

TIDINGS



March 2026

Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

Holy week is a sacred time of the year, recounting the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. As a priest and fellow disciple with you all, this week is significant. There Significant amount of work and meaning. It has layers and layers of logistics as well as prayer. Each year I wonder how we tell the story again and how the liturgy can shape us for living faithfully in the world. Over my years at St. Timothy's - pre, during, and post pandemic this week has significantly evolved in my mind.

The days that follow Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, have not changed much liturgically over the years. The Easter Vigil is different. I think often about liturgy, not only its mechanics but its aims. The 'what' and the 'how' are always in tension. Of all our services, the Easter Vigil requires the most planning. 2026 is no exception.

I have watched recordings of the last several Easter Vigils at St. Timothy's. They are powerful, complex, and genuinely beautiful. And yet, I have often felt that we have never quite reached the Platonic ideal of the Vigil. Some years the fire blazes perfectly; some years it does not.

Most years the sunlight is so bright and lovely that, at least in my mind, it upstages the fire. Then there is the matter of timing. I don't think many of you would want to come to a Vigil that begins at 8:30pm, we will continue to begin at 7:00pm, but I want to explore a new Vigil how: allowing the fire to be the thing that sends us out, rather than the thing that draws us in. All of the liturgical elements that you love will remain, just in a different order.

The Easter Vigil is intended to begin in darkness and end in light. Because our service begins while it is still daylight, we will wait to kindle the New Fire until night has truly fallen. During Vigil we hear the story of salvation, renew our baptismal promises, and share the Eucharist before going outside to receive the fire and the light of Christ. In doing so, we keep the Vigil's promise honestly and fully: we wait, we watch, and then we are sent into the night bearing the light. Let's try it.

Holy Week Schedule



March
29

Palm Sunday

Worship at 8am and 10am
10am livestream

Petting Zoo
at 11:30am

April
2

Maundy Thursday

Worship with hand / foot washing and
stripping of the altar

7pm - in person & livestream

April
3

Good Friday

Worship - 12 pm (in person & livestream)
& 7pm (in person & livestream)

1pm - Stations of the Cross

April
4

Saturday

Easter Vigil

New fire with incense outside & bells
7pm - in person & livestream

April
5

Easter Sunday

Worship at 8am and 10am; 10am livestream
Easter Brass at 10am worship

Easter Egg Hunt

11:10am - for children and youth

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church:

For more than a century, Episcopalians have given generously to the Good Friday Offering, which supports the vital work and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Today, the need of the church in the Holy Land is greater than ever, particularly given the recent escalation of war in the Middle East, and I hope you will join me in making a generous gift today at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

I am in frequent touch with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, who leads the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and I know how urgently he and his people need our support as they alleviate suffering and provide hope to God's people of all faiths. The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey recently gave the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem \$1 million to support medical and trauma care for children, youth, and families in Gaza and the Palestinian territories, and I am hoping that we can build on that extraordinary gift with this year's Good Friday Offering.

Your gift will support:

- al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which has continued serving patients during the Israel- Hamas War amid bombardment, devastating shortages of food, water, and medicine, and extended power outages.
- St. George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center.
- An eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria.
- All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Episcopal Church supports just and sustainable peace in the Holy Land and around the world. While we pray and work for peace, our siblings in the Holy Land will continue to serve God's people with hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Together, we can support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East as it turns despair into hope for God's people in the land where our faith was born.

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church

To make your gift today:

- Scan the QR code at right
- Visit iam.ec/goodfridayoffering
- Send a check with "Good Friday Offering" in the memo line to:

The Episcopal Church (DFMS) PO Box 958983 St. Louis, MO 63195-8983



We continue to pray with all the Anglican Communion for all the victims of violence and conflict in the Middle East and Israel. The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum, Primate and President Bishop, The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East writes in his letter to the Church, "I extend an urgent invitation to the wider Anglican Communion and all people of goodwill: Intercede for us now."

