

An aerial photograph of a large, mature tree with dense green and yellowing foliage. A circular stone walkway, composed of grey and red bricks, winds through the tree's canopy. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

Water and the Word Conference

Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22, 2025

DaySpring Conference Center

waterandtheword.org

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

21

February

- 4:00 p.m. Check-In Opens for Overnight Guests
Kline Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Commuter Guest Check-In
And Opening Reception with Refreshments
Kline Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Worship
Kline Hall
- 7:15 p.m. Plenary— *Bishop Doug Scharf*
The Narrow Path: The Journey of
Growing Up in Christ
- 8:30 p.m. Fireside Chat
Youth Activities in Cabins
-

22

February

- 7:15 a.m. Morning Prayer
with Water and the Word Chaplain
The Rev. Deacon William Pardy
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. Plenary— *The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile*
Searching For Lydia: Following God into
a Hopeful Future
- 10:15 a.m. Workshop Block I
- Faithful Innovation
The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile
 - Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos
Jane Breaux
 - Panel: What is Your Calling as Lay Leader
 - Walking Together Through Health Transitions
Ashley Cummings, MHA, LNHA

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

22

February

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Plenary— *Dr. Lisa Kimball*
Activating Baptism: Living a Resurrected Life

2:00 p.m. Workshop Block II

- Godparents Matter: Presence and Presents
Dr. Lisa Kimball
- Two Stroke Blessings and Prayers
Sybil MacBeth
- The Cost of Discipleship
The Rev. Deacon William Pardy
- Experiential Prayer Stations
Lilly Lewin

3:30 p.m. Workshop Block III

- AI and Process Automation in Church
Lindsey Nickel and John Edgar
- Panel: Incorporating Pilgrimage Into Everyday Life
- Creating a Focus-Driven Mission
The Rev. Robert Vaughn & The Rev. Bryan O'Carroll
- Finding Your Thin Place
Lilly Lewin

5:00 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Plenary & Commissioning Service — *Bishop Doug Scharf*
Go Forth: Living the Life of the Spirit

Closing and Dismissal

Help Us Spread the Word

 Facebook.com/DioceseofSWFL

 YouTube.com/@EpiscopalFlorida

 @EpiscopalFlorida

 www.waterandtheword.org



Friday

ARRIVAL

4 PM

**DaySpring Conference Center
Parrish, FL**

Overnight guests arrive on Friday at 4 p.m. for check-in and to get settled in. Room keys are available in **Kline Hall**.

EVENT CHECK IN

5:30 PM

Commuter guest check-in will open at 5:30 p.m. in **Kline Hall**.

CONFERENCE OPENING

5:30 PM

The 2025 Water and the Word Conference will open with a reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Kline Hall

PLENARY

7:15 PM

THE RT. REV. DOUG SCHARF
*The Narrow Path:
The Journey of Growing
Up in Christ*

Kline Hall

WORSHIP

6:30 PM

Participants will gather for a contemporary worship service filled with liturgy, prayer, and music by Liturgical Folk.

Kline Hall

FIRESIDE CHAT

8:30 PM

Let's keep the conversation going with s'mores and a fireside chat.

Youth Complex

BISHOP DOUG SCHARF

The Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida, the Rt. Rev. Douglas F. Scharf leads the diocese where he was raised, ordained, and consecrated. One of the youngest bishops in The Episcopal Church, Bishop Scharf believes that Christ's love and transformational teachings paired with the authentic connection of a Church community can replenish the wellspring of the soul.



FRIDAY
7:15 PM



**FORMING
DISCIPLES**

*The Narrow Path:
The Journey of Growing
Up in Christ*

ABOUT FRIDAY'S PLENARY

In the letter to the Ephesians, we are called to "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." Growing up in Christ is not a passive process, but requires participation, attention, and purpose. As disciples, we are walking together on a journey of spiritual growth and development by which we are becoming more and more like Jesus. We are becoming fully alive in Christ.

SATURDAY
6:15 PM



**DEVELOPING
LEADERS**

*Go Forth: Living the Life
of the Spirit*

ABOUT SATURDAY'S PLENARY

Growing up in Christ; living into our God-given vocations; and following God into the future all require a deep trust and reliance on the presence and power of God's Spirit in our lives. In baptism, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and empowered to go forth into the world as followers of Jesus and agents of transformation. The letter to the Ephesians calls the church deeper into this reality.



