Pre-Convention Schedule – Saturday, September 28, 2024

All workshops presented on Zoom will be 1 hour in length, with 30 minutes to introduce your topic and 30 minutes to invite participants to interact and engage the material presented.

**Budget Hearing – 10:00 – 11:15 am**

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvc--vqzsuHtb5YnCnqTB7xlujvINOgRKT>
Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85246750442 **(comm acct)**

**Session 1: 11:30 am -12:30 pm**

**Workshop 1 - Imagining Care of Creation in Your Context**

Registration Link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcemsqTsoHdWCl8Ix1LOfvORnU0TBf4d_>

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81060470271> **(Mike acct)**

*Creation Care Team for the Episcopal Church in Colorado*

Churches across the diocese are engaged in the work of caring for God's creation in meaningful and creative ways. Hear from churches sharing about their care of creation ministries: how they got started and how they shaped their ministries within their contexts. Explore how to get started; assess the passions and gifts of your congregation; take steps to sustain your efforts; identify what is already happening in your community; engage your congregation; and make creation care part of your identity.

**Workshop 2 - Being the Gathered in the Land of Forgetfulness**

Registration Link:  <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsceCrpzIvHdP9qLJGkT-2qMkV4V1tXns4>

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81169399577> (**Greg acct)**

*Wayne Ewing, St. Peter the Apostle, Pueblo*

Every existing parish, as well as their immediate community, includes personal care partners in their aging fold. It is possible, in our discipleship, to move from the accidental and occasional acts of mercy and compassion for the caregivers amongst us, and in the community at large, to the intentional...to move from intermittent and casual support to consistent, healing Presence. Personal and family care partners are already deeply immersed in spiritual matters 24/7, yet rarely have the opportunity to rehearse their spiritual exhaustion in a prayerful setting. By gathering with care partners at the oasis of Presence in the desert of their isolation, perhaps in their own homes, Church is reborn as a healing environment.

A brief introduction to this possibility by the author of "In the Land of Forgetfulness: Meditations on Dementia Care as Spiritual Formation" will be followed by focused conversation around what this movement from passive concern for caregivers to active Presence as spiritual companions in their life and living might actually look like as Church. The foundational theology and spirituality is incarnational; the praxis is modeled in missions like the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing.

**Workshop 3 - Changing With The Times - Church Property Redevelopment**

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdOChqzMsGdWYTVX-d3sj9fLFRC3mWUrk>

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87039958631> **(Info acct)**

*Bal Patterson, the Rev. Felicia SmithGraybeal, Eileen Bisgard, & the Rev. Mary Kate Rejoius*Both St Brigit's in Frederick and St Aidan's in Boulder have discerned that their church's property could be redeveloped to expand their ministries and help ensure the congregation's ability to continue their mission in a changing world. While construction has begun on Brigit's Village after 10 years of planning, at St Aidan's their Feasibility Study (funded by a grant from Trinity Episcopal Church Wall Street,) is scheduled to be completed early in 2025. The aim of the presentation is to first, outline how congregational discernment can lead to positive change, and second, to share some lessons learned and support available once redevelopment is considered.

**Workshop 4 - Embracing Nonviolence**

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtfu6gqjMvHtW0LJcJ1Gqqc4QX1pM3NHoM>

Zoom Meeting: **(Communications acct)**

*Daniel Mondragon*In recent years, we’ve experienced numerous incidences of violence and disrespect for people and institutions. And now there are concerns about what could happen in the coming months. Reflecting on these painful situations, A new nonprofit venture has been taking shape to offer a love-centered approach in Colorado for people to stand strong. Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others taught and demonstrated that nonviolence is the best way to foster respect for all, address injustices, and bring about societal change.

Join Daniel Mondragon for this workshop to:
- Explore concerns and hopes for our communities, families, society, and democracy. Workshop participants will be invited to bring their perspective and experience to the conversation.
- Explore Gandhi and Dr. King’s nonviolent approach to achieve societal change and discussion its application to meet today’s challenges.

Mr. Mondragon has been involved in social justice efforts and nonprofit management for over 30 years in the Denver area. He, his wife and children have been members of Christ the King parish in Arvada since 2003.

**Workshops Session 2: 1:00-2:00 pm**

**Workshop 5 - Gun Violence Prevention Resolution**

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZItcO6tpjMjG92gbx5XDsiTmIDLh8DY0NIn>

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077588919> **(comm acct)**

*Gary Darress, Roger Dodds, and Stephanie Greenberg, St. Michael's Episcopal Church/ Laundry Love Ministry*

This workshop will include an open discussion and time for questions on a gun violence prevention resolution being presented for a vote at the diocesan convention. The presentation will cover how the diocese can take a stance on preventing gun violence, which we as a country continue to suffer from. It will also discuss ways that individual congregations and individuals can help to reduce gun violence in their communities.

