamara Noel – Deacon

The Rev. Canon Steve Schaitberger –
Seasonal Assisting Priest

The Rev. Dr. Corey Meier – Assisting Priest

Dr. Miriam Hickman – Organist, Pianist

Matthew Flora – Choir Director

Jeanne Trembeth – Sexton

Nellie Lichtenstein – Nursery Attendant

Christian Rodriguez-Ortiz – Parish
Administrator & Assistant to the Rector
christian@epiphanytempe.org

Contact the office: 480-968-4111 or
office@epiphanytempe.org