

EXTENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF March 20, 2022

New and Noteworthy

Easter Special Offering—Requesting Your Participation

St. Martin's has a tradition of donating the Easter offering (also known as the "Easter plate" or "special offering") to a worthy organization, either within our community or beyond, that helps in a variety of possible ways, such as combating the effects of poverty, assisting refugees, supporting people with mental illness, and much more. (We give away our Christmas offering as well, and this past Christmas the offering went to Opening Doors, an organization assisting refugees in the Sacramento area). The generosity of our community and those who worship with us on these special holy days always provide a much-needed boost to an organization that is doing God's work in a way that extends the reach of the parish beyond what we can do on our own.

We are looking for your involvement in this process in two ways: **We need volunteers willing to serve on the "special offering committee."** The committee is comprised of one member of the Vestry, and one member of the Social Justice and Outreach committee, and one "at-large" member. The committee's job is to identify a recipient organization that they believe should receive our special Easter offering and then recommend that organization to the Vestry for approval. The deadline to volunteer is the end of the day on Wednesday, March 23.

Second, **we invite you to submit recommendations for worthy organizations to receive this year's Easter offering.** If you would like to nominate an organization (one nomination per person), please email the office (info@churchofstmartin.org) and provide the following:

- (a) Name of the organization
- (b) Key contact/s (e.g., executive director) including contact information (e.g., website, email/s)
- (c) In no more than one paragraph, your rationale for nominating this organization

We need nominations of recipient organizations by the end of the day on Sunday, March 27.

If you have questions, contact our Rector, Pamela, or one of our co-Senior Wardens, Kimo Kimoeko and Neil Willits. Thank you for your consideration and for your generosity.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Giving Out Handmade Shawls: TODAY, March 20

St. Martin's Prayer Shawl Ministry is offering a "day of giving" to our congregation after both services. They will have knitted, crocheted and fleece shawls in zip lock bags ready for you on tables outside the church doors. Please take one for yourself and/or offer to someone you know who needs one as a symbol of love and being loved. Each shawl has a St. Martin's label on it with the words, "Made for you by loving hands and caring hearts." The Prayer Shawl Ministry wishes everyone many blessings this Lenten Season.

Good News Garden Gathering on Tuesday, March 22

What is "contemplative gardening"? Our rector Pamela will be in conversation about this topic with Brian Sellers-Petersen and Jerusalem Greer, members of the Presiding Bishop's staff. Join them for the upcoming Good News Gardens Gathering via Zoom on Tuesday, March 22, at 4 pm PDT. You must register to attend this free event; just go to <https://tinyurl.com/GNGMarch22> and sign up. Please contact the office if you have any questions or difficulty registering. See you Tuesday!

Parish Garden and Work Day, Saturday, March 26, 8:30 – 12noon

Join us to help make our grounds look their best for Spring and for Easter. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is hosting a parish *Garden and Work Day* on the morning of Saturday, March 26. The two Scout troops that meet at St. Martin's will be joining us. Can you spare an hour or two to help out? We have some tools but would also appreciate people bringing gardening tools of their own, if possible. We will have light refreshments. Hope to see some of you there!

Coffee Hour Brought to You By: Your Friends on the St. Martin's Vestry!

You already know that your Vestry are whizzes when it comes to finances and governance, but did you know that they are also committed to acts of service and hospitality? Under the supervision of your Junior Warden, Maria Acuna-Feldman, they will be coordinating Coffee Hour for the next two Sundays, starting today! We are striving to bring back some of our beloved pre-pandemic traditions and maybe can even make some of them better and more inclusive than they were. So, if you feel like you could help out once a month or so with some basic gestures of hospitality, please consider stepping forward. Maria would be happy to talk with you about what's involved, as would other members of the Vestry and the Invite, Welcome, Connect team. And if we've already reached out to you, please say "yes"—or, as we Episcopalians like to say, "I will, with God's help!" Thank you! And many thanks to your Vestry for their leadership.

Help Needed for the Altar Guild!

Are you interested in a quiet, contemplative ministry inside the church? The Altar Guild needs additional volunteers to serve once a month. Duties include setting up the altar for services, clearing the altar after the service or washing and ironing the altar linens. We would love to show you the ropes and/or talk to you about this ministry if you just want information first. Please contact Carla Harris for details (get Carla's contact information from the church directory or the church office).

