

Toolkit

HELPING YOU CARE FOR YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS | ISSUE 3, 2026



THE QUILT THAT ALSO CLEANS THE WATER

There is a quilt floating in the middle of a pond in Iowa – and that’s no accident. According to Arts Midwest, the quilt is an art installation – an 18-by-18-foot sculpture made from dozens of reclaimed plastic fragments – named “It’s in the Water.” **Its components include nitrate filters, which were developed at nearby Drake University.** The artwork was planned and assembled by two professors at the university who work together as Parts Per Million Collective. They hope the art installation brings attention to **the hundreds of segments of rivers, lakes or wetlands considered “impaired” and in need of cleanup** by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

FAITH IS IMPORTANT TO A COUNTRY’S ECONOMIC GROWTH

Religion continues to be a major influence in Europe despite the continent’s decrease in church attendance because **it is embedded in its values, especially those to do with the economy**, according to the Rockwool Foundation, a think tank based in Germany. The research shows that religion plays a far greater role in economic growth and prosperity than many people realize, **affecting key economic behavior, like education, family size and savings.** The report’s authors say policymakers don’t need to endorse religious doctrine, but they need to understand how the moral worlds in which people live affect the choices they make about their lifestyles.

A 639-YEAR CONCERT

An organ sits in a medieval church in Germany. **Since Sept. 5, 2001, it’s been playing a concert that’s projected to finish in the year 2640**, writes Euronews. The piece, titled “ORGAN2/ASLSP (As SLOW as Possible),” was written by the avant-garde U.S. composer John Cage. He never specified how long the piece should be played, **instead leaving a note directing it to be played “as slowly and softly as possible.”** The John Cage Organ Project took the note seriously, installing an electric-powered blower system sending wind to the organ to create a continuous sound. Chord changes occur every year or so, with the next change set to happen Oct. 5, 2027.



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LEAVE IT TO BEAVER(S)

A borough in West London used to flood regularly during heavy rainstorms, with water often flowing down local streets and into a nearby tube station. According to CNN, local authorities consulted with engineers and other experts, and concluded that **they wanted to try a more nature-based solution:**

Reintroducing beavers. Beavers went extinct in the U.K. 400 years ago, but are being reintroduced to the country in recent years because of their ability to provide natural flood control. If reintroduced carefully, beavers can also **help reintroduce other animals native to the area and can provide protection against droughts and wildfires.**



DIVINITY SCHOOL LAUNCHES DOCTORATE FOCUSED ON AI AND MORAL AGENCY

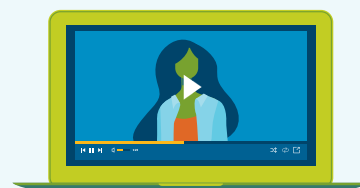
As the development of artificial intelligence brings more questions than answers, a new doctoral program at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, North Carolina, **aims to prepare leaders to help organizations and institutions navigate the rapidly changing environment with theological and ethical grounding**, writes In Trust Magazine. This is Shaw University's first doctoral degree in the college's 160-year history, and it's the first of its kind offered by a historically Black college or university. The curriculum will include AI literacy, theological ethics, moral reasoning and ethical leadership, **with the goal of preparing leaders who can assess emerging technologies and guide groups toward responsible uses of AI.**

FIRST FREEZE-DRIED PLASMA APPROVED

A new freeze-dried plasma product might improve accessibility for adults in need of transfusion. MedPage Today reports that the FDA has licensed Ezplaz, which unlike conventional frozen plasma, **can be stored at room temperature, is stable after exposure to temperature fluctuations and is rapidly reconstituted.** It's also packaged in a plastic bag, rather than a glass bottle, which reduces risks of it breaking during handling and transportation. It is currently available for type AB and type A, as well as some anti-B blood types. The FDA has touted freeze-dried plasma for **its accessibility in disasters, rural settings or other austere environments.**

YOUR FINANCES, MADE CLEAR

Money can feel complicated, but when explained clearly, confidence follows. **Made Clear is an Everence webinar series where financial topics** – like investing basics, retirement planning and life insurance – are explained plainly by an expert, with space for questions. Three upcoming webinars in October, November and December will cover the basics of financial planning, fraud prevention and charitable tools. Additionally, **you can visit our on-demand webinar library to learn about topics of interest in your own time.** To watch the videos and sign up for upcoming live sessions, visit us at everence.com/made-clear.



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