

October 2026

THE TORCH

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CAMANO ISLAND, WA

www.StAidanCamanolIsland.org

[www.Facebook.com/StAidanCamanolIsland](https://www.facebook.com/StAidanCamanolIsland)

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From the Rector

There is no “best” month on the calendar. Every month has its blessings and benefits as well as its drawbacks and downsides. July can be wonderfully warm and also dangerously prone to outbreaks of fire at large scale. December is seasonally bright with Christmas cheer and dreadfully dark with 4:30 sunsets and 8:00 a.m. sunrises. There is no perfect month on the calendar, or age, or circumstance. Each season—of life or otherwise—is best when cherished for its own merits and in its own time. However, one might be wise to bet on October if they were running a raffle to determine the top dog on the calendar.

The cozy feeling you sense deep within you as fall rolls in, the leaves letting loose with their colors and tumbling to the ground, the humble pumpkin showing up everywhere, the jack-o-lanterns lighting up porches, and the pumpkin spice lattes on offer at every coffee kiosk across the land all contribute to that amazing feeling of being wrapped in a warm blanket. The feeling that the Scandinavians call “hygge” (pronounced hoo-gah). But there are other reasons to love October. One of them has to do with a certain beloved saint of the 13th century. He lived a simple life without worldly goods, delighted in every living creature, and was even known to “preach to the birds”. Francis captures everyone’s hearts and imaginations because we too know how God can and does show up in simple things and humble creatures. The love we experience from our pets is not something separate from God’s love and life, but an extension of it. The rainforest, mountains, oceans, lakes, rivers, and plains of the natural world are not outside of God, but evidence of his ongoing presence and grace. In this light, coming together on St Francis’ Day (Oct. 4) for a blessing of the animals is one of the most natural things we could do (pardon the pun). And a joyous one too.

In “Episcopal world” October brings with it the Diocesan Convention of our Diocese of Olympia. It’s hard to believe that one year ago at Convention we were made a full-fledged parish church. My oh my time flies. This year less exciting business is queued up for Convention, but it is always wonderful to connect with other parishes and their ministries, do the work of electing representatives to diocesan leadership positions, and pass a reasonable budget to fund mission and ministry. This year St Aidan’s very own Kevin King will be running for Standing Committee, which is kind of a big deal. It’s like the “vestry” of the Diocese responsible for advising the bishop, approving candidates for ordination, running the diocese in the bishop’s absence, and much more. I am certainly very proud that Kevin will be representing St Aidan’s at this level. Thank you Kevin!

There is nothing particularly “October” about having an “Instructed Eucharist”, but one is happening on October 18th. It’s a special kind of Sunday service where the liturgy is paused at different points and its meaning and significance is unpacked. It’s not something we’ve done at St Aidan’s in last ten years, so it seems like the time is right. This is perfect for folks who may have come into the Episcopal Church from different traditions. Much of the service may feel familiar to many, but there are some features that might feel less well known to some. An Instructed Eucharist can be an enriching way to connect more deeply to the worship we share. All are welcome and encouraged to come and see what it’s all about.

How ever you may come to the month of October I pray you are blessed by the love and grace of God in all that you do, see, and experience.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

The Vestry has worked diligently over the past few months to develop mutual ministry goals and a strategic plan for achieving them in 2027 and 2028. At the last Vestry meeting in September, a draft of the strategic plan was discussed and minor modifications were suggested. The final plan will be approved at the next Vestry meeting in October. At that same meeting, the Vestry will create a communication schedule for delivery of the plan to the Parish.

Michael Palmer



Night of 100 (or maybe 50 or 75) Pumpkins

Save the date of **Friday, October 23rd 5—8 pm** for St Aidan's annual pumpkin carving. Everything is provided, as well as "walking tacos, hot chocolate and apple cider. This is a really fun event organized by the Women of St Aidan's. Costumes are welcome. Bring kids, grandkids, neighbor kids.

If you are able to help in any way, please let Patty Dunphy know.

Bishop's Staff Visitation – October 11th

The Rev. Canon Cristi Chapman, Canon to the Ordinary, will be visiting St Aidan's on Sunday, October 11. She will be at both services and spend some time for a Q& A period between services. After Coffee Hour she will be meeting with St Aidan's vestry.

