
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral



The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

Established 1836



Welcome!

We welcome your interest in Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and we have been praying:

Loving and faithful God,
You search our hearts and know our hopes even before we speak them.
Be present with the Profile Committee, the Vestry, and all who call Trinity Cathedral home,
as we journey through this season of transition and holy listening.
Send your Holy Spirit to stir our imaginations and awaken us to new possibilities.
Help us to trust your guidance, knowing that Christ walks with us,
steading our steps, lighting our path, and calling us forward in faith.



Bless each member of the Profile Committee with wisdom and courage,
that they may speak truth with compassion, listen deeply with open hearts,
and work together with humility, grace, and joy.
Inspire the people of Trinity Cathedral with a bold and hopeful vision.
Draw us together in love and unity, with minds eager to learn,
hearts ready to serve, and arms open to all.
May we embrace the mission You set before us and walk confidently into the future
You are preparing through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Mission and Vision statements

Mission

To grow spiritually and do Christ's work

Vision

Trinity Cathedral will be a community rooted in the love of Christ, where all people are welcomed, valued, and served with joy through the Holy Spirit.

Following two and a half years of an interim Dean, our congregation is eager to receive a Dean to join us in growing spiritually and doing Christ's work.

Our Congregation

Trinity was the first Episcopal Cathedral in Iowa and the original home of the Bishop's office. In 1947, the offices of the Diocese were moved to a central location within the state—Des Moines. In 1992, the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting, Bishop of Iowa, named St. Paul's Church the Liturgical Cathedral and Trinity the Historical Cathedral of Iowa.

We average 73 parishioners each week and boast 257 documented members. Historically, the congregation was predominantly



wealthy, but we are increasingly economically diverse.

The average age of our parishioners is 73. Recently, families with children and young adults have begun visiting Trinity. We are hopeful that with direction and support, our children's and youth ministry will flourish.

An area for growth is in diversity, because 85% of the congregation identifies as white. The majority speak English, though neighbors speak Spanish, and Tapestry Farms (described on p. 12) refugees predominantly speak Arabic.

We have dedicated Lay Ministers who are eager to partner with our Dean. Monthly, we bring prayers and the Eucharist to seniors at The Fountains, which is a senior living facility in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Visitors often note how vibrant our coffee hour is for fellowship.



Our Worship and Music



Music forms a large part of the Trinity Cathedral community.

Michael Elsbernd serves as our Director of Music Ministries and makes good use of our Wolff pipe organ.

We are known for the quality of our music and have hosted Chamber Music Quad Cities, Opera Quad Cities, and Messiah Sing-In. We have two choirs: the Cathedral and the Bell. Typically, we sing traditional hymns, and occasionally, we have special services, such as our annual Jazz service.

Our congregation honors the rich liturgical history of a unique east-facing altar and enjoys front-facing services. The Altar Guild devoutly serves as liturgical partners with the priest at services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.





We are rooted in the Book of Common Prayer and the lectionary. Those serving wear vestments, liturgical paraments reflect the church season, and incense is included on special occasions. Members of the



International Order of St. Luke's healing ministry offer laying of hands and healing prayers during Holy Communion. Eucharistic Visitors are blessed to take communion to those unable to attend in person. Our congregation appreciates a formal service that culminates in the Eucharist.

The Deanery School of Music makes use of the former residence of our Deans. It connects teachers, performers, and the community through education and events.





"Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is a sacred place that connects me to my creator through the sacrament, scripture, music, and faith community."

-Trinity member

"My spirituality has been markedly enhanced by the formal liturgy and 'high church' at Trinity. Also, being involved with the various outreach opportunities, especially the Churches United meals, has been uplifting."

- Trinity member



"I feel belonging in the bell choir, joy as a thurifer, and meaning as Eucharistic minister."

- Trinity member

Our Christian Formation Programs

Holy Eucharist is offered Tuesdays at 11:00 am in our chapel and Sundays at 10:00 am in the Cathedral.

Morning prayer is offered Monday through Thursday at 8:30 am and contemplative prayer is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 am in our chapel. Both are laity-led.

