

The Peace

A Newsletter from the
Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee

WINTER 2024 | ISSUE 7



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ON THE COVER
A snowy day at Grace-St. Luke's in Memphis



The Peace is the official publication of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee.

We encourage the submission of articles and images. We reserve the right to edit materials offered for publication. Please submit content to Emily Austin: eaustin@episwtn.org.
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Save the Dates

West Tennessee Laymen Roundup

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024
5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
4645 WALNUT GROVE RD., MEMPHIS

Food and fellowship for all men of the Diocese

78th Conference of the Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee

AUGUST 9-11, 2024

ST. MARY'S SEWANEE

tnchurchmen.org

43rd Convention of the Diocese of West Tennessee

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
1380 WOLF RIVER BLVD., COLLIERVILLE



The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee congratulates the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, Rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown, on her election as Bishop to the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. Mother Dorothy has faithfully pastored St. George's since 2013, but her prolific writings on faith and Christian spirituality and her advocacy work in Memphis and Shelby County have impacted many outside of our local Episcopal community. We pray for Bishop-Elect Wells, the community of St. George's, and the Diocese of Mississippi though this time of transition.



In January, it was a great privilege to welcome TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship to Memphis for their annual staff and board retreat. During their time with us, members of TENS graciously offered a free workshop focusing on cultural competencies and stewardship campaigns to leaders in West Tennessee and beyond. Special thanks to St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral - Memphis for hosting the gathering.

St. Columba & Barth House Awarded Church Home Grants Totaling \$1.5 Million

In December 2023, St. Columba Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center and Barth House Episcopal Center received some good news. They had each been awarded a Church Home Grant of \$750,000.

An annual grant of \$150,000 over the next five years will help each organization “leverage successes that they’ve already had and continue growing into each of their own visions for who they are and how they’re serving people,” said Julia McDonald, Church Home Board Chair.

McDonald, a lifelong parishioner of Grace-St. Luke’s in Memphis, is Vice President of Marketing & Communications at the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis.

Established in 1870, Church Home originally addressed the needs of widows and orphans left vulnerable after the Civil War. Today, the Church Home Foundation primarily funds ministries for children, youth, and young adults in West Tennessee. Historically, Church Home grants focused on projects offered by Episcopal organizations. Responding to community needs identified during the pandemic, Church Home instead made significant gifts to Literacy Mid-South and BRIDGES in 2020 and 2021.

Church Home’s choice to award funds to Episcopal organizations in 2024 was an act of discernment.

“When we asked ourselves what we are uniquely positioned to support, where can our dollars go the furthest,” McDonald said, “we knew we wanted to take some time for deliberate discovery. We invited the leaders of Barth House and St. Columba into a conversation about what their goals are and how our funds could help. They both made some really compelling cases for what they are doing and what they would be able to do with additional funding.”

Church Home’s decision was to support both organizations with the broadness that unrestricted operating funds would allow. “They know their work better than we do, so it’s really money that says, ‘Be who you are, do what you do, and do it even better than you could have.’”

Dedicated in May of 1982, St. Columba Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center annually serves nearly 200 nonprofit, church, school, and family groups each year on its lush 145-acre campus in Shelby County. Each summer, it serves upwards of 700 youth campers through Mud Camp and Camp Able.

Barth House is located in the heart of the University of Memphis campus and supports college and young adult ministry throughout Shelby County. In addition, it is a venue utilized by community organizations.

“Frankly, it is easier for other kinds of organizations to fundraise than it might be for St. Columba and Barth House,” said McDonald.

“We believe in the great work both of them are doing – creating Episcopal community for different youth life stages in West Tennessee – and seized the opportunity to center back into Church Home’s core mission of supporting Episcopal youth community. We have an ability to rise to the occasion and empower these amazing groups, and we can’t wait to see what comes out of these gifts!”



Campers at Mud Camp, one of St. Columba’s signature youth programs, enjoy activities together. Photo courtesy of St. Columba.



On Wednesdays, Barth House offers community prayer and worship followed by a lunch.

