

**MARCH 2023**

# *Franciscan*

*a monthly publication of  
St. Francis Episcopal Church*



*“Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.” (Preface to the Confession of Sin, Book of Common Prayer, pg. 79).*

Dear Friends,

The above citation is one of the most succinct and inclusive statements in the Book of Common Prayer as to *why* we come together to worship. It was a statement heard in Episcopal and Anglican worship every Sunday from 1552 in England up through 1928 in the United States.

Most of us probably came into the Episcopal Church during the introduction and final release of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (1970-1979). The 1979 Prayer Book makes explicit what had been implicit in previous versions of the American Prayer Book, “The Holy Eucharist, the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day and other major Feasts, and Daily Morning and Evening Prayer, as set forth in this Book, are the regular services appointed for public worship in this Church” (BCP pg. 13). Before the 1970s, and for most of the history of the Episcopal Church, the primary act of worship for many Episcopalians on Sundays was Morning Prayer, led by either a Priest or a Lay Reader, with the Eucharist celebrated as the main service on a monthly basis. After 50 years, we have become accustomed to receiving the Eucharist on a weekly basis.

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*“A Publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church—“Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed.”*

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That pattern of weekly Sunday Eucharist is changing throughout the Episcopal Church today for a number of reasons. [Remember that only a priest or bishop can celebrate the Holy Eucharist in our Church]. Chief among those reasons:

- 1) There are fewer active priests available to serve every congregation. Bishop Wayne Smith reminds us that the Episcopal Church is ordaining about 200 fewer priests each year than are retiring on an annual basis.
- 2) Full time priests can retire with full benefits after 30 years of service. That means that a priest who was ordained at age 30 can retire with full benefits at age 60.
- 3) Fewer retired priests are willing or able to do regular Sunday Supply for congregations. When I first “retired” (yes, I am officially a retired priest), the list of priests in the Diocese who were willing to take Sunday services was about two pages long. It is now half of a page.
- 4) The cost to a congregation for a full time priest STARTS at about \$100,000/year. By way of comparison, our Annual Budget projects an annual income of about \$75,000.

More and more congregations in our Diocese face the same issues listed above.

So what are we to do? The Vestry and I are being proactive at looking ahead at options – both short term and long term – that address these issues. One of those options is to train and schedule Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to lead Morning Prayer for those Sundays when we cannot schedule a Sunday Supply Priest (at a minimum of \$150.00 plus mileage for one service).

I am very pleased to inform you that we now have TWO Lay Worship Leaders who have concluded their training and will be licensed shortly to lead in Morning Prayer: Stephan Graham and Jeff Baldrige. If you are interested in joining these two persons as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, please contact me and I will get you started on the required Diocesan training.

Change is painful, particularly when it is change that we have had no voice in implementing. Please add your voice to the discussions about the future of St. Francis.

Your Brother in Christ,  
David

# MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>2</b> Alanon 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>4</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am</b>	<b>6</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>7</b> Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>8</b> <b><u>NO</u> Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>9</b> Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>11</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am</b>  <b>Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm</b>	<b>13</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>14</b> Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> <b>Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>16</b> Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>18</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am</b>	<b>20</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>21</b> Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>22</b> <b>Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>23</b> Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>24</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>25</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am</b>  <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am</b>	<b>27</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>28</b> Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	<b>29</b> <b>Bible Study 10:30 am</b>  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	<b>30</b> Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>31</b> Jazzercise 4:45 pm	

# March Birthdays



Elizabeth Hoobler on March 7

Kimberly Patti on March 17

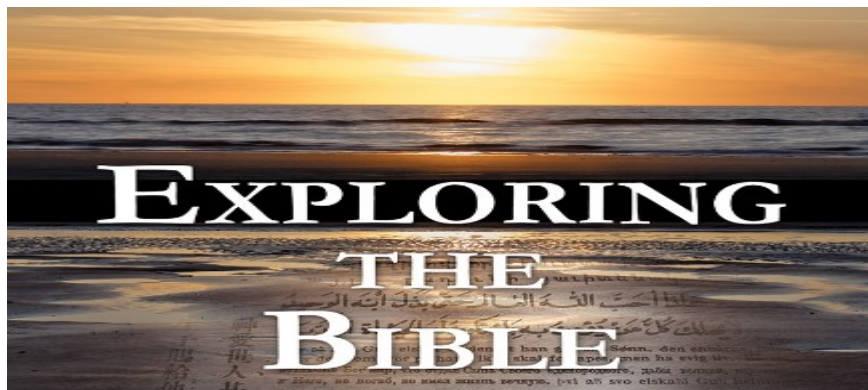
Jacqui Parker on March 18

Teena Baldrige on March 23

Diana Graham on March 30



***If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.***



The Salon Series will continue to meet in the library, starting at 9:00 am and ending at 10:00 am SHARP.

No previous knowledge of the Gospel is necessary, but it will be helpful to bring your Bible to our discussions.

## Let us Pray

We have been called to prayer this Lent. Especially we are called to pray for your church, St. Francis Episcopal.

