

The Franciscan



Summer 2025

• **Diocesan Bishop •**
The Rt Rev John Taylor

• **Our Vicar •**
The Rev. Sarah Kitch
stfrancis.simi@gmail.com

• **The Bishop's Committee •**

• *Bishop's Warden*
Amy Brown

• *Junior Warden*
Dan McCarty

• *Finance*
Sam Anusiem

• *Clerk*
Cathy Grimes

• *Communications*

• *Pastoral Care*
Tracy Hurst

• *Fellowship*
Kerri-Jo Hansen

• *Service/Outreach*
Gerri Harrington

• *Worship*
Chris McCarty

From Our Vicar...

*Ever-present God,
You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.
We are not where we started.
We have not reached our destination.
We are not sure where we are or who we are.
This is not a comfortable place.
Be among us, we pray.*

Read on page 2

Jazz
on the Patio



FREE LIVE MUSIC!!

Bring Your Picnic
Fourth Sunday of
the month 6PM



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From Our Vicar...

A Prayer for Transition

From Women's Uncommon Prayers

*Ever-present God,
You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.
We are not where we started.
We have not reached our destination.
We are not sure where we are or who we are.
This is not a comfortable place.
Be among us, we pray.
Calm our fears, save us from discouragement,
And help us to stay on course.
Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey to this
Unknown place continues as a journey of trust.
Amen.*

The Reverend Canon Kristi Philip

My friends, I often think of transitions as a road that we are walking on with milestone markers along the way. In the Hebrew Bible, God told the Israelites to build Ebenezers to mark the path. These were piles of stones along the way that would remind the people where they had traveled and God's faithfulness along the way. It was a sign of God's presence with them, even if the road ahead seemed uncertain. It also reminded the people they were never without God with them.

God is with St Francis. That is never in doubt. The love of God and the community of faith is strong and visible. The welcoming warmth and open extended arms of the congregation is very tangible!!! That goes on when we are in transition and walking on the road that may "feel" a little uncertain.

I bless the strength of this fellowship of Jesus followers, Love Spreading Difference Makers. The Holy Spirit is leading St Francis to a new place where there are opportunities and possibilities to be developed and realized. May you love each other well and remember how beloved you are in the Kin-dom Work.



Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141, via email stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
 - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.

Secure online giving available through PayPal:

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

SAVE THE DATES FOR SUMMER:

Rev. Karen James begins at St Francis – July 20th

Summer Jazz on the Patio – 6 pm - 4th Sunday of the Month; June, July & August

Music Festival – 6 pm - September 24, 2025 Details to come...

A note from the Bishop's Committee...

Dear St. Francis family,

The next few weeks may seem a little sad, and perhaps we will be feeling a little unsure of how things will go here at our home with Sarah's departure to a new church. Our celebration of her new calling will occur on her last Sunday with us, June 1st. We will have a memorable church service, followed by brunch with music, wonderful food, and a chance to share some time with Sarah and David before they depart. Yes, we are not just losing Sarah but also David (they go together!). David has provided such wonderful insights into Christ's teaching and has shared so much with us from the lectern to the after-service bible studies.

During the month of June, we are blessed to be led in prayer by the Rev. Brainerd Dharmaraj, who is well known at St. Francis and will be joyfully received. Brainerd and Esther will be here June 8, 15, 22, and 29th. In July we will have pulpit supply for the first two weeks.

We have been most fortunate in the placement of the Rev. Karen James as our new priest-in-charge, beginning Sunday, July 20th. The Diocese of Los Angeles began working with us in April to help with Sarah's transition and placement of a new priest. Other churches have waited more than a year to fill a priest-in-charge position, so that is why we are feeling God's loving hand to bring us such a kind and qualified priest so quickly.

Please join with us on July 20th to welcome the Rev. Karen James. Coffee hour will follow the service and allow us to get to know Reverend Karen.

We know that change is hard, and Sarah is a hard act to follow! But we feel that a new future has been set with a new leader, and we will answer God's call – in the affirmative and the sure understanding that it is God that is guiding us, always.

Blessings to you all,

The St. Francis Bishop's Committee

*Amy Brown, Sam Anusiem, Dan McCarty, Chris Mc Carty, Tracy Hurst, Cathy Grimes,
Gerri Harrington, Kerri-Jo Hansen*

Rev. Sarah and David Kitch 'Thank You' as their journey continues

Rev. Sarah and Chaplain David Kitch are about to take their colorful and rewarding lives to a new destination . . . the bucolic Oregon coastal city of Seaside.

Their journey together started 45 years ago June 21. They had found each other and fell in love when they each joined the faith-based international professional theater ministry Covenant Players.

