



The Franciscan



May 2023

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

John Harvey 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/ Communications*
Cathy Grimes
- *Service/Outreach*
Gerri Harrington
- *Pastoral Care*
Tracy Hurst
- *Worship*
Chris McCarty

From Our Vicar

"Where are we seeing God alive in our midst? Hopefully it is in a shared community with friends and family – and family means church family as well! Please come and share with us the joy of our events and outreach. Join us for Sunday worship anytime, walk the Labyrinth, sit in the Rose Garden, be a part of our Healing Service, find a place here at St Francis that is a part of all that God is doing because God is alive!!!"

... read article on pg. 2

MUSIC FESTIVAL

MAY 28, 2023 6 PM

STFRANCISCHURCHOFSTIMI.ORG

Sunday May 28th at 6:00PM on the beautiful St Francis Patio: We welcome the MadHatters for a return visit! Tickets \$20 at the door covering the cost of food and drinks. Famous Taco bar and LIVE MUSIC. You won't want to miss it.



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From Our Vicar...

APPREHEND GOD IN ALL THINGS,
FOR GOD IS IN ALL THINGS.
EVERY SINGLE CREATURE IS FULL OF GOD,
AND IS A BOOK ABOUT GOD.
EVERY CREATURE IS A WORD OF GOD.
IF I SPENT ENOUGH TIME WITH THE TINIEST CREATURE,
EVEN A CATERPILLAR, I WOULD NEVER HAVE TO PREPARE A SERMON.
SO FULL OF GOD IS EVERY CREATURE.
—MEISTER ECKHART

We are in Eastertide! A wonderful time to apprehend all of God's presence around us, alive in Christ's Resurrection and present in the world! We celebrate that we are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song as we see Christ in all things. It is the glorious indwelling of Spring around

us with the day's light longer, the birds singing, the butterflies, and creatures alive in this season.

It is the aliveness in our hearts. The Resurrection song that belongs to all is that God is Alive! That means that indeed, in every situation, big and small, God is with us. We are deeply loved and given God's Self with us that we may know we are never alone. Not only are we not alone, but we are invited into partnership with God for all that God is doing. We are called into relationship with Divine Love to illuminate that Love!!!!

It's not a one-time thing. We celebrate Easter and then it's back to everyday, ho-hum, ordinary life. If Easter means anything to us, then we walk into our everyday existence with the reality that God is alive. Even in the most untenable of circumstances. God is with us. That is what Easter is all about. Even when it feels most void of the reality of the presence of God. We are living in the truth that this day, this moment, this life matters and is important. We are a part of something that is very significant in the world. The world needs us, our light, our love, our presence in it.

Because of the Resurrection. And Easter reality of the living God.

Where are we seeing God alive in our midst? Hopefully it is in a shared community with friends and family – and family means church family as well! Please come and share with us the joy of our events and outreach. Join us for Sunday worship anytime, walk the Labyrinth, sit in the Rose Garden, be a part of our Healing Service, find a place here at St Francis that is a part of all that God is doing because God is alive!!!

Blessings to us all as we live into the Resurrection Life together!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah' with a small flourish at the end.

My friends, even as we celebrate the reality of the Resurrection of Easter, so we now enter and embrace the presence of God with us in the Holy Spirit through Pentecost.

If you ever wondered how much God loved you and longed for relationship with you, consider God sought to be as visible as possible, not just one way, but three. As well, at the last, God promised never to leave us, and the Holy Spirit is the presence of the love of God with us and within us as we believe. Therefore, this day is a new awakening that is possible for us as we are alive today.

The fact is that resurrection and renewal are part of the “observable pattern” we see in Creation. We proclaim Spring is here. We see the renewal of flowers and tree, bird and animals, sun, wind and stars. We take part in the various changes of weather and welcome the freshness that comes as winter’s pall of cold changes to summer’s light of warmth. We experience resurrection and renewal all around us.

So too, we experience the gift of the Holy Spirit if we open ourselves to the embrace of God’s presence with us. The kindness of a friend or stranger extended unbidden but timely. The support or help from others in times of need. Even laughter and mirth shared with others in the release of life’s joy and delight. The stirrings of the Spirit within as a thought about someone might come for us to call, to write a note or card, to visit or to pray. The Holy Spirit, the presence of God’s love around us, that we are beloved.

