



# SEPTEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 7, Issue 9

September 2025

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Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Welcome to September! Hard to believe that we are already here. As we begin to see glimpses of fall, with the turning of leaves and the return of the school buses to the road we also are preparing for a ramp up at church as we begin to enter the fall season. Knowing that we are staring down the start of the fall season, last week I took a short trip up to New Hampshire for one last taste of summer. I was not alone on this journey as I was joined by good friends from high school Jess and Dan. We have for a while now travel together almost every year. This year we ventured into the White Mountains, having booked an air bnb in Bartlett, NH. The first day that we were there we ventured out into the heart of the White Mountains, driving through Crawford Notch, taking in the beautiful views along the way. It was the perfect day for a hike sunny and clear skies, temps in the upper 60's to low 70's and no humidity. Our plan for today was to hike Sugarloaf Mountain, which gives you the opportunity to hit two different peaks at the same time. The hike, which was roughly about five miles all together, led us to a summit which had absolutely majestic view of Mt. Washington and the Presidential range. It was really quite breath taking! Jess, Dan, and I lingered on the peak for quite a while, taking in the beauty of God's creation that was laid out before us, leaving behind the noise and chaos of the world below us. I think all three of us at one point stated but that we wish we could stay one the mountaintop, away from the mess and the chaos of the world. Unfortunately, that was not possible and eventually we had to head back down the mountain.

Our experience on the mountain top of Sugarloaf reminded me of the story of the Transfiguration. It's an incredible moment of beauty, as we hear in Luke's Transfiguration story. Jesus is transformed right in front of Peter and the disciples. Elija and Moses show up to the party, chatting with Jesus as they stood together. Understandably, after all of this Peter utters perhaps what any of us would utter. "Master, it is good for us to be here, let us set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elija. I mean who wouldn't want to camp on top of a mountains with Jesus, Moses, and Elija. Perhaps maybe even make some S'mores. Yet, as tempting at that might be, as much as they want to stay there in such a stunning place, they can't. And neither can we. Jesus has his sights turned toward Jerusalem. We have our sights set on the work of discipleship which means, we need to get back into the world.

Mountain top moments are amazing. It is good for us to find time for those, to take in incredible views, to bask in the glory of God's creation, to take some moments of care for ourselves. Eventually though, we are called back into the world, to continue the work that is before us. To stand against the forces that are disturbing creation and sewing chaos amongst God's people, to bring to bear forces of love, compassion, and justice to a world where too many people are caught in a valley of death. We might, like Peter, want to stay on the mountain but the work before us calls us back to the valley to live and serve among God's faithful people.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Dan

## Mission Plate for September



### Cradle to Crayons ~ It's More Than a Cause, It's a Kid The Need is Urgent, Yet Often Overlooked

Childhood poverty is a serious nationwide issue. The average U.S. family in poverty, with two adults and two children, lives on less than \$26,500 a year. Consider these staggering statistics from the regions where Cradles to Crayons currently operates:

- More than 1 in 3 Massachusetts children, 12 years old and younger, live in low-income or homeless situations.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate among the nation's ten largest cities. 3 in 5 Philadelphian children live in poverty. 1 in 2 children in Chicago live in low income and homeless situations.

Without adequate and appropriate clothing, children face unfair barriers and participate in life on an unequal playing field. Across most of the United States, only three (food, housing, energy) of four basic needs are supported by government safety net programs. Cradles to Crayons uses the term "Clothing Insecurity" as part of our efforts to formally recognize the issue, and increase awareness on this hidden basic need.

### What Poverty Looks and Feels Like for Kids

The kids we help don't have shoes that fit. Or a coat warm enough to fend off winter winds. Or a backpack to carry their schoolbooks and supplies. Without these basics, they suffer. They don't want to go to school. They have a hard time learning in school. They don't go outside to play. They don't feel valued.

**Our Mission:** Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. We supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities.

**Our Vision:** One day every child will have the essentials they need to feel safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued.

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## Faith Formation

### The Chosen

(Season 4) resumes on Wednesday , September 17th from 5:00 - 8:00 PM



### September Birthdays

4 – Bart Krug  
27—Rose Reith



...And a Happy Birthday on  
August 29th to  
TRACI STUART  
Sorry we missed it!

## Praying Hands Ministry September 2025



Our Praying Hands Ministry makes prayer shawls and lap blankets for anyone in need of prayer and comfort. Our prayers are “woven” into the shawl/ blanket.

There is a basket with blessed prayer shawls at the back of the church. Shawls can be taken for anyone in need of prayer, love, and comfort.

A card is attached to write in the person’s name.

Questions? Robin Yates or Susan Howland, coordinators

Donations for this month will go to The Bridge Fridge in Southbridge



Thank you for your  
on-going  
generosity

## Winter Coat Closet

Just a reminder when you’re cleaning out closets: donate any clean, usable  
**WINTER COATS!**

The Winter Coat Closet will be opening at the end of October.

**THANKS!**







**Bethlehem's Closet** is located at 33 Central Street in Southbridge and provides low-cost clothing to the community. They are currently open Monday, Wednesday & Saturdays 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



***Celebrating our Congregation  
Sunday, October 5th, 2025  
We have amazing things planned!***

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(trinity)

**Office Hours:**\*unless otherwise noted\*

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Service**

11:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

**The Rev. Dan Purtell**  
**Priest-in-Charge**



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Tithely—Giving