Sarah came naturally to theater. Her father was one of the first producers for CBS, introducing people to television when it was just new. Her mother was a Broadway and radio actress, known particularly for her extensive career as the lead in the radio drama "The Romance of Helen Trent." After studying theater at Syracuse University, Sarah joined Covenant Players. David's background of being raised in a military family accustomed him to moving about, and his theater background in both dance and performance prepared him well for the Covenant Players.

During their time with the Players, they spent years based in Australia, and later in Germany. Their work took them to some 30 countries, including Brazil, China, Japan, India, South Africa, Guatemala, throughout Europe, and all 50 of the United States. They performed for audiences in the armed forces, hospitals, schools, retirement homes, churches, correctional facilities, and social service agencies. Their touring lifestyle took them from city to city, town to town, performing weekly for as many people as possible. The theater work finished, they knew they were both too young to retire.

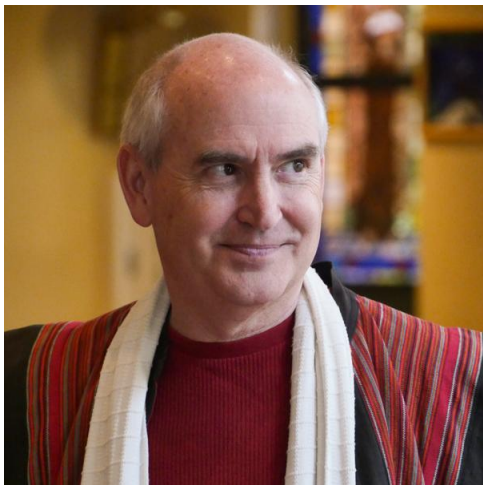


Sarah and David had grown up in the Episcopal Church and both had an appreciation of liturgy and creative worship. As such, through a circuitous string of connections and events they encountered St. Francis and then vicar Rev. Steve Dean. It was Father Steve who ventured the question to Sarah if she had ever thought of Seminary. It was a bit of a gamble since Sarah had not been in school for some 40 years.

With David's encouragement, Sarah applied to Bloy House, the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont. She earned her first degree as a Vocational Deacon in 2010 and then served St. Francis alongside Father Steve for almost five years. It was during this time that the question of a call to the Priesthood became evident. Sarah returned to Seminary, finishing her degree and getting her Master of Divinity in 2015. She was Ordained in April as a Priest and called to serve St. Francis in May.



David also completed his Master of Divinity in 2015 and went on to be a school chaplain. David served St. Martin's in the Field Episcopal School in Winnetka for six years, before moving to The Gooden School in Sierra Madre, where he is now entering his seventh year as chaplain and educator. David is a licensed lay preacher and catechist in the Diocese of Los Angeles, and was part of the founding team of the Center for Lay Chaplaincy.



St. Francis became Sarah's church home in 2006. Members of the congregation became her discernment committee as she sought to become a Deacon.

"There are so many memories and precious relationships that David and I share from our journey with the St. Francis community," Sarah says.

"What a blessing to see the communal effort to develop the drought-tolerant landscaping -- appreciating the beauty and saving on water. What a joy to see the grounds cultivated to more of a contemplative space, with work on the labyrinth, and developing a water feature. The delight and laughter of reaching into the community to start 'Jazz on the Patio' and to bring in great musicians -- originally from CSUN through our beloved Derek Silbermann, and since from a myriad of contacts until with Chris and Dan McCarty today.





“It has been a particular privilege to develop creative liturgy for each season that allows the congregation to enter expressive worship and praise. And such diversity! Starting drum circles, line dancing, and hilarious spontaneous antics to share in fellowship and community (think Mardi Gras!). And not to forget the calendar of events, from the Blessing of the Animals (and the prayers for a tarantula), to Advent Vespers, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost windchimes.

“St. Francis has grown in strength and heart for God, and God’s Kin-dom work. The involvement with the Baby Closet, the Samaritan Center, Hillsides, the outreach to the community, the Daughters of the King, the ECW, Sunday’s hospitality after service, the music ministry, to name just a few communal activities. The people of St. Francis are agents of God’s Love and WELCOME to all!

“It has been a deep joy to have served St Francis, and to be a part of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit that will continue long after we are gone. We are changed because of the love of the people at St Francis, and all we have shared together. St. Francis will continue to love each other well, serve one another and others, and proclaim the Gospel – in God’s beautiful broken world.”



Sarah and David would raise a glass to each and every one of you and simply say, “Go



for It!!! Proclaim the Good News of God’s love through Jesus Christ – and know how deeply beloved you are. For you are and always will be, BELOVED.”

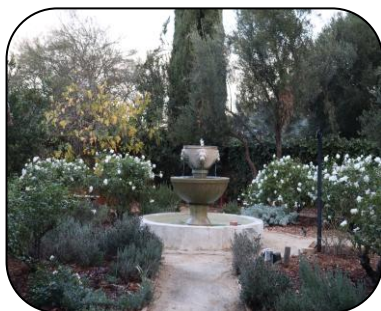
And, we the St. Francis family, would raise a glass to Sarah and David and say, “Thank you and Godspeed on your next adventure.