Saturday

MORNING PRAYER

7:15 AM

Join Water and the Word Chaplain, the Rev. Deacon William Parady, Download the Venite.app for Morning Prayer at <https://www.venite.app>

Outdoor Chapel

BREAKFAST

7:30 AM

Start the day with coffee and community at our buffet-style breakfast.

Curry Hall

WELCOME & MORNING MEDITATION

8:30 AM

Grab some coffee and join The Rev. Deacon Bill Parady, Bishop Scharf, and Liturgical Folk as we gather to focus on the day ahead with morning meditation.

Kline Hall

PLENARY THE REV. DR DWIGHT ZSCHEILE

9:00 AM

Searching for Lydia

Many of our neighbors are spiritually curious but disconnected from established religious structures, like Lydia in Acts 16. How might we, like early followers of Jesus, follow the Spirit's leading into relationships with these neighbors and discover a hopeful future along the way?

Kline Hall

WORKSHOP BLOCK I

10:15 AM

- **Faithful Innovation**

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile

Kline Hall - Program Center

- **Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos**

Speaker: Jane Breaux

Kline Hall Classroom A

- **Panel: What is Your Calling as Lay Leader**

Kline Hall Classroom B

- **Walking Together Through Health Transitions**

Speaker: Ashley Cummings, MHA, LNHA

Tripp Pavillion

LUNCH

11:30 AM

Share what you have learned at the buffet-style lunch.

Curry Hall

THE REV. DR. DWIGHT ZSCHEILE

**SATURDAY
9:00 AM**

*Searching For Lydia:
Following God into a
Hopeful Future*

BIO

Dwight Zscheile is vice president of innovation and professor of congregational mission and leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is author of *Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future* (with Michael Binder and Tessa Pinkstaff, Fortress 2023), *Participating in God's Mission: A Theological Missiology for the U.S.* (with Craig Van Gelder, Eerdmans 2018), *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age* (Morehouse Publishing, 2014), *People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity* (Morehouse Publishing, 2012) and *The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation* (with Craig Van Gelder, Baker Academic 2011) and editor of *Cultivating Sent Communities: Missional Spiritual Formation* (Eerdmans, 2012). A graduate of Stanford University (BA), Yale University (MDiv) and Luther Seminary (PhD, Congregational Mission and Leadership), he previously served congregations in Minnesota, Virginia and Connecticut. Dwight's experience growing up in a secular home in California has shaped his commitment to helping the church cultivate Christian community with neighbors in today's changing world.

ABOUT THE PLENARY

Searching for Lydia
Many of our neighbors are spiritually curious but disconnected from established religious structures, like Lydia in Acts 16. How might we, like early followers of Jesus, follow the Spirit's leading into relationships with these neighbors and discover a hopeful future along the way?



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY

10:15AM



**TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES**

Faithful Innovation

Many inherited church structures were designed for a different world and are reaching the end of their life cycles. Yet they bear precious treasures and traditions that we don't want to lose. In this workshop, we will explore how to faithfully discern the next steps through life-giving practices that help us clarify our story and join in God's life in our neighborhoods.



Saturday

PLENARY
DR. LISA KIMBALL

12:45 PM

Activating Baptism: Living A Resurrected Life

As baptized Christians in the Episcopal Church promises are made at the font that change us forever. Too often baptism is understood as an event rather than a threshold ushering us into a new life. When people of all ages and abilities are equipped to live into their God-given vocations, they experience and can share abundant life in Christ, transform local communities and change the world.

Kline Hall

WORKSHOP BLOCK II **2 PM**

• **Godparents Matter: Presence and Presents**

Speaker: Dr. Lisa Kimball

Kline Hall - Program Center

• **Two Stroke Prayers**

Speaker: Sybill Macbeth

Kline Hall Classroom A

• **Bonhoeffer Cost of Discipleship**

Speaker: The Rev. Deacon William Parcy

Kline Hall Classroom B

• **Experiential Prayer Stations**

Speaker Lilly Lewin

Tripp Pavillion

WORKSHOP BLOCK III **3:30 PM**

• **AI and Automation in Church**

Speakers: Lindsey Nickel and John Edgar

Kline Hall - Program Center

• **Panel: Incorporating Pilgrimage Into Everyday Life**

Kline Hall Classroom A

• **Creating Focus Driven Mission**

Speakers: The Rev. Robert Vaughn and

The Rev. Bryan O'Carroll,

Kline Hall Classroom B

• **Finding Your Thin Place**

Speaker: Lilly Lewin

Tripp Pavillion

DINNER **5 PM**

Reflect on a full day at the buffet-style dinner.