Volunteering: Altruism, or a Gift for Everyone?

By Janie Morris

I've been a volunteer all my life, but until I was a newcomer to Memphis and joined the now defunct Vanderhorst Guild at Church of the Holy Communion, I never realized how important volunteering could be in my own life.

In 1970, I was pregnant with my second child and knew absolutely nobody in the city, but my family had begun to attend services at Holy Communion. On our second or third visit, a young lady who happened to be a fellow Auburn alum came up to me and invited me to a "Guild Party."

It didn't sound all that exciting at the time, but my husband Walker and I took the bait, and we were soon part of a close-knit group of young marrieds who would become lifelong friends. We worked on parish events together, shared punch and cookies and a devotion monthly, and, best of all, there was a nursery for our little ones.

Eventually, we outgrew Vanderhorst, but I never outgrew my need to belong to volunteer groups. When I was

asked to form a pastoral care program, I designed it so that the volunteers felt needed, felt valued, and got to know each other by being on a team.

So, when I founded Special Friends Fellowship as a diocesan project, I felt like it needed the same model, because it works. Volunteers who work together bond, and they benefit as much from volunteering as the recipients of their generosity do.

If your parish hasn't tapped into Special Friends as a volunteer project, you might want to find a small group of people who would benefit from working together and helping others. The commitment is low...one or two Sundays a year, the group commits to providing food and an activity for special needs adults and joins us at All Saints Episcopal Church in Memphis

for a few hours on a Sunday afternoon.

The beauty of this is that it requires very little skill, and a minimum of commitment or training. Our "regulars" will work with you to get you oriented, and they will introduce you to our wonderful participants. You will leave with joy in your heart and perhaps find a new group of friends. Sound good?

Contact Janie Morris at morrishome1@bellsouth.net and we'll make it happen. Our goal is to have every parish in the Diocese participate at least once every year!

So, come on along!



"Volunteers who work together bond, and they benefit as much from volunteering as the recipients of their generosity do."

Diocesan Youth Council

The Diocese of West Tennessee is proud to announce the young people selected to serve on the Diocesan Youth Council. To learn more about diocesan youth ministry, go to EDWTN.org/ministries/youth-programs/.



Thomas Meinhart

Home Church: Saint Andrews (Collierville) • 9th grade at Fayette Academy

I believe in this program and what it could become. I want to be as big of a part of the next generation of Christians as I can and help in every way that I can so that when the time comes and we become the new generation of leaders in our church, we can make the church stronger and more faithful than it ever has been in the past.

Emily Poindexter

Home Church: Holy Communion (Memphis) • 10th grade at St. Mary's Episcopal School

I feel that my church's Episcopal youth community (EYC) has given me a lot in my life, and I would like the chance to give back. I did a church camp once with about three different youth groups. I knew about two people there when I first walked in. Over the three-day camp, I made so many friendships that I still have today. This opened my eyes to so many other people just like me that I would have never gotten to meet. At my small youth group, everybody knows each other, but seeing so many new faces brought me so much joy.



Alana Wade

Home Church: Holy Communion (Memphis) • 10th grade at St. Mary's Episcopal School

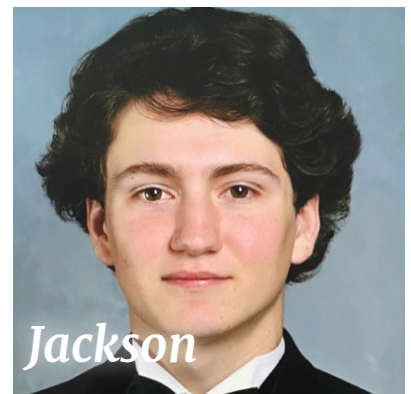
My faith is an important part of my life, and it would be significantly different without it. It is something I rely on throughout daily life, and it is similar to companionship, but better than any companionship I will ever have. Because it is always there no matter what, times of need or not, always listens, and provides me with a community I can rely on. It is hard to put into words, but it is a necessary part of my life that I use every single day.