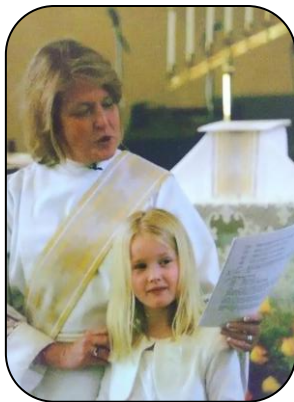
We will miss you but know you will take with you our love and wishes for incredible success in your new home.”



Autumnal Equinox

Celebrating the transition of the season





June / July 2025 Schedule for Holy Ministry

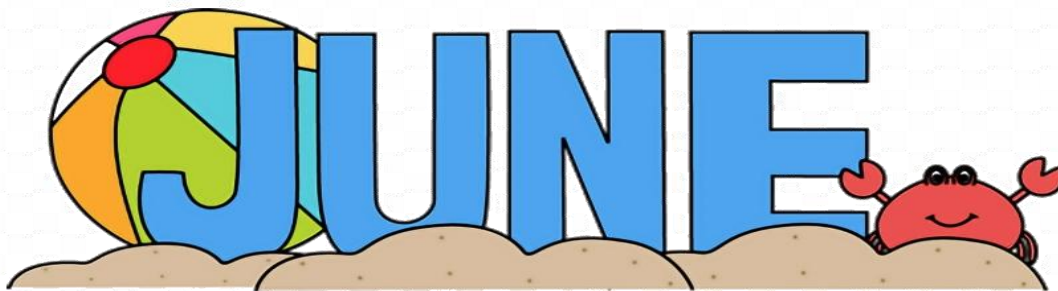
	June 29	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Susan S	Gerri H.	Eden S.	Madeline C.	Peggy S
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.
LEM	Kerri-Jo H.	Lisa N.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Craig A.
Usher / Greeter	Joe Z.	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.	Andrew	Ted W.
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Gerri H.
Preaching	Fr Brainerd	Rev Robin Kassabian	Rev Susan Klein	Rev Karen	Rev Karen

August 2025 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Susan S.	Eden S.	Madeline C	Peggy S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Kerri-Jo H.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	
LEM	Lisa N.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	
Usher / Greeter	Joe Z.	Reuben A.	Andrew	Ted W.	
Altar Guild	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	
Preaching	Rev Karen	Rev Karen	Rev Karen	Rev Karen	

Thank you for Serving!

Please note the above schedule is subject to change. Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on the date(s) you've been scheduled.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Sarah's Sending 6:30 Men's AA PH	2 8 pm Men's AA	3 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	4 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	5 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	6 8 pm AA PH	7
8 Rev Brainerd Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music DOK MTG 6:30 Men's AA PH	9 8 pm Men's AA	10 6:30 BOOK CLUB MTG@ The McCarty's home PRIVATE EVENT 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	11 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	12 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 PRIVATE EVENT 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	13 PRIVATE EVENT ECW mtg in the Sunday school room 8 pm AA PH	14 Private Event
15 Rev Brainerd Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music ECW ROOT BEER FLOATS FATHERS DAY 6:30 Men's AA PH	16 8 pm Men's AA	17 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	18 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	19 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	20 PRIVATE EVENT 6:30 PM Summer Solstice Meditation with Sikh – Clare Room 8 pm AA PH	21 Private Event
22 Rev Brainerd Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Bishop's Committee MTG Jazz on the Patio 6:30 Men's AA PH	23 8 pm Men's AA	24 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	25 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	26 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	27 8 pm AA PH	28
29 Rev Brainerd Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	30 8 pm Men's AA					

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	2 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	3 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	4 No ECW Meeting 8 pm AA PH	5 
6 Rev Robin Kassabian Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music ECW Hamburger Fundraiser NO DOK MTG 6:30 Men's AA PH	7 Samaritan Dinner 8 pm Men's AA	8 6:30 BOOK CLUB MTG@ The McCarty's home 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	9 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	10 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	11 8 pm AA PH	12
13 Rev Susan Klein Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	14 8 pm Men's AA	15 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	16 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	17 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	18 Private Event 8 pm AA PH	19 Private Event
20 Rev Karen James Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	21 8 pm Men's AA	22 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	23 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	24 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	25 8 pm AA PH	26
27 Rev Karen James Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Jazz on the Patio 6:30 Men's AA PH	28 8 pm Men's AA	29 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	30 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	31 Baby Closet 10:30-12:00 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm		

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Phone 805.526.5141
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TO:



Join Us:

- ◆ Sunday: 10:15 am Service
- ◆ Wednesdays:
10 am Healing Service

