September 18, 2026



Today, September 17, is the feast day of Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th-century mystic, theologian, author, composer, and Doctor of the Church. One of her best-known works is *Symphonia armonie celestium revelationum*, a collection of 77 sacred chants and songs. Hildegard's theology is rich with images of divine love. In an excerpt from “O Fire of the Spirit," she writes:

> *O mighty course that runs within and through*
> *the all—up in the heights, upon the earth,*
> *and in the every depth—*
> *you bind and gather all together.*
>
> *From you the clouds flow forth, the wind takes flight,*
> *the stones their moisture hold,*
> *the waters rivers spring,*
> *and earth viridity exudes.*
>
> *You are the teacher of the truly learned,*
> *whose joy you grant*
> *through Wisdom’s inspiration.*
>
> *And so may you be praised, who are the sound of praise,*
> *the joy of life, the hope and potent honor,*
> *and the giver of the gifts of light.*

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#304 I come with joy

#482 Lord of all hopefulness

#423 Immortal, invisible, God only wise



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. **This Sunday** 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.

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.





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

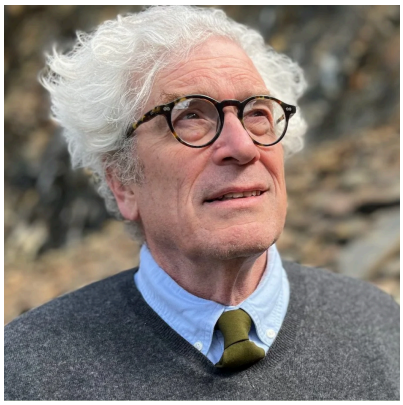
October 4, 11:00 am on the Front Lawn

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)
Thursdays 6:30 pm Choir Practice (Nave)

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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