



The Franciscan



November 2023

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

From Our Vicar

...“ I think it is often easy to be grateful when things are going well, and we don't seem to have any dilemma's pending in our life. However, the practice of gratitude is finding thanks in the things that are more challenging, more difficult. We have to pay attention on purpose to see gratitude in those places.”

... read article on pg. 2



Simi Valley Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Celebration 2023

All are welcome to attend this beloved annual community event.

Hosted this year by United Church of Christ,
Simi Valley

WHEN: Tuesday, November 21st at 7 pm

WHERE: UCC Simi Valley

370 Royal Ave, Simi Valley.

Simi Valley faiths come together in this beloved annual event of Unity and Friendship.

Please join us for an evening of music and an Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

Please give thanks by donating to



Publ

Email:

From Our Vicar...

One of my favorite seasons of the year is Thanksgiving. I wonder that we don't take enough time on purpose to be grateful. There are so many books written about the positive effects of gratitude on our brain and for our health. Truly, a heart of gratitude is a heart that is strong.

I think it is often easy to be grateful when things are going well, and we don't seem to have any dilemma's pending in our life. However, the practice of gratitude is finding thanks in the things that are more challenging, more difficult. We have to pay attention on purpose to see gratitude in those places.

Sometimes, I stop and ask God, "Show me how to see this." Or "Help me to know how to think about this." I ask God to give me insight – sight inward – that is beyond my seeing, or my way of thinking. I want to ask God for God's perspective and the Spirit's Grace for me to have a perspective and viewpoint that is bigger than my own.

It is an intention. I ask God for an intention of Gratitude. I am intentional to seek Gratitude. I want and anticipate something opening for me to see bigger, beyond my own finitude.

It is a conscious choice.

It is not incumbent on an outcome. It does not depend on being comfortable, or in a beatific place that lends my eyes to see gratitude.

It is a choice to have gratitude. I choose to be thankful always and everywhere because God is present, and where God is present there is Love. I look for where Love is showing up, where there is mercy, where there is Grace. I see beyond the circumstances and the situation and raise it up to God.

The experience often is something unexpected. There is a mercy that suddenly unfolds before me that I know I can rejoice. There is a grace that is present that I can receive and allow to raise my heart up in song. There is Love actively if I would but accept it.

This month let us lift up our hearts in gratitude. Look for opportunities that are more challenging and be deliberate about giving thanks. Ask God to show where you can see mercy, grace and Love. Let our hearts be glad in thanksgiving for all that God has given to us, all that God is for us, all that God is!

Happy Thanksgiving.



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>

Parish Healing Prayer Needs:

Barbara, Reina, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Scott, 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, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy Pauline.

*In times of trial,
My friends are like a fortress,
Giving me comfort.*

-Haiku by Diantha Ain

ECW – Episcopal Church Women –
Will NOT be meeting in November.
Please contact Sylvia Moya if
interested in joining in service.



Baby Shower Sundays

4th Sunday of the Month

Please bring your diapers, wipes and baby toiletries in support of the Baby Closet on the 4th Sunday of the Month to help support the Baby Closet and their needs.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please speak with Gerri Harrington or Rev. Sarah.

The Baby Closet is open every

Tuesday and Thursday 10 am – 11am

Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.



Being Faithful Stewards

When I look up the definition of Stewardship, it reads:

The job of supervising or taking care of something such as an organization or property; something entrusted to one's care.

As a congregation of St Francis, we are faithful stewards to care for the property and church that has been entrusted to us. Another word for stewardship is protector. We have been entrusted to protect this property, this building, this place. As stewards, we are given the ministry to protect the property for the community to come after us, for those who will worship here after we are long gone.

We are also given the ministry to be faithful to steward the property for the community now, and the outreach we extend for all to come and find peace and find God. Recently one of our recovery groups that meet here weekly had a Saturday retreat. Their words of gratitude and expression of thanksgiving for St Francis were so heartwarming.

"I just wanted you to know our day was AWESOME! We had a great turnout, and everyone loved the atmosphere and vibe the church provided for us. I can't thank you enough. The committee has a donation to the church for being so kind to us and giving us a wonderful place to have our event. Thank you and everyone at St Francis of Assisi."

They gave a donation of \$400.00. They too want us to steward, care for and protect this property to be a welcoming space for all. They feel deeply cared for when they are on the grounds, and deeply appreciate the space for their well-being and recovery journey.

St Francis offers available space for recovery groups, HOA's, homeschooling, retreats, weddings, memorial services, nutritional classes, resourcing the unhoused, and rentals for all occasions.

That's our outreach! As well of course, we extend ourselves through the Baby Closet, the ministry to families through our ECW dinner donations, Jazz on the Patio, Drumming Circles, Taize Services, Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving events, Christmas Vespers and Sing-alongs, Book Club, Healing Services, and the day-to-day presence of St Francis and the Holy Spirit here!

That's what we are stewarding.

As you receive the Stewardship Pledge Card again this year, please remember this is what St Francis is all about. Please seek the Lord for what you can contribute to bless St Francis for this next year and the years to come. Thank you.

A NOVEMBER SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

My friends, November is a month of gratitude and spiritual practices that help us to bless others along the way. This practice is something we can do anywhere, anytime. As you go about your day, say quietly this blessing for those you meet. Notice what happens for you as you do this practice for a day, a week, a month. See if your heart is also fuller for the gratitude you are receiving as you bless others.

