

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

Saturday, March 16
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

BRIDGING THE DIVIDES
TOWARD A MORE
LOVING SOCIETY

St. Timothy's
Episcopal Church
Creve Coeur, MO



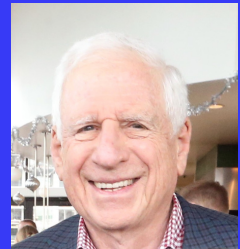
The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson



The Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu



The Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas



The Rev. John C. Danforth



The Rev. Traci Blackmon

HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

Come, Holy Spirit



Come Holy Spirit, surround those who are preparing to celebrate your presence in our world.

Give us grace and courage to fully proclaim Your Gospel to a culture divided in so many ways.

Help us to bring truth to power, to stand firm in our commitment to God's Kingdom on Earth.

Help us to be part of the solution to our country's and our society's divisions, without suffering further disruptions.

Please show us the way to tell the stories you would have us tell, peacefully and lovingly in the name of Christ Our Savior.

Amen and Amen

by the Rev. Deacon Janet Schisser

Today's Schedule

9:30 a.m. Doors Open

10 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Preacher: The Rev. Naomi Tutu

Celebrant: The Rev. Canon

Stephanie Spellers

11:30 a.m. Break

11:45 a.m. Morning Speakers and Discussion

Intro: The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

- The Rev. Naomi Tutu

- The Rev. Traci Blackmon

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Afternoon Speakers and Discussion

Intro: The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

- The Rev. Jack Danforth

- The Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas

2:10 p.m. Break

2:20 p.m. Panel Discussion

Led by the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

3:30 p.m. Next Steps: Beautiful Bridges

Led by the Rev. Aaron Rogers

3:45 p.m. Closing Prayers & Music

Led by the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

4 p.m. Go in Peace

to Love and Serve the Lord!



HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

"Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."

—Isaiah 58:12

Welcome

Welcome! God called you here! God is in the business of calling the ordinary into the extraordinary, and it is no mistake that you have been called to the work of reconciliation.

We live in divided times. We have all borne witness to the divisions, disunity, and distrust that has become the norm in many aspects of our common life. We see the polarization and demonization that is now common place in the political arena and experience division in our own families. Like you I often ask, "What can I do?" "What difference will I make?" We make a difference when we decide to speak the truth in love, when we chose to be healers of the broken and repairers of the torn. We live in divided times, yet God is doing a new thing in your life and in the life of the Church.

The millennia old call to the Prophet Isaiah seems only too apt for our time. We as people of faith and communities of worship are being

called to repair the broken and restore what has been torn. God is calling us to a renewed ministry of healing and reconciliation.



Healing in the Heartland is a first step in the journey of becoming repairers of the breach and restorers of the streets to live in. We all long for a time when we are able to disagree without being disagreeable, where we see our differences as gifts towards God's beautiful diversity. We long for the realization of Beloved Community: a community in which everyone is cared for, absent of poverty, hunger, and hate.

Our communities of worship have a unique role to play as healers, repairers, and restorers. A single act of healing put together with countless others, overwhelm the world. We gather to take the first step in faith towards a journey of healing and hope.

Come, let us walk together. God is doing a new thing.



HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

The Rev. Traci Blackmon

The Rev. Traci Blackmon is an ordained UCC minister, public theologian, and published author whose life work focuses on communal resistance to systemic injustice.

"Pastor T" as she is affectionately called, has spent the last three decades preaching, teaching and living a theology that consistently and unapologetically calls community to hear the cries of the suffering in the world.

Rev. Blackmon is a native of Birmingham, AL, and is a distinguished Alumnus of Birmingham Southern College. She earned her Master of Divinity Degree and was awarded an honorary doctorate of ministry from Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO, for her public ministry during the Ferguson uprising and beyond. She currently serves as theologian in residence for Eden Seminary and Regional Chaplain for the Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



The Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas

The Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, Ph.D., is the Interim President of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ordained in 1983, Douglas holds a master's degree in theology and a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Union Theological Seminary.

Before serving at Episcopal Divinity School, Douglas was the Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary in New York. She also serves as the Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. and Theologian in Residence at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York.

Douglas is the author of many articles and six books, including *Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective*, *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*, and *Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter*, which won the 2023 Grawemeyer Award in Religion. Her academic work has focused on womanist theology, sexuality and the Black church.



HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

The Rev. John (Jack) Danforth

The Rev. Jack Danforth is an Episcopal priest, politician, attorney, author, and diplomat. He was born in St. Louis and graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. in religion and then received degrees from Yale Law School and Yale Divinity School.



His career in public service includes serving as the Attorney General of Missouri from 1969 until 1976. He went on to serve as U.S. Senator from Missouri from 1976 until 1995. Following his elected service, he was U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and later, a special envoy to Sudan, where his focus was negotiating an end to the civil war in the South. He was special counsel in the investigation of the federal raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas.