Looking ahead, where do we go from here? Most importantly, what does God want for us as a worshipping community. We are called to listen to what our Lord is saying to us. Listen to what HE is saying.

Father David has asked us to pray and has offered the following prayer help for us: "Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. Amen."

We must also remind ourselves that Lent is a time of self examination and repentance. Nothing is greater help to me personally in hearing what Jesus is saying to me than the Prayer of Saint Francis: "Lord, make us ambassadors of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."

May we have a Blessed Lent! ~ Mary Martin, Parish Health Ministry

### How About Helping with Church Maintenance?

**Maintenance days will be back in April!**

David Culp is inviting people to come and help out around the church building. Maintenance days will be on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to Noon.

There are several projects that need to be updated around the church, and any help would be very much appreciated. Please contact David if you are interested.

Can you Furnish/Serve



Fellowship Hour

### Lenten Fellowship Hour

Could you bring soup and bread for the after church fellowship time on a Sunday during Lent?

The Hospitality committee would like to have two people bring soup and bread and help serve. There are six Sundays in Lent.

It would be so nice if you could help. The sign-up sheet is on the freezer in the kitchen.

Questions? See Ginny Culp (937) 409-2893 or [vculp@sprynet.com](mailto:vculp@sprynet.com)



## STATIONS *of the* CROSS

St. Francis will be hosting Stations of the Cross every Saturday for the season of Lent at 9:30 am. The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ and the day of His crucifixion.

Stations of the Cross, also called Way of the Cross, are a series of 14 pictures or carvings portraying events in the Passion of Christ, from his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his entombment.

The series of stations is as follows:

- (1) Jesus is condemned to death,
- (2) he is made to bear his cross,
- (3) he falls the first time,
- (4) he meets his mother,
- (5) Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross,
- (6) Veronica wipes Jesus' face,
- (7) he falls the second time,
- (8) the women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus,
- (9) he falls the third time,
- (10) he is stripped of his garments,
- (11) he is nailed to the cross,
- (12) he dies on the cross,
- (13) he is taken down from the cross, and
- (14) he is placed in the sepulchre. The images are usually mounted on the inside walls of a church or chapel but may also be erected in such places as cemeteries, corridors of hospitals and religious houses, or on mountainsides.



# **Welcome Holy Week & Easter**

**April 2 - April 9, 2023**

## **Palm Sunday**

**April 2 at 10:30 a.m.**

### ***Holy Communion***

***The Liturgy of the Palms will begin outdoors, with procession to the Nave and celebration of Holy Eucharist, Rite II***

## **Maundy Thursday**

**April 6 at 6:30 p.m.**

***Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, Foot Washing, and the Stripping of the Altar***

## **Good Friday**

**April 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

***Crosswalk with Springboro Churches at 11:45 a.m.***

***Good Friday Service with music and Communion from Reserved Sacrament***

## **Easter Sunday**

### ***Resurrection Sunday***

**April 9 at 10:30 a.m. *with music***



**The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday** is on Sunday, **April 2** and will begin outdoors (weather permitting) with *The Liturgy of the Palms*; after which we will process to the nave to celebrate Holy Eucharist, Rite II. St. Francis needs Readers for The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday. If you are interested, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Foyer to choose who you want to be. Or speak to Fr. David Bailey.

If you would like to memorialize a loved one, or express thanksgiving for God's many blessings through your donation of **Easter Flowers**, please fill out the needed information on the form found on the Foyer table. Mark checks payable to St. Francis and mark the memo "Easter Flowers". Please submit the forms to the office by Wednesday, **April 5**.



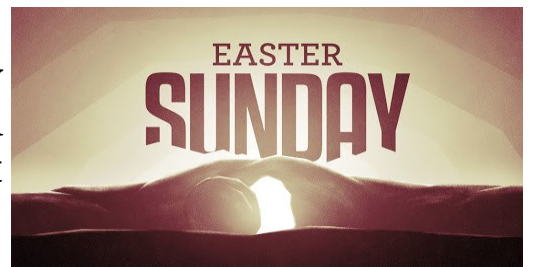
**Maundy Thursday** service will be held on Thursday, **April 6** at **6:30 pm**. The service includes Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, and the Stripping of the Altar.

St. Francis will be apart of the **Good Friday Cross Walk with Springboro Area Churches** on Friday, **April 7** starting at **11:45 am**. Beginning at Covenant Presbyterian (415 N. Main St.) and ending at United Church of Christ (5 W. Mill St.).



**Good Friday** service will be Friday, **April 7** at **6:30 pm**, using the traditional *Good Friday Liturgy*. This Holy Week service is an important preparation for the Sunday of Resurrection. Communion will be shared from the reserved sacrament.

**The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day** will occur on Sunday, **April 9** and will be celebrated with a Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music at **10:30 am**. All are invited for this festive day!







St. Francis will be having our Easter egg hunt again this year. We need help filling eggs. If you are able, please pick up some plastic eggs after church on Sunday, fill them with candy or small toys, and bring them back by Palm Sunday.