We have prayer groups, Bible studies, and book studies for spiritual growth.

Children of all genders are included as acolytes and readers in our services. We are expanding the children's and youth ministries to use our stunning children's chapel, fully equipped with Godly Play materials.





We would like to have at least one weekly traditional Rite II Sunday Holy Eucharist liturgy and are open to developing creative additions.

Fellowship has been a great source of community in Trinity's past, and we pray for more inclusive opportunities for those who work and/or attend school to participate fully in the church's life.

During Lent, we read a book about refugees, which inspired a deeper relationship with Tapestry Farms. The Wednesday night book studies and dinners have been informative and faith-building, so we have continued them throughout the year.



"Morning Prayer has been part of my life for many years. Now, leading most Morning Prayers has helped me gain insight into the organizational structure and spiritual direction of the church. Contemplative Prayer adds spiritually to my daily life. I love and cherish this quiet time of prayer and listening for the Holy Spirit. Visitors add enormously to my spiritual life. Being the leader of the Fountains for the past 10 years has given me a second community who I feel very close to."

-Trinity member



"Trinity understands the need for spiritual growth in order to do Christ's work and offers many opportunities for both growth and work. In the past year, I have participated in Bible study, faith sharing, book study, and a prayer group. I have worked with many others to prepare meals for Churches United and to host coffee hour after service on Sunday."

-Trinity member

Our Outreach

Trinity has focused its outreach activities on local and global donations. We contribute to preparing and serving Churches United Meals for those in need.

"My greatest wish for my congregation is to become a more engaging and relevant community of faith within the Quad Cities and Diocese, dedicated to common mission and vision, and welcoming all people seeking a spiritual home." -Trinity member



People Uniting Neighbors and Churches (P.U.N.C.H.) focuses on serving neighbors with holiday activities, memorializing those lost to gun violence, supporting foster children, celebrating milestones, etc.





TAPESTRY *farms*

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral houses **Tapestry Farms**—a nonprofit urban farm system growing the Quad Cities' welcome of refugees.

With our building, Tapestry Farms sustains grow rooms, houses industrial refrigerators, hosts English-learning classes, provides legal counsel, and offers childcare.

We have launched a GIFT garden on Trinity grounds. Growing Food Together is a community-wide initiative that cultivates food to combat hunger in the Quad Cities.

This ministry provides neighbors with fresh, nutritious produce. Parishioners tutor children, provide transportation for families, and donate according to need.





We hosted their fall fundraiser on October 7, 2025. The event featured New York Opera singer Claire Kuttler and local musician Chris Nelson.

"I have grown spiritually through my involvement in Outreach such as the food pantry, our preschool, Churches United, and Tapestry Farms."

- Trinity member

"Hosting coffee hour, ushering, Vestry, and Tapestry Farms have made our spiritual life rewarding."

- Trinity member



Episco-pride was launched with the support of the Diocese of Iowa.

For the past two years, it has attracted about 35 people to SAFE-zone trainings and the same number of volunteers for staffing a booth at Pride Fest.

This year, a parishioner initiated a garland project in which passersby wrote their name and a phrase on a strip of fabric.

The garland was displayed during a service and blessed.

One garland was given to our sister church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bettendorf.



"What I found most striking was the joy! Pride fest is a safe and comfortable setting for everyone, but beyond that, it's an opportunity to celebrate."
- Trinity member





"The garland is a powerful visual of how the church can still live into its mission to be a place of love and hope and serve with reconciliation of its past."

- Trinity member

"People wrote 'You are loved,' 'You are perfect the way you are,' and the one that really stuck with me was the single word, 'Stay.'"

- Trinity member

"We told folks they were welcome to fill out prayer requests and that they would be prayed for. The prayer requests were sometimes heartbreaking. "

- Trinity member

"In a community of people harmed and rejected by the churches they grew up in, to see a mainline church welcoming them with love as they are is deeply meaningful."

- Pride fest visitor

"It was wonderful to see the many families that came to the fest and stopped at our booth."

- Trinity member

"It's so great to see a church here representing a loving Christianity."