Curry Hall

PLENARY & COMMISSIONING SERVICE **6:15 PM**

THE RT. REV. DOUG SCHARF

Go Forth: Living the Life of the Spirit

Kline Hall

Closing and Dismissal

DR. LISA KIMBALL

SATURDAY
12:45 PM

Activating Baptism: Living a Resurrected Life

BIO

Dr. Kimball's areas of expertise include human development, experiential learning, faith formation, church history, and popular culture, adult formation, lay ministry development, adolescent spiritual development, and program evaluation. She is currently directing a 5-year, \$1.5M grant project Baptized for Life: An Episcopal Discipleship Initiative in the Lilly Endowment Inc. Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative. Dr. Kimball has held academic positions as university faculty and in research. She has focused her teaching and research on deep discipleship and Christian vocation in contemporary, global and post-institutional contexts. She has served as Chair of the Standing Committee on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized; co-founding the Episcopal Confirmation Collaborative; on the Way of Love resource development team; and as a representative on the Journey to Baptismal Living faculty team, writing an ecumenical rite for the catechumenate.

ABOUT THE PLENARY

As baptized Christians in the Episcopal Church promises are made at the font that change us forever. Too often baptism is understood as an event rather than a threshold ushering us into a new life. When people of all ages and abilities are equipped to live into their God-given vocations, they experience and can share abundant life in Christ, transform local communities and change the world.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY **2 PM**



**TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES**

Godparents Matter: Presence and Presents

Godparents are hidden treasures. Research consistently finds that young people who have a healthy mentor and role model demonstrate higher resilience in daily life. Godparents are natural mentors, and congregations can be communities of intentional support for healthy discipleship by taking godparenting seriously. This “no guilt zone” workshop is designed to (re)ignite enthusiasm and confidence in godparents and to equip congregational leaders to nurture the potential of godparenting to form healthy intergenerational relationships and grow Christian vocations.

FOUR Pathways



A CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Four Pathways - Forming Disciples, Developing Leaders, Embracing Differences, and Transforming Communities - are a direct expression of the ministry of Jesus Christ and mirror our calling as God's people. Throughout the Water and the Word Conference, you will find plenaries and workshops that focus on enhancing different pathways of our work together.

We invite you to walk these pathways together, infusing them with your unique experiences, rich ideas, and eagerness to expand God's ministry.

Learn more about the Four Pathways at Episcopalswfl.org/about/the-four-pathways.



FORMING DISCIPLES

We believe that discipleship is about forming a new way of living with Jesus. Rooted in our Baptistal Covenant, we equip and empower our congregations to love and serve all God's people as we walk together in the Way of Love.



DEVELOPING LEADERS

Jesus' Love is deeply rooted in all of us, calling us to be a shining light for one another. We believe in nurturing this call within every person, empowering lay and ordained leaders to consider where God is leading them to serve.



EMBRACING DIFFERENCES

You are welcome. You are loved. No Exceptions. Join us in our mission to bring God's healing power and reconciling love to our community by authentically honoring and embracing our differences.



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

We live out our call to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through ministry and outreach that makes a positive impact on the lives of our congregations and surrounding communities.

Saturday

WORKSHOPS

**10:15 AM-11:30
CHOOSE FROM:**



Workshop: Kline Hall Program Center
Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile
Topic: Faithful Innovation



Description: Many inherited church structures were designed for a different world and are reaching the end of their life cycles. Yet they bear precious treasures and traditions that we don't want to lose. In this workshop, we will explore how to faithfully discern the next steps through life-giving practices that help us clarify our story and join in God's life in our neighborhoods.



Workshop: Kline Hall Classroom A
Presenter: Jane Breaux
Topic: Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos



Description: In this session, we will discuss stress in our daily lives and learn ways we can find peace even when we are in the middle of chaos. Open to all ages, this session invites individuals to explore habits that promote mental well-being and spiritual grounding. Participants will be invited to experience some simple and accessible techniques, so come with an open mind and a willingness to try!