One practice invites us to bless strangers quietly, secretly. Offer it to people you notice on the street, in the market, on the bus. "May you be happy. May you be at peace." Feel the blessing move through your body as you offer it. Notice how you both receive some benefit from the blessing. Gently, almost without effort, each and every blessing becomes a Sabbath.

— Wayne Muller in [Sabbath](#) by Wayne Muller

To Practice This Thought:

When you are out and about, silently and secretly bless as many strangers as possible.

Thanksgiving

Thank you for constant rhythms,
For returning cycles,
For mysterious reappearances.

Thank you for running fast and disappearing,
For disappointment too sharp to be held.

Thank you for messages beyond expectation,
For learnings garnered without hope.

Thank you for drifting sunsets and pregnant moon,
For loose shoelaces and soft scents.

Thank you for possibilities tense with tears and laughter.

Thank you for the scratching underneath, revealing the shimmering dark.



-Ms. Carol White
Women's Uncommon Prayers



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Community Thanksgiving Celebration
2023***

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WHERE: UCC Simi Valley
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Please give thanks by donating to

[The Samaritan Center](#)

The Samaritan Center Simi Valley will receive all In-person donations of non perishable food items.



Advent Taíze Services

will begin on November 29th.
Service will be held each
Wednesday of Advent in the
Church at 6:00pm.

**November 29th
December 6th
December 13th
and
December 20th**

What is Taize?

On a hill in southern France, you'll find a community of brothers that has opened its doors to the world as an act of hospitality. There you are invited to pray, to be silent, to be simple, and to be faithful to meet God. There is a melodic holy rhythm to the everyday life. The community gathers to listen. The Scriptures are read and left to speak for itself in silence. Simple songs of prayer over and over calm the mind and open the soul.

This is the community of Taize.

In Advent, we meet each week to gather and pray, to be silent, to be simple, and to be faithful to meet God. We have a simple service that leads us into listening. We listen to the Scriptures, and sit in silence. We sing simple songs of prayer to calm the mind and open the soul.

We invite you this Advent Season to take time out and allow yourself to meet with God.

Each Wednesday night at 6PM in the church a simple setting of a circle of chairs and candles will accompany us as we meet, listen, pray, sing. We enter into quiet space and take time to hear God, for God longs to speak to us.

We hope you'll be there.

Advent Study

after Sunday Service



Weekly during Advent in the back of the church with David Kitch
A time to reflect and dig deeper into the scriptures of the season



St Francis "Hospitality" is an opportunity to spend a few minutes together, after service over a cup of coffee to connect, and say hello.

Want to celebrate an anniversary, birthday or special occasion with your church family?

You're welcome any time.

***Feel free to bring a plate of cookies or fruit, as you wish.
ALL are welcome to attend and ALL are invited to participate.***

Coffee will be on...

November 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	Kerri-Jo H.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Suzanne L.	Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	Suzanne L.
LEM	Lisa N.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	Lisa N.
Usher / Greeter	Reuben A.	Rebecca S.	Ted W.	Joe Z.	Reuben A.
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Cathy G.	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.
Preaching	David K.	Rev Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.

December 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec.24 PM	Dec. 31
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Eden S.	Bernadette	TBD	TBD	Susan S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	TBD	TBD	Gerri H.
LEM	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Tracy H.
Usher / Greeter	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Ted W.	Tony F. Reuben A.	Reuben A.
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.
Preaching	Rev Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	Rev. Sarah	David K.

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

If you have interest in serving in the church, please speak to Rev Sarah or contact the church office.



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	2 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	3 7 pm AA PH	4 Private Event
5 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music ALL SAINTS' Bring your photos for the altar 6:30 Men's AA PH	6 8 pm Men's AA	7 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30pm WomenAA 7 pm AA	8 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	9 Baby Closet 10-11 DIOCESAN CONVENTION 7 pm NA Clare Rm	10 DIOCESAN CONVENTION 7 pm AA PH	11 Private Event DIOCESAN CONVENTION
12 Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	13 8 pm Men's AA	14 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	15 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	16 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	17 7 pm AA PH	18
19 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	20 8 pm Men's AA	21 Baby Closet 10-11 INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING 7:00 PM UCC Church 6:30pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	22 NO Healing Service Church Office Closed 7:30 pm AA PH	23 NO Baby Closet THANKSGIVING DAY 7 pm NA Clare Rm	24 7 pm AA PH	25
26 Rev.Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Baby Shower Sunday 12pm BC Mtg 6:30 Men's AA PH	27 8 pm Men's AA	28 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	29 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm Taize Service 7:30 pm AA PH	30 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm		



Interfaith Thanksgiving – November 21st, 7 pm @ UCC church
Please bring your canned goods and monetary donations
in support of the Samaritan Center



Santa is coming to the Samaritan Center

Holiday Fundraiser

Please join us for hot cocoa,
sweet treats, face painting
and pictures with **Santa**

There will be a **Petting Zoo**

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 10
11:00 AM-3:00 PM**



Pets are welcome!

You will receive a digital copy of your Santa picture via email, monetary donations will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds will help the mission to support people experiencing homelessness in Simi Valley.



The Franciscan

Newsletter – November 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

Interfaith Thanksgiving:
November 21, 2023
7:00 pm
@ UCC Church