Jackson Webster

Home Church: Saint Andrews (Collierville) • 12th grade at Houston High School

My faith is what drives me to do right and help others. It is also what keeps me involved in the church even when most of my friends are not. I believe that faith is not just believing in Christ, but also the help that you can provide for others as well. My faith has allowed me numerous opportunities that I never would of had, and I know that it is one of the most important things that I possess. Faith is way more than just believing in Christ. To me, my faith is what guides me to do right from wrong and to help those around me in need.



A row of red candles in glass holders on a wooden surface. The candles are in various stages of being lit, with some showing a bright flame and others just a wick. The holders are dark and ornate. The background is a wooden surface with a metal bar.

LENT GUIDE 2024

*Lent
Through the
Side Door*

CAMERON WIGGINS BELL



We're stepping into Lent once again. I've been fleshing it out in metaphor in my mind. I've been imagining Lent as a great house.

The front entrance boasts huge stately columns and tastefully potted plants, an immaculate welcome mat and a finely polished brass door knob. It's the company entrance, the one we use in our Sunday best, shoes shined, not a hair out of place, bearing a fresh pie or a basket of yeast rolls.

But there's a side entrance, too. It's nothing to look at, really. A faded little overhang that does little to prevent the mud from caking around the steps. A screen door that screeches on its hinges, paint peeling on the frame. It's the door you run to when you've fallen and scraped your knees. It's the door you use when you're close to the people inside, when you don't stand on formality, when it's okay to turn up unannounced, in jeans and your worn-out sneakers.

It doesn't matter which entrance we take. The point is to get inside.

This is my 41st Lent (although, to be fair, I don't remember the first six or seven of them), and I've found all kinds of different ways into the house. The praying, fasting, and almsgiving that the church recommends. Devotionals. Thinly disguised self-improvement schemes. Contests of will and endurance. Some ways are better (and more altruistic) than others, but it always depends on the year, the circumstances, the person.

I want to assure you that if, for whatever reason, you cannot walk through the front entrance, you can use the side door.

The point of all of our Lenten disciplines is to draw us closer to God, to make room for God in our hearts and in lives, to accompany God through God's suffering, to know that God accompanies us in ours. It may just be that you have all the raw materials for that in your life already.

Perhaps you are weathering a terrible loss or grief,

continued on page 14

Prayer & Music

Wednesday Night Stations of the Cross:

St. Philip Episcopal Church

6 p.m. Fellowship Dinner in the PLC

7 p.m. Healing Eucharist & Stations of the Cross, Nave

9380 Davies Plantation Rd., Memphis, 38133

Friday Stations of the Cross:

St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

Noon | 700 Poplar Ave., Memphis, 38105

Choral Evensong with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m. | Church of the Holy Communion:

4645 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, 38117

Service

St. George's Lenten Food Drive

St. George's Annual Lenten Food Drive, benefiting Collierville Food Pantry is away for us to engage in the Lenten discipline of remembering the needs of neighbors who struggle to have sufficient food to eat, praying for them, and helping to fill the need. Donations are accepted through Maundy Thursday (March 28) with volunteer drivers delivering the weekly donations to the Collierville Food Pantry. Contact St. George's for weekly shopping lists with specific items suggested by the pantry staff: (901) 754-7282.

Retreat

“Revive the Spirit of the Humble” Lenten Quiet Morning

On Saturday, February 24 the Sisters of St. Mary will host a Lenten Quiet Morning led by the Rev. Casey Perkins titled: **Revive the Spirit of the Humble**. The event will explore the path of humility from the Rule of St. Benedict as the blueprint for a life of freedom and peace. A series of meditations on the text will be interspersed with periods for personal spiritual practice and reflection.

This event will be offered hybrid: in-person at St. Mary's Convent in Sewanee and online via Zoom.

The event will run from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, and the cost to attend is \$20.

