



St. Francis  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9220 Georgetown Pike  
Great Falls, Virginia 22066  
[www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org](http://www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org)

# The Weekly Franciscan

Thursday, May 8, 2025

## **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**May 11, 2025**

You are welcome to the

**8:00 a.m.** Service of Holy Eucharist Rite I with  
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant & Preacher

**10:00 a.m.** Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II  
with the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant & Preacher  
and the St. Francis Choir

Coffee Hour Follows Each Service in Millen Hall

*The 10:00 a.m. service is unable to be live-streamed at this time due to technical difficulties originating with YouTube. Please watch this space for updates as we look to regain access.*

[View this Sunday's Worship Bulletin](#)

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

The First Reading | [Acts 9:36-43](#)

The Response | [Psalm 23](#)

The Second Reading | [Revelation 7:9-17](#)

The Gospel Reading | [John 10:22-30](#)

**5:00 p.m.** Second Sunday Contemplative Worship, with  
the Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Celebrant  
Cathryn Lee, Reflector

Scott Perkins, Lay Eucharistic Minister & Reader  
Larry Vote, Cantor  
Jeanne Vote, Pianist

### **Parish Prayer List**

We pray especially for Jon, Ann, Howard, Susan, Linda, Missy, Maria, James, Holly, Nan, Marlene, Betty, Dana, Luke, David, Barbara & Bill, Jeff Sr., Hugh Sr., Lawrence, David, Jon, Jessica, Paula, Clara Sue, Grace, Debra, Taylor, and Dut.

We give thanks for the Altar Flowers, given to the glory of God by Leslie Siegmund & Jack Mathias in thanksgiving for all mothers and the First Birthday of their granddaughter, Georgia Mayer.

We pray also for Franciscans who are currently preparing for Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Reception into The Episcopal Church, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

**Community Update & Open Forum**

**DATE CHANGE (from this coming Sunday) to**

**Sunday, June 1st at 11:30 a.m.**

with Priest-in-Charge Weston Mathews  
and the St. Francis Vestry in Millen Hall



**Second Sunday Contemplative Worship Series continues this Sunday, May 11th, at 5:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary**

**Reflector: Cathryn Lee, Vestry Register**

Through candlelit prayer, contemplative silence, poetry, beautiful music, and Holy Communion from the Iona Celtic tradition, this service is different from what we offer on Sunday morning. A brief reflection on spiritual journey will also be offered by a member of St. Francis.

**This worship series will be held on the second Sunday night of each month (except for August.)** If you are looking for a new or different way to worship and a space to find your sacred center in the midst of a busy, distracted life, this may be the service for you.

# Living with Grief

*Living with Grief* is a professionally-led bereavement group open to adults suffering the loss of a loved one(s).

2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month  
10:30am - 12pm

St. Francis Episcopal Church  
9220 Georgetown Pike  
Great Falls, VA 22066  
(Group will meet in the sanctuary)

ALL community members are welcome.  
Free of charge.

For More Information  
or to Register:

Contact Cate Riikimäki, LPC at  
[cate@graymattersva.com](mailto:cate@graymattersva.com)

## **LIVING WITH GRIEF:**

**Next Meeting is Tuesday,  
May 13th at 10:30 a.m.  
in the St. Francis  
Sanctuary**



### Have you reserved your FREE Ticket yet?

Come enjoy music and refreshments at St. Francis Episcopal Church as **Words&Music** returns to **Millen Hall on Saturday, May 17 at 4:00** to entertain us with **“Venus&Mars : Love&War”** Join us for an afternoon of Italian serenades, musical theatre, novelty songs, pop hits and more. Bring your friends to this free event for a memorable afternoon of entertainment! Get your free tickets [here](#)



A new **St. Francis Arts Fund** has been established by the St. Francis Vestry. The fund will be used to bring more theater, music and arts to St. Francis and the community surrounding us. A Free Will offering to support the St. Francis Arts Fund will be available at the Words&Music concert on May 17 at 4:00. Contributions can be made at any other time as well.

**SAMARITAN  
MINISTRY**  
*of Greater Washington*



**St. Francis**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Sunday, May 18th is Samaritan  
Ministry Sunday & the First Sunday  
for Deacon Nancy Searby**

During the 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. service we will learn more about the work of our outreach partner, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, led by Director David Grove. David will serve as Guest Preacher at both the 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. services.

We will also welcome the Rev. Dr. Nancy Searby for her first Sunday as our Deacon, followed by a Forum & Reception with Deacon Nancy at 11:30 a.m.