- Pride fest visitor

The Diocese of Iowa

We are proud that the Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot is the first woman elected to her position since the Diocese of Iowa was formed in 1853. This year, Bishop Monnot received the Faith & Freedom Community Leader Award from the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa.

Bishop Monnot has been active in supporting Diocesan efforts toward writing letters to political leaders, dismantling racism, improving behavioral health, and hosting an underground railroad pilgrimage.

The Rev. Canon Meg Wagner, the Ven. Judith Crossett, and others have met regularly with our Vestry and congregation as we prepare to transition to new leadership.

The Diocese has been supportive and helpful to Trinity Cathedral as we learn more of our history and discern our identity moving forward. Our vestry members have completed Dismantling Racism training and some have participated in Sacred Ground circles.





The Diocese generously shares its resources and wisdom with us. In alignment with its Episco-Pride commitment, Trinity Cathedral has hosted two in-person SAFE-zone training workshops and staffed booths at the 2024 and 2025 Pride Fest.

We were recently awarded a GILEAD grant to grow this ministry in a joint effort with St. Peter's in Bettendorf

and St. Alban's in Davenport.

Each year, the Cathedral sponsors delegates to attend the Diocesan convention, which is a cherished opportunity to learn more about Episcopal polity and to bond with our Diocesan leaders.

"I would like to see the congregation work closely with other churches with which we are in communion to worship together at least once a year and combine young people together to celebrate the future and present of the church body."

-Trinity member

"My greatest wish for my congregation is to become a more engaging and relevant community of faith within the Quad Cities and Diocese, dedicated to common mission and vision, and welcoming all people seeking a spiritual home."

-Trinity member

Our Governance

Our Dean will work closely with Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot, Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa, and a dedicated team of staff and lay leaders to support the Church. These include Director of Music Ministries Michael Elsbernd, Parish Administrator Meggan Fitzpatrick, Bookkeeper Victoria Inman, our Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Vestry, Altar Guild, Outreach Committee, and Children's Ministries.

At present, the Vestry is voting to approve bylaws to improve processes and procedures. Parishioners long for equitable decision-making. Under the leadership of different Deans, there have been a variety of approaches to managing Trinity Cathedral. Our hope is that formal policies will give parishioners a sense of norms and encourage participation in the life of the Church. On the whole, we are an enthusiastic group with diverse perspectives. Effective leadership will help us prioritize shared values.

We are praying for a Dean who is pastoral to the parish as a whole, attentive to diverse voices, and supportive of the entire congregation's spiritual growth.



Our Neighborhood and The Quad Cities



Davenport is a city of 99,489 people, which is part of the Quad Cities—a six county, bi-state region of 470,000 people.

Davenport is 75.9% white, 11.2% Black, 8.5% two or more races, 9% Hispanic or Latino, and 2% Asian. The

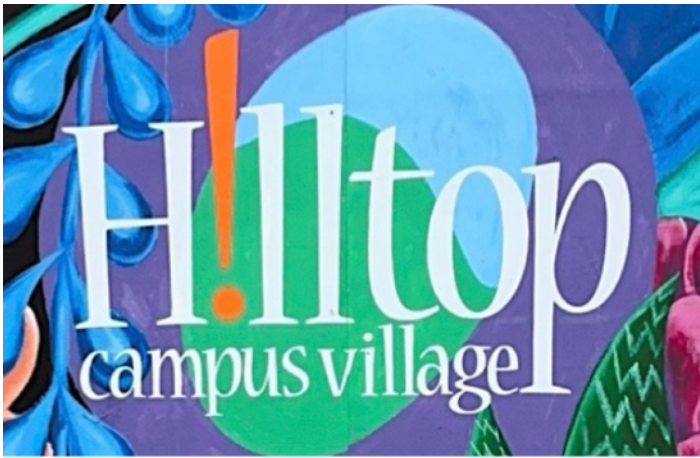
median household income is \$64,497 and many are employed by the Rock Island Arsenal, John Deere Global Headquarters, and in healthcare.

