

# Franciscan

a monthly publication of  
St. Francis Episcopal Church



"We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know [God] in the breaking of the bread, and we know each other in the breaking of the bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust where there is companionship." Dorothy Day

"To love, we must know each other." We proclaim that God is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. There is something about sharing a meal that unfolds the possibility of knowing, whether with Jesus, with a fellow parishioner or our neighbors. We have been blessed to begin to welcome in new parishioners at St. Francis on Sunday mornings. Perhaps you are one of them, welcome! Perhaps you are just returning to Sunday worship after time away or health reasons or because of the pandemic.

If Sunday mornings are a dress rehearsal for the life of the church, an opportunity to practice what it means to be in fellowship with God, creation and one another then the centrality of sharing a communion meal on Sunday morning points us to a habit that we are invited into in our everyday life as Christians. That practice is sharing meals with each other. It is in sharing meals that we can know and be known. Joy Harjo writes (see the full poem on the next page) "The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live." The kitchen table is a place of new beginnings as old stories are shared, new dreams relayed, as sorrow is met with tenderness and rejoicing with the echoes of laughter and excitement.

I invite us as a parish to consider how we can more deeply connect with each other this fall. I encourage each person, whether new to the church or here at its planting forty years ago to join up with a foyer group to share dinner with others from the church, invite a person or family that you don't know well out for lunch on Sunday afternoon, or wander down the hall for coffee hour and spend some time connecting more deeply. "We are not alone anymore," when we take the time to meet together over a meal and share our lives. Whatever you may be going through in life and whatever your background may be, you are always invited to the Lord's table to share communion and you have a seat at the coffee table here at St. Francis.

May we continue to be a community that extends a warm welcome to all around our own kitchen tables just as Christ ever extends a welcome to us.

Rev. Jed Dearing, *Clergy in Residence*

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

## Perhaps the World Ends Here by Joy Harjo

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

"Perhaps the World Ends Here" from *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky* by Joy Harjo.

# OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	2
3  40th Anniversary Holy Eucharist, Rite II 3:00 pm	4  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	5  Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm	6  Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	7  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm	8  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	9
10  Breakfast Church 9:00 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	11  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	12  Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm  Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	13  Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	14  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm	15  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	16
17  Breakfast Church 9:00 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am  Movie Night 6:30pm	18  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	19  Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm	20  Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	21  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm	22  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	23
24  Breakfast Church 9:00 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Healing Service Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	25  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	26  Zoom Morning Prayer 7:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm  Boy Scouts 6 - 7:00 pm	27  Bible Study 10:30 am  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	28  Barbershop Singers 7:00 pm  Alanon 7:30 pm  Feast of St Simon & St. Jude 6:30 pm	29  Jazzercise 4:45 pm	30
31  Breakfast Church 9:00 am  Sunday School 10:30 am  Feast of all Saints Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am			3			

# October Birthdays

# October Anniversaries

Donna Sprowles on October 4

Walter and Andrea Fedchenko  
on October 2

Steve Hamilton on October 8

Gene Bradley on October 16

Mark Willmarth on October 20

Anya Catalan on October 23



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

## Praying the Daily Offices

Join together every Tuesday morning on Zoom to pray Rite I Morning Prayer. On days that include a commemoration we will remember the holy women and holy men who have gone before us in the faith.

All are welcome to join. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86267472666>

Meeting ID: 859 1234 4872

Morning Prayer starts at 7:30 am and typically lasts thirty minutes. The Zoom Link is recurring and can be used weekly. Bulletins will be provided in the Zoom Chat Box but all services can be joined using a Book of Common Prayer.

10/5 - No Commemoration

10/12 - Edith Cavill

10/19 - Henry Martyn

10/26 - Alfred



Now that the weather is changing, coffee hour is being held in the commons room starting the week after our 40th Anniversary Celebration. Come join new friends and old—it's a great community!



Want to get together with 6-8 other parishioners for dinner a few times? It's a great chance to get to know each other better. Sign up with Virginia Culp at 937-409-2893 or [vculp@sprynet.com](mailto:vculp@sprynet.com)

## Coming Soon! 2021 St. Francis Outreach Christmas Ministry



For Love of Children

Each year For Love of Children, Inc. (FLOC) organizes their annual Christmas For Kids event. This year St. Francis will be collecting toys starting on Sunday, November 7th until the beginning of December. Questions: please contact Mary Harris at (937-672-7993) or Betsy Hoobler (937-748-1840).



Every Sunday St. Francis holds a Breakfast Church Service at 9:00 am in the Commons. People from around the community come to worship together with us for a playful and engaging 30 minute service designed for busy families to worship together with children of all ages.

If you would like to sign up to host a Breakfast Church Sunday, please find the sign up sheet on the counter in the Commons. This will be a wonderful way to give back to the neighborhood in Springboro.

