

ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2300 CATHEDRAL AVE—WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
OCTOBER 4, 2026 AT THREE O'CLOCK P.M.



The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse and inclusive community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors.

WELCOME

The Rev. Sara E. Palmer, Rector

THE COLLECT FOR ST. FRANCIS' DAY

Mother Sara The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Mother Sara Let us pray,

MOST HIGH, OMNIPOTENT, GOOD LORD, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

PSALM 148:7-14

Laudate Dominum

Said in unison.

- 7 *Praise the LORD from the earth, **
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 *Fire and hail, snow and fog, **
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 *Mountains and all hills, **
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 *Wild beasts and all cattle, **
creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 *Kings of the earth and all peoples, **
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 *Young men and maidens, **
old and young together.
- 13 *Let them praise the Name of the LORD, **
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 *He has raised up strength for his people*
*and praise for all his loyal servants, **
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

Said in unison.

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that
we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

Mother Sara Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially St. Francis whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mother Sara And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All *Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF GOD'S CREATION

Mother Sara O HOLY ONE, YOU HAVE FILLED THE WORLD WITH BEAUTY; Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness. Let your blessing be upon these animals and grant that they may serve you with gladness. Let your glory and the welfare of your people; in the name of Him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

Mother Sara The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

AT THAT TIME JESUS SAID, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Mother Sara The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Mother Sara WE GIVE YOU THANKS, MOST GRACIOUS GOD, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—FORM II

Leader I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

INDIVIDUAL BLESSINGS FOLLOW

Officiant

May you be a faithful companion to your owner, and may you glorify your Creator this day and for ever. ***Amen.***

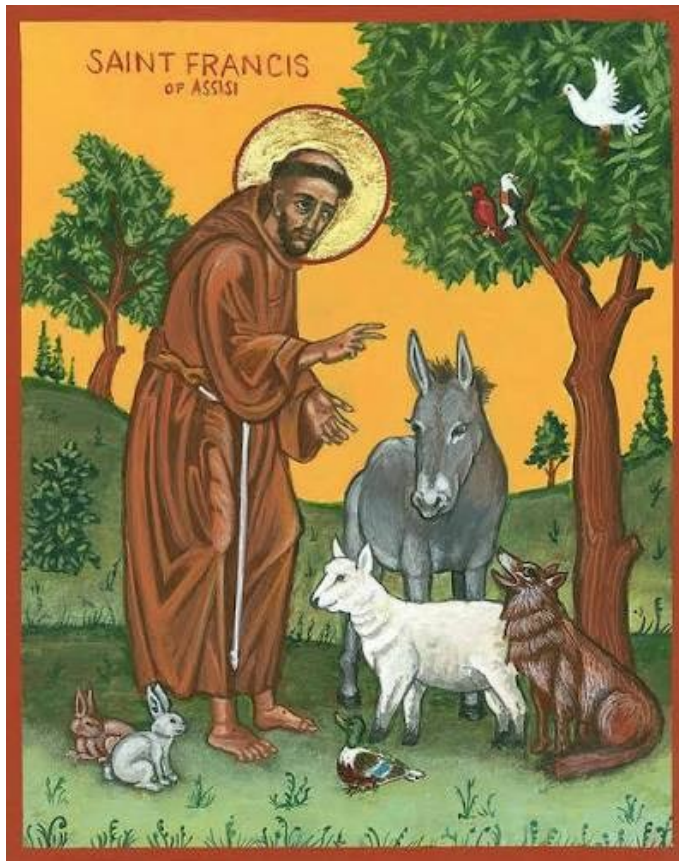
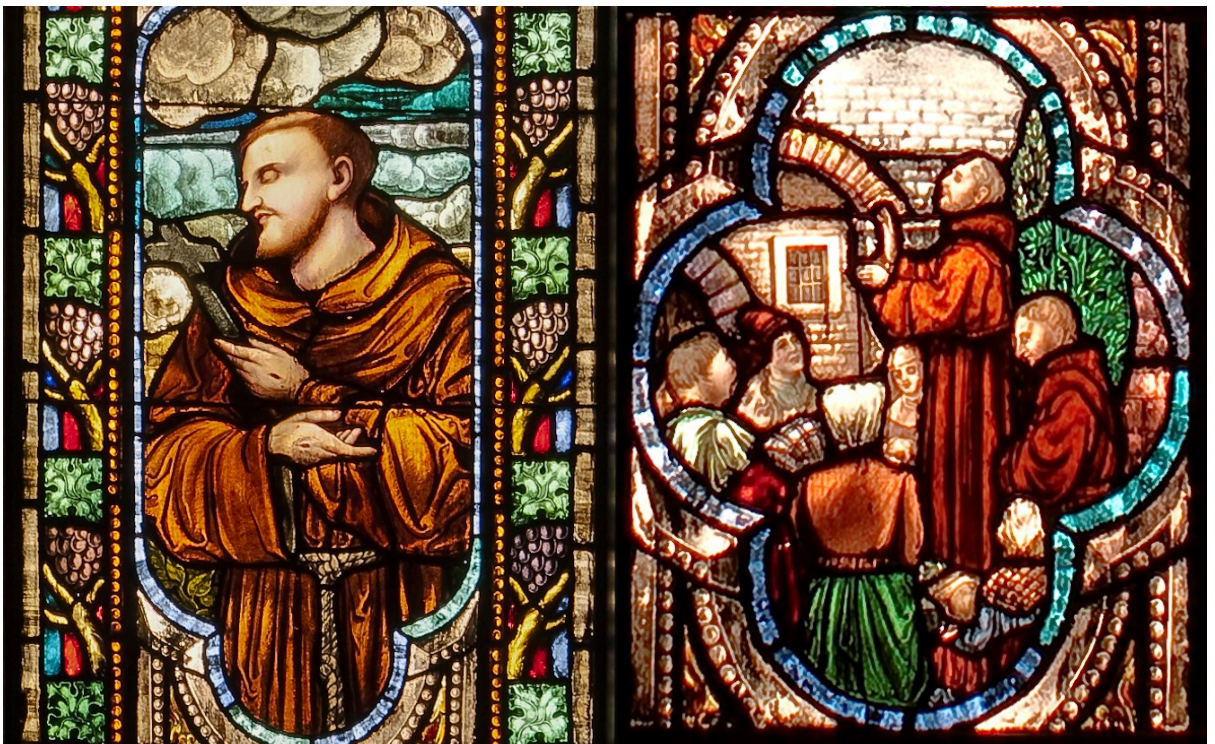