Workshop: Kline Hall Classroom B
Presenter: Panel
Topic: What is Your Calling



Description: God calls each of us to serve in unique ways. This workshop focuses on non-ordained callings, particularly the vital roles of lay leaders in ministry. Learn how to discern your spiritual gifts and understand the significance of your contribution to worship and community leadership. Through guided reflection and group activities, this session will help you listen more closely to God's call and empower you to step confidently into your ministry role.



Workshop: Tripp Pavilion A
Presenter: Ashley Cummings, MHA, LNHA
Topic: Walking Together Through Health Transitions



Description: This presentation explores dementia and Alzheimer's disease through a holistic lens, combining healthcare strategies and spiritual care insights. It provides practical guidance for understanding the phases of dementia, health transitions, and the role of advanced directives, with actionable tips for caregivers, friends, and family. Emphasizing the biblical principles of humility, patience, and love from Ephesians 4, it also introduces innovative care models like the Montessori approach to dementia care. The session aims to equip attendees with tools and inspiration to support individuals and families navigating these challenging health transitions.

WORKSHOPS

**2:00-3:15 PM
CHOOSE FROM:**



Workshop: Kline Hall Program Center

Presenter: Dr. Lisa Kimball

Topic: Godparents Matter: Presence and Presents

Description: Godparents are hidden treasures. Research consistently finds that young people who have a healthy mentor and role model demonstrate higher resilience in daily life. Godparents are natural mentors, and congregations can be communities of intentional support for healthy discipleship by taking godparenting seriously. This “no guilt zone” workshop is designed to (re)ignite enthusiasm and confidence in godparents and to equip congregational leaders to nurture the potential of godparenting to form healthy intergenerational relationships and grow Christian vocations.



Workshop: Kline Hall Classroom A

Presenter: Sybil MacBeth

Topic: Two-Stroke Blessing Prayers

Description: When we offer blessing prayers to others, even simple ones like “May the Lord bless you and keep you,” we are acting as God’s agents or emissaries to extend comfort, hope, joy.... But finding the words to express what we want to say is not always easy. In this prayerful but playful workshop, we will use our spiritual imaginations to explore the vast nature of God and to expand our blessing vocabulary. With pen and colored pencils or markers, we will create a simple, visual framework for sharing these prayers.



Workshop: Kline Hall Classroom B

Presenter: The Rev. Deacon William Parady

Topic: Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Discipleship

Description: Through his “The Cost of Discipleship” (1937), Dietrich Bonhoeffer leaves the sacred community of the church with profound reflections on faith and obedience as the foundations of true discipleship. This session will explore Bonhoeffer’s life and writings, tracing his uncompromising views on the essential elements of “costly grace” versus “cheap grace.” Emphasizing costly grace reveals itself in surrender, sacrifice, and a steadfast commitment to obedience, this workshop challenges the complacency often found in modern faith. By examining Bonhoeffer’s personal choices during the rise of Nazi Germany and his stance that discipleship takes priority over secular agendas, this session invites us to “make disciples” who will embody courage, integrity, and a faith that actively influences both private and public life. Through discussion and guided exercises, participants will discover practical applications for Bonhoeffer’s timeless principles, equipping them to nurture a faith that is deep, resilient, and dedicated to Christ above all.



Workshop: Tripp Pavilion

Presenter: Lilly Lewin

Topic: Experiential Prayer Stations

Description: It is time to open the gate and move our worship beyond singing. Participants will gather in the Open Air Pavilion to participate in an inter-active, multi-sensory worship experience curated to deepen our prayerful meditation on Ephesians 4. This “Sacred Space” is open to participants of all ages engaging God through prayer stations and moving our worship beyond singing and listening and beyond sitting and watching to actually participating.



Saturday

WORKSHOPS

**3:30-4:45 PM
CHOOSE FROM:**



Workshop: Kline Hall Program Center

Presenters: Lindsey Nickel and John Edgar



Topic: How Artificial Intelligence and Process Automation Tools Can Optimize Church Leaders Time

Description: In today's fast-paced world, church leaders often find themselves overwhelmed with administrative tasks, scheduling, communication, and data management. To focus more on your core mission of ministry and pastoral care, it is essential to leverage modern technology. This workshop will explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Process Automation tools tailored specifically for church leaders.