Pentecost was such an event for the people and the new, developing church was empowered by the Spirit to see a new thing realized. So too, at St Francis we are alive. Walk with us as we join others for the *Labyrinth Walk on May 6*. Celebrate our lives together through sharing a *Spring tea on the patio on May 20th*. Share a journey together as we listen to our speaker tell us about the Camino.

Join one another as we meet on *May 28th* to lean into song and joy as the *MadHatters kick off our Music Festival event* leading into the summer of *Jazz on the Patio concerts*.

Let yourself be stirred for the Spirit to empower you in love, as God calls us forth to live. We are alive in worship and fellowship with one another. *Pentecost on May 28th* is a great way to enter into newness and awakening as we meet for *worship with a Baptism!*

Wherever you may find yourself, may you know that **St Francis welcomes you and blesses you as part of our community.**



EASTER PHOTOS:

Thank you Ewing Family for sharing these moments with us from this Year's Easter service attended by over 110 members of the St Francis community. Following service the kids enjoyed the bounce house, cotton candy machine and the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you to Amy Brown in her work coordinating the Hunt, ECW for filling the 336 eggs, and many thanks to all those who donated to the flower fund and provided Easter Lilies for the altar. Special Thanks to Melody for running our Livestream. Thank you, Gerri Harrington for all your help. A great many of hands made this day incredibly special.



Thank you!
St Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church Choir







Easter 2023
 Easter Brunch
 Egg Hunt
 Bounce House
 And Cotton Candy!



The Resurrection of All Things

By Richard Rohr

I want to enlarge your view of resurrection from a one-time miracle in the life of Jesus that asks for assent and belief, to a pattern of creation that has always been true, and that invites us to much more than belief in a miracle. It must be more than the private victory of one man to prove that he is God.

Resurrection and renewal are, in fact, the universal and observable pattern of everything. We might just as well use non-religious terms like “springtime,” “regeneration,” “healing,” “forgiveness,” “life cycles,” “darkness,” and “light.” If incarnation is real, and Spirit has inhabited matter from the beginning, then resurrection in multitudinous forms is to be fully expected.

The Christ Mystery anoints all physical matter with eternal purpose from the very beginning. We should not be surprised that the word we translate from the Greek as *Christ* comes from the Hebrew word *mashiach*, which means “the anointed one,” or Messiah. Jesus the Christ reveals that all is anointed!

If the universe is anointed or “Christened” from its very beginning, then of course it can never die forever.

Resurrection is just incarnation taken to its logical conclusion.

If God inhabits matter, then we can naturally believe in the “resurrection” of the body.

Resurrection is presented by Paul as the general principle of all reality (see 1 Corinthians 15:13). He does not argue from a one-time anomaly and then ask us to believe in this Jesus “miracle.” Instead, Paul names the cosmic pattern, and then says in many places that the “Spirit carried in our hearts” is the icon, the guarantee, the pledge, and the promise, or even the “down payment” of that universal message (see 2 Corinthians 1:21–22; Ephesians 1:14).

One reason we can trust Jesus’ resurrection is that we can already see resurrection happening everywhere else. Nothing is the same forever, states modern science. Geologists with good evidence can prove that no landscape is permanent over millennia. Water, fog, steam, and ice are all the same thing, but at different stages and temperatures. “Resurrection” is another word for change, but particularly positive change—which we tend to see only in the long run. Science is now giving us a very helpful language for what religion rightly intuited and imaged. Jesus’ first incarnate life, his passing over into death, and his resurrection into the ongoing Christ life is the archetypal model for the entire pattern of creation. He is the microcosm for the whole cosmos, or the map of the whole journey.

THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE:

Every year at the Annual Meeting, opportunity is offered to participate in the oversight of the church through the work of the Bishop's Committee. St Francis of Assisi is a Mission Church, not a Parish, and as such is always responsible to the Diocese of Los Angeles for the Episcopal Church. It is a Mission and does not have autonomy from the bishop's oversight. So, we have a Bishop's Committee, which is responsible for annually reporting to the bishop the ministry of the previous year. That is why we also have Annual Meetings that we are accountable to the bishop for the work of St. Francis. On the Bishop's Committee, oversight of our finances, the worship, pastoral care, ministry opportunities and outreach, Christian education, and other aspects of church life is represented. It is a shared experience of community to bless and care for our beloved St Francis.

