

EXTENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Invite, Welcome, Connect Digital Gathering February 9

Invite, Welcome, Connect provides tools and strategies for congregations who wish to deepen their relationships with their current members and their communities. Invite, Welcome, Connect is holding a digital gathering to discuss two timely topics on February 9 from 12 – 1:30pm PST. Several St. Martin's parishioners will be attending. The focus questions will be: "How do we Welcome and Connect those who are on our congregation's Digital Front Porch, those whose initial contacts are online and invisible? How do we Re-Connect with parishioners who are no longer as active as they were in their pre-pandemic faith communities?"

The panelists, made up of both clergy and lay leaders, will discuss creative solutions and ways to address these questions in your congregation. You can sign up by contacting the church office and we will register you and pay the \$20 fee. All registered participants will receive a recording of the event, so you might want to register even if that time is not good for you to participate "live" next week. If you want more information or to sign up on your own, you can visit the [Invite, Welcome, Connect](#) website.

Formation and Fellowship Opportunities

Our Next Sacred Ground Circle is Forming

Sacred Ground is a discussion series on race, grounded in faith, developed by the Episcopal Church. Small groups use films and readings to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

Pastor Casey and Carole Hom will be facilitating a ten-session Sacred Ground circle on Monday evenings, beginning in late February, and meeting every three weeks. Due to the challenging nature of the material, the circle will be limited to 10 people, ages 16+, who can commit to all ten sessions.

An information meeting (not one of the ten sessions) will be held on [Monday, February 7 at 7:00pm via Zoom](#). If you are interested, please email casey@churchofstmartin.org for more information or fill out the (non-binding) [interest form](#). You can also visit episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground to learn more about the curriculum.

Godly Play and TYGMOS Updates

Godly Play will continue to be on Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in February, even if worship returns to an in-person format. The next Godly Play session is Sunday, February 13, from 9:15 – 9:45am. Reach out to Casey with any questions!

In February, TYGMOS (our middle- and high-school youth group) will gather online for a movie night! If you or your teen are not currently receiving emails with TYGMOS updates, email casey@churchofstmartin.org to get on the list. Stay tuned for more info about which movie and which night—your input will be needed!

Celebration of Abraham "Hope in Difficult Times: An Interfaith Conversation," Sun., Feb. 6

This Sunday from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., Celebration of Abraham will hold their annual interfaith gathering. The topic this year is "**Hope in Difficult Times: An Interfaith Conversation.**" They have chosen three young leaders to offer guidance grounded in their faith traditions: Leah Julian, Rabbinical Student; Tara Rogers-Soeder from the Davis United Methodist Church; and Omar

Abdel-Ghaffar from Muslim Davis Engagement and Interfaith Network (DEIN). After the speakers, they will have breakout rooms with about a 25-minute discussion time to share. They will have the usual great sing along at the end with local singer Randy Ferris singing *Children of Abraham*. Donations will be for the International Rescue Committee. If you would like to attend, register at <http://bit.ly/COAHope> or go to the group's website for more information: <https://celebrationofabraham.net/>

From the Office of the Bishop

The Diocese of Northern California: Connect with Us

Visit the Diocese of Northern California [website](#) and sign up to get good, updated information from the Diocese straight into your inbox.

Celebrate Black History Month

February is Black History Month! As we celebrate Black history this month, here are some book recommendations for learning more about the experience and contributions of Black Episcopalians:

Yet With a Steady Beat by the Rev. Harold T. Lewis.

This book will give the reader a better sense of the struggle of African Americans to find a place within the Episcopal Church, their contributions to it, and the need for more work to be inclusive. Since his recent death, this is an especially good time to pick up a copy in memory and celebration of Lewis's ministry.

Episcopalians and Race by the Rev. Dr. Gardiner H. Shattuck Jr.

A thoughtful analysis of the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the Church grounds this book's reflection on the Episcopal Church's historic place in the struggle for equality and ongoing challenges to the full inclusion of people of color in the church and world today.