*Image found at <https://blogs.sjcme.edu/theology/1034-2/>
accessed 9/29/26.*



The Life of St. Francis - in stained glass at All Souls Church, near the Mary Chapel.



A Children's Lesson for St. Francis Day

littlewaychapel.com/blog/St-Francis (accessed 9.29.26)

There once was a man named Francis. He was born a long time ago in Assisi, Italy around 1181. His father sold very beautiful and expensive clothes, and had lots of money to buy Francis anything he could ever want. Francis wore fancy clothes, and he went to big extravagant parties where there were long tables of delicious food and drink. Everyone danced and laughed all night without a care in the world.

But not everyone lived like Francis. In Francis' town there were people called Lepers. Lepers had a terrible disease called leprosy—it caused them to have sores all over their body that were very painful and also very contagious. Nobody wanted to catch this disease, so they would stay far away from lepers. When people saw a leper on the street, they would turn and walk the other way. Absolutely no one touched a leper. One day, Francis was riding down the road and he saw a leper. He was terrified of getting the disease, so he quickly turned to go in the opposite direction. But as he turned, something stopped him. Francis remembered the story of Jesus healing a leper in the Bible, and he knew that he couldn't just walk away. Francis felt compassion for this leper who had not been touched in years. He

imagined what it would be like to have no one to hug you when you are sad, or pat your back when you are sick, or shake your hand to say hello—and he knew he could not simply walk away. Instead, Francis walked right over to the man, and kissed him! Then, Francis emptied his pockets and gave the leper all the money he had. Francis left the man but he always remembered him. Not long after that, he devoted his life to serving the sick and the poor. Francis gave away all his fancy clothes and money. He had no home and he ate only what people gave him. Then he traveled around the country telling anyone who would listen—even animals—about Jesus's love for them. He helped so many people and loved God so much that the church named him a saint. We know him today as St. Francis of Assisi.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, help us to follow in the way of St. Francis by loving all of creation with our whole hearts and caring for those in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