**Priest-in-Charge Weston Mathews will be away** from Friday, May 23rd through Saturday, May 31st, returning on Sunday, June 1st.

On **Sunday, May 25th**, while our Priest-in-Charge is away\*, we will have a supply priest at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services that day: **The Very Reverend Katherine Hancock Ragsdale**, will preside and preach at both services.

The Very Rev. Katherine Ragsdale serves as interim vice president and dean of Moravian Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Ragsdale has an AB (English and Religion) from the College of William & Mary, a Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Episcopal Divinity School with a focus in professional ethics. She is an ordained Episcopal priest who served six years as president and dean of the Episcopal Divinity School where she also was a professor of Theology.



\*Weston Mathews will be away from Friday, May 23rd through Saturday, May 31st, returning on Sunday, June 1st.





Congratulations to the Rev. Joy Warburton (incoming Associate for Family Ministries) upon graduating Virginia Theological Seminary on Thursday, May 8th. Joy was awarded the Woodward Award for Reading of Scripture and Liturgy by Dean Ian Markham.



Congratulations to Sandra Loucks (incoming 2025-2026 VTS Seminarian) upon completing her Junior year at Virginia Theological Seminary. Sandra served as the Crucifer for the 202nd Commencement Exercises at VTS on Thursday, May 8th.

**Postcard Received this Week from Troop 55-G (Girl Scouting Troop) in  
Appreciation for  
St. Francis' Support**

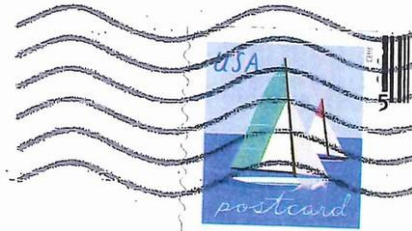




#### Hancock Avenue

Cannons and monuments line the way along Hancock Avenue, located on Cemetery Ridge. On February 11, 1895, congressional legislation was signed to establish Gettysburg National Military Park as a memorial dedicated to the armies that fought that great three-day battle. The park incorporates nearly 6,000 acres, with over 1,400 monuments, markers, and memorials. Photographer - JC Leacock

4/27/25  
2 MAY 2025 PM 8 L



ST FRANCIS CHURCH:  
A scout is reverent. Thank you  
for helping us go amazing places!  
Annika Kzi ms. Karan  
MAY 22 6:00 PM  
HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY! Thank you  
for all of  
your support  
Troop 556  
Mike M

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH  
9220 GLENHOLM TOWN PK  
GREAT FALLS VA  
22066

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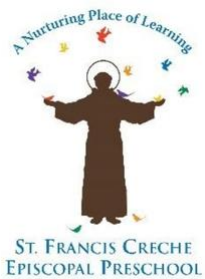
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Some of the young women from Troop 55-G



**Creche Happenings!**





This week the Creche had a visit from two of Weston's friends from Catharpin, Virginia, Charlie the Mini Pony and Sarah Graham, Executive Director of Keeper's Haven Animal Sanctuary. [Keeper's Haven Animal Sanctuary](#) provides care, compassion, and safe shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected companion animals of all ages.

The Creche students were able to pet Charlie, place special clips with insects on them in his mane, and spoke words of compassion to him as each child parted his company. It was a beautiful day and a sweet visit. [To see a video of this visit, click here.](#) *Please note that you may view this video only if you have an Instagram account.*