## **“Race and Bias in the Court System” Discussion**

The City of Springboro and the Springboro Police Department is offering a "Race and Bias in the Court System" Discussion via in person or live stream. This forum will address race and bias in our court system on Monday, October 4 at 7:00 pm at the Springboro Performing Arts Center. The event is open to the public. In addition to the limited seating, the program will be streamed live on the City of Springboro Facebook page and taped for viewing at a later date. From more information call 937-748-0611.



Are black defendants treated differently than white defendants? In a continuing effort to facilitate open communication. Five distinguished members of our legal community will participate on the panel. The program will also be available on City’s Youtube channel.



## St. Francis Movie Night w/Discussion

### *My Name is Pauli Murray*

Sunday, October 17 | 6:30 pm

Join us in the commons to watch this new documentary on the big screen, followed by a discussion about the film. An Official Sundance Selection, *My Name is Pauli Murray* takes a look at the life and ideas of Pauli Murray, a Black lawyer, activist, poet, and Episcopal priest who influenced both Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Thurgood

Marshall. Durham native the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was the first African-American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood. In 2012, she was named to *Holy Women, Holy Men* by the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church and thus became an Episcopal saint. According to her entry, "Growing up as a mixed-race person in the South, [Murray] became an advocate of 'the universal cause of freedom,' and throughout her life she worked tirelessly and with distinction as a lawyer, an advocate for civil and labor rights and feminism through her legal writings, essays and poetry."



On Sunday, October 24 during Holy Eucharist St. Francis will be holding a Public Service of Healing, with opportunities for healing prayer that honor social distancing guidelines. The service includes the Litany of Healing, Healing Prayers for the Parish, and Lighting of the Candles.

## Feast of St. Simon & St. Jude

Join us for Holy Eucharist on October 28 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary as we celebrate the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude with a contemplative liturgy.

“On the foundation stones of the heavenly Jerusalem are written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; and the Lamb himself is the lamp of the city.” (the antiphon for the Benedictus assigned for the day).

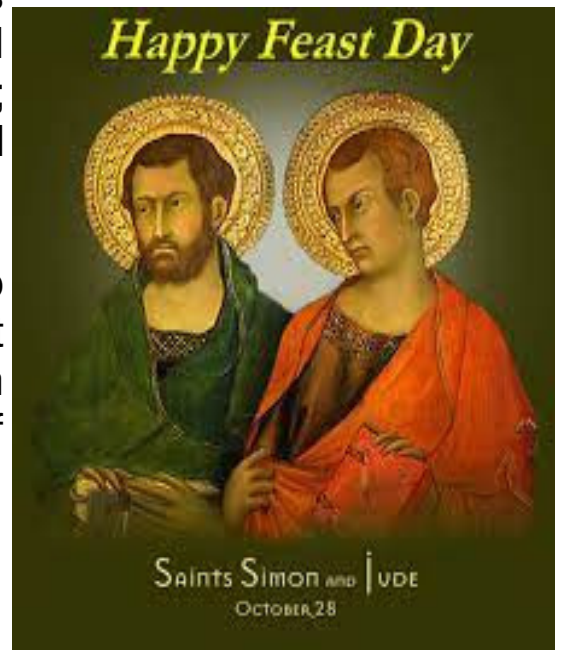
Of Simon and Jude, two of the twelve, little is known. They tend to be linked because tradition places them as apostles to Persia, modern day Iran. Yet the antiphon above names them along with the other apostles as foundation stones of the heavenly Jerusalem.

In Scripture we have glimpses of the conversations that took place among the original disciples, of which Simon & Jude were a part. They include words of excitement, hope, disappointment, disagreement and even bickering. Sometimes they are clueless and other times great words of faith shine forth. Very human power struggles cause conflict and division. In the midst of it all, however, comes a vast reservoir of faithfulness of which you and I are the inheritors. Foundation stones indeed.

Such grace, more often than not, comes to us from the little known saints whose paths we cross. They are also a part of our foundation. I am a person of faith in Christ Jesus today because of the original twelve, because of Simon's and Jude's "ardent devotion." I am also a person of faith because of my parents simple but devoted faith, a youth minister who loved Jesus and who invited me to learn about the love that Jesus has for me; a high school friend who taught me to read the scriptures and encouraged me to teach others; an elderly pastor who saw gifts in me and challenged me to use them. The list goes on.

Who are these little known folks in your life? Who are the ones who have passed on the great repository of faith to you? Give thanks for them this day even as we bless God for the gifts of Simon and Jude.

*<reflection adapted from the  
Rt. Rev. Skip Adams>*

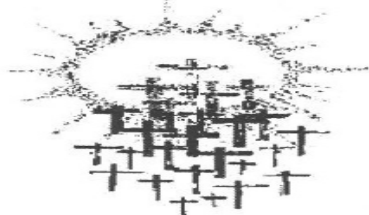




All Saint's Sunday is on Sunday, October 31. If you would like loved one's or friend's names to be included on the list of those that have passed away and want them to be read as we celebrate, please contact the church office at (937) 748-2592 or [parishsec@saintfran.org](mailto:parishsec@saintfran.org). You can also find a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex or below.