PALM SUNDAY



PETTING ZOO

Come one, come all! Free event! Everyone is welcome!
Everyone needs to cuddle and pet cute bunnies, chickens and goats!

11:30am to 1pm

on the Patio

Little Red's
Barnyard is coming!

MARCH 29, 2026

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1550 Diablo Road, Danville CA 94526

EASTER
EGG
HUNT



SUNDAY, APRIL 5

11:10 AM

**GATHER EGGS &
WIN EXCITING PRIZES!**

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LIGHT THROUGH THE SHADOWS

I was sitting at the kitchen table and heard that dreaded thump on the window. I had heard a jay a moment before, but birds are not often threatened by my windows with shutters. The light must have caught a reflection at an angle or maybe a bird was being chased. Taking a



deep breath, I looked outside. Nothing. If a bird was stunned, it had recovered and flown away. The moment of “arrow prayers” and emotion passed and deftly reminded me of the fragility and the tenacity of life as we approach the holiest time of the year—Holy Week: Palm Sunday, the Passion and Death of Jesus, Easter Resurrection. Jesus loved deeply, living life abundantly; he shared his Love by healing, feeding, seeing, restoring, praying, telling stories, reciting parables and breaking bread with friends, and new friends. He served others. He challenged injustice, asked his followers to practice mercy—and still, he was caught up in the Roman political authority as a Jew and brought to trial. His life led him to death. I continue to find it hard to call Good Friday “good.” Death is part of life, but death changes everything; resurrection is the promise of new life, not the old.

For me, it was an Easter Vigil service that spoke to the longing to understand how the Light overcomes the darkness, allowing me to grieve without apology and to celebrate the mystery of the Risen Christ. The early Saturday morning dusting of the pews, polishing of silver, and the arranging of flowers for an Easter celebration were part of the getting ready for Easter. Later, at a service of the Easter Vigil, I experienced in my being the power of the words spoken in the shadows. “The Light of Christ” declared during the Saturday night Easter Vigil, before the Easter morning cacophony of music and colorful chocolate eggs is more than a metaphor, it is the Spirit of God acting within us.

I invite you to take a moment this Holy Week for prayer: prayer for yourself, prayer for the people you love and prayer for the world, knowing that God holds us all and is listening. Our stories have always been stories of change and letting go—embracing new and more prayerful compassionate living. Being present in the moment is a challenge for all of us, and yet, Jesus calls it out clearly, “Do not be anxious,” “I Am” here. Holy Week is a dramatic enacted story of Jesus in all his humanity. We stumble with him as he carries his cross toward death; part of us dies with him. We lay him in the tomb. We also rise with him in the early Easter morning light, while it is still dark. We too are changed when we meet Him in the garden.

Knowing the science of metamorphosis of the caterpillars, only makes true transformation in life more amazing to me. Yes, it is a metaphor, but this transformation is more than a metaphor. While in its chrysalis, cells are re-arranged to form a butterfly; each caterpillar must struggle out of its tightly wrapped cocoon to have wings to fly. We too, touched by the Risen Christ are changed, transformed, brought into Light from the Darkness. The shadows are signs that God can “see” us and that being known by God is to be reminded that we are all God’s own beloved in the light and the dark.



May we be Raised with Christ this Easter and walk the good road that is already before us.

Susan+

Credits: Lupine with carpenter bee, Ruth Anne Pearsons; Monarch Butterfly, Wally De Young

LAST MONTH IN PHOTOS



The Diocese of California celebrated couples who have shared 50 or more years together at a special Choral Evensong at Grace Cathedral on Sunday, March 15. Congratulations Pamela & Joe Cunningham!



Liturgical art change, pancake supper, Lenten soup supper & baby shower!



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

Children

The Palm Sunday Liturgy begins outside this Sunday! Children will hold up their Palms and process in the church. We will move to Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall and continue the story of Holy Week. We are planning activities to prepare for Easter.