**Choir Appreciation Sunday is June 8th**

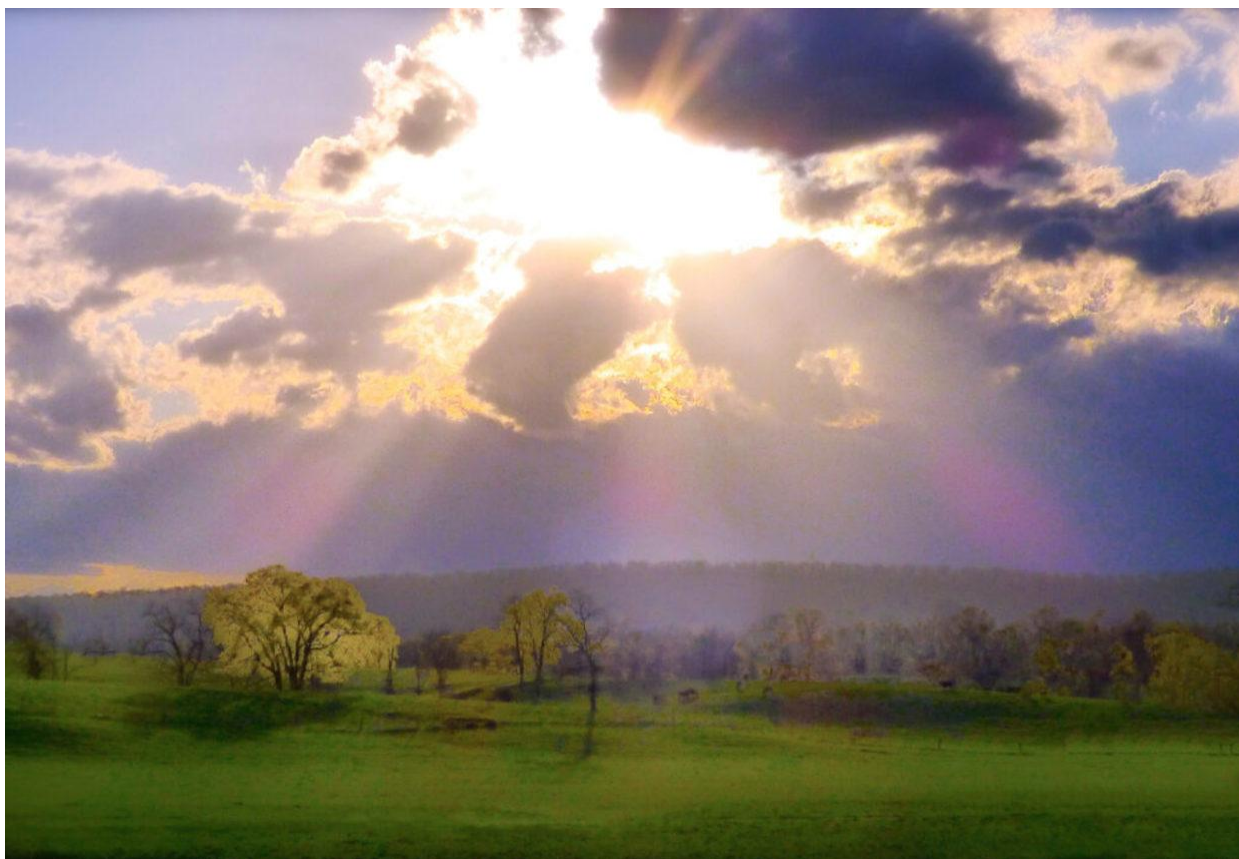


On **June 8th, at the 10 a.m. service on The Feast of Pentecost**, we will honor the St. Francis Choir for all they do to contribute to the beauty of our liturgies and Parish life throughout the year. This "**Choir Appreciation Sunday**" will include a special performance of Schubert's beautiful *Mass in G* accompanied by string players from the [Paragon Philharmonia Chamber Orchestra](#).

Plan now to attend this special service to show your appreciation for the work of the Choir. In addition to singing on all Sundays and Feast days throughout the year, the ensemble presented special programs in Advent and Lent.

**THE COMMUNITY & ST. FRANCIS**





**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 12th**

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Mindful Valley Meditation Retreat: "Awakening Joy" at St. Francis with Insight Teacher Shell Fischer**

**During this daylong meditation retreat,** we'll explore some of the Buddha's more profound teachings on joy, how we create obstacles to it, and how we can bring even more happiness into our lives and our world.

**We'll be gathering for our retreat on Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m** in the beautiful [St. Francis Episcopal Church](#) in Great Falls, VA. The peaceful interior is filled with large bright windows overlooking the great lawn and a canopy of trees. The expansive grounds include a special labyrinth, and many natural places to

sit and walk. *\*There are many open spots on the carpeted floor of the sanctuary if this is your preference for sitting; please let us know of your interest in one of these in the form below.*

**The format will include** both guided and silent meditation, a dharma talk, and walking meditation both inside and on the lovely, spacious church grounds. Lunch will be in silence, and participants are asked to bring their own.

**Please note:** These daylong retreats usually fill with a waiting list about 3 weeks prior to the day of retreat. Meditation experience is recommended, but not required. These retreats are not recommended for those under age 18.

**New to retreats?** Read: [What Is A Retreat Like?](#)

[For more information and to reserve a space/register, click here.](#)

#### **ABOUT SHELL FISCHER, Mindful Shenandoah**

**Valley's founder and guiding teacher,** offers more than 30 years of extensive mindfulness training, practice, and study. She's a Buddhist teacher, trained in the Tibetan Vajrayana tradition at Naropa University - the nation's leading contemplative university - and in the Theravadan Vipassana (Insight) tradition by Dr. Tara Brach - one of the world's preeminent Insight meditation teachers. **Learn more about Shell [here](#) ...**



## **ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST. FRANCIS**

**Morning Prayer offered MON-FRI, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom and Evening Prayer offered MON-FRI, at 5:00 p.m.**

All are invited to immerse themselves in this supportive offering from St. Francis Church where we regularly pray for one another and our mission in the world.

