

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

REFLECTIONS

May 2026

Breaking the Lenten Fast

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER

A season of renewal
and rebirth

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Flower Guild in bloom

VESTRY NEWS

Energy audit and
visioning process

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Two big thank yous

WHAT IS A DEANERY?

And where is it?

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RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



As we near the end of the Great Fifty Days of the Easter season, it is a joy to look back at some highlights from these last few months. That means not only enjoying wonderful donkey photos—who doesn't love Jenny and Larry's annual visit?—but also celebrating the joyful return of our Pancake Breakfast, as well as remembering the splendid drama, pageantry, and poignancy of Holy Week and Easter.

We still have the feast of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday ahead of us, not to mention celebrating graduates and thanking some of our hard-working ministry volunteers. And then, beginning in June, we will enter into what we sometimes call the great, green growing season (which has a nicer ring to it than Ordinary Time, doesn't it?).

Church life and activities continue during the summer, if at a somewhat slower pace, perhaps. This is a wonderful time of year to linger longer during Coffee Hour, show up for our occasional formation and fellowship opportunities, and plan ahead for how you can be involved in community life when the program year starts again in September—before your calendar fills up!

Like many of you, I'll be taking some vacation time during the summer. Maybe we can all send in vacation or staycation photos so we can include a selection in our next edition of Reflections? As always, we welcome your input and are grateful for all who contribute.

**BLESSINGS,
PAMELA+**



Did you wonder what was on the cover? It's a photo of the bronze cross in front of the church, decorated with flowers after Easter Day. This tradition commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. A special thank you to Sheri Reynolds and everyone who brought flowers to make this happen!

Campus Visioning Process

St. Martin's explores how the campus can better serve our parish

By: The Architect Selection Committee (Maria Acuna-Feldman, Jim Jordan, Terry Krivan, Bill Krivan, Gabe Avila, Pierre Neu, Rev. Pamela Dolan, Anthony Miller)



St. Martin's is continuing its site planning and campus visioning process, taking a closer look at how our physical space supports—or sometimes limits—our ministries and community life. This is still a conceptual and exploratory phase, not a capital campaign, and no decisions about construction or fundraising are being made at this time.

Discussions with ministry leadership, staff, and partner organizations highlighted several specific areas for improvement. These areas include how people arrive and move through the campus, the visibility of our sanctuary and offices, and the need for more flexible, welcoming spaces for hospitality, small groups, and community use. For example, the parish hall currently functions well for large gatherings, but it is less inviting for everyday use, and some buildings and entrances are difficult for newcomers to locate. There is a strong need to align our facilities with current ministry priorities.

In response to a report from the Capital Needs Discernment Task Force, the Vestry authorized hiring a design professional to create conceptual plans that explore a range of possibilities—from modest improvements to more comprehensive reimagining of the campus. These plans will help us better understand options, trade-offs, and potential costs; the plans are intended to inform discussion, not to commit us to any particular path.

This phase of the visioning process is about asking good questions: How can our campus better reflect our mission of welcome, connection, and spiritual growth? What changes would most strengthen our ministries and community partnerships? As concepts are developed, the parish will be invited into conversation, so that any future decisions are grounded in shared discernment and clarity.

If you would like to learn more about this process, follow this link:
<https://churchofstmartin.org/site-planning/>

An Energy Audit

RESPONDING FAITHFULLY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin continues to stand out as a leader in environmental stewardship across the Diocese of Northern California, as affirmed by a newly completed professional energy audit. Rather than identifying major problems, the January 2026 report highlights what many already know: “St. Martin’s Episcopal Church is not a ‘fix-a-problem’ facility, but rather an ‘optimize-a-leader’ campus.”



Already operating at net-zero electricity through its solar system, St. Martin’s ranks among the top-performing churches in the region, with one of the lowest energy use levels across more than 40 diocesan campuses. This places the parish at the forefront of Creation Care and faithful stewardship.

The audit also offers a range of potential ideas for the future, such as refining building controls, improving efficiency, and exploring long-term resilience options like battery backup. Importantly, these are not plans or commitments, but possibilities to inform thoughtful, future conversations.