Following worship we look forward to our Petting Zoo and hearing why these animals are often part of an Easter celebration.

Easter Sunday, children will join parents in church. Following worship will we have our Easter Egg Hunt! Please join us for fellowship at coffee hour and our Easter Egg Hunt for little ones and older children!

Youth

Would anyone like to learn to make palm crosses? We have some great teachers! Grab a snack and bring your palm!



LITURGICAL ART: HELPERS NEEDED!

Help needed for LITURGICAL ART installations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and Pentecost. Please let Leslie F. know if you can give us a hand to make our worship a more beautiful experience. lesliefirth@comcast.net

For PALM SUNDAY

March 26 – Thursday 10:30 – Install fresh Palms display under the cross and altar. **One or two helpers needed.**

*Fresh palm leaves generously donated by Ginger and Kent Johnson.
Many thanks for making it easier than cutting the palms by hand.*

March 29 – Palm Sunday 11:15 Take down palm display and put Holy Week display under cross. **One helper needed.**



EASTER – Easter Vigil on Sat. April 4th

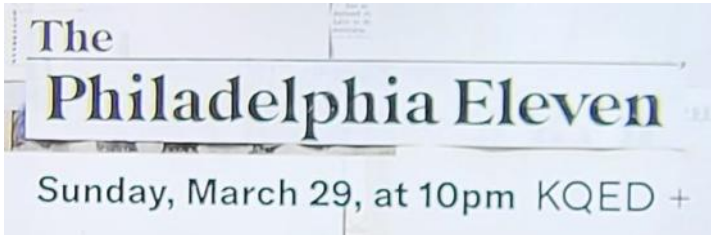
April 4 – Saturday 11:00 am – We will be removing the “Crown of Thorns” banner and installing the “Crown of New Life” banner. **5-6 helpers needed.** We will also put out Easter lilies in pots. The big ladder is needed for a short duration.

PENTECOST

May 17, Sunday 11:15 am after last service – Take down the “Crown of New Life” banner. The big ladder is needed for a short duration. **5-6 helpers needed.** Right after, 2 helpers are needed to decorate with red fabric for Pentecost (coming on the 24th.) My right hand will be in a cast so I really will need other helping hands.

WATCH THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN

50 Years of Women's Ordination: Watch The Philadelphia Eleven
Sunday, March 29 | 10 p.m. | KQED+ (Comcast Channel 10)



The Bishop's Advisory Group on the 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination Commemorations and the DioCal Women's Clericus encourage everyone to watch this outstanding and important documentary chronicling the fight faithful women waged

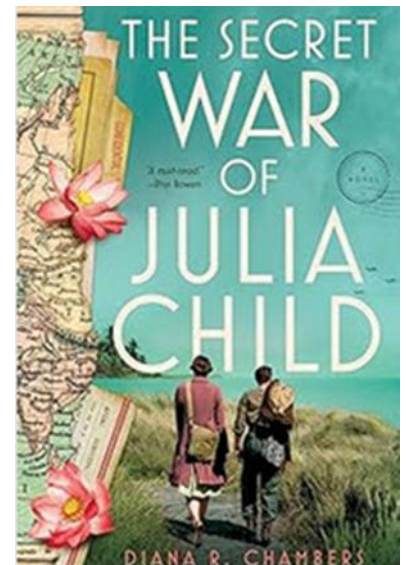
for greater inclusion in church leadership, finally receiving the ability to be ordained in July 1976. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this radical decision, which also opened the way for the inclusion of other groups that had long been excluded.

Please share this opportunity with your friends and family, as well as your congregations. Have a “watch party” and celebrate the women who have impacted your faith journey and that of your congregation. Celebrate this landmark event and give thanks to those who worked so hard, and for so long, to push the Church to become a place for all people — a goal we have not yet fully reached but continue to work toward.

Thank you to the “Philadelphia Eleven” for opening the doors to the many who continue to follow.