[Click here to connect to Morning Prayer via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 968 1679 4908; Passcode: church

[Click here to connect to Evening Prayer via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 955 4706 9137; Passcode: church

**Contemplative Prayer: Mondays at 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

\*\*\*NOTE: There is NO meeting on Monday, May 19th, due to the Vestry Meeting, and there is NO meeting on Monday, May 26th, due to the Memorial Day holiday.\*\*\*

We hope you can join us via Zoom videoconference.

For more information and any questions, please contact the coordinator for the program: Kathy Anderson [kquinnanderson@gmail.com](mailto:kquinnanderson@gmail.com).

[Click here to connect to Contemplative Prayer via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 998 1159 6134; Passcode: church

**Men's Group: Wednesdays 8:35 a.m.**

**Reading and Discussing** CS Lewis's "Mere Christianity", with next week's assignment being Ch 11 & 12 of Book 3. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Stu Edwards [elchivogoat@cs.com](mailto:elchivogoat@cs.com)

[Click here to connect to the Men's Group via Zoom.](#)

Zoom ID: 922 8116 0056; Passcode: church

**St. Francis Social Hour meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for casual conversation. Grab your favorite beverage and let's reconnect!

[Click here to connect to the St. Francis Social Hour.](#)

Zoom ID: 935 2210 0835; Passcode: church

**Thursday Afternoon Bible Study at 5:00 p.m.**

Meetings take place via Zoom on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join and participate in interesting discussions. Current study: "Blessed are you: The beatitudes of Jesus in scripture and in life"

<https://kerygma.com/collections/kerygma-resources/products/blessed-are-you>

For further information contact Amelia Logan at [ameliavinteriors@gmail.com](mailto:ameliavinteriors@gmail.com)

[Click here to connect to the Thursday Afternoon Bible Study.](#)

Zoom ID: 836 1505 5434; Passcode: TABS24

**Women's Group Coffee on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to NOON at Starbucks in Great Falls**

The St. Francis Women's Group has an open invitation to meet at the Starbucks in Great Falls every Friday morning. Please join us.

**Second Story Dinners: Sundays at 5:15 p.m.**

Needed: Volunteers to prepare and deliver Sunday dinners to the Second Story Teen Crisis Center on Gallows Road. Volunteers work solo or in pairs, according to their wishes.

Dinners are made on the first, third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month. The count for a meal typically ranges from five to eight persons. It has been as many as twelve. Volunteers receive reminders when their Sundays are coming up.

Please contact Jennifer Murphy at [jenniferomurphy@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferomurphy@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for this ministry or if you have any questions.

**Learn more about our life at  
St. Francis**

through our



**St. Francis**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

website [stfrancisgreatfalls.org](http://stfrancisgreatfalls.org):

- worship services including daily Morning Prayer
- community concerts
- pastoral care
- Creche preschool ministries
- local and international outreach events
- fellowship opportunities
- Bible studies and small group opportunities including Contemplative Prayer

**Emergency Pastoral Number: 703.759.2082 x 102**

Do you have a news item you would like to share through the Weekly Franciscan? Or do you have a photo from life at St. Francis you would like to submit? We welcome and rely on your participation.

[admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org)

### **Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. E. Weston Mathews, Priest-in-Charge

Mr. Larry Vote, Music Director

Mr. Sasha Beresovsky, Organist

Ms. Cristi Leslie, Creche Preschool Director

Ms. Shannon Kegley, Bookkeeper

Mr. Dominic Pelegrin, Sexton

Ms. Rita Arteaga, Nursery Attendant

Ms. Lynn Fallon, Parish Administrator

### **2025 Vestry Members**

Lynda Davis, Senior Warden

Pepin Tuma, Junior Warden, Christian Formation

Cathryn Lee, Register, Christian Fellowship

Molly Reynolds, Treasurer

Kathy Anderson, Worship & Spiritual Care

Chris Giragosian, Mission & Mission Partnerships

Elizabeth Kim, Evangelism & Communications

Jessica Maxson, St. Francis Music & Arts

Larry Pratt, Stewardship & Fundraising

Steve Riihimaki, Family Ministries & Creche Board

Brice Eldridge, Facilities Manager, Creche Board Chair, Rise Against Hunger  
Chair

[facilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org](mailto:facilities@stfrancisgreatfalls.org)