Notable institutions include Augustana College, St. Ambrose University, Palmer College of Chiropractic, and Eastern Iowa Community College.

The Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Opera Quad Cities, Ballet Quad Cities, and Figge Art Museum create a vibrant arts community.

Children and adults love the Putnam Museum and Science Center, Family Museum, and Niabi Zoo.

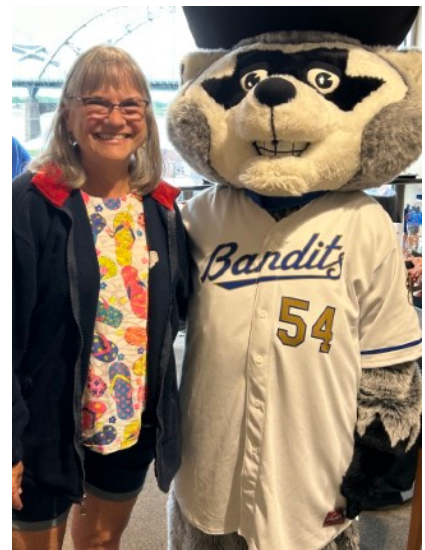




We are located within the “Hilltop Campus Village” which is in a revitalization process through business incentives. Partnering with them might increase our community engagement.

Sports enthusiasts enjoy our Professional Minor League teams, including the Quad City River Bandits baseball team, Quad City Storm hockey team, and Quad City Steamwheelers indoor football team.

We are home to the annual Quad City Times Bix 7-mile foot race and Kwik Star Criterium cyclists’ race.



Our Buildings and History



The first Episcopal services in Davenport were held in 1836 by a traveling clergyman. Trinity Parish was incorporated in 1841, and the Diocese of Iowa was established in 1854. Henry Washington Lee was elected the first Episcopal Bishop of Iowa. The first church was modest. The second, built in 1852 in a Gothic style with a rose window, was the first church in Iowa to have a pipe organ. Unfortunately, the building was destroyed in a 1874 fire. After the Civil War, the cornerstone to the building we now call Trinity Cathedral was laid.

As mentioned above, the diocese's offices were moved to a central location within the state—Des Moines—in 1947. In 1992, the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting, Bishop of Iowa, named St. Paul’s Church the Liturgical Cathedral and Trinity the Historical Cathedral of Iowa.

Trinity has a long history of establishing healthcare and education in the community. We helped found the Training School for Nurses in 1875, St. Luke’s Hospital in 1895, St. Catherine’s School in 1886, and Griswold College in 1863, which became Central High School. In 1966, Canon Marlin Whitmer started “The Befrienders,” a group of lay patient visitors trained in story listening at St. Luke’s Hospital, which lasted until 2020.



Deans of Trinity Cathedral

2012-2022	John Horn
2008-2011	C. Christopher Epting
2005-2008	James Harris
1989-2005	John L. Hall
1973-1987	Edward H. MacBurney
1969-1973	Bruce H. Cooke
1960-1968	William M. Swift
1947-1960	Russell K. Johnson
1928-1946	Rowland F. Philbrook
1907-1928	Marmaduke Hare
1896-1907	Hamilton Schuyler
1886-1896	Charles B. Hale
1877-1886	Willis H. Barris

Our Deans have ranged in leadership styles in response to the context of the time. One of the biggest shifts was a gradual one in support of women and the LGBTQI+ community in all facets of worship.

From 1995 to 2022, the lower level of the new hall was used to support teen parents of preschoolers through a daycare

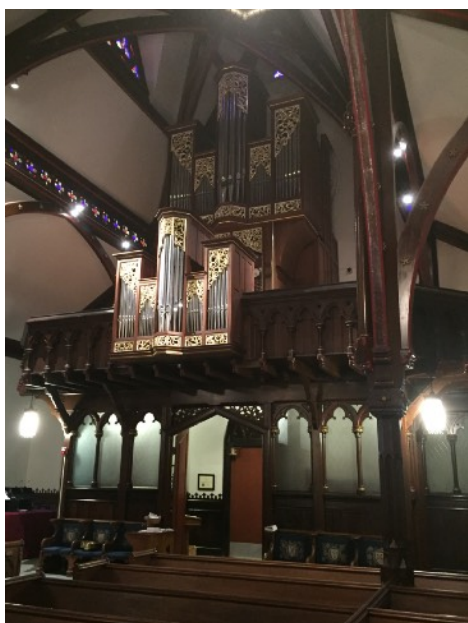
called Positive Parenting at Trinity. This space now houses Tapestry Farms.

