



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 2, 2026)

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Montana

130 S 6th St. E., Missoula , MT 59801, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 02/27/26. rectorsearch@holyspiritmissoula.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
165	2		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$100000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes	Yes	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		Other	1
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

Substantial housing equity offered

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

As our parish community sought to focus its annual ministry efforts in 2025, parishioners were introduced to three community-focused ministries, with presentations followed by newsletter dissemination. The parish then voted to select the Missoula Food Bank as the recipient of this year's annual efforts. Notably, the parish community was galvanized to gather our diverse talents, which led to a large outpouring of volunteer activity. As one example, in a marathon of shared purpose over a single afternoon, parish volunteers joined with our neighbors to assemble over 3200 Empower Food Packs for school age children. In addition, volunteers prepared mailings to Food Bank donors. Moreover, Holy Spirit directly contributed financially to the Missoula Food Bank; dedicated giving envelopes are placed throughout the church and its pews. Finally, in celebration of Thanksgiving, Holy Spirit sponsored "Bring a Bird to Church;" parishioners brought frozen turkeys to be distributed by the Food Bank. The fun and energy of our volunteers was on full display as they dressed in turkey costumes to greet churchgoers and passing neighbors in accepting these donations.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

At the confluence of three rivers, Missoula metaphorically embodies the Trinity, as well as our efforts to unite our parish, our community, and the Episcopal Church at-large. To this end, our parish community in collaboration with the Vestry and Clergy, established three strategic goals for the next 5 years: strengthen the generational health of our parish by fostering enriched engagement of members "under 40" and their families; sustain the energy and momentum at Holy Spirit as we embrace ministries for our community and the world; and establish metrics and accountability for achieving these goals. To this end, we recognize the value of our diverse, individual gifts, and have coalesced strong working groups which are moving forward collaboratively with the parish community, Vestry and our Clergy. For example, regarding the first goal, we are making the most of our geographic proximity to a local high school (one block adjacent), and our other neighbor, the University of Montana. At both sites, we have developed ministries and outreach efforts which serve to sustain our engagement with these vibrant youth communities, and our shared interests in social concerns.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Inspired preaching; Kind, compassionate spirit; strategic vision; Intergenerational ministry

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Two Rite II Sunday services are offered, 8:00 and 10:15 am. The first is contemplative without music; the second includes contemplative prayer, music, and Godly Play for children. Music is drawn from the 1982 hymnal and sources selected by our Choir Director, which together provides a rich and varied experience. After service, parishioners come together to share fellowship. We have also offered a monthly Compline service, a candle-lit, quiet respite of peaceful evening prayer, known to attract nearby college students. Across the liturgical calendar, special eucharistic services are offered for each of the major holidays. For example, in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve, a family focused eucharistic service is provided with telling of the Christmas story and singing of traditional hymns. This service is followed by an outdoor Christmas Eve service prayers and singing of Christmas carols; a midnight mass ends the celebration of Christmas Eve. Finally, Holy Spirit hosts weddings and funerals, which generally include receptions. These occasions highlight our hospitality and pastoral care, and exemplify the welcoming spirit of our community of parishioners.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We believe ministry is serving one another in the name of Jesus Christ and invite all to share their gifts of ministry. As a starting point, we build relationships and invite newcomers to share their energy and passion, and to find the ministries which fit with their individual and unique gifts. Across the parish community, members volunteer freely to serve in a multitude of roles: crucifers, lay readers, eucharistic ministers, altar guild, choir, and ushers. In addition, there are many opportunities beyond the services to volunteer, including our many community outreach programs connected with Holy Spirit. Our goal is to communicate enthusiasm for these ministries open to all, which together creates an atmosphere where parishioners want to participate. Moreover, the practice of wearing our nametags helps us welcome newcomers so that all are known and included. Through our weekly Spirited Times online newsletter, monthly Paraclete mailing, and announcements during church services, we strive to inform our congregation about ongoing opportunities for nurturing fellowship and relationship with others.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Many small groups encourage our parishioner's spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. Examples include a men's weekly devotions breakfast group, monthly "Wholly Fun" potluck dinners, guided walks through a labyrinth or the arboretum at University of Montana, tours to view the bloom of the blue camas, pumpkin carving, egg decorating, wreath making, and our summer church picnic and games. Based on input from our active and vibrant parish community, other "fun" adventures are added or exchanged based on the varying interests and needs. As above, Holy Spirit cares for the emotional well-being of our church family by offering a coffee hour after the two Sunday services giving parishioners an opportunity for healthy social interaction. A pastoral team is available and also visits homes, hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Holy Spirit has multiple, longstanding relationships with existing groups and works across the community to provide pastoral care. A member of the congregation serves as a chaplain to St. Patrick's Hospital, and another member is chaplain to a busy hospice organization. Members of the congregation who privately volunteer and care for their neighbors all offer an unofficial but valuable form of pastoral care. Several lay Eucharistic Visitors bring the sacraments to those unable to attend our services. Further, we have a pastoral care team that visits homes, hospitals and other healthcare facilities coordinated by a certified Episcopal chaplain.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Holy Spirit actively engages many aspects of the societal needs within the Missoula geographic region. These activities are collaboratively developed with the parish community, Vestry, and Lay and Clergy leadership. For example, the Community Outreach Committee organizes informational lectures for our parish community and residents of Missoula. Discussions follow these presentations, which often focus on community concerns. Programs then arise organically to benefit citizens in our local area. As noted, lectures are advertised and open to the public. In addition to these educational opportunities, our work includes projects with neighboring Hellgate High School, Habitat for Humanity, partnership with the Missoula Food Bank, the Poverello homeless shelter, and Family Promise to name a few. We have also established relationships to support the local LGBTQ community and a long-standing effort to distribute clothing for our tribal neighbors on the Rocky Boy Reservation. In addition, we offer other local relief agencies a platform to present their needs and concerns through our monthly Alms Sundays.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Holy Spirit has created a Worship Enrichment Committee that is responsible for providing sermons and associated reflections in visual, poetic and musical formats. We offer this service option quarterly. The committee has included the powerful, personal experiences of the congregation in some of their presentations. We have enjoyed hearing about extraordinary experiences including encounters with angels and sacred interpretations of the meaning of the cross in one's life. In addition, several lay preachers have been invited on an ongoing basis to give sermons. All of these additions have been thoughtfully curated and have been well received by the congregation. With permission some have been videoed for future viewing. Contacts: Keith Kuhn and Zara Renander.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Holy Spirit engages our parishioners to achieve our mission to “cultivate, challenge, and live our faith in Christ through commitment to each other and the world.” Parish gatherings serve to build strong bonds within our congregation. Our local ministries offer parishioners opportunities to serve the broader Missoula community and to expand our spirit and knowledge of the depth and breadth of need. For example, Holy Spirit participates in United Thank Offering, Red Cross blood drives, Family Promise, Episcopal Relief and Development, and Rio Grande Borderlands Ministry, many of which extend our impact beyond Missoula. We foster stewardship of our congregation’s treasure through the annual stewardship drive, monthly Alms Sunday appeals, and through planned giving opportunities. We are fortunate to have experienced recent growth in our annual stewardship through increased giving and new pledges. Our Memorial Foundation oversees a growing investment fund that annually provides a dividend to the parish for operating expenses and maintenance. Every member of Holy Spirit Parish is welcome to engage, build, and support our community.

