

Stepping Stones Gathering – July 12, 2026
Please join Stepping Stones Gathering,
Sundays each week at 8:00 a.m. (Pacific time) on Zoom.
A Ministry of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church and School. All are Welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86931022088?pwd=VmZvK3RFenYzeEZ4OUhlc2hMNm9GUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 3102 2088

Passcode: 097815

One tap mobile

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These inmate call-in numbers have *not* changed

Thanks to our volunteers this week:

- Katy and John will be the Stepping Stones Hosts
- Bertram, Shereen, and Naveen will be Call Managers

The readings for this Sunday follow.

- Consider, *"How does this reading speak to you in your life?"*
- This week's readings are online:
 - [Genesis 25:19-34](#)
[Psalms 119:105-112](#)
[Romans 8:1-11](#)
[Matthew 13:1-9,18-23](#)
- Next week's readings are:
 - [Genesis 28:10-19a](#)
[Psalms 139: 1-11, 22-23](#)
[Romans 8:12-25](#)
[Matthew 13:24-30,36-43](#)
- Stepping Stones usually uses the weekly readings posted on lectionarypage.net. We usually read only the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel during the Stepping Stones weekly call.

The Collect

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Epistle: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the

flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Keep Coming Back, It Works!