Saint Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 4, 2026

Greetings!



This Monday, September 7 is **Labor Day, when we honor the contributions of the millions of workers in the United States.** Walt Whitman's poem **"I Hear America Singing,"** written in 1860, celebrates the many workers whose individual contributions come together to form the "song" of America. On Monday, we pray in thanksgiving for the many forms of labor that together sustain a community.

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand singing on the steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,
The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#593, Lord, make us servants

#590 O Jesus Christ

#348 Lord, we have come

O Love of God



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 e**xplore 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.

This Sunday: Help Make Lunches for Teen Feed

September 6, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall Kitchen



Volunteers will prepare 25 PB&J sandwiches for Teen Feed lunches every Sunday or Monday through August. Many thanks to Melissa, Joan, Carolyn, and Dennis for their help these past few weeks! Your support will benefit teens experiencing homelessness in the U District. Please contact **Beth Cogan** for supplies, and **Kathy Graunke** or **Dennis Roarke** for questions.



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

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

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, when we'll kick off fall with a festive brunch! The congregation will also gather in the pews while choir returns to the alter platform after their summer hiatus. All parishioners are invited to contribute to the brunch!

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, 11:30 am on the Front Lawn

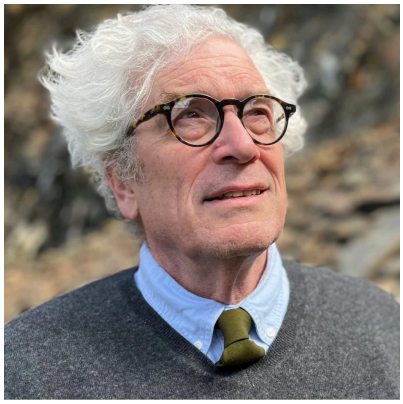
After the service on October 4, we will **gather outside on the parish lawn** on the feast of St. Francis and St. Clare to give thanks for creation and our animal companions. We will **welcome our neighbors and bless all animals** who attend. Invite your friends and bring your beloved pet to this joyful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

Liturgical Minister Training

October 11, 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.**





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.**

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!

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 11, 11:30 am Liturgical Minister Training (Nave)
October 25, 11:30 am *Letter from the Palestinian Prison* by David Wild, Executive Producer (Pariah Hall)
October 9-11: 2026 Women's Retreat (Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat)

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