BOOK GROUP - APRIL

What does a patriotic and Smith graduate woman from Pasadena of 30+ years do to contribute to the World War II war effort when both the Army and the Navy tell her that she is too tall to join their ranks? Well, of course, she finds another way to use her skills – she joins the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) (predecessor of the CIA and eventually goes to work for the head of the OSS – “Wild Bill Donovan” . Her career in the OSS is the subject of this novel which uses the people and some of the events from Julia Child’s pre-Paris career to spin an engaging story of a talented woman finding a way to play her part in the war effort. Along the way she meets her husband, Paul Child, who introduces her to the joys of eating good food. All of us have benefited from that encounter!



Join the members of the St Timothy’s book group in reading and meeting to discuss this book on **Sunday, April 19** after the 10:00 am service in the Overby Library in Grace House.

Questions – contact Sally P at Sallyspotts@gmail.com

OUTREACH UPDATE: CIC MINISTRIES

The St. Timothy's Outreach Committee met on March 10 to hear and see a presentation by Kate Canova regarding the CIC Ministries and voted to add the ministry to our list of supported partners. The primary mission of CIC Ministries is to respond to the individual spiritual needs of detained youth and adults in Santa Clara County, CA and present the good news of God's love and forgiveness. As people respond to those messages of faith, they can experience lives of purpose and hope.

CIC MINISTRIES

We are a community of people from diverse life experiences and spiritual backgrounds united in our call to be with those who are incarcerated. We believe every human being has inherent dignity, incarceration doesn't define an individual's identity or potential, and transformation and hope grow as we connect to one another and to the love of God. We value self-awareness and humility, learning with the faith communities of our county, laying aside our own agendas and listening well to ensure no one suffers alone.

How is St. Timothy's supporting CIC?

- Bible study groups & materials
- Writing and reflection groups
- Religious festival facilitation
- General care and well-being support
- Financial resources
- ...thank you, St. Tim's community!



With hope & gratitude, from our inmates...
*I am waiting for hope to shed some light
I am waiting for God to stop saying not yet
I am waiting for the light to get a little brighter
I am waiting for the new me to fully out
I am waiting for my wife to say we will fulfill our vows, I
am waiting for my Chance to show God I'm ready. – Eric*

More information:

[CIC Main Jail Chaplain Lidia's story](#)

[PPI's 2026 corrections report](#)

Learn more: www.cicministries.org

Facebook: /CICministries

Questions? kate@cicministries.org

OUTREACH UPDATE: GAIA GLOBAL HEALTH

NEWS FROM OUTREACH RECIPIENT GAIA

Dear Friend,

My name is Jim Cashel, GAIA's newly inducted Board Chair. I am currently visiting our programs in Malawi along with Executive Director Todd Schafer and fellow GAIA Board Member Phil Darrow. It's exciting, inspiring... and exhausting. The work the GAIA team does here is hard, but even more clear is that it is needed, appreciated, and making a huge difference. We are having enormous impact for our charitable contributions.



We began the week with a visit to the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Blantyre to meet with 14 GAIA Scholars. I'm always inspired by hearing these kids speak. They have dreams - often involving returning to their villages, saving lives, and serving as role models. And their gratitude towards GAIA is boundless!

We also visited two remote clinic sites, each with hordes of patients, mostly women and children. I was struck by how much GAIA has broadened offerings in essential services: HIV testing and treatment, malaria testing and treatment, pre- and post-natal care, birth control, non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension, and a couple dozen other conditions.

One huge highlight was witnessing the rollout of the malaria vaccine, representing decades and billions of dollars of effort.



Despite the challenges, Malawi is making progress. HIV is way down. Malaria is way down. Life expectancy is way up. And the progress happens one nurse at a time, one patient at a time. Thank you to all of you for our collective efforts!



Jim Cashel

The Outreach liaison for GAIA is Peg M (pegeatonmiller@prodigy.net).

