Saint Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 11, 2026

Dear Friends,



Today marks the **25th anniversary of September 11, 2001.** As we remember the lives lost, the sacrifices of others to care for the victims, and the ways this tragedy continues to impact the nation, **we pray:**

> *God the compassionate one, whose loving care extends to all the world, we remember this day your children of many nations and many faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Console those who continue to suffer and grieve, and give them comfort and hope as they look to the future. Out of what we have endured, give us the grace to examine our relationships with those who perceive us as the enemy, and show our leaders the way to use our power to serve the good of all for the healing of the nations. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord who, in reconciling love, was lifted up from the earth that he might draw all things to himself. Amen.*
>
> -The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, Former Presiding Bishop

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Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#601 O day of God

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

#473 Lift high the Cross



Homecoming Sunday: Welcome the Choir's Return and Stay for a Festive Brunch

September 13, 10:00 am in the Nave & Parish Hall

This Sunday, September 13, is Homecoming Sunday! The congregation will gather in the pews as the choir takes their place on the altar platform and, after church, we'll have a festive brunch to kick off fall.

Jennifer Gary is looking for **5 or 6 people who can bring an egg dish** or casserole for the festive brunch. Others, please bring a contribution according to your last name:

A-M: salad or fruit
N-Z: baked goods, cheese/crackers, or vegetables/fruit

Register Now for the Women's Retreat!

Encountering the Divine Feminine

October 9-11, 2026 at Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat



Learn about the Women's Retreat on our webpage and register here. Rev. Jennifer and Victoria Scarlett, a scholar and teacher about sacred art, will **explore the divine feminine through image and story**. The retreat begins Friday at 5 pm and concludes Sunday at noon. The cost is $300 per person, with scholarships available. Learn more about Victoria Scarlett and her talks **here**. Contact **Kathy Graunke** for more information.



Sunday Forum: Contemplative Spirituality 101

September 20, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

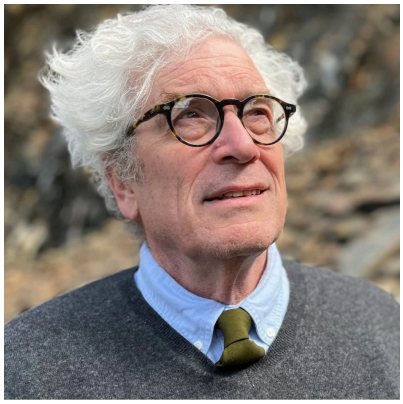
Contemplative Spirituality is gaining popularity among people who identify with mainline Christianity. **John Terauds will guide us in a primer about what Contemplative Spirituality is and how it fits into how we see and understand God, Scripture, liturgy, worship and our personal faith anchors.**

Blessing of Animals on the Feast of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi

October 4, 11:00 am on the Front Lawn



After the service on October 4, we will **gather outside on the front lawn** on the feast of St. Francis and St. Clare to give thanks for creation and our animal companions. We will **welcome our neighbors and bless all animals** who attend. Invite your friends and bring your beloved pet to this joyful event! If your pet is too shy, feel free to bring a photograph and we will bless them in absentia.



Letter from the Palestinian Prison
David Wild, Executive Producer

October 25, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

After church on October 25, we'll welcome Producer David Wild, where **he'll share his 12 minute film *Letter from the Palestinian Prison***, shot in the West Bank in 2025. After the screening, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about the film and learn more about supporting peace in the Land of the Holy One. Learn more about David **here.**

New Date! Liturgical Minister Training

November 22, 11:30 am in the Nave

This training prepares volunteers to assist with worship services through theological reflection, role instructions, and practical practice. **Liturgical ministers include anyone who serves on the altar guild, acolytes, eucharistic ministers, lectors, and intercessors.**



Community Bulletin Board

Laurelhurst Early Learning is always looking for new toys, activities and supplies. If you would like to purchase items that the school needs, please check out their **Amazon Wishlist**. Used items are also welcome. Thank you for your continued support!

There are now 5x7 inch flyers for Laurelhurst Early Learning located on the Narthex table. It would be a great help if everybody grabbed a few to **distribute to local businesses and families.** The staff of LEL thanks you!

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)
Sundays 3:00 pm Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)
Tuesdays 11:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Duchess Tavern)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Vestry Room)

September 13 10:00 am: Homecoming Sunday with Festive Brunch (Nave, Parish Hall)
September 20, 11:30 am: Sunday Forum: Contemplative Spirituality 101 (Parish Hall)
October 4, 11:30 am Blessing of Animals on the Feast of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi (Front Lawn)
October 18, 11:30 am Sunday Forum: Mutual Ministry Goals (Parish Hall)
October 25, 11:30 am *Letter from the Palestinian Prison* by David Wild, Executive Producer (Parish Hall)
October 9-11, 2026 Women's Retreat (Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat)
November 22, 11:30 am Liturgical Minister Training (Nave)

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