

July 2026

VBS 2026: Living Water

Vacation Bible School is happening July 13-17! Our theme for this summer's VBS at All Saints' is **"Living Water."** Our stories will include Creation, Jesus Stills a Storm, and the Woman at the Well. Art and science will involve water, and we will have a dedicated time to play in the water at the end of each day.

We will be talking about taking care of this very precious resource, and our mission project will be raising funds for The Water Project, which helps to provide access to clean, safe, and reliable water across sub-Saharan Africa. We will end the week with our traditional potluck lunch, and sing a song in church on the Sunday following VBS (July 19).



VBS will be held July 13-17, from 9am to noon, Monday through Friday, and is open to campers age 4 up through 6th grade (just finished 5th grade). The cost is \$15 per camper and camperships are available if needed - we want everyone to come to VBS! Invite your friends! There is still time to register at <https://bit.ly/vbs2026registration>.

Contact Theresa at school@allsaintsrichland.org with any questions.

Wanted for VBS:

These items can be dropped off in the church office, or brought in on a Sunday:

- various craft materials that will float: wooden craft sticks, craft foam, small plastic tubs (like from cream cheese, margarine, or yogurt—wider than they are tall).

- small, tropical houseplants that will work in a terrarium—please contact Theresa if you might have some.
- potting soil
- gravel or small pebbles (like for an aquarium, or of similar size)
- food donation list is full - thank you!

Lay Minister Training Day

Have you noticed the variety of people who serve around here during Sunday morning worship? It really is true that we make church together!

On **Saturday, August 8**, we will offer training for all of these roles. Whether you are already serving, or you are new to a role and want to learn more, this day is for you. Save the date and please join us!

10:00 AM - Acolytes

These people support the priest by helping set the table, lead processions with cross or candles, receive offerings from the congregation, and generally assist as needed. Anyone in 3rd grade or older is eligible.

11:30 AM - Lectors

These people come up from the congregation to read one of the Sunday scriptures (usually taken from the New Testament). Anyone who reads well is eligible.

1:00 PM - Ushers

These people greet incoming worshippers, pass out bulletins, collect the offering, and keep track of attendance and communicant numbers for parish records. Anyone middle school and older with a smiling face and eagerness to make people welcome is eligible.



2:00 PM - LEMs

These people are “utility infielders;” they read scripture, lead Prayers of the People, and help distribute Communion during worship. In addition, the 8AM LEM unlocks doors and starts the coffee pot, while the 10:15AM LEM locks all the doors after worship is over. Anyone high school age or older is eligible.

2:45 PM - Chalice Bearers

These people step forward from the congregation to help distribute Communion. Anyone high school age or older is eligible.

3:00 PM - Worship Leaders

These people lead the congregation in Morning Prayer in the absence of a priest. Anyone high school age or older is eligible.

Rector's Corner

Over the last week, Bruce & I watched a series of documentaries focused on the reality of climate change: “Kiss the Ground,” “Common Ground,” and “Groundswell.” These films were straightforward about the impact of the damage to Earth’s ecosystems, but their emphasis was on effective response—in particular the global movement toward *regenerative agriculture*.

This approach to farming focuses on improving the soil using practices such as reduced tillage, cover crops and crop rotation, composting, and managed livestock grazing. As soil health improves, water retention increases and the need for chemical inputs — fertilizers and herbicides— decreases.

The farmers in the films reported crop yields increased as soils became more resilient, because they harbored fewer pests and diseases and could better withstand extreme weather. Research even shows these techniques mitigate and may even help to reverse climate change through improved



“carbon sequestration” - the natural process of healthy plants removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

I was struck by the emphasis on *soil*. Of course farmers and ranchers care for the crops they grow and the livestock they raise; but first and foremost, above all else, they said their job was to make good soil. Do that, and everything else follows.

A life of faith is much the same, isn't it? As disciples of Jesus, we know that when we establish regular habits of prayer and worship, study and learning, fellowship and service, our relationship with God grows and deepens. All the “fruits of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22) grow within our souls far more readily when we provide healthy soil for them to thrive.

What are you doing to build good soil? What practices of discipleship will help your soul to thrive?

God's peace, Jane+

Adult Formation

We have resumed our summertime practice of meeting in the parish hall between services to reflect on scripture together. “Sing to the Lord a New Song” is our diocesan theme for the year, so we will focus on passages which help us reflect on the ways that we are called, literally and figuratively, to “sing a new song” in our lives.

Please join us in the parish hall each Sunday at 9:15am, as we open our Bibles and our hearts together.