TO READ THE FULL REPORT



<https://stmartinsdavis.tiny.us/energy>

At this stage, no projects are being pursued, and no changes are being proposed. Instead, this report serves as a resource and snapshot of where we are today. It offers ideas for what could be explored over time with careful discernment, community input, and appropriate funding.

In short, St. Martin’s is not just keeping pace. It is setting the pace, offering a hopeful example of what sustainable ministry can look like, now and into the future.

SACRED JOURNEYS

ST. MARTIN'S JOINS NATIONAL PILOT ON MIGRATION WITH DIGNITY

BY JANET LANE



St. Martin's is partnering with Trinity Cathedral to pilot a new 10-session course, Sacred Journeys: Migration with Dignity. The St. Martin's/Trinity group is one of nine groups nationwide piloting the new curriculum being developed under the direction of The Episcopal Church Migration Caucus. Exploring personal stories, videos, artwork, and articles about migrants and immigration, the course began in February and runs through July 2.

Some of the topics covered include what specific migrants' journeys look like and the dangers they face in migrating, what pushes migrants to move and what pulls them to certain new locations, family separation and other deterrence strategies used by the government, the effects on children, and much more.

Discussion in class and suggested action activities after class help make the material meaningful and personal and help participants discern how they might be part of effective solutions. As part of the pilot, course participants provide feedback to the course development team so that the course can be rolled out throughout The Episcopal Church this fall. If you are interested in being part of this course in the future, any of the participants would be happy to talk with you.

BEST SKILLS, BEST CHURCHES

Deacon Margaret Grayden and Administrative Assistant Janet Lane are St. Martin's most recent graduates (March 2026) of the Best Skills, Best Churches six-month program offered through the Nonprofit Management Institute at Arizona State University

Previous graduates include Operations Director Gabe Avila and Sr. Warden Maria Acuna-Feldman. Topics covered include working effectively with volunteers, effective communication and handling conflict, marketing and community presence, financial management, and fundraising.

Each "unit" of the course is co-taught by a nonprofit management specialist in the area and a faith leader specialist, allowing the course to directly meet the needs of communities of faith.

Our diocese partners with ASU to make this course available periodically. Graduates receive a Certificate in Nonprofit Management.

THE JERRY HULBERT WEEKLY FOOD DONATION AND GIVING THANKS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS



At St. Martin's Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026, the parish took time to celebrate and give thanks for two individuals whose quiet dedication has shaped the life of our community for decades: Jerry Hulbert and Bob Holm.

Jerry Hulbert was recognized for over 30 years of service on the Social Justice & Outreach Committee, including 10 years as chair. For two decades, Jerry has faithfully delivered St. Martin's weekly food donations to Dixon Family Services and now coordinates the volunteers doing all the weekly deliveries supporting four local food pantries:

Dixon Family Services, STEAC, CA House Multicultural Living Community, and The Pantry at UC Davis. Jerry also served at the DCMH Thursday meal from its beginning in 2006 until his retirement from that ministry this year. In recognition of his extraordinary work in alleviating food insecurity, the parish renamed the weekly food collection ministry in his honor.