Register online: www.communityofstmarysouth.org/events-1/revive-the-spirit-of-the-humble

Learning & Community

Adult Formation: Ministry in Contemporary Society

Sundays in Lent at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Martyr's Hall

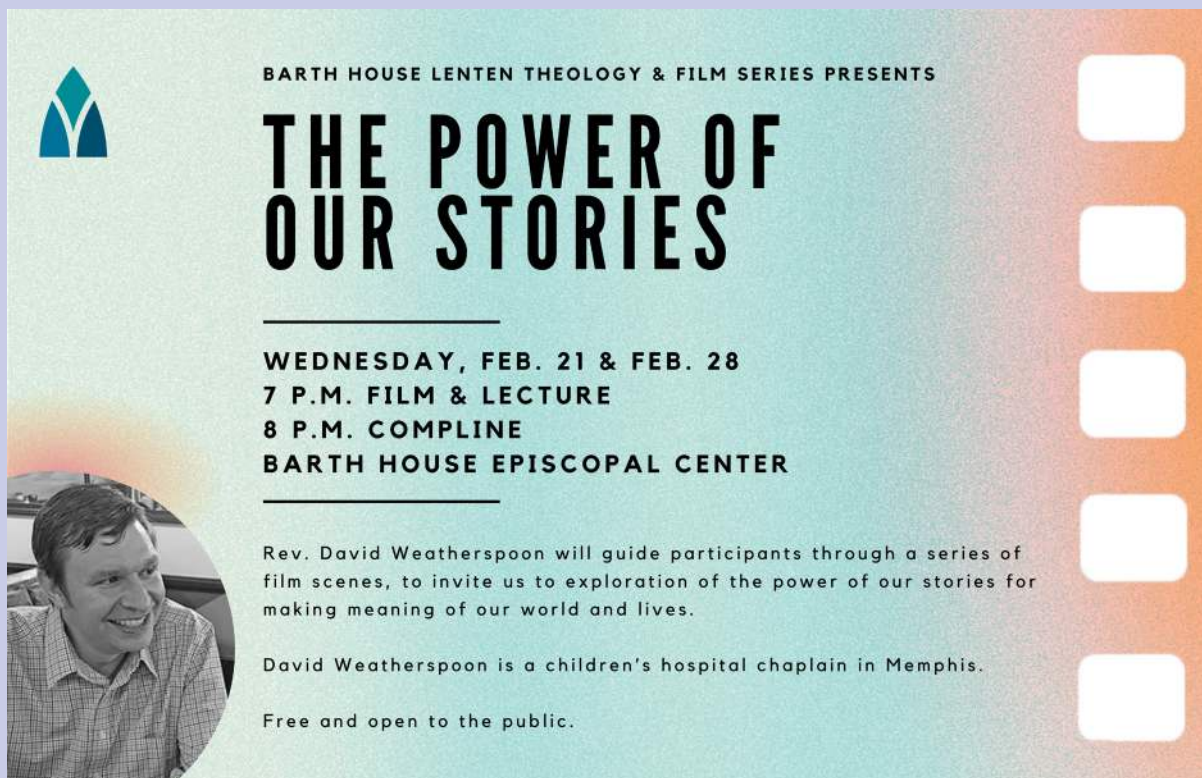
St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral is offering a new Adult Formation series based on the timeless words and wisdom of the Rev. Henri Nouwen as he reflects on the challenges of authentic engagement in ministry in today's world.


Over the course of four Sundays in Lent, join Dean Gary Meade in a journey of how our own sense of dislocation, rootlessness, hopelessness, and woundedness are essential to our own ministry as both lay and ordained bearers of God's grace, mercy, healing, and love.

Wednesday Soup Supper & Scripture Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m | Church of the Holy Communion: 4645 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis

Join us for a simple soup and salad supper, followed by a program at 6:30 p.m.