July 5: Luke 1:46-55 (*Mary's Song*)

July 12: Luke 2:29-32 (*Song of Simeon*)

July 19: Luke 6:27-36 (*Sermon on the Plain*)

July 26: Acts 16:16-34
(*Paul and Silas in prison*)

Children and Youth Ministries – July 2026

Sunday School will resume on the Sunday after Labor Day, September 13, 2026, from 9:00 to 10:00am. Godly Play is for children ages 4 through 5th grade and will meet in the Godly Play classroom in the education wing. Our Youth Class is for students in grades 6 through 12 and will meet in the Loft at the same time. Have a wonderful summer!

Interested in being a children's or youth ministry leader? If you might be interested in leading Godly Play or our Youth Class (which meets 9 to 10 AM on Sundays) or being a Children's Chapel leader (10 to 11 AM), please contact Theresa. We always are looking for new leaders.

The main qualification is a desire to connect with our young people and share the love of God! We have resources to share for the rest. We do run a background check, and you would need to take the online Safeguarding classes from The Episcopal Church. With enough people, you would serve approximately once a month. We are especially in need of some new youth leaders for the Sunday morning class, and are looking at building a group that could share the work.

Children's Chapel continues through the summer. Held during the beginning of the 10:15 service, Children's Chapel is a child-friendly Liturgy of the Word with time for play before coming up to join the rest of the congregation for Holy Communion. We meet in the multi-purpose room downstairs (also known as STAR Time). Kids age 3 up to 6th graders are welcome, as are friends and visitors. Please sign in your child when dropping them off.

Chapel is planned for most Sundays through the summer, except for July 19 (VBS Sunday) and August 23 (Church Picnic and worship with St. Paul's Kennewick).

Nursery for the little ones. The Nursery is available during the 10:15 service for our littlest saints, from birth until their 4th birthday. The Nursery is located

downstairs in the education wing, and pagers are available for parents to take so our attendants can contact you if needed. Jennifer Martin and Nathan Bartol are our regular caregivers, and are in the Nursery on Sundays from 9am, so you can join Adult Ed if you wish.

VBS Prep Day: July 9. Thanks to all the people who came to our June prep days! We have a few more things to get ready this week before VBS, including volunteers tie-dying their own shirts and starting some of the decorating, so come anytime between 10:00 and 3:00 on this day to help.



VBS Volunteer Meeting and Set-up, July 12. There will be a final meeting with all VBS volunteers after church on Sunday, July 12 (starting approximately 12 noon), followed by setting up the rooms and decorating for the week! Sandwich fixings will be provided, or feel free to bring your own lunch.

Scholarships for Camp Cross. We want everyone to be able to enjoy all that our diocesan camp has to offer. Any student attending Camp Cross for the first time is eligible for a full scholarship from All Saints' First Timer Fund. Returning campers can apply for a full or partial scholarship from the Robison Fund. Contact Theresa Grate in the church office for more information. Camp session information is available on the website www.campcross.org.

Senior Warden's Update

In preparation for Rev. Jane's retirement, the vestry has been reviewing the Calling Process Booklet that the Diocesan Transition Minister, Susan Cleveley, handed out to us at our meeting on May 27. Our next step in the process will be to gather information for a "State of the Congregation Report" that will be submitted to the Bishop.

The vestry will be preparing to select a chaplain (a lay person) to serve in the Calling Process. We need to remember that this is not a hiring process, but a discerning of God's will for us. Susan is working hard to find us an interim priest, to start after Jane's retirement.

Save the date for Rev. Jane's retirement celebration on **August 30!** We will have one service at 9am. followed by a potluck with fun and games. Hold All Saints' in your prayers and the work of the vestry in particular, as we try to discern God's will for us and our future.

Outreach Focus for July: Campbell Farm

During the month of July, we are collecting baby care items to support Campbell Farm, located in one of the most impoverished communities in Washington. They work with youth and families on the Yakima Reservation providing important programs including prenatal and baby support, education and feeding programs.

The needs in the lower Yakima Valley are greater than they have local resources to support so they very much cherish help from neighboring communities that are able to support vulnerable youth and families. Needed items include: *infant formula, diapers of all sizes, clean baby blankets, baby clothes, and baby wipes.*

Please bring baby care items to the box in the narthex during the month of July. Thank you for your prayers and support of The Campbell Farm.

Saints and Sinners

Saints and Sinners will meet for their monthly social hour and potluck dinner at All Saints' **Friday, July 17**, weather permitting, in the Memorial Pavilion! (If it's too hot, we'll move indoors). Saints and Sinners is a social group open to all adults of the parish and we are delighted to have additional folks join us. Please come prepared to help set up tables and chairs.

We have a social hour from 6 to 6:30 or 6:45pm with wine and non-alcoholic beverages, and eat dinner after. Couples bring either a main dish or two sides (starter, salad, side dish, or dessert); singles bring one of these. We expect to use the kitchen to keep dishes warm or refrigerated as needed. Also, please bring your own table service if possible, and if you have one, a shatter proof wine glass. We will have some extras if you don't - I think they are safer than glass stemware outside.