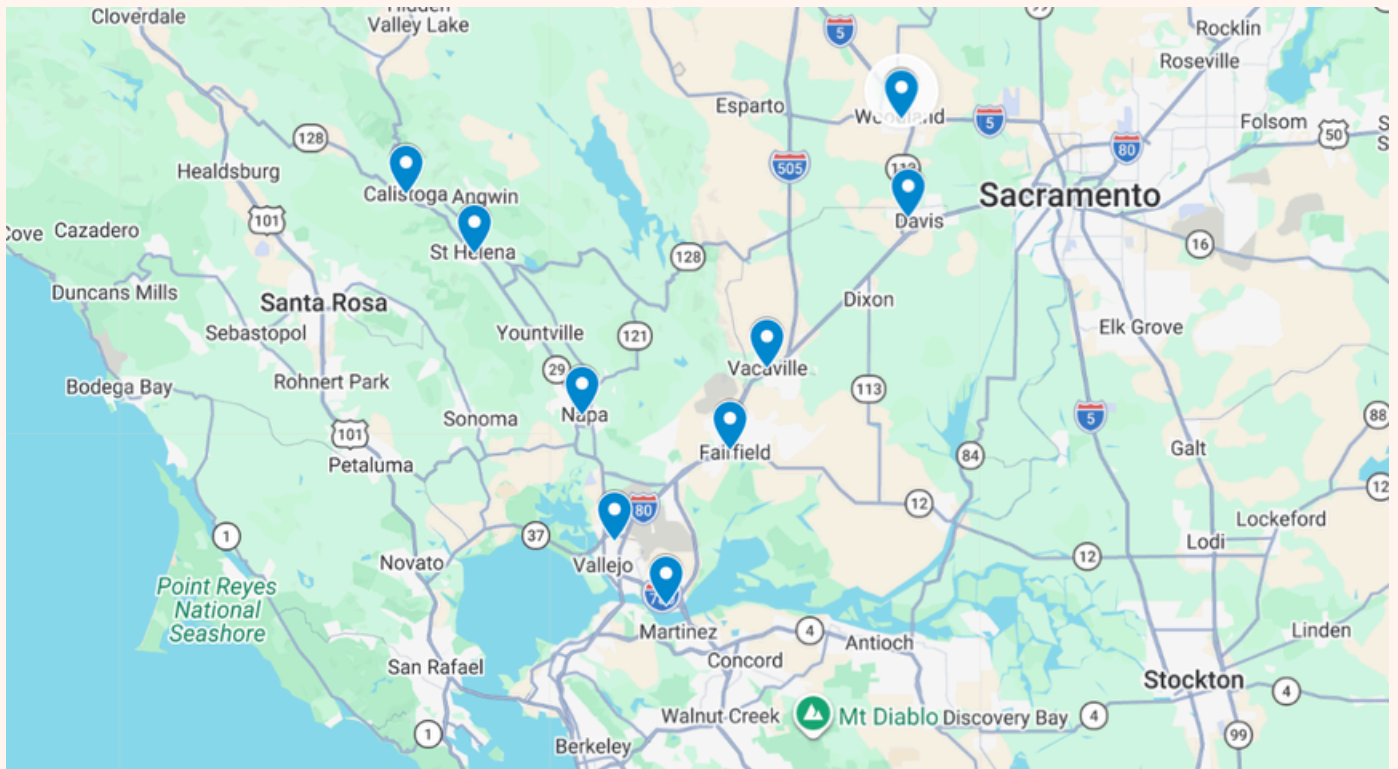
The parish also honored Bob Holm, whose countless behind-the-scenes contributions help keep St. Martin's running day after day. Acting as an unofficial sexton, Bob can regularly be found cleaning, repairing, restocking, weeding, maintaining the campus, and responding wherever help is needed. His steady presence and tireless work are woven into nearly every corner of the campus.

We give heartfelt thanks to both Jerry and Bob for their faithful and generous service.



WHAT IS A DEANERY?

AND WHERE IS IT?



St. Martin's is part of the Wingfield Deanery, a regional grouping of Episcopal churches within the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California that fosters connection, collaboration, and shared ministry among neighboring parishes. While the diocese provides broad leadership, the deanery offers a more local circle and brings together congregations to support one another, share ideas, and strengthen the Church's presence in our communities.

The map above shows the locations of the parishes in our deanery, including St. Paul's, Benicia; St. Luke's, Calistoga; St. Martin's, Davis; Grace Church, Fairfield; St. Mary's, Napa; Grace, St. Helena; Epiphany, Vacaville; Ascension, Vallejo; and St. Luke's, Woodland.

What makes this especially meaningful for St. Martin's is that our own rector, the Very Rev. Pamela Dolan, serves as the dean of the Wingfield Deanery. In Episcopal tradition, the title "Very Reverend" reflects this role: a dean is entrusted with helping coordinate the life and work of the churches within the deanery, encouraging communication, and supporting both clergy and lay leaders.

Through gatherings, shared initiatives, and ongoing conversation, the Wingfield Deanery helps parishes stay connected not only to the diocese, but to one another. It is a space where relationships are built, challenges are shared, and new ideas can take root. St. Martin's participation and leadership within the Wingfield Deanery is one more way our parish contributes to the wider mission of the Church, both locally and beyond.