Thanks in advance for your help! The annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Francis will take place immediately following the service on Easter Sunday, April 9. All children are invited!



**Daylight Savings  
Time begins  
Sunday, March 12.**

**Don't forget to set  
your clocks forward.**



## **The Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Palm Sunday**

St. Francis is in need of Readers for The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday. If you are interested, please see the sign up sheet on the table in the Foyer to choose who you want to be. Thank you!

## Easter Flowers

If you would like to memorialize a loved one or friend, or express thanksgiving for God's many blessings through your donation of Easter Flowers, please fill in the needed information and place this form with your check in the offering plate.

Please make your check payable to **Saint Francis** and mark the memo notate "Easter Flowers".

Thank you.



Your name

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(as you wish it listed in the bulletin)

Please list name(s) as you wish it (them) printed in the bulletin and circle the appropriate designation.

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In Honor

In Memory

In Thanksgiving

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In Honor

In Memory

In Thanksgiving

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In Honor

In Memory

In Thanksgiving

Please use this form if you would like to donate names for St. Francis' Easter Lilies.

Mark your checks payable to St. Francis and in the memo put "Easter Flowers".

Place them in the alms or mail them to 225 N. Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066.



*“It’s our connection to God and each other that gives meaning to our lives.”*

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## **From the Standing Committee: Transition Committee Appointed**

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Standing Committee has been engaged in prayerful work selecting the members of the Transition Committee. All applicants possessed considerable gifts and skills, and from among them, we chose 15 individuals to represent the rich and deep diversity of our diocese. We are grateful to each one who has agreed to serve.

You can find the Transition Committee roster at <https://southernohiobishop.org/transition-committee/> along with news updates, the timeline for the search, and other information about the process of seeking our next bishop.

We are glad to announce that the Rev. Cortney Dale and Michael Kennedy will serve as co-chairs. The committee will have a Zoom kickoff on February 11.

The transition committee has several important tasks ahead of it:

- Welcome the bishop candidates to the diocese and conduct the “Meet and Greet” week.
- Coordinate with diocesan staff to plan and conduct the electing convention.
- Plan and implement the ordination of the bishop-elect in collaboration with diocesan staff and the Presiding Bishop’s staff.
- Assist with collecting gifts for the new bishop.
- Arrange a farewell event for Bishop Smith.
- Arrange for a smooth transition for the new bishop and, if needed, the bishop’s family to the diocese.
- Provide attentive pastoral care for those not elected.

Plan for the seating of the new bishop (see page 335 of the [Book of Occasional Services](#), “Welcoming and Seating of a Bishop in the Cathedral.”)

*O God, we ask you to fill those on the Transition Committee with your grace as they use their gifts to plan for and welcome candidates for the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Be with each candidate, their families and friends, as the candidates discern their call from you, travel safely to and from us, meet us as we greet them here, and as they finally stand for election. Call to us as our next bishop the candidate that will best serve you and us. Lead the electing convention by your Holy Spirit. Be with the elected candidate as well as those not elected as they follow the discernment of your call to them. Help the entire diocese to support those planners and providers of hospitality that they may reflect all they do in your glory and honor. Let all those throughout the Episcopal Church who are responsible for the consent of our newly elected bishop hear your Word and inspiration. We give you thanks for the service of so many toward this goal, especially for the Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith. Confirm our joy and celebration as we move to the ordination and seating of our new bishop, so that our new shepherd may lead us closer to your kingdom. Amen.*

Yours faithfully, Dr. James Allsop, President, Dr. Elizabeth Barker, The Rev. Jed Dearing, secretary,  
Mr. Barry Feist, The Rev. Scott Gunn, The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, Vice President  
*The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio*

Saint Francis Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church in Springboro  
225 N. Main Street, Springboro, OH 45066  
(937) 748-2592 [www.saintfran.org](http://www.saintfran.org)

## Gathering Times

Sundays at 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Wednesdays at 10:30 am - Bible Study

## Prayer March

Father, thank you for carrying us through life's winter seasons and for bringing us into new springtime seasons of hope. Thank you for the lessons you teach us in the winter seasons: lessons like endurance, rest, perseverance, and trust. Thank you for the blessings you have prepared for the season ahead. Most of all, thank you that your character and love never change. **Amen.**

## Staff

**Priest-in-Charge** - The Rev. Dr. David Bailey  
[fr.david@saintfran.org](mailto:fr.david@saintfran.org) - (513) 310-0127

**Senior Warden** - Tom Phillips

**Junior Warden** - Jacqui Parker

**Vestry Clerk** - Allison Ferriell

**Treasurer** - Tom Phillips

**Financial Secretary** - Sue Starner

**Parish Secretary** - Alisha Minamyer

**Organist** - Diana Graham

**Sunday School Director** - Jenny Catalan

**Vestry Members** - Tom Phillips, Jacqui Parker, Allison Ferriell, Beth Phillips, Virginia Culp, and Diana Ledford.

