

St Paul's Ripples

June 2026

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

Each summer and fall, we are offered two choices for our First Reading and Psalm: a semi-continuous reading schedule and the thematic based readings like we do from Advent to Holy Trinity Sunday. I like to do the semi-continuous readings because I think it helps to hear the story if Israel in order. Here is a synopsis and a reading guide:



On the Second Sunday after Pentecost, we begin in Genesis 12:1-9, with the calling of Abram and Sarai (their names aren't changed until chapter 17). It's not an easy road from the land of Ur to the land God promises! We won't hear the whole story on Sunday (that the "semi-continuous" part!). During the week, I read **Genesis 12:10 to 17:27** for famine and plagues, a squabble between Abram and his nephew Lot. Lot gets kidnapped and Abram goes to war to rescue his kinsman. And Abram receives a blessing from Melchizedek. Abram and Sarai find it hard to wait for the promised child. So, Sarai decided to help God along by encouraging Abram to father a child with her handmaid, Hagar. As so often happens when we try to force God's hand, what sounded like a good idea soon turned sour as contempt and jealousy raised their ugly heads, Hagar runs away, but God never leaves her. She too receives a promise, and returns to Abram's camp to deliver her son, Ishmael. God reassures Abram that God will keep the covenant God made with him, changes Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah. Abraham responds by ordering every male in his (very large) household to be circumcised as a sign of the renewed covenant.

The Third Sunday after Pentecost, by the oaks of Mamre (Genesis 18:1-15), Abraham receives three heavenly visitors, and Sarah is reassured that she will indeed have a son (Chapter 18). Continue the story by reading **Genesis 18: 16 to 21:7** to hear Abraham's extraordinary conversation with God about the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah (be sure to read it!). The events of Sodom and Gomorrah play out, and Lot flees with his wife and daughters. Only he and his daughters make it to safety in the hills, which Lot refuses to leave, sure in his perception that God has destroyed everything else! The daughters devise a devious plan to have children (this story is used to explain why the Hebrew people hate Moab and Ammon so much!) In the meantime, Abraham is also engaged in a ruse passing off Sarah as his sister (again!). Finally, Sarah bears the long-awaited heir, Isaac and is filled with laughter.

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Sarah orders Hagar and Ismael exiled, but once again God protects them and brings them back to the safety of Abraham's household (Genesis 21:8-21). This week is a short reading in **Genesis 21:22-34**: Abraham is still in the land of the Philistines, but he makes peace with the king he duped by saying Sarah was his sister. Which brings us to the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and Genesis 22:1-19, where God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but sends a ram at the last minute to save Isaac, whose story continues the following Sunday. This week I read **Genesis 22:20 to 23:20**, as we lay Sarah to rest.

There's a lot that happens in a short sixty-two years, with intrigue and drama. It's a story of God's faithfulness amid the missteps of very ordinary humans trying to understand God's will, It's a story of God's grace when those humans grow impatient with God's timing. Enjoy this first month of your summer reading!

Peace, Mother Ramona

June's Skipping Stones

St Paul's Episcopal Church

Rooted in love. Open to all.

Like skipping stones in God's hands, may we create ripples in our lives and the lives of those in our community!

Pub Theology and Coffee, Tea and Theology is on June 24 and July 15. Pub theology is at 7 pm at the Bank Saloon, on the corner of 4th and Main. Coffee, Tea, and Theology: Meets at the church, June 24, and July 15. Everyone is welcome. Each session is self-contained, so you can drop in at any time. This month we're talking about worship, sacraments, and scripture (*Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers*, Sections Three, Four and Five). Come with questions!

Faith, Life and Other Questions: What do Episcopalians believe and how does that affect my life? Come with your questions - tough, simple, thought-provoking, or silly and we'll find the answers together. This class is for all youth, those preparing for confirmation, and anyone who wants to have some fun learning more about their faith. Watch your email for details on dates and times.

Picnic on the Patio is back! The first Picnic on the Patio of the season is June 3rd. Grilling starts at 5:30pm, eating starts at 6pm. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. The main dish and beverages are provided. Everyone is welcome – invite a friend!

Vestry: The next vestry meeting is the Vestry Retreat, June 6th at the Abbey of the Hills

Mother Ramona's June Schedule: Mother Ramona will be on vacation from June 8th to June 14th then she immediately goes to TEC to serve as the pastor for family camp June 14th-18th. She has another combination vacation (June 29-July 5th) and continuing education trip (planned for June 29 to July 11th).

Weekly events

Monday: Office hours as SDSU will resume in September

Tuesday:

Mother Ramona's office hours

1st& 2nd Tuesday– 3-6pm at Kool Beans

3rd Tuesday – 1-4pm at Chocolatte

4th Tuesday – 1-4pm at Cottonwood on Main

5th Tuesday – 11-2 at Mission Coffeehouse

Wine and Word will resume in the fall.

June 24: Midweek worship at 1:30pm at Edgewood

Coffee, Tea, and Theology – 3pm at St Paul's

Pub Confirmation – 7:00pm at the Bank

Sunday Coffee and refreshments after worship in Thorburn Hall. Everyone is welcome.

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