## ***The Feast of All Saints***

October 31, 2021



Please list those loved ones you wish to remember in the necrology.

Died in the last year:

---

---

---

---

Died previous to the last year:

---

---

---

---

Please place in the alms basin.

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

---

## **Presiding Bishop calls for church reformation ‘in the way of Jesus’ at House of Bishops meeting**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, in his Sept. 21 sermon during the opening day of the fall House of Bishops meeting, recalled a recent conversation with a fellow bishop about planning for The Episcopal Church’s future. Such conversations typically look to the coming years, Curry said, “but in pandemic time, we can barely think a month ahead of time.”

This House of Bishops meeting is a prime example. The bishops’ twice-a-year meetings have been held online since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, but with vaccines against COVID-19 now widely available, the bishops had planned to gather Sept. 21-23 in St. Louis, Missouri, for their first in-person meeting in two years. Instead, the delta variant and the [national surge in COVID-19 cases since July](#) forced the bishops to cancel their face-to-face meeting and return to Zoom.

“So now we are here, not in St. Louis,” Curry told the bishops. “The miracle of vaccination has arrived, even with some boosters, and yet some refuse and the pandemic goes on.”

Curry wondered if diocesan conventions would be held in person this fall, and whether the delta variant could force further changes next year to the church’s General Convention and the Anglican Communion’s Lambeth Conference. “I don’t have any answers yet,” Curry said.

Curry spent much of [his 25-minute sermon](#) invoking the term “narthex,” the area of a church that people pass through to enter and exit, using it as a metaphor for this period of uncertainty and transition. “We are living in a narthex moment, between the world we knew and whatever is being born,” he said.

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

That moment was to be the focus of the bishops' discussions with each other in the "table time" portion of the meeting's first day. The opening worship service was livestreamed on YouTube, but the rest of the meeting was closed to the public.

Before the bishops broke into smaller groups, Utah Bishop Scott Hayashi posed three questions for them to discuss: What five words describe your experience with the pandemic? Where has God been present in this time? Have your goals as a bishop changed because of this time of pandemic, racial unrest and political division?

"I've had to take it into my heart to consider what has been lost and what has been gained," said Hayashi, as he lamented that the bishops still could not have such conversations in person.

During his sermon, Curry described watching the 1953 movie "The Robe," set in biblical times, and hearing echoes of today's call for the church to reject the trappings of empire. He presented a vision of reformation in the church, away from the establishment and closer to Christianity's origins in small gatherings.

This, he said, is a "church before collusion with the empire, the church that looks something like Jesus, the church that lived into 'narthex,' to let go of the ways things were, to behold the way things could be."

Curry continued that such a church would be "not formed in the way of the world but formed in the way of Jesus and his love."

"A community of small gatherings and congregations of all stripes and types, a human tapestry, God's wondrous variety, the Kingdom, the reign of God, the beloved community, no longer centered on empire or establishment, no longer fixated on the preservation of institution, no longer propping up white supremacy or in collusion with anything that hurts or harms any child of God or God's creation – by God's grace, a church that looks and acts and lives like Jesus.

"Welcome to narthex, and welcome to behold a new heaven, a new Earth, a new you, a new me, a new we."

**The text of the Presiding Bishop's Sermon can be found at:**

*<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/pressreleases/text-of-presiding-bishops-homily-during-house-of-bishops-meeting/>*

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)

## **WORSHIP TIMES**

**SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM - BREAKFAST CHURCH**

**SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

**SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**TUESDAYS AT 7:30 AM - MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM - BIBLE STUDY**

## **PRAYER FOR OCTOBER**

**THIS MONTH, FATHER, MAY MY EYES BE OPENED TO SEE THE BEAUTY IN ALL THAT IS ORDINARY - YET SPECIAL - AROUND ME. MAY THE GLORY OF ALL THAT YOU HAVE MADE REMIND ME OF YOUR PRESENCE AND LEAD ME CLOSER TO YOU. AMEN.**

## **STAFF**

**Clergy Resident** - The Rev. Jed J. Dearing

**Senior Warden** - Stephan Graham

**Junior Warden** - Joe Spangler

**Vestry Clerk** - Virginia Culp

**Financial Secretary** - Sue Starner

**Parish Secretary** - Alisha Minamyer

**Organist** - Diana Graham

**Sunday School Director** - Jenny Catalan

**Vestry Members** - Stephan Graham, Jenny Catalan, Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Jack Emerson, Mary Harris, Ron Thomas, Kimmie Patti, and Virginia Culp.