Our outreach ministries, parish life, and members have changed significantly over the last few years. COVID put a damper on many of our cultural and social events, which we hope to revitalize.



An impressive number of laity joyously and consistently contribute to our weekly services. Many of us bond over the traditional service and appreciate the inclusive and affirming atmosphere. Trinity is a place where we value faith in God, fellowship as family, and the unifying Episcopal liturgy that culminates in the eucharist. We love each other through our differences.

We provide a resting place for members of the Cathedral who wish to remain here in the columbarium, which speaks to the longevity of our commitment to the congregation.



"Trinity is my community. I love the building, architecture, and feeling of all the saints before me who worshiped there. I love the people there and get so much from them."

-Trinity member

Our Finances

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral has a wealth of buildings and goodwill. Recent changes in our members' attendance have resulted in fewer pledges. A robust strategic plan and ministries for all ages would certainly offer great potential for membership and giving growth. Increased transparency and clearer communication might build trust among pledgers.



Parishioners have donated investments, some of which are endowment funds. Some funds are restricted for the specific use of music, scholarships, and maintenance of specific facilities. Others are available at the discretion of the Vestry.

Our budget is discerned with the input of representatives from all parish organizations and data regarding general operations. The investment committee advises expected income from designated and unrestricted funds. Our treasurer and bookkeeper finalize the budget and present it to the Vestry regularly and to the parish at our annual meeting.

The Vestry is careful to avoid depleting the investment portfolio and principal. However, we are in a moment that requires adjustments to settle incomes and expenses.

Trinity freely shares space with Tapestry Farms and the Deanery School of Music. Parishioners frequently give blankets, food, water, hygiene items, blood, tutoring, time, and talent. Trinity has a 12-person care team that meets every two months to pray and plan out how to serve 35 members who can no longer attend services and 39 nonmembers on our parish prayer list. Care includes visits, communion, letters, phone calls, and prayer.



"Trinity Cathedral is the one place I can breathe each week. It's where I'm allowed to love and care for all people. Another thing I love is seeing how the children are encouraged to have an active role in the service and outreach opportunities like QC Pride Fest. I haven't looked forward to going to church each week so much since I was in high school and I'm now 65!"
-Trinity member

Our Invitation

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral seeks a Dean committed to transparency, clear communication, and collaborative processes.

We need a creative, strategic planner with administrative skills to guide us in carrying out our mission and vision for the future.

We hope that you share our love for traditional liturgy, a pipe organ, and emphasis on the eucharistic feast.

Ours is an inclusive and affirming congregation.

We seek a Dean who is diplomatic, fostering unity amidst diversity.

We long for theologically robust homilies, rooted in scripture and preferably relevant to our shared social context.

We have room to grow in expanding our ministries to all ages, especially children's and youth ministries.

We hope to deepen our outreach through partnering with Tapestry Farms and our relationship with the Diocese of Iowa.



"My greatest wish for my congregation is for a Dean who will uphold traditional worship, offer theologically-informed sermons, minister respectfully to laity, and support lay ministries. I hope we continue to grow in doing more substantive outreach with groups like Tapestry Farms. I pray we utilize our resources to support children and youth in knowing God and doing God's work."

-Trinity member

"I feel the need for Pastoral Care. I will never forget one of our Deans coming in on his day off to provide last rites to my mother during her final hours. He was heartfelt and sincere. His mentoring convinced me to pursue my pastoral interest."

-Trinity member



Candidates fitting our call are asked to share
a letter of interest, resume, and OTM Profile with the

Canon Meg Wagner

225 37th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

Phone 515-277-6165

Email mwagner@iowaepiscopal.org