

SEPTEMBER TIDINGS

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September 2026

A Reflection from your Priest in Charge

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Beloved Siblings in Christ,

If you are like me, you are wondering where this summer went. This summer seems to have flown by at warp speed! I'm not entirely sure where it went but as I write this we seem to be on the precipice of entering a new season. For the past few days when I have left my apartment to head to the church or to run errands, the morning air has had a different feel to it. It's been a little cooler and most importantly a little dryer (Good bye and good riddance humidity) a small yet significant change that indicates that Fall is on the way. As I have been driving from place to place, I have found myself looking at the trees to see if I can catch a glimpse of leaves that might be changing color. In conversations I've had with friends this week, we've been discussing the approaching fall and the pumpkin beer and apple cider donuts that comes with it. Of course, the final sign of fall that I've encountered here in Southbridge is the reemergence of the big yellow school busses on the roads as Southbridge headed back to school this past week.

The change of seasons also brings with it a change of schedules as kids go back to school and off to college, as sports teams begin to practice and play. The slow and gentle rhythm of the summer is replaced by a busier more hectic fall. Too many places to go, not enough time in the day.

As we work our way into September and this new season, we are reminded that as with the seasons of the world, our lives have different seasons as well and we reminded of that the words that come from the book of Ecclesiastes.

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven".

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we head into fall and make the transition away from summer, what season of life do you find yourself in? Are you in transition between seasons? For many of our families here who have sent kids off to college this year, this certainly is one of those moments of transition. My prayer for you, whatever season you might find yourself in or how that season might be changing, is to be gentle with yourself, take time to breath, and trust in our God who walks with all along the way but especially when the seasons of our lives change.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Dan

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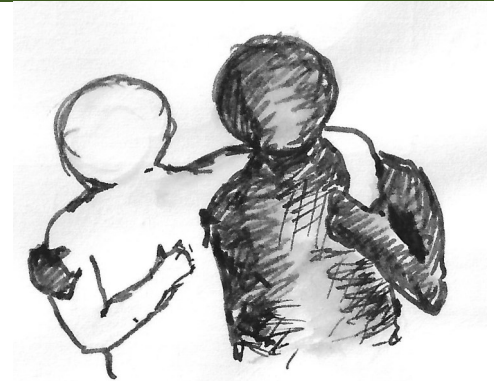
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Mission Plate for September

St. Luke's Guesthouse

“For I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me”



St. Luke's Guesthouse provides Christian hospitality to those in need of temporary, non-emergency shelter, serving, single men, women, and families. St. Luke's provides a quiet place to stay while guests work on their problems, providing an opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency, securing long-term sustainable housing, and breaking the cycle of homelessness. Guests meet weekly with the guest advocate to help them work on their issues and get into permanent housing.

During its first three years of operation, the Guest house was privately run and supported. St. Luke's is now established as a non-profit, public charitable institution (501c3) that we hope will serve the community for many years to come. This effort to serve the homeless is much needed but to succeed St. Luke's will need your help and the help of many in our community.

Finding Hope/Preventing Eviction Program is an outreach of Friends of St. Luke's inc. The program provides housing stabilization services necessary to prevent an individual from moving into an emergency shelter, the streets, or a place not meant for human habitation. Finding HOPE involves case management, guidance, and resources to help participants achieve self-sufficiency. New Hope provides training in money management skills, housing/eviction law, addressing needs and connections to community resources.

Let us all remember that we are not alone. That there are many in our community in need of our help. St. Luke's is an incredible example of "Love" towards our neighbor in need. Please help us to continue to help this mission as it moves forward daily remembering; "For I was A Stranger and You Welcomed Me."

Robin Yates, Mission & Outreach Committee



We will be singing songs about
creation during the month of
September?

If you have any favorites,
please contact Anne.

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
October 31st.

THANKS!



September Birthdays

4 – Bart Krug
27—Rose Reith



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

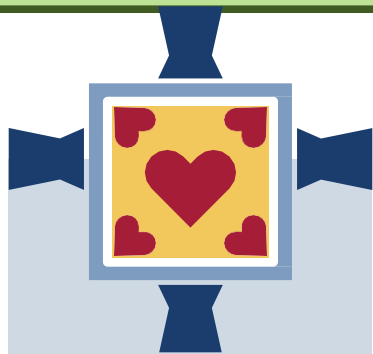


Thank you for your
on-going
generosity



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





Plenty Good Room

A Reflection for the Season of Creation

Questions for Reflection:

What is your role and responsibility in stewarding



J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS and believes in God's all-

inclusive invitation to find Love when we are gathered together. He lives, works, and worships in San Francisco, California.

The Season of Creation invites us to see the world not as a resource to be consumed, but as a sacred gift entrusted to our care. From the beginning, God's generosity overflowed in creation: light and darkness, seas and dry land, birds and fish, creatures of every kind, and finally humanity, blessed to live in harmony with it all. The first chapter of Genesis resounds with God's refrain: "It is good."

The spiritual Plenty Good Room proclaims the same truth. There is space for every creature in God's design, and the table of creation is wide enough to welcome all. Yet we confess that too often, we have lived as if creation is scarce and fragile only because of our own misuse. Pollution, climate change, and exploitation reveal the consequences of a mindset of scarcity – taking without giving, grasping without gratitude.

The Season of Creation calls us back to the truth of abundance. In the great economy of God, there is enough: enough food, enough clean water, enough beauty, enough shelter, if we steward these gifts wisely and share them justly. Creation is not a closed system of competition, but a community of interdependence, where every part plays its role and thrives in balance.

As stewards, we are called to generosity not just with our money, but with our choices: the way we consume, the way we share, the way we advocate for justice for the earth and its peoples. Every gift we return to God – whether planting a tree, reducing waste, investing in clean energy, or pledging financial support for the mission of the Church – is a testimony that we believe there is plenty good room in God's kingdom for all creation to flourish.

The Season of Creation is a chance to remember that stewardship is not just about sustaining the church, but about sustaining the world that God so loves. Together, may we proclaim with our words, our lives, and our gifts that creation is good, abundant, and holy.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." — Psalm 24:1

Upcoming Shared Services

September 27—at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

October 25th— at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

November 29— at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Welcoming our Bishop

The Rt. Reverend Miguelina Howell

December 27—at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Miguelina Howell

Sunday Service

11:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Dan Purtell
Priest-in-Charge



Website



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Tithely—Giving