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Meeting of the members of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church was held in the church on Sunday, February 1, 2026, after the 10:00 service. The meeting was broadcast via our live-stream feed. The following are highlights from that meeting.

- The church members in attendance elected the following members to join the vestry in 2026 - Beverly Avolicino John Brandt John Hager

The following members of vestry will continue in 2026:

John Yow Kathleen Murphy Teresa Centeno Kim
 Joe Grant Eric Parnell Scott MacDougall

- The following people were elected as Deanery and Diocese Convention Delegates.

Jim Coleman John Hager Lisa Perry
 Ade Adekunle Keri Doolittle Mike Oliver

- **The Treasurer**, Dick F discussed the church budget for 2025 and the budget for 2026.

Financial Summary for 12 Months, 2025

	12-month Actual	12-month Budget
Total Income	\$955,239	\$791,102
Total Expenses	<u>\$856,443</u>	<u>\$888,484</u>
Net Operating Income	\$98,797	(\$97,382)

Comments

- St. Timothy's had a good financial year in 2025.
 - Income was \$164,000 above plan.
 - Expenses were \$32,000 below plan.
- Our net operating income for 2025 was + \$98,797, compared to plan of (\$97,382).
- Looking at our budget, we have \$542,157.00 in unrestricted assets, plus the operating income of \$98,000.

Rector's Report –

- Reverend Todd reflected on the past year with gratitude, noting how easy everyone has been to work with and expressing his appreciation to the congregation for their support, generosity, and joy. He encouraged us to continue to welcome the newcomers to our church.
- When asked by Tanya DeYoung how we can be of support, Reverend Todd noted three areas: Youth, Children, and Technology.
- **Youth/Children:** He asked for support with youth and children's programs, encouraging the congregation to attend youth events and support Sunday youth programs.
- **Technology:** It takes many hours to build the technological service. He encouraged anyone who loves technology to come join the tech team.
- **Many thanks to those who have made our financial process work well:**
 - Steve Zimmermann, our bookkeeper
 - Carleen Carns, who manages our pledge program
 - Ole Chiavini and Bob Carns, our dedicated counters
 - The Finance Committee – Ken Anderson, Liz Knape, Scott MacDougall, and Eric Parnell.

- **Recognition of Staff & Clergy:** Reverend Todd wanted to thank:
 - o Reverend Susan Geissler-O'Neil
 - o Monica Miller (Facilities)
 - o Kimberly Bryant (Office Admin)
 - o Karen Anderson (Facilities)
 - o Miles Ellis (Music Director)
 - o Carleen Carns (Pledges)
 - o Steve Zimmermann (Bookkeeper)
 - o Jacque Chiavini (Worship/Liturgy)
- **Preschool:** It has been two years, and we have not found an organization to rent the preschool building. Our initial candidate did not work out. We are now working with a promising candidate, a Montessori school, but nothing solid yet.

2026 Appointments:

- Eric Parnell has agreed to serve another year as Senior Warden.
- Liz Knape has agreed to serve as Treasurer.
- Scott MacDougal has agreed to serve as Junior Warden
- John Hagar has agreed to serve as Clerk
- Carleen Carns and Susan Oki have agreed to co-chair as Pledge Secretaries.

Outgoing Vestry Pastor Todd thanked the outgoing vestry members for their service.
 Cathy Wickboldt – Administration Dick Firth – Treasurer
 Taiwo Ojetayo Kris Manning - Clerk

Submitted by Kris Manning, Annual Meeting Secretary, 2026

CONTACT US

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Steve Zimmerman - Bookkeeper
 (925) 837-4993 x116
 Bookkeeper@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Dick Firth - Treasurer (Volunteer)
 (925) 837-4993 x117
 Treasurer@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Kimberly Bryant - Parish Administrator
 (925) 837-4993 x110
 Parish@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Carleen Carns - Pledge Secretary (Volunteer)
 Pledges@SaintTimothysDanville.org

Pastoral Care Line
 (925) 837-4993 x120



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