We welcome Tracy Hurst (Pastoral Care) and Chris McCarty (Worship) as they join the Bishop's Committee this year to serve alongside Amy Brown (Warden), Dan McCarty (Jr Warden), Sam Anusiem (Finance), Cathy Grimes (Clerk/Communications), and Gerri Harrington (Outreach) and see that St Francis continues to be a bright light in Simi Valley. Blessings on you and your individual ministries everywhere you serve.

Stay Connected With Us!

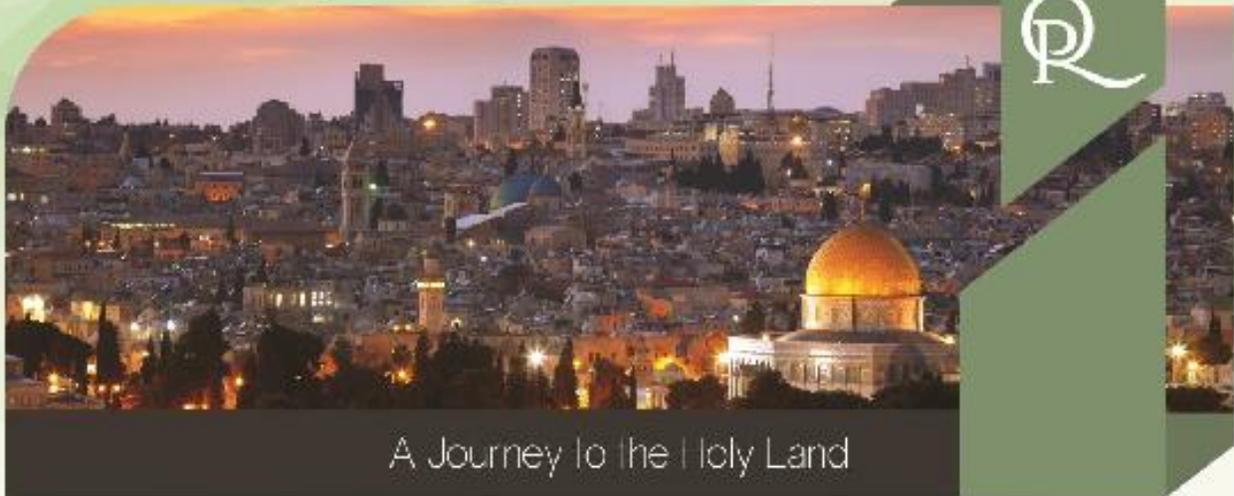
- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
 - Stay connected through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

QUMRI PILGRIMAGES LTD.



St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church – Simi Valley, CA
A Journey to The Holy Land

Led by The Reverend Sarah Kitch
Local Guide Canon Iyad Qumri & Rami Qumri
12-Days: June 26 - July 8, 2024

Leaving the United States on Wednesday, June 26.
Thus, arriving at Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on Thursday, June 27.
Departure flight from Ben Gurion will be in the afternoon / evening Monday, July 8.

June 27- Jul 2 Saint George's Guest House
Jul 2-5 Sisters of Nazareth
Jul 5-8 Saint George's Guest House

Cost is **\$2850.00** per person based on double occupancy, (add **\$560.00** for a single)
Cost includes all land accommodations, bus transportation, breakfast/lunch/dinner, tour guide, most tips, etc. Airfare is not included.

As of Jan 2023, non-stop airfare is approx. **\$1400.00**/person, round trip, economy.

A deposit of \$500.00 per person will be collected in or around June of 2023.

Friends and family are welcome.

Please speak with Rev. Sarah about the physical demands of this tour.
A clipboard will be located at the front of the church, to collect names of those interested, or you can email questions/interest to Rev. Sarah.

An Information Meeting will be held May 21st following Church Services to answer any questions and deliver pertinent information. This meeting is open to all who have interest in the Holy Land trip whether you have signed up or not.

Come and join us on the patio as we share Tea and Sandwiches in celebration of the month of May. We are delighted to have as our guest speaker The Reverend Anne Gardner, who will share with us her experience of walking the Camino. All are welcome. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Bring your friends and loved ones for a casual, lovely light lunch and fellowship on the patio! A recent transplant to southern California, The Reverend Anne Gardner currently runs the chaplaincy program at Harvard-Westlake, a private independent high school in



Los Angeles. Prior to accepting this position, she spent twelve years as the Director of Spiritual and Religious Life at Phillips Andover, a boarding school located just outside of Boston.

A minister and freelance writer, Gardner has recently published her debut book, *And So I Walked* (Adelaide Books, NY/Lisbon). Her work has also appeared in various outlets including NPR, *The Boston Globe*, *The Providence Journal*, and the *National Catholic Reporter*, among others.