Cristi was appointed by Bishop LaBelle to serve as the Canon to the Ordinary in December 2024. Cristi works collaboratively with the Bishop, clergy and other diocesan leaders, and the diocesan staff to develop a culture of faithful discipleship that serves to build up the Body of Christ in the diocese. As the Canon to the Ordinary, Cristi serves as the chief of staff for the Office of the Bishop, chief advisor to the Bishop, and canon for clergy; she advises clergy, congregations, and Governing Bodies on a variety of matters; and she supports the Canon Missioner for Transitions in his work with clergy and congregations in transition. While Canon Dede Moore is on medical leave, Cristi is providing staff support to the Governing Bodies, and she is providing oversight of human resources for Diocesan House and diocesan entities and consulting with congregations on human resources issues and questions. (Information from [The Rev. Canon Cristi Chapman - The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia](#))



Important Events at St Aidan's in October

October 4	Feed My Sheep Sunday Blessing of the Animals, 10am Service
October 11	Bishop's Staff Visitation, The Rev. Cannon Cristi Chapman, both 8am and 10am services
October 12	Bloodworks NW, 10am to 4pm
October 14	Women of St Aidan's, 11am
October 18`	Instructed Eucharist, both 8am and 10am services
October 23	Night of 100 Pumpkins, 5-8pm
October 29	The Gathering Place, 5pm



See calendar on page 6 for more activities and events at St Aidan's. Check weekly ePistle for any adds or updates

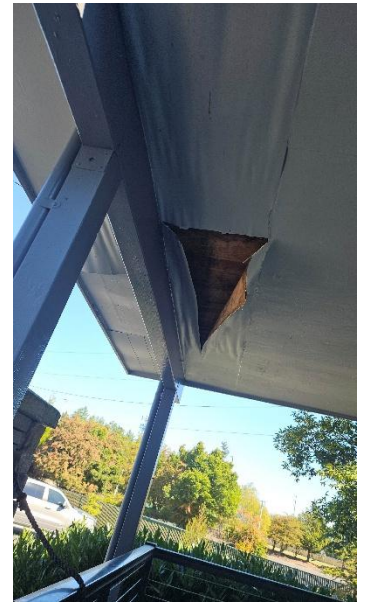
From the Junior Warden

We had a great work party this month, with many helpers! The back stage planters were redone, the entire back area (fire pit included) cleaned and weeded. The rose garden was weeded and the hand rails to the rear handicap ramp were stained.



A leak has developed in the choir room porch roof. We have contacted a contractor for repairs, Please be patient, as they have very full schedules.

My priority is to maintain a safe environment at St Aidan's. That is the top consideration when undertaking any project. I know that we all work together to this end, and I appreciate hearing about any concerns. Recently, the front door was found to have been unlocked overnight. Please make sure your group has locked the door and shut off the lights before you leave. If you don't have a key, manually lock the front door and go out the back of Dietel Hall, where the door will auto lock.



We are having some growing pains at St Aidan's. Parking is at a premium, and there are never enough handicap spots. This problem is currently being addressed. I would encourage all that are able to utilize the grass overflow parking. We should try to leave a few spaces up front for those that are unable to navigate the grass or the distance from the back of the lot. Thanks!!

Hellen DeMoyse

Dear Community of St Aidan's

The Women of St Aidan's is looking for a new/ next leader. Effective the end of the year I will be stepping down. The primary role of this ministry is to coordinate receptions following funerals or other celebrations. If this is something you might be called to do, please contact Father Drew or myself. Mentoring is available.

With gratitude,
Jackie Humes-Fear

Incarnation Meditation

Dear Friends, our weekly Incarnation Meditations has started again. This is a guided meditation where we come together in the sanctuary and make conscience contact with God. There is chanting, silence, contemplation and joy, and it is a time where, we can open ourselves to the presence of God.

We meet Tuesdays 10am in the church.
For more information contact Rob Gorman

F AE Update

Dear Friends, Judy, Chuck and myself met with Leadership and staff to get an update on the Foundation of Academic Endeavor Passport project and the Summer School.

Over the course of our fund raising for the Passport project we raised \$4,180 which is a credit to our team and the St Aidan's community. Thus far 12 passports have been secured and 19 are in the pipeline. The cost per passport is approximately \$175 and the family is encouraged to buy for an additional \$15 a passport card that each child can carry with them.

The staff began with families they felt were most at risk for a parent to be deported, this project is quite a difficult lift logistically, families are all over the valley and may be afraid to come down to the courthouse, for obvious reasons. So it all takes time and resources to make all of this happen.

The staff showed us some thank you cards that families had written to FAE. They are heartwarming and just lovely, some in English some in Spanish. They warm your heart!

We also got a report on the Summer School at Skagit College in June. It went really well a little over 200 pre-8th grade attended with an additional 25 high schoolers 9th-12th grade and a dozen college students. And to top it all off, all the teachers were graduates of the FAE summer school themselves, with a couple of them going for their Masters and one for a PHD. I should say our own Karen O'Leary spent time working with the teachers and working on getting food delivered to the kids.

It was inspiring hearing about the Passport project and the Summer school. I know I left knowing that we had done the right thing raising funds to get these vulnerable kids passports.

Well done St Aidan's.

Rob Gorman

Wearing Plaid in Honor of St Aidan's Day

Some of the plaid wearing members on Aug 30th.
What better way to celebrate St Aidan's Day?



Tuesday Book Group

The Tuesday Book Group is currently reading and discussing Kat Armas' book **"Liturgies for Resisting Empire: Seeking Community, Belonging and Peace in a Dehumanizing World."** All are welcome to join in the informal discussion.