Workshop: Kline Hall Classroom A



Presenter: Panel

Topic: Incorporating Pilgrimages into Your Everyday Life

Description: Not everyone can hike the Camino, but many people are still interested in seeking out the benefits of a pilgrimage. How can your church or group of individual parishioners create pilgrimages closer to home?



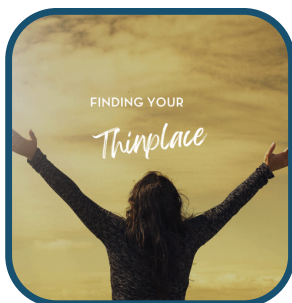
Workshop: Kline Hall Classroom B



Presenters: The Rev. Robert Vaughn and the Rev. Bryan O'Carroll

Topic: Creating a Focus-Driven Mission

Description: Connect your church's mission and gifts with a community-centered people group, problem, or need your congregation can support. This workshop will highlight the benefits of aligning your financial contributions with volunteer time, creating a holistic approach to giving back. Discover methods for selecting the right focus area, engaging your congregation, and making a lasting impact through spiritual and congregational growth.



Workshop: Tripp Pavilion



Presenter: Lilly Lewin

Topic: Finding Your Thinplace - Where do you feel God's presence?

Description: Where do you feel God's presence in your life? That's your thinplace! The word thinplace is a Celtic term for a place where the veil between heaven and earth is thin, a place where heaven and earth seem to touch. It's the place where you experience God and feel God's presence most easily. Finding your thinplace means finding how you experience God and feel God's presence. Like Eric Liddell, we'll begin discovering where we feel God's pleasure, and build personal and corporate practices to continue the discovery after the conference and help others to do that too.

Special Thanks

MINISTRY LEADERS

Experiential Prayer Space Coordinator

Lilly Lewin

For almost twenty years, Lilly has worked with churches that run the gamut from seeker to mainline, from megachurch to small traditional, everything from Foursquare Gospel to American Baptist, Presbyterian to Vineyard. Lilly was Director of Spiritual Formation at Christ Church Glendale (Episcopal) in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1998 through 2004. Lilly now leads thinplaceNASHVILLE worship gatherings via Zoom and leads experiential worship workshops and practices online for conferences and church communities.



Water and the Word Chaplain

The Rev. William Parady

The Rev. William Parady serves as transitional Deacon at Christ Episcopal Church in Bradenton, FL, ministering to youth, families, and the community with a compassionate approach shaped by his background in child welfare. Having completed his studies at Nashotah House, he is preparing for ordination to the priesthood with the support of his wife Anya, and their eight children.



Music Ministry:

Liturgical Folk

Melissa and Ryan Flanigan

Melissa and Ryan Flanigan live in Austin, TX with their three children, Lily, Liam, and Noelle. They are both on staff at Resurrection South Austin (EDOT) as parish administrator/neighborhood engagement coordinator (Melissa) and music director (Ryan). Ryan is also the theological artist-in-residence at Baylor University in Waco, TX. The Flanigan family have a music project called Liturgical Folk, which seeks to create beautiful and believable sacred music for church folk and the world. They have released eight albums of new liturgical music (hymns, settings, choruses) since 2017 and have toured extensively. Their music is accessible to all ages and faith stages and is rooted in the inherently joyful sounds of American folk traditions. Melissa earned a BA with an emphasis in Worship Arts from Judson University in Elgin, IL, and Ryan earned a BAS from Dallas Baptist University, an MA from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a CTS from the University of Oxford. Listen to Liturgical Folk's music at <https://www.liturgicalfolk.com/music>.



Water and the Word Resources

LEARN MORE! Take the spirit with you!
Materials and continuing education from the conference can be found at www.waterandtheword.org.

Sign up for Bishop Scharf's blog and get notifications about future events.



LISTEN MORE! Immerse yourself in the sounds of the spirit with the music of Liturgical Folk.

- Liturgical Folk: liturgicalfolk.com
- Music: liturgicalfolk.com/music
 - *Three Gifts*
 - *Matins & Vespers*
 - *Psalm Settings*
 - *Lent & Advent*
 - *Crumbs & Table Settings*

PRAY MORE! Practice the Daily Office anywhere with Venite App, a prayer app rooted in the Anglican tradition of the Episcopal Church.

Download the Venite.app for Morning Prayer at <https://www.venite.app>





Water and the *Word*
Conference