On Saturday Reverend Gardner will be offering a reflection on her experience of walking the famed Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile pilgrimage path that extends across the width of northern Spain.

Gardner has written a book about this extraordinary journey, recently published by Adelaide Books (NY/Lisbon), titled *And So I Walked*. The book speaks of both the challenges of completing a long-distance hike as well as the emotional/spiritual undercurrents her time on the trail revealed.

The book will be available for sale and signature (\$20). Cash, check, or VENMO all accepted. For those who would like to read the book prior to the event, it is available on Amazon, B&N, and select independent bookstores.

Parish Prayer Needs:

Healing: Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan and family, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan.

St. Francis Book Club
Anyone who would like to join should contact:
Chris M at 805.276.4971



Amazon Smile ended Feb 28th.
Thank you to all who participated during the partnership between St Francis and Amazon.

*Compassionate friends
know the art of listening
with their ears and heart.*

-Haiku by Diantha Ain



**Line Dancing on the patio
Mondays @ 5:30pm**

**Saturday May 6th –
World Labyrinth Day**

**It's almost here:
Music Festival**



Sunday May 28th @6:00 PM
On the Patio - Live Music: The Mad Hatters
... and Famous Taco Bar! Tickets \$20 at the door.

Walk as One at 1

**Next ECW Meeting will be
Friday May 5th
@ New Time: 5:00 pm.**

On this 15th annual World Labyrinth Day, many will walk a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. local time to help create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe.

Come!

Walk the St Francis Labyrinth at 1:00 PM

Contact Sylvia Moya for more details.

May 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo. H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Peggy S.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	
Usher / Greeter	Joe Z.	Reuben A.	Rebecca S.	Tony F.	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	
Preaching	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	

June 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

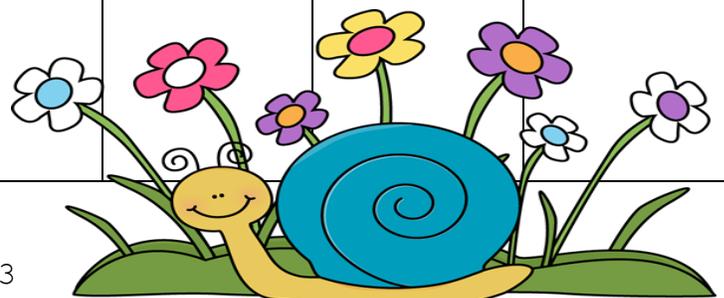
	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Peggy S.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Chrissy B.	Lisa N.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Tracy H.	
Usher / Greeter	Joe Z.	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.	Tony F.	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	
Preaching	Rev Sarah	Rev Sarah	David K	Rev Sarah	

Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!



MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30 Line Dancing 8 pm Men's AA	2 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	3 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	4 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	5 9am Exercise  7 pm AA PH	6 LABYRINTH DAY WALK 1:00 PM
7 Siete De Mayo David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music ECW Nacho Bar Coffee Hour 6:30 Men's AA PH	8 5:30 Line Dancing 8 pm Men's AA	9 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	10 10am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	11 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm WR. HOA	12 9am Exercise 7 pm AA PH	13
14 Mother's Day Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	15 5:30 Line Dancing 8 pm Men's AA	16 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA 8 pm Women AA	17 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	18 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	19 9am Exercise 7 pm AA PH	20 SPRING TEA w/Rev Gardner 11:00 am
21 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Holy Land Meeting 6:30 Men's AA PH	22 Private Event 5:30 Line Dancing 8 pm Men's AA	23 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH 8 pm Women AA	24 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	25 Baby Closet 10-11 Private Event 7 pm NA Clare Rm	26 9am Exercise 7 pm AA PH	27 Private Event
28 PENTECOST Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music & Baptism BC Meeting Music Festival 6PM 6:30 Men's AA PH	29 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	30	31			



The Franciscan

Newsletter – May 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
Phone 805.526.5141
www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

TO:



Sunday Service:
10:15 am
Wednesday Service:
10:00 am Healing

Labyrinth Day May 6 – 1:00pm
Siete De Mayo May 7 – Coffee hour
Mother's Day May 14 – Come!
Spring Tea May 20 – 11:00 am
Holy Land Meeting May 21 – 11:45am
PENTECOST May 28 -10:15am
Music Festival May 28 – 6:00pm