MINISTRY IN SPOTLIGHT: FLOWER GUILD IN BLOOM

Each week, before any of us arrive, the Flower Guild has already been hard at work quietly transforming our worship spaces with beauty, color, and care. Their arrangements do more than decorate. They help set the tone for prayer, mark the rhythm of the Church year, and draw our eyes toward the sacred in the midst of the ordinary.

Flower arranging is both an art and a discipline. From selecting blooms that reflect the liturgical season and complement the altar linens, to gathering and preparing the flowers themselves so they remain fresh and vibrant across services, what we see on Sunday morning is the result of careful, thoughtful work.

From the simplicity of greenery in Lent to the joyful abundance of Easter and the rich colors of Christmas, the Flower Guild brings the seasons of our faith to life. Their work is both creative and devotional, offered not for recognition, but as a gift to the whole community.

As we continue to spotlight the many hands that sustain life at St. Martin's, we give heartfelt thanks to the members of the Flower Guild. Your work helps make our shared worship more beautiful, more meaningful, and more alive.



VESTRY RETREAT

BY MARIA ACUNA-FELDMAN,
SR. WARDEN

On February 28, Vestry members gathered at the Mercy Center in Auburn for the annual planning retreat. The weekend started with dining together, followed by the welcoming of new Vestry members: Carole Hom, Mae Barnes, and Kevin Hanks. A special part of the weekend is the community-building that happens among new and returning Vestry members and staff. We commit to work together to serve, and we offer our gifts and skills to support and strengthen the mission and vision at St. Martin's.

Our work included a review of the Parochial Report which reflected the activities and operations of the church in 2025. The review led the Vestry to discern and support the priorities for 2026 and plan for their implementation:

- 1) Provide opportunities for everyone at St. Martin's to deepen their spiritual journeys;
- 2) Renew our commitment to carbon reduction and climate resilience; and,



3) Work to make St. Martin's a place of real belonging, safety, and connection.

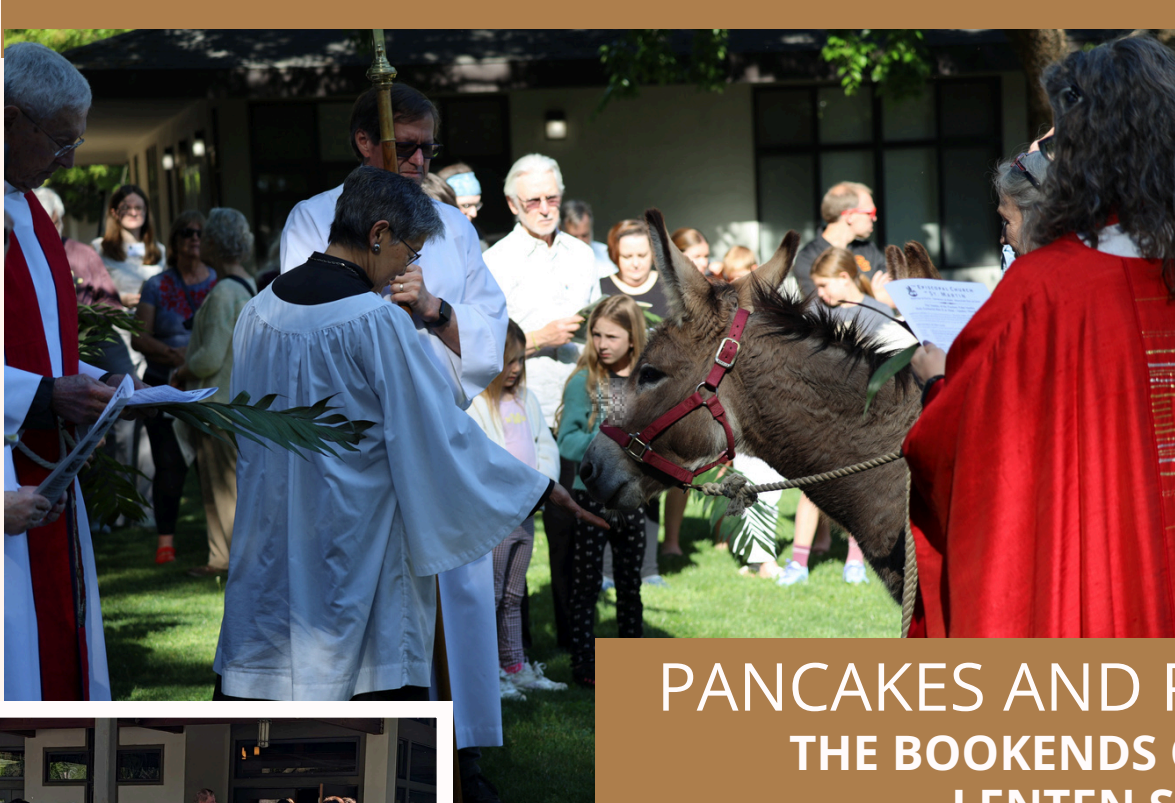
At our official Vestry meeting, we approved several action items:

- Selection of the Safe Parking Program as beneficiary of the Easter Plate Offering
- Designation of the Altar Guild to receive the Easter memorials and thanksgiving donations
- Endorsement of the candidacy of seminarian Anthony Amato for Holy Orders
- Review and submission of the 2025 Parochial Report to the Diocesan office.

An informative, energizing retreat launched the Vestry into a busy year, starting with members volunteering to serve on various church committees and work groups.

The Vestry prays for the Spirit's guidance in its work and decisions. And, we want to listen to our parishioners, too. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.





PANCAKES AND PALMS THE BOOKENDS OF THE LENTEN SEASON



We began our Lenten journey with warmth, laughter, and full plates on Shrove Sunday, as the Social Justice and Outreach Committee and St. Martin's youth hosted a joyful pancake breakfast between services. Volunteers served up pancakes, bacon, eggs, and a generous spread of treats, creating a space for fellowship as the parish gathered to mark the season's beginning.



Once approved by the Vestry, all proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to Empower Yolo, the nonprofit selected with input from our youth. This is a reminder that Lent calls us not only inward, but outward in love and service.

Weeks later, we closed the season with the rich symbolism of Palm Sunday. Our celebration included a festive palm procession, made all the more memorable by a visit from Jenny and Larry, our beloved donkey guests. Together, these moments framed the Lenten season with both joy and reflection, community and contemplation. A heartfelt thanks to all who cooked, served, organized, performed, and participated. Through your gifts, these beloved traditions continue to nourish both body and spirit.





EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

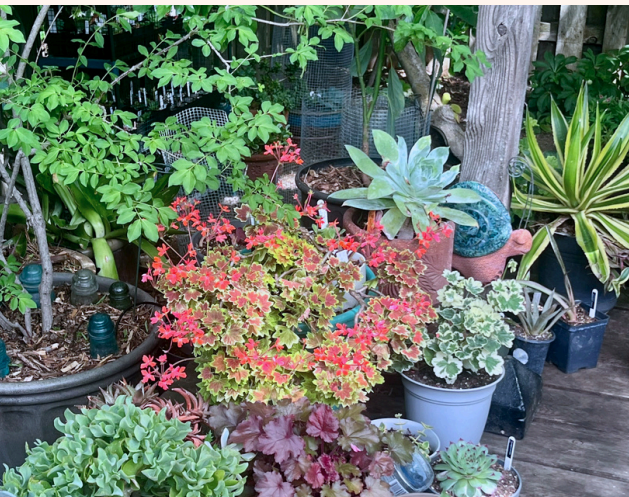
“Every day is Earth Day.” This is the message of the Green Caucus, a grassroots organization within the Episcopal Church that is trying to bring environmental issues and care for creation to the top of the church’s agenda, especially in terms of the work of General Convention.

In late April, it certainly felt like every day was Earth Day at St. Martin’s. Our creation-centered events started on Sunday, April 19, with a lovely garden tour. Five parishioners opened their gardens for us to wander through, sharing knowledge, expertise, and the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of roses, poppies, succulents, redwoods, and so much more.



Then on April 25, a group of us led a hike along Putah Creek as part of our collaboration with the Yolo Interfaith Queer Alliance.

On Sunday, April 26, we “officially” celebrated Earth Day at our Fourth Sunday service, featuring the story of the Good Shepherd, followed by an Adult Forum on creation care in the Episcopal Church. Finally, we had a small twilight gathering on the labyrinth, offering our prayers for the goodness of God’s creation and all the ways it sustains us.