What is your worshipping community’s experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

The COVID pandemic and its mandates were seismic events for our parish community; in-person activities were paused including Sunday services and engagement in our various programs across the Missoula community. Even after the mandates were lifted, some were reluctant to participate in-person. In response to this social isolation, we developed call lists so that parishioners could keep in contact. Many of our ministries migrated to digital interactions, which sustained the programs until we could return in person. Importantly, we began to live-stream the Sunday service via YouTube, which we soon discovered was reaching neighbor-families throughout the Missoula area. These services are now archived on YouTube. New traditions were initiated (e.g., a Christmas Eve service conducted in the parish courtyard with warming fires). As the pandemic subsided, we began a parish-wide Thanksgiving Supper, which was extended to include monthly family potlucks. In sum, we experienced the many strengths of Holy Spirit in the midst of the pandemic, including our ability to be flexible, adaptive, and accepting of new approaches to advance our missions to care for one another and our community.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

In the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, our parish felt the loss of a sense of community and we recognized the need to re-energize. Additionally, after a recent sabbatical our Rector indicated they would be retiring soon. During that sabbatical, the congregation became much more involved in Holy Spirit’s ministries, and we were excited to maintain that engagement. A committee of parishioners was tasked by the Vestry to develop a plan including strategic goals to help us re-invigorate. Four strategic goals were vetted and approved by the Vestry: increase the number of young families, increase the number of “under 40’s”, sustain the momentum in Holy Spirit and its ministries, and establish metrics and accountability for achieving these goals. The parish set to work on tactics to achieve these goals. Some ideas, like establishing a monthly parish dinner group, quarterly all-ministry meetings, and weekly Godly Play for kids have worked well. Other efforts, like our monthly activities for “under 40’s” and consideration of alternative services have not been as successful as we hoped, and we continue to develop alternative actionable tactics.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Terri Grotzinger	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-10	2024-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Steve Oreskovich	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1993-05	2010-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Donald Guthrie	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1978-04	1993-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Godly Play	22	23

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site: holyspiritmissoula.org

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD4gRWYgdsv6PvkObRwijKQ/streams>
> <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritMissoula>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Marty Stebbins

montanabishop@diomontana.com 406-442-2230

Diocesan Transition Minister

Scott Jourdonnais

406-370-4843 mtcto@diomontana.com

Current Warden/Board Chair

Molly Bowler

mollybowler@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Warren Gartner

kwgartner@sbcglobal.net

Search Chair

William Drummond

rectorsearch@holyspiritmissoula.org 406-544-0510

Parish/Institution

Rev. Gretchen Strohmeier

Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org 406-542-2167

Local Community Leader