Danforth is the author of several books, including *Resurrection* (1994), *Faith and Politics: How the "Moral Values" Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together* (2006), and *The Relevance of Religion* (2015). He currently serves on the boards of the Cerner Corporation and the nonprofit, nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates. He is also on the national advisory board of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis.

The Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu

The Rev. Naomi Tutu is the third child of Archbishop Desmond and Nomalizo Leah Tutu. She was born in South Africa. She was educated in Swaziland, the U.S. and England, and has divided her adult life between South Africa and the U.S.



The challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa have been the foundation of Naomi's life as an activist for human rights. Those experiences taught her that our whole human family loses when we accept situations of oppression, and how teaching and preaching hate and division injure us all.

After years spent as a development consultant, educator, and race and gender activist, she accepted her call to ordained ministries when she was in her 50's. She is an Episcopal priest who most recently was Associate Rector at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills, CA.



HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

Support Racial Reconciliation in DiMO



Scan this QR code
to make a gift

The Chester Hines Racial Reconciliation Fund was established in 2021 to seed an endowment to finance the work of repairing racial injustice in the Diocese of Missouri.

The fund is named for The Rev. Deacon Chester Hines, who has worked passionately in this field for many years.



Purchase a T-shirt and Support LOVE!

You can support our message by purchasing (and wearing) this great new T-shirt from *A Case for Love*, a documentary film featuring Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his message of unselfish love.

The inclusive message on the shirt is for everyone:

Love over Hate
Love Over Indifference
Love Over Ignorance
Love Over Ego
Love Over Barriers
Love Over Borders
Love Over
And Over
And Over
Again



The shirts are available in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL (sizes run small) and cost \$20 each. Cash, check, or credit cards are accepted.

Numbers and sizes are limited! Visit the communications table to purchase your T-shirt today!



HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

Thank you to our event planning teams

Our sincere gratitude goes to the dozens of people from throughout the Diocese who volunteered their time to make today's event happen. We don't have enough room to list all the names, but here are the team leaders:

Leadership

- The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson - Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall - Canon to the Ordinary
- The Very Rev. Shug Goodlow - Christ Episcopal Church, Rolla
- Michael Reiser - Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis
- The Rev. Aaron Rogers - Ministry Developer for Young Adult Ministry and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Ferguson

Liturgy & Music

- The Rev. Jared Moore - Virginia Theological Seminary
- David Sinden - St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue

Hospitality

- The Rev. Jeff Goldone - Hope Episcopal Church, Town & Country

Prayer Team

- The Rev. Deacon Betty Bowen - Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles

Evangelism

- The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice - Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development

Medical

- The Rev. Deacon Deborah Goldfeder - Calvary Episcopal Church, Louisiana and St. John's Episcopal Church, Eolia

Communications

- Janis Greenbaum - Director of Communications
- AhSa-Ti Nu Ford - Digital Projects Manager
- Rick and Karen Sharp - St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Creve Coeur
- Jeremy Tackett - The Episcopal Church

Our Hosts

- The Rev. Meghan Ryan, The Rev. Garron Daniels, and Adam Turner - St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Creve Coeur



HEALING IN THE HEARTLAND

Scan this QR code to get details on these events and more.



Visit our Ministry Displays

Today at St. Timothy's

- **Children & Youth Ministries**
The Rev. Erin Pickersgill
- **Creation Care Ministry**
The Rev. Kevin McGrane
- **Communications**
Janis Greenbaum
- **Dismantling Racism Commission**
The Rev. Aaron Rogers
- **Education Equity**
Mary Ann Cook
- **Episcopal City Mission**
Nathan Ivy
- **Episcopal Recovery Ministries**
The Rev. Deacon Loretta Go
- **Grace African Christian Connections**
The Rev. Mtipe Koggani
- **Gun Violence Prevention**
Jeff Wunrow
- **Humans of St. Louis**
Lindy Drew
- **Jubilee Ministry / JustFood Truck**
The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click
- **Petitions**
Donna Ericson
- **Public Advocacy**
The Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieley
- **Shelter Ministry**
(The Church of St. Michael & St. George)
Laurie Brown
- **Young Adult Ministry**
The Rev. Aaron Rogers

Upcoming Diocesan Events

Get details at diocesemo.org/events

Beloved Community Gathering

Saturday, March 23 @ 10 a.m.
**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,
Ferguson**

The Dismantling Racism Commission invites all to our new quarterly gatherings. Our first event features a speaker on reparative justice.

Cole Arthur Riley in St. Louis

Saturday, April 6 @ 5 p.m.
Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis

The Diocesan Young Adult Ministry is pleased to welcome the author of *This Here Flesh* and *Black Liturgies* to St. Louis.

Field Trip to Civil Rights Museum

Saturday, April 13 @ 6 a.m.
Bus leaves from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue

Visit the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, located at the site of Dr. Martin Luther King's 1968 assassination. Youth scholarships are available.

Movie Screening:

The Philadelphia Eleven

Saturday, April 13 @ 2 p.m.
Hi-Pointe Theatre, St. Louis

Be inspired by this wonderful new documentary about the first women to be ordained as priests in the U.S.