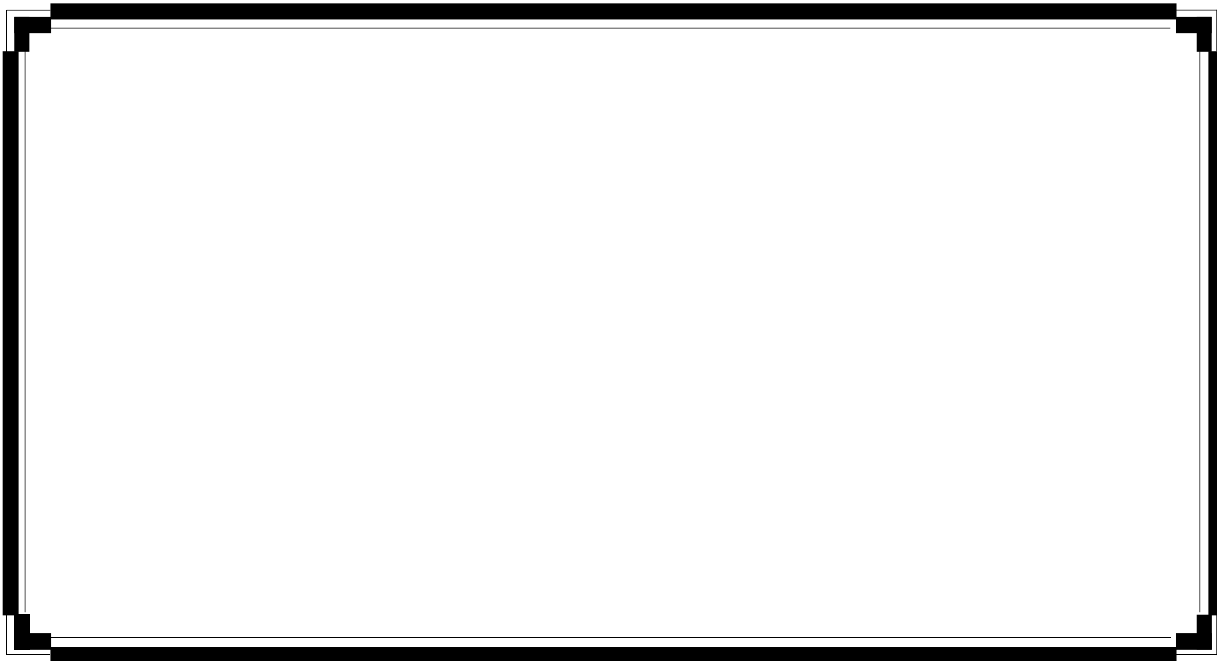
Wondering Questions

- ◇ I wonder who the leper was? I wonder if he had a family or friends?
- ◇ I wonder how it felt to never be touched?
- ◇ I wonder how the leper felt when Francis kissed him?
- ◇ I wonder why Francis gave away all of his money and belongings?
- ◇ I wonder if Francis ever missed his things after he gave them away?
- ◇ I wonder if someone has ever helped you when you were sick or in need?
- ◇ I wonder if you have ever helped someone like the leper who was sick or in need?



Your Answers

Draw or take a picture of you and your animal +



FALL 2026 FAITH FORUM SERIES

October

- 4 - Psalm 1: A Thematic Introduction to the Psalms with Peter Laugesen
- 11 - CS Lewis and the Four Cardinal Virtues with Sebastian Wellford
- 18 - Reflections on Faith and Personal Identity with Carri Banholzer
- 25 - Spiritual Journey Interview

November

- 1 - Religious Themes in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson with vEnessa Acham
- 8 - Prison Ministries with The Rev. Nancy Stockbridge & Heidi Kugler
- 15 - The Universalist Christian Theology of Marcus Borg with Joe Howell
- 22 - Spiritual Journey Interview
- 29 - Advent Book Study with Jennifer Mindek Beckham

December

- 6 - Advent Book Study (Jennifer Mindek Beckham)
- 13 - Advent Book Study (Presenter: TBD)
- 20 - Advent Book Study (Presenter: TBD)

*Come journey with us this year as we explore these topics.
Meeting in the Conference Room at 10 am each Sunday. All are welcome!*