If you missed any of these events, don’t worry! Creation Care is an ongoing priority at St. Martin’s, not just something we trot out for Earth Day or on the Feast of St. Francis. If you are interested in learning more and finding bite-sized, sustainable ways to get involved, we’ll be launching a parish Green Team soon, so stay tuned.

If you want to know more about what’s happening throughout our Diocese and around the Episcopal Church, you’d be warmly welcomed at the Commission on the Environment, which meets monthly online. Be in touch with Rev. Pamela and she’ll get you the dates, times, and Zoom link, or check out their page on the Diocesan website: <https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/site/commission-on-the-environment/>

Upcoming Events

MAY 24

PENTECOST BBQ

Celebrate Pentecost after the 10am service with an all-parish BBQ hosted by the Buildings & Grounds committee.

MAY 31

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATES

Please let the office know if you or your loved one is graduating so we can celebrate our graduates at our 10am service.

JUN 6, 14

DAVIS PRIDE

On Jun 6, St. Martin's will host a booth at Davis Pride. Reach out to the office if you'd like to help staff the booth. On Jun 14, we will have a Pride service and chalking of the campus.



CONCERTS AT ST. MARTIN'S

May 17 Sinfonia Spirituosa: "Rameau: Drama, Dreams, Dance" 4pm. Sinfonia Spirituosa presents bold, historically-informed performances on period instruments. The program features 14 instrumentalists, 2 dancers, 2 vocal soloists—a fantastically dramatic story. \$30 general/\$20 St. Martin's members/\$10 students. Any student who cannot afford entry, please talk to ushers at the door. Information/tickets: <https://sinfoniaspirituosa.org/>

May 22/24: Mellon Music Festival, 7:30pm: The annual Mellon Music Festival promotes awareness of and appreciation for diversity through the medium of classical music performance. Two of the three May 2026 concerts will take place at St. Martin's. May 22 at 7:30pm is "Between Worlds," with a program of Bach, Say, and Beethoven. May 24 at 7:30pm is "Legacy Transformed," featuring pieces by Jean-Marie Leclair, Frank Bridge, Giovanni Sollima, and Johannes Brahms. \$20 per concert. Free admission for students at all levels and children under 18. Info/tix: <https://www.mellonmusicfestival.com/>

June 6 Sacramento Chamber Concert, 7:30pm: This group of talented musicians presents chamber music concerts featuring performances by northern California's finest musicians. On June 6, the program features Klavierstucke, op.32, Brahms Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Korngold Suite for 2 Violins, Cello and Piano Left Hand, 7:30pm. \$35 general; 22 and under free; St. Martin's members \$30 at door. Info/tix: <https://cmssacto.org/>

June 21: Davis Young Artists Workshop Performance, 3pm: Join a concert/recital performed by the students of the Davis Young Artist's Chamber Ensemble, who will have taken the week-long workshop at St. Martin's. 3pm in the church. Free admission.

MEETINGS, MEALS, AND MORE

DAVIS COMMUNITY MEALS AND HOUSING

Hot meals: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:45pm, Saturday 11:30am. Parish hall.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Shawl Gathering: 1st Wednesday of the month, room 6/7.

Choir practice: Thursdays 7pm, the Sanctuary.

BOY SCOUTS (PARISH HALL)

Troop 466: Monday, 7-9pm;
Troop 139: Tuesday, 7-9pm

MEET WITH LEADERSHIP

Rector's Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4-5:15pm, the office.

Vestry Meetings: 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 7pm, room 6/7.

AA MEETINGS

AA Young People's Group. 7pm, Fridays, Parish Hall

AA Davis Hope Group. Mondays 6:30pm, Tuesdays 6:45pm, Thursdays 6:45pm, Saturdays 12pm, Sundays 7pm, room 6/7

PRAYER AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Morning prayer: Short 20 min service, Wednesdays 9am, the Sanctuary

Centering prayer: Contemplative prayer session, Wednesdays 5pm, room 6/7

Sunday worship: 8am (traditional) and 10am (contemporary), the Sanctuary

Compline: A short prayer service offered on Zoom on weekdays





A LOOK AT THE SEASON 15



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