We will have a signup sheet in the narthex the preceding Sunday or you can call or text Linda Munson at 509-521-8981. If you don't sign up you can still come as we have ample tables and chairs.

Summer Movie Nights

Movie nights continue through the summer! Please mark your calendars to join us once each month at **6pm** for a potluck supper followed by a film and lively discussion. Here's what's coming next!

July 21: "Spotlight" (R)

Reporters at the Boston Globe uncover the scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese that reverberates around the globe; based on their Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation.



August 18: "Cabrini" (PG-13)

After witnessing disease and poverty in the slums of New York, Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini embarks on a daring journey to persuade the hostile mayor to provide housing and healthcare for hundreds of orphaned children.

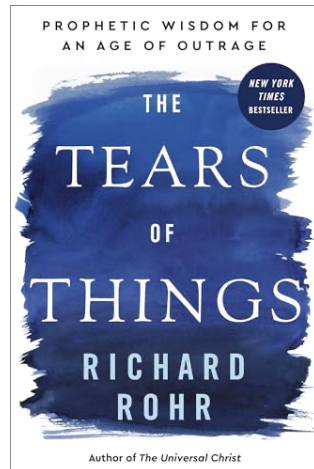


All Saints' Book Group

Our next book to read is *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr. This new work by Rohr, a prominent spiritual voice and ecumenical teacher, "paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a compassionate way of living in a hurting world."

He takes a look at the prophets' writings in the Bible to find ways to deal with private disappointments, anger at an unjust world, and compassion in the face of violence and despair. It is an approach that honors the interconnectedness of every living being, and the reality of a divine and universal love.

We will meet to discuss this book on **Thursday, July 23**, beginning at 6pm in the parish hall with a potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome!



B4 in July

Building Bridges Between Believers continues! "B4" is a year-long program seeking to combine monthly opportunities for learning and spiritual practice, with small group reflections and mutual prayer. We hope to develop connections with one another as we learn to recognize the connections between our lives and work and the roots of our faith.

In July, we'll spend some time digging into the theology of discipleship. Then we'll learn about the practice of prayer walks, with a field trip out front to our very own labyrinth. Please join us on **Tuesday, July 14 at 6pm** for dinner and discussion. We'd love to see you there!

June Vestry Summary

The All Saints Vestry met on Monday, June 15, and continued to spend its formation time exploring the book *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear*.

The Property Committee has finalized a bid to replace gutters for the entire church and spent time discussing damage to a pavilion fan, an HVAC report, and the new projector in the parish hall. Summer income is slightly down. This is an annual pattern, however, and parish income remains well ahead of budget for the year.

The search for a new choir director remains ongoing (please spread the word!). The Ministry Committee is evaluating the possibility of a program to replace metal chairs in the parish hall with more comfortable options. And, of course, the Vestry continues to make progress on preparing the ground for the process of calling a new rector.

Camp Cross 2026

Dates have been released for this summer's camps! There are a few new sessions this year. You can find out more about each session at campcross.org. It's not too late to register - but hurry before your favorite session is full!

Mini Camp: July 6-9

High School Camp: July 12-17

Intermediate Camp: July 20-24

Arts and Music Camp: July 27 - 31

Mid-High Camp: August 3-8

Clergy Camp: August 10-13

Queer Camp: August 28-31

Labor Day Family Camp: September 4-7

We want everyone to be able to enjoy all that our diocesan camp has to offer. Scholarships are available; see pg. 3 for more information.

Trailer Fundraiser Update

Our first Community Thrift donation trailer collection drive was very successful! Parishioners and neighbors filled up the trailer that we had here on site for a week in May, including items left over from the church yard sale.

Many people helped staff the trailer during our open hours, and we can't thank you enough for making this fundraiser possible. We earned \$586.56 for Outreach, topping out at 3,013 pounds of donated goods! Thank you, all!



Community Thrift is a local thrift store with two outlets: 303 Wellsian Way in Richland, and 513 N. Edison Street in Kennewick. They donate a portion of their retail profits to local nonprofit organizations, including Grace Collective and Mirror Ministries. We recommend you check them out!

We Give Thanks...

- to everyone who has helped with VBS prep so far! And to all who signed up to bring food to VBS - our list already full!
- to Caleb Thomas, for heading up All Saints' table at Tri-Cities Pride this year, and to all who set up, manned, and helped break down the booth.
- to all who generously donated to the Camp Cross cabin fundraiser! At the end of June, we sent a check to Camp Cross for \$21,470!

THANKYOU!

