



# The Franciscan



September 2022

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

*John Harvey Taylor*

● **Our Vicar** ●

*The Rev. Sarah Kitch*

[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

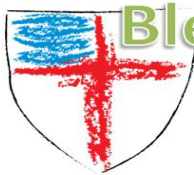
● **The Bishop's Committee** ●

- Bishop's Warden  
Amy Brown
- Junior Warden  
Dan McCarty
- Finance  
Sam Anusiem
- Clerk/ Communications  
Ruth Haskins
- Service/Outreach  
Gerri Harrington
- Fellowship/Outreach  
Cathy Grimes
- Worship
- Pastoral Care

## FROM OUR VICAR

At St Francis we are offering ways to come away for awhile and practice such disciplines. Every Wednesday is our healing service with an opportunity to share in mid-week Eucharist. Sunday is our celebration and feast day to join together in thanksgiving and praise for all God has done! In our community life we offer blessing and gratitude for one another.

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## Blessing of the Animals

Service: October 2, 10:15 AM

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**

280 Royal Ave, Simi Valley

[stfrancischurchofsimi.org](http://stfrancischurchofsimi.org)



**Everyone  
Welcome**

Please bring  
pets in carriers  
or on leashes

**Free  
to all**



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# From Our Vicar..

Suddenly the summer feels as though it is gone and we are in the accelerated beginning of Fall. It is the time of back to school activity, financial reviews and the frenzy of looking towards start ups of programs. I find myself asking, “Where did the Summer go?”

What I’d like to suggest this month is that the sense of equanimity and ease that we take during the Summer months, doesn’t have to be gone in our life. The spiritual practices of contemplation and prayer, lectio divina and silence, offer a practical direction in our lives to keep us centered and grounded, even in the midst of the hurried activity.

At St Francis we are offering ways to come away for awhile and practice such disciplines. Every Wednesday is our healing service with an opportunity to share in mid-week Eucharist. Sunday is our celebration and feast day to join together in thanksgiving and praise for all God has done! In our community life we offer blessing and gratitude for one another.



Finding a balance and centeredness is what our faith promises. Jesus says to us all, “Come to me all you who are weary, and I will give you rest.” In these experiences at St. Francis, we are providing that very shelter to come away and give rest.

May you experience such rest here.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah", with a small cross or flourish at the end.

*Fin and feather, flesh, blood and bone: the earth calls its creatures to leave the familiar, turn again into the unknown; to move steadily and continuously and at great risk toward an invisible goal, expending great energy with the possibility of failure... ~ Marianne Worcester*

Christine Valters Paintner, writes these words about the coming of Autumn and the signs of change and transition.

In Galway, Ireland, where I live, the mighty River Corrib rushes through the city with great vigor, connecting its source, Lough Corrib, with its destination, the great Atlantic Ocean. Each year the salmon here make their own migration, returning to the lake that was their birthplace, traveling from as far away as Canada.

Seattle salmon make a similar journey and the Native peoples have an annual homecoming ceremony for them. In the Skagit Valley, north of Seattle, I have stood on a midwinter's day and witnessed thousands of swans and geese landing in a field, also on their own movement toward an invisible goal. In Alaska are the pods of Humpback whales who feed off the nutrient rich waters all summer and gain sustenance, and then return to warmer seas to give birth in the winter.

Autumn is the time of transition, of the earth's turning, with the balance of light and dark in the northern hemisphere tilting toward the dark season and the invitation to release the excess we carry and rest into growing Mystery. It is a season of initiating these great movements across the globe of birds, fish, and mammals following an instinctual call.

I am taken with the mysteries of migration, the inner knowing that rises up in them to embark on a journey, the impulse to swim and fly across great expanses of earth and sea in search of a feeling of rightness that season.

I think of the ancient desert monks who each knew that one day they would have to leave behind the familiar and venture out into the wilderness to seek a space of radical encounter with God. Or the Irish monks who felt called to a particular kind of journey called *peregrinatio*, which was a pilgrimage for the love of Christ without a destination in mind. The practice was to step into a small boat called a coracle, without oar or rudder, and let the current carry them to the place of their resurrection.

They yielded their own agendas and plans to the current of love, trusting in this deeper wisdom at work in water and wind, on behalf of the One who opens the way before us.

St. Gobnait, one of the early Irish women saints, fled her home to the island of Inisheer, but was told by an angel that this was not her place of resurrection. She was to seek the place of the nine white deers, which led her journey onward to a place she did not know. The place of resurrection is the land where the heart finds its home and soul's deepest dreams come to fruition.

The salmon and whales make the long arduous journey to give birth to the new lives breaking forth in them. The monks wandered in search of wild places that could break apart their own expectations and judgments, to let the new life being offered to them come forth.