BARTH HOUSE LENTEN THEOLOGY & FILM SERIES PRESENTS

THE POWER OF OUR STORIES

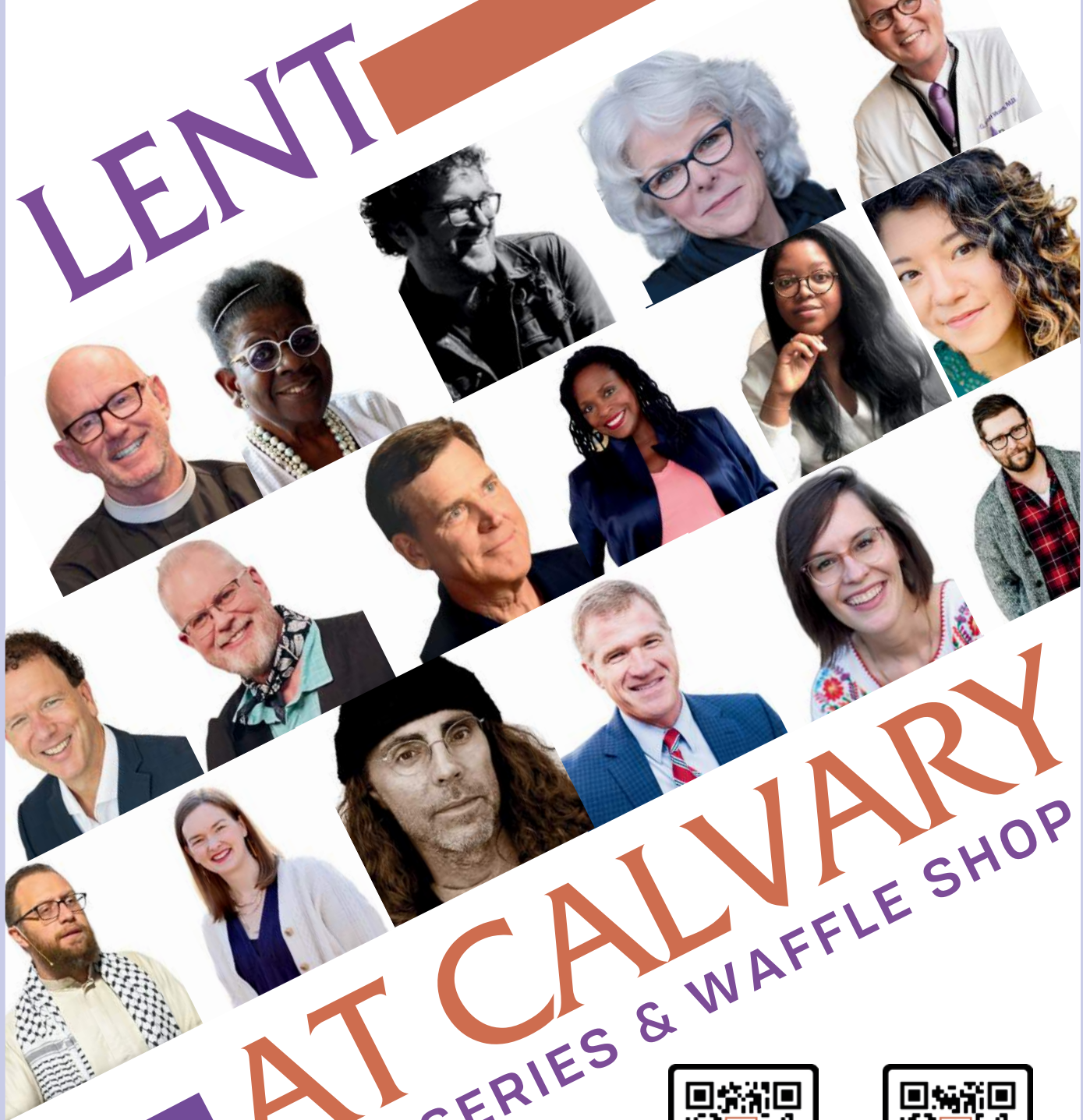
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21 & FEB. 28
7 P.M. FILM & LECTURE
8 P.M. COMPLINE
BARTH HOUSE EPISCOPAL CENTER

Rev. David Weatherspoon will guide participants through a series of film scenes, to invite us to exploration of the power of our stories for making meaning of our world and lives.

David Weatherspoon is a children's hospital chaplain in Memphis.