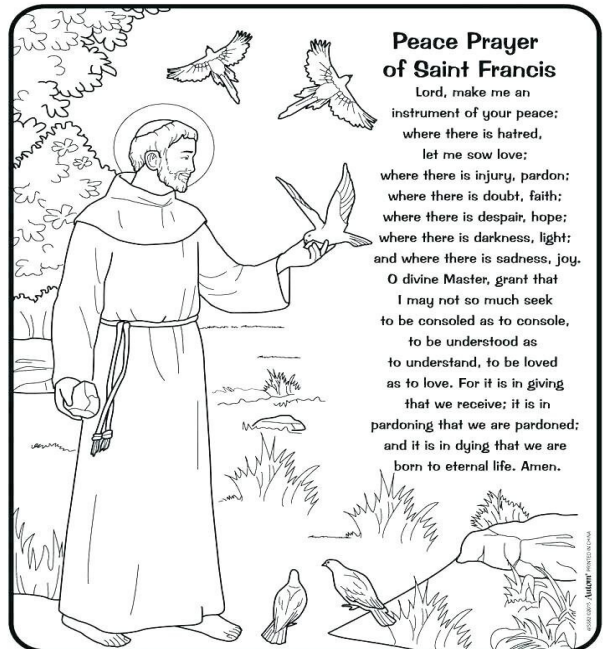
DIAPER DRIVE

Runs Now thru All Saints Day, Nov. 1

Would you believe that the average cost to diaper a baby in our region is \$1,200 per year? It's no wonder that nearly half of families struggle with diaper insecurity. To help in a small way, and to celebrate the opening of our **All Souls Nursery**, the Outreach Committee is hosting a diaper drive to **benefit the Greater DC Diaper Bank**.

Between now and All Saints Day

November 1, those with extra diapers, pullups, or overnights can bring them to the undercroft (open packages ok). Others can donate cash through All Souls, indicate Diaper Drive in the memo section. *Please see Daniel Callis for any questions.*



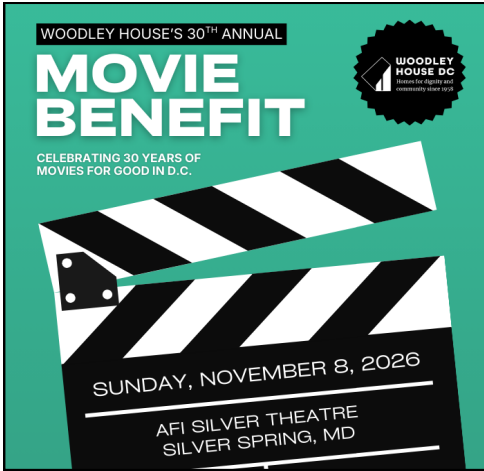
Fri., Oct. 16, 6-8 pm
How to be Brave for
Young Adults Living and
Working in DC for 20's to
30's, here at All Souls
with Bishop Marianne



Sun., Nov. 1
ALL SAINTS' DAY, 11 am Service
Our traditional Namesake potluck
follows in the Undercroft at Noon.

Nov. 7, 4:00 pm, Nave
CAPITAL HEARINGS FALL
CONCERT

Sun., Nov. 8, 7:00 pm
WOODLEY HOUSE
MOVIE BENEFIT



Thurs.,
Nov. 26,
THANKSGIVING
DAY,
11 am service
Our traditional
potluck follows in the Undercroft at
Noon.



DC EPISCOPAL
FELLOWSHIP

how to be brave

FOR YOUNG ADULTS (20S+30S)
LIVING & WORKING IN DC



With Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026
6-8 P.M.

ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH (PARISH HALL)
2300 CATHEDRAL AVENUE NW

*Reception following the bishop's
remarks/Q&A*

**THE
CAPITAL
HEARINGS**

FALL CONCERT

**Join us for an afternoon of
a cappella & fellowship**

Fundraiser for the Cleveland Woodley Park Village

NEW DATE! **SATURDAY,**
NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Concert begins at 4:00 pm in
the All Souls Sanctuary

Light reception to follow

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP, PROGRESSIVE THINKING

We invite you to come and join us in the church
for our regular 11:00 am services on Sunday!

Staff

Mother Sara Palmer, *Rector*

rector@allsoulsdc.org

Andrea Meier, *Parish Administrator*

office@allsoulsdc.org

Linda Sparks *Director of Music*

music@allsoulsdc.org

Seminarian

Jennifer Mindek Beckham

All Souls Vestry, *vestry@allsoulsdc.org*

vEnessa Acham (2029)

Kurt Jacobs (2029)

John Longstreth (2027)

Nancy Morgan (2027)

Joe Neal (2028)

Will Stewart (2028)

Rick Taylor (2028)

Arthur Warren (2027)

Sebastian Wellford (2029)

Lisa Watson

senior.warden@allsoulsdc.org

Tara Mancini

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Will Stewart

treasurer@allsoulsdc.org

Find AllSoulsDC on Facebook & Instagram



All Souls Episcopal Church near the Zoo



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