Food Bank Sunday (October 4th)

"Feed My Sheep"

Collections are on the first Sunday of the month. If not attending services you can drop off donations on the porch the first Saturday or Sunday of the month.

Thank you for your donations.

Blessing of the Animals – October 4th

All are invited to bring their furry, feathered, or winged family member to church on Sunday October 4th, St Francis Day (10 am). Each 4 legged (or 2 legged) friend will receive a special blessing just for them.

All creatures great and small are beloved of God. Let's all worship together on Oct 4!



St Aidan's Directories

Ready for an updated directory? The Parish Office will be happy to make a new one available to you and you can drop off your old one to be shredded. It will provide a secure way to dispose of those old directories.

If you and/or your photo is missing from our church directory or your info needs updating please contact the church office so we can make sure you are included.

Thursday Bible Study

Join in on the study and discussions on the book of Acts, Thursdays at 1:00PM in Dietel Hall.



Bill & Pam Sontheimer	14
Bob & Sue Perry	23



Coffee Hour After Sunday 10am Service



If it is your Sunday consider bringing a light snack—sweet or savory to share during coffee hour.

First Sunday (October 4) A-D
Second Sunday (October 11) E-L
Third Sunday (October 18) M-R
Fourth Sunday (October 25) S-Z

A Reminder:

If you are hosting, please stay after Coffee Hour to help clean up Dietel Hall and the kitchen and make sure all leftover food is taken home. Take used tea towels and dishcloths home to launder.

Make sure the front door is locked before leaving. If you do not have a key, no problem just lock the front door from the inside and leave by the double doors that lead to the sanctuary.

Please **No Food** (Including Soiled Paper Plates or Napkins) in the Recycling Bin!

Your help and thoughtfulness are needed! The transfer station is picky about this kind of thing.

New Address for Thomas Whitaker

The Whitakers are passing on an updated address for Thomas:

Thomas Whitaker
1490 NE N Fairway Rd
Apt D003A
Pullman, WA 99163

Janine Clark	01	Mary Rauch	10
Nancy Minear	01	Dave Wood	11
Karen Rogers	01	Don Jarrett	17
Drew Foisie	03	Lynn Lyles	18
Freda McKeown	04	Marilyn Rockwell	29
Kathleen DuBois	05	Cheri Simmons	31
Vonda Buse	08		



October 2026—Activities Calendar*

*Check for status on St. Aidan's website, current ePistle or with organizers of specific groups for updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	1:00 pm Bible Study		7 pm AA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II Blessing of the Animals (also live streamed on YouTube) Food Bank Sunday	5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	1:00 pm Bible Study		7 pm AA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost Bishop's Staff Visitation 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	10am-4pm Bloodworks NW Blood Drive 5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 11:00 am Funeral for Rodger Larsen	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I 11:00 am Women of St Aidan's	1:00 pm Bible Study TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
The Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I Instructed Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II Instructed Eucharist (also live streamed on YouTube)	4:00 pm Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	1:00 pm Bible Study	Diocesan Convention 5-8 pm Night of 100 Pumpkins 	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm AA
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
The Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	1:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm The Gathering Place		7 pm AA



Altar Servers



If you cannot serve on your assigned day please find a substitute and let the office know.

8:00 AM	September 27	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Kathy Hosley
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett
10:00 AM	September 27	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Lector	Jackie Humes-Fear	Shawn Ritchey	Jeff Maxwell	Rhoda Venditto	Rob Gorman
Chalice Bearers	Freda McKeown Mary McConnaughey	Mary McConnaughey Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry Theresa Strain	Freda McKeown Dean Nelson	Peter Dunphy Mary McConnaughey
Crucifer/Acolyte	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy	Isaac Taylor	Dean Nelson	Mary McConnaughey
Ushers	Kathy McNally Bill White	Bill Sontheimer Joey Sontheimer	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Bill White Dick Bingay	Bill Sontheimer Kathy McNally
Counters	Pam Sontheimer Marilyn Rockwell	Pam Sontheimer Patty Dunphy	Ethel Maxwell Kathy McNally	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Sue Perry Bev Maxwell
Childcare	Donna Myers Sue Perry	Pam Sontheimer Deannie Duncan	Gayle Thomas Patty Dunphy	Deb Hubenthal Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett Vonda Buse
	September 27	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Altar Flowers	Marilyn Rockwell	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault	JoAnn Moffett	Gayle Thomas	Mary McConnaughey



Altar Guild Teams for October

October 1-15

Team 4: Jan Donovan, Debby Philmlee,
Bev Maxwell, Vonda Buse

October 16-31

Team 1: Donna Myers, Freda McKeown,
Patty Vermilye

Need Help?



If you need help please
contact the church office.

St. Aidan's Technology Issues?

If you have any questions or concerns about the
operation of St. Aidan's website, Facebook pages,
or YouTube please contact Verlie Vigil, Liaison for
Technology.

**NEXT TORCH
DEADLINE**

Thursday, October 15th

Email submissions to: mcnallyk@outlook.com

Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated

ST AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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