Free and open to the public.

LENT



AT CALVARY

PREACHING SERIES & WAFFLE SHOP



Lenten Speakers



Waffle Shop Menu

FEBRUARY 15 - MARCH 22, 2024
WEDNESDAYS - FRIDAYS

PREACHING
12:05 p.m.

WAFFLE SHOP
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

DIALOGUE LIVE PODCAST RECORDING
Wednesdays • 6:15-7:15 p.m.



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

102 N. 2nd St.
Downtown Memphis



LENTEN MEDITATIONS



Join Episcopal Relief & Development on a Lenten Journey

For 15 years, **Episcopal Relief & Development** has been blessed by the opportunity to join readers on their spiritual journeys with thought-provoking meditations.

During Lent, we pray, ***“Create and make in us new and contrite hearts.”*** Our 2024 meditations focus on embracing this new heart, this new life in Christ, and looking deep within ourselves and acting in ways that seek and serve Christ in others.

Visit our website to subscribe to daily emails, download a PDF, read the meditations and access a Group Study Guide to reflect on the meditations and Scripture with others.



Go to ***episcopalrelief.org/Lent***
or scan the QR code to read
the daily meditations.



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one you cannot see to the other side of. You don't need to suffer more. God will meet you where you are. You can enter through the side door.

Maybe you are living with an eating disorder or another challenging health condition that requires the utmost tenderness with your body. You don't need to fast. God will meet you where you are. You can enter through the side door.

Perhaps you are enduring a financial crisis and scarcity the likes of which you've never endured. You do not need to give

away what you don't have. God will meet you where you are. You can enter through the side door.

Maybe, though, you have the time and energy and funds to take up new disciplines, and that feels deeply nourishing for you. God will meet you there, too. If it brings you joy or growth, enter through the front door.

God never bars an entrance. And once we're inside, it doesn't matter which way we came in. It matters that we're warm and safe. That we're welcomed. That we're together.

This is the opposite of a Lenten pep talk. It's a Lenten insistence on gentleness. When Jesus was asked how his disciples had the audacity to pick heads of grain on the Sabbath, he answered, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." So, too, we were not made for Lent. Lent was made for us.

Every year we ask and answer the question, "What are you doing for Lent?" So, just in case no one else has told you, let me be the one to say it: if you can't do this Lent, it's okay to just be.

*Raised in Memphis, Cameron Bellm is a spiritual writer in the contemplative tradition. After earning her PhD in Russian literature from UC Berkeley in 2011, she traded the academic life for the contemplative life, informed by Ignatian spirituality and Catholic social teaching. Cameron is the author of "Prayer for a Pandemic," which went viral in the early days of COVID-19. In May 2020 she published *A Consoling Embrace: Prayers for a Time of Pandemic*, an e-book collection of prayers, with 23rd Publications. Cameron has written many devotionals and is currently at work on a book about the spiritual practice of paying attention. She lives in Seattle with her husband and two children. Her newsletter, Attention and Astonishment, is available for free on Substack.*





PRESENTED BY THE
UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS
EDWARD DEMBY CHAPTER &
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
WEST TENNESSEE

Join us for a
commemoration of the
life and legacy of the
Reverend Absalom Jones,
America's first Black
Episcopal priest.

PRESENTATION
Ms. Barbara Williams

HISTORICAL REENACTMENT
**The Rev. Canon Anthony
Alexander**

PANEL DISCUSSION
**Dr. Lorinda Cohoon
Dr. Linda Khumalo
Dr. Ladrica Menson-Furr
Mr. Edward Smith II**



Reception to follow.

Register for virtual
participation at
tinyurl.com/AbsalomJones24

The Legacy of the Rev. Absalom Jones and How It Speaks to the 21st Century Church in West Tennessee

THE REV. ABSALOM JONES COMMEMORATION

SAT., FEB. 24 | BARTH HOUSE EPISCOPAL CENTER
11 AM - 1 PM | 409 PATTERSON AVE., MEMPHIS, TN 38111

