



PARACLETE

MAY 2023

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: office@holyspiritmissoula.org • Website: www.holyspiritmissoula.org

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



Thanks for stepping up, Holy Spirit Parish!

We've been busy making plans for life at Holy Spirit during Terri's sabbatical. Volunteers have stepped up to help with spiritual formation programs for adults and to assist with worship coordination and planning. Our pastoral visitation team (which now also includes Lay Eucharistic Visitors) has added some new members and is gearing up to help provide pastoral care to the congregation in some new ways. As a staff we are reviewing our processes for communication, and we are taking the opportunity to look at other procedures so that we can make our work more efficient and effective during Terri's time away. Thank you, Holy Spirit Parish for all the gracious and generous ways you are engaging in new ministries here at church as we rise to this challenge.

— REV. GRETCHEN STROHMAIER
ASSISTANT PRIEST

From the Rector

Oh, the stories we'll share!

For the first time in over 25 years, I needed to work with a new tax preparer. As I sat in the waiting area, I occupied myself with items on my phone. I heard a voice say, "I know you!" Looking up, I saw who would be helping me: a woman I met at the First Presbyterian Church when I first came to Missoula to work for the U.S. Forest Service. We talked about all kinds of things as my taxes were prepared, and I left thinking that she reminded me of a part of my story and brought it back to me with all the details of a good book read many years ago. We were suddenly reconnected, smiling, and intending to meet again. I drove home smiling. Not even my taxes put a damper on things.

You've had a similar experience in your life, I'm sure. Paths cross for a

time, then not for a time, and then suddenly cross again. Stories are shared, and you realize you each had an impact on the other, sometimes in very profound ways. In this instance, I was reminded of how welcomed and cared for I was as I left Colorado State University and embarked on a whole new journey in Montana. I was reminded of The Acts of the Apostles where it says something like, "see how they love one another..." We forget that in this way they visibly stood out and were noticed because of it. What I experienced in my story brought sacred scripture to life for me in real time, and all over again while preparing my taxes. Amazing.

As you read this, I will be just a month from leaving on my sabbatical, June 1. Preparations are already well

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Story is a sacred
visualization, a way of
echoing experience.

Terry Tempest Williams

© quote.org

OUR STAFF

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NEWSLETTER

Paraclete, from the Greek meaning 'Holy Spirit,' is published monthly, September through May, by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. All material is due by the fifteenth of the month preceding the month of publication.

HOLY SPIRIT

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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From the Senior Warden Plans coming together for Rev. Terri's sabbatical

Plans are coming together for Rev. Terri's sabbatical time. She will be on sabbatical from June 1 through November 30. During that time, we will be covering worship services with a combination of our current staff, lay-led Morning Prayer and lay preaching and supply priests. Supply priests will include Steve Oreskovich, Tom Lee, and possibly others. We are negotiating with Joan Yetter to serve as an interim priest for the months of July and August. Some of you will remember Joan from her time at Holy Spirit as the Assistant Priest during Father Steve's time here. She will not only preach and celebrate but will provide pastoral care during her time with us as well. I want to thank all of those who have stepped forward to assist during this time, and I look forward to the diversity and new voices we will experience.

To aid worship in running smoothly, Gretchen is working with a few lay leaders, one of whom will be on hand each Sunday to oversee the service, answer questions and make sure all the pieces are in place. We are also growing our lay visitor group and those who can serve as Lay Eucharistic Visitors to cover pastoral needs during this time. Terri is working on training sessions before she leaves.

Gretchen will continue to work with us half time and as such will only be available on certain days. However, during this time she will be serving as the Acting Rector and taking on new responsibilities such as working with the Vestry, stewardship, etc. The rest of the staff will probably be taking on new and additional duties as they arise, so please be respectful and patient with them and let them know how much we appreciate all they do for Holy Spirit.

We are also strengthening communications between clergy, staff, Vestry and leaders of ministries by holding quarterly meetings to look at ways we can collaborate on efforts and to be more aware of what is happening around Holy Spirit.

This is a time to explore our talents and strengths and to gain new perspectives. We will enter Advent renewed and ready to celebrate the Christmas