Radical Welcome by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers

A practical and theologically rooted guide for those who sense the call to dig deeper and want to move from inclusivity to radical welcome. 15th Anniversary edition now available from Church Publishing.

Have you completed the Diocese's Annual Communication Survey yet?

The Annual Survey of Diocese Communications is now available online. Since we launched it last Thursday, more than 250 people have responded! Have we heard from you yet?

Findings from the survey help the Office of the Bishop to better understand your needs, and how we can improve communications across the diocese. Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your thoughts.

Here is a link to the survey: <https://form.jotform.com/220186239166053>

Ways to Give and Get More Involved

Saturday Meal Reps Needed

For many years, St. Martin's Parish Hall has hosted community meals three times a week, which are prepared by volunteers working with Davis Community Meals & Housing (DCMH). Currently, hot meals are prepared in the kitchen and boxed up "to go." We are in need of Saturday meal representatives who are willing to dedicate a couple of hours on one Saturday per month to greet and organize folks who come by to get their meal to go, oversee clean-up, and lock up afterwards. The Saturday commitment is from 10:45 am to 12:15 pm. Please reach out to Diana Glick (email in

the church directory) if you have questions or think you might be able to give some of your time to this worthy activity.

"Every person...Every week...One item of food"

The Social Justice and Outreach Committee reminds us that our local food banks are in great need, and we continue to support them with our collection of non-perishable items. We deliver these items to STEAC, The UC Davis Pantry, and Dixon Family Services on a weekly rotating basis. You have two options for where to bring your items at this time that we are worshiping online: Janet Lane's front porch (address in church directory or contact church office for address)—you may leave items there any day and any time OR you can contact the church office to arrange an appointment to leave food items in the office. The food closets also need toilet paper and diapers. Thank you for your generous donations!!

Grace Garden Volunteering Opportunity Grace Garden (located on Anderson Road at the United Methodist Church) grows vegetables and fruits to help feed those in our community who are facing food insecurity. You, too, are invited to join in the fun on **Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00am to 11:00am!**

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Social Justice and Outreach: Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00pm

Care for God's Creation: Thursday, February 17 at 7:00pm

Vestry: Sunday, February 20 at 12:00pm

All meetings are on Zoom at present; for a link, contact communications@churchofstmartin.org

If you wish to schedule a meeting on the calendar, contact the church office info@churchofstmartin.org.

Ways to Stay Connected to the Larger Community

Healthy Davis Together: FREE COVID-19 Testing and Other Resources Available

Thanks to Healthy Davis Together, residents can get tested in less than 10 minutes at absolutely no cost. To do your part in regularly monitoring your COVID status, you can register [here](#) and schedule an appointment. The test is also effective in recognizing new mutations of the COVID-19 virus. In addition to regular testing, Healthy Davis Together is encouraging all who are able to get the COVID vaccine to do so. For a variety of resources concerning vaccination, contact tracing, and other monitoring efforts, visit [Healthy Davis Together](#).

Notes from the Church Office

Prayer Requests, Celebrations and Milestones

If you would like to submit a prayer request, celebration or milestone to be read during Sunday services, please send it to Deacon Margaret at margaret@churchofstmartin.org by **5:00 pm on Friday**.

Virtual Office Hours

Our "virtual" office hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. You can reach the office by calling us at 530-756-0444 or sending an email to info@churchofstmartin.org. The physical office space remains closed for the time being. If you need to come to the office to drop something off or pick something up, please contact the office in advance to schedule an appointment.

Church Grounds Open

Our grounds are open, and we continue to work hard to keep them up to our standards of beauty and safety. We are delighted to know that people are using outdoor venues like the labyrinth, the redwood path, and the meditation garden to find peace and comfort in these trying times.

Online Services and Communications Requests

Please note that our web page with online service information has a new title, streamlined content, and now includes a link to submit communications requests. See [Online Services and Communications Requests](#).