In the Book of Isaiah (48:6-7) we read:

*Now I am revealing new things to you, things hidden and unknown to you, created just now, this very moment. Of these things you have heard nothing until now so that you cannot say, Oh yes, I knew this.*

In the Christian contemplative tradition, we are invited to rest more deeply in the Great Mystery, to lay aside our images and symbols, and let the divine current carry us deeper, without knowing where, only to trust the impulse within to follow a longing.

As autumn tilts us toward the season of growing darkness, consider this an invitation to yield to the mystery of your own heart's desires. You do not need a map or agenda, simply a willingness to swim in the waters carrying you back home again.

The monks knew the wisdom of embracing a season of unknowing, to wrest from their grip the idols of certainty and security. As mythologist and storyteller Michael Meade says, "a false sense of security is the only kind there is." Of the new things happening you have known nothing until this moment.

Taking flight requires courage to ascend into the unfamiliar and unknown. And it requires a community of kindred souls who affirm the journey isn't completely crazy and there is more awaiting us beyond the borders of our narrow expectations.

The soul's migration demands the long, slow journey in a holy direction, calling us only to follow the impulse of love.

## **Stay Connected With Us!**

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

**Autumnal Equinox September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**with Drumming Circle –**  
*Celebrating the transition of the seasons.*





# Blessing of the Animals

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**Free  
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## BOOTS ON THE PATIO

*A Country Concert  
& Line Dancing*

**Saturday October 29th // 6 - 8 PM**



**\$20/  
Ticket  
Includes  
Dinner**

280 Royal Avenue, 93065

www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

**Parish Prayer Needs:**

**Healing:** *Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Megan, 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, Kristin, Rob, Pam.*

**St. Francis Book Club**

Anyone who would like to join should contact:  
Chris M at 805.276.4971



Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848) and Amazon donates to **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon.**

*With faith, comes power  
to live life to the fullest,  
to make dreams come true.*  
  
*-Haiku by Diantha Ain*



**Line Dancing Continues Wednesdays  
On the Patio at 5:00 PM**

**BABY CLOSET**

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet -  
The Baby Closet is open this summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-11am.

**Healing Service Continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary.**

All are welcome to attend this casual mid-week service with Eucharist at **10:00 am on Wednesdays.**

They are collecting **DIAPERS SIZE 3,4,5,** and have a Need for **Boys' and Girls' Clothing Sizes 4T-5T,** and a **HUGE Continual Need for Baby Wipes.**

**Baby Closet Supply Donations**

Bring your baby closet donations to the Blessing of the Animals service as we celebrate the Feast of St Francis.

Most Needed Items are larger size diapers, wipes and baby toiletries: powder, shampoo.



Special Thanks to all the Musical Talents that performed during the Jazz on the Patio Series this summer!

Paul Kellogg in June  
Mad Hatters in July  
&  
Claire Holley in August

All concerts were well attended and much appreciated.

If you were unable to attend, catch Claire Holley at the Harvest Festival: Boots on the Patio October 29<sup>th</sup> and look for the Jazz on the Patio series to return again next year with kick-off in June 2023!





# September 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

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

# October 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30
<b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>	N/A	Eden S.	Bernadette	Gerri H.	Susan S.
<b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b>	N/A	Reuben A.	Kerri-Jo H.	Peggy S.	Tony F.
<b>LEM</b>	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Lisa N.	Tracy H.
<b>Usher / Greeter</b>	Reuben A. Tony F.	Rebecca S.	Tony F.	Joe Z.	Reuben A.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	Chris M.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.
<b>Preaching</b>	Rev. Sarah	David K.	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!*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Baby Closet 10-11	<b>2</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>5 Labor Day</b>  Office Closed  4:00-5:00PM Samaritan Dinner 8 pm Men's AA	<b>6</b>  Baby Closet Closed  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>7</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  5pm Line Dancing 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>8</b>  Baby Closet 10-11	<b>9</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>12</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>13</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>14</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  5pm Line Dancing 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>15</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6 pm H.H. HOA	<b>16</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>19</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>20</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>21</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  5pm Line Dancing 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>22</b> Baby Closet 10-11  <b>AUTUMNAL EQUINOX Drumming circle 6PM</b>  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  Bishop's Committee Meeting  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>26</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>27</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	<b>28</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  5pm Line Dancing 7:30 pm AA PH	<b>29</b>  Baby Closet 10-11	<b>30</b>  8 pm AA PH	

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## Newsletter – SEPTEMBER 2022

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

**TO:**



**Pack your picnic baskets!  
Grab the kids!  
OCTOBER 2, 2022  
12PM - 4PM  
Santa Susana Park  
6503 Katherine Road  
Simi Valley**

Scan the QR code for registration and more details!  
<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/simi-church-Sunday-picnic>

**ARE YOU A CHURCH MEMBER IN SIMI VALLEY?\***

**COME FELLOWSHIP!**  
**LIMITED FOOD AVAILABLE**



**Sunday Service:**  
10:15 am

**Wednesday Service:**  
10:00 am Healing

**Blessing of the Animals:**  
10:15am 10/2/22 on the Patio