**Workshop 6 - ReCreation – A Model for 45-Minute Outdoor Retreats for All Ages**

Registration Link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qd-mgpj4iHdw_K6WGleyiE1EwIWupLXHl>

Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89700885878 **(vanessa acct)**

*The Rev. Melissa Earley, vicar, St. George Episcopal Mission, Leadville*

Through ReCreation we offer short contemplative experiences outdoors for all ages. The purpose of ReCreation isn't to get people to come to church, but to meet people where they are -- outdoors -- and provide tools for them to connect with the Holy. In the workshop, we will share the basic outline of our ReCreation events and the practices and prayers that have worked well for us. Participants will have the opportunity to do some of the contemplative practices as well as begin to brainstorm what might work in their contexts.

**Workshop 7 - Newcomer Welcome & Follow-Up**

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIscOyrrT4qGNcVrplPVFf8WwEfQgJUfalp>

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86175335023> **(Jon acct)**

*The Rev. Amy Newell-Large, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Parker*

We will consider the experience of a newcomer from first arriving at the church to follow up later. How can you create a system of newcomer engagement that helps people connect with God and your community? This time together will be spent discussing the theology of welcome, as well as the spirituality of greeting. We will consider our entry spaces and how they orient people to God and the community. Reflecting on the process of newcomer integration we can establish sustainable practices for follow-up. In small groups, we'll share our experiences with newcomer engagement and support small changes that can make a big impact.

**Workshops Session 3: 2:30-3:30 pm**

**Workshop 8 - Partnership: It's Time Has Come**

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIpdeusrjorG9fRALp9MgV07rwerbLp2lbc>

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86422401113> **(Greg acct)**

*The Rev. Felicia SmithGraybeal, Rector, and Jan Friedlund, Sr. Warden, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fort Collins*

An important model for the future of the church is, and will, be partnership and sharing of space and ministry. In this workshop, we will present two examples of how churches are partnering with other faith communities in the Episcopal Church in Colorado. We will provide resources for a variety of ways this is happening across denominational lines. Finally, we will explore some of the joys and pitfalls sharing space can provide as well as sharing some of the steps that moved our parish from renters to partners and the many ways that move has invigorated all congregations involved.

Invitations will be given to workshop participants to share their knowledge of congregations that are living in partnership or considering this step. We will ask participants the question of what gives rise to this need and how the church is changing to be especially primed for ecumenical partnerships right now. We will ask for participants’ feedback and questions about the process St. Paul’s has taken to create a partnership with two other congregations.

**Workshop 9 - Social-Memory Cafe for those Experiencing Dementia**

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrcu6hpz4jG9x1Z8PIXFEWSBGY--idB6bW>

Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83657995918 **(Info acct)**

*Jane Stuart, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Estes Park*

Do you have parishioners who are experiencing memory loss due to any form of dementia? Would you like to support those people and their loved ones? St. Bartholomew’s in Estes Park, with the help of Dementia Together in Fort Collins, has been providing a monthly Social-Memory Café for those in our parish and anyone in our town community with such issues. Dementia is an isolating, exhausting disease for both the person and their partner. Social events which are specific to their needs are one of the ways we can serve. We would like to share with you what a Social-Memory Café is comprised of (with photos and discussion) and are happy to help your congregation start your own. This has been a blessing to those families struggling with Dementia as well as our church volunteers. We all experience joy and the love of God as we have fun together.

**Workshop 10 - Dismantling Our Past to Live Our Future Differently: Respecting Our Indigenous Neighbors**

Registration Link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwufuyrqz8sG9HOnTArLefrvNuxh1JddyHA>

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88395354615> **(comm acct)**

*Joe Hubbard, rector of St. Matthew's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches, Rapid City, SD; Sarah Hartzel, parishioner at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Boulder and co- founder of Indigenous Allies, a coalition of Christian churches; Martha Dever, chair Social Action Ministries at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Boulder; Tim H., co-author of Adult Children of Manifest Destiny, a 12-step program for reflecting on Christian Supremacy; and Marrton Dormish, advocate and writer.*

This workshop will begin by engaging participants in an examination of the structural limitations and social norms in our systems, that have been shaped over centuries by the Doctrine of Discovery. We grew up and live in an environment where Christian supremacy is the norm, and Indigenous history and cultures have been demonized and dismissed. Those limitations and norms have denied upward mobility and equal opportunity to many of our Indigenous neighbors and others today. After confronting our past, presenters will share ways to support upward mobility and equal opportunity for our Indigenous neighbors by briefly sharing stories about how they are supporting Indigenous communities via education and action.

The format will include brief presentations followed by discussions in small groups. Moderator Rev. Joe Hubbard will introduce the topic and format followed by presentations of approximately six minutes each. For the second half of the time, participants will be divided into discussion groups to reflect and envision commitments they might make for the future.