What We Can Do for Ukraine

As the crisis continues to evolve in Ukraine, Episcopal Relief and Development is deeply engaged in the response and is addressing humanitarian needs. They are seeking immediate donations to assist them in providing cash, blankets, hygiene supplies and other needed assistance to families from Ukraine. If you wish to donate through Episcopal Relief and Development, you may donate via their website: <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/ukraineresponse> You will be pleased to know that Bishop Megan has directed a significant contribution from her discretionary funds for this humanitarian crisis and Pamela will be committing discretionary funds as well.

Formation and Fellowship Opportunities

Godly Play Begins Meeting In Person on Sunday, March 27, 9:45 – 10:30am

Godly Play will meet in person on Sunday, March 27 from 9:45 – 10:30am in Room 4. The children will return to church to join their family members after the sermon. Please reach out to Pastor Casey (casey@churchofstmartin.org) if you need more information. The plan is to continue meeting in person on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in April (April 10 and 24).

Growing Faith, Food, and Community, A Conference of the Diocese of Northern California

The conference is being put on by the Diocese of Northern California and will be held at St. Martin's on Saturday April 2, 9:30 - 3:00pm. It will take place in-person only with limited space. Have you registered yet? If not, go to our extended announcement sheet online on our website for more information, or contact the church office. And many thanks to those who have volunteered to help! We'll get back to you with some specific needs soon.

Living Well through Lent Wednesday Morning Discussion Group

Christian Formation at St. Martin's is offering a Living Well through Lent discussion group on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:15 am. The group meets on Zoom and is focusing on the theme of "letting go." For more information or to sign up, please contact the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) or Helen Campbell (formation@churchofstmartin.org).

Discussion Group—Love is the Way Wednesday Evenings during Lent

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, a group meets from 7 - 8:30pm on Zoom to discuss the book *Love is the Way* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

In the words of the publisher, **"Walk the path of love with one of the warmest, most beloved spiritual leaders of our time, and learn how to put faith into action."**...Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further. The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity." The group has met twice so far, and you're still welcome to join; you can contact the office (info@churchofstmartin.org) or Helen Campbell (formation@churchofstmartin.org) for information and/or for the Zoom link.

The Rector is In! (Or out, actually, depending on how you look at it)

Our rector, Pamela, is holding "outdoor office hours" on Monday afternoons during Lent. **This Monday's office hours (March 21) will be from 12noon – 1pm near the prayer chalkboard on the Hawthorn side of the church office.** She will be in the library if the weather is inclement; so, please check there if she is not outside by the prayer chalkboard. These office hours are a way to meet up with Pamela and other parishioners who stop in, without needing an appointment. See you there!

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Vestry: Monday, March 21 at 4:30pm

Buildings and Grounds: Friday, March 25 at 4:00pm

Worship Commission: Wednesday, March 30 at 5:00pm

Social Justice and Outreach: Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00pm

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.

Prayers for Ukraine

We continue to pray for Ukraine. [Presiding Bishop Michael Curry](#) and our diocesan [Bishop Megan Traquair](#) have shared messages of solidarity and hope.

We offer this prayer:

Almighty God, Prince of Peace, we pray for our siblings in Ukraine who are under siege. We ask for your comfort and protection over them as they cower underground, weighing impossible decisions in the darkness. For those who choose to gather their belongings and their children and flee their homeland, we ask that they find refuge in the open arms of their neighbors around the world. For those who remain, to stand and defend, we ask for courage and perseverance in the long nights ahead. You call us all to turn our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, to sow seeds of justice and freedom rather than destruction and despair. Change the hearts of those who roll their tanks through others' gardens; transform their lust for power into love of neighbor. Change our hearts, O God, whenever we turn away from the suffering of your beloved children. Embolden us to speak truth to power, renouncing violence and instead waging peace on earth. In the name of your Son, refugee and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Ways to Give and Get More Connected

Readers Needed for All Services

If you are interested in reading the Scripture passages or leading the Prayers of the People (in person) at either the 8am or the 10am services, please contact us at info@churchofstmartin.org. If you have never read before, we would be happy to give you some tips and show you how to use the built-in microphone on the reader podium. If you just want more information about reading, we would love to talk with you. **You can also sign up to read by filling out the Doodle poll [here](#).**

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 might want to participate in 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 three options for where to bring your items at this time: 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 OR you can bring items during our in-person services on Sundays. 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!**

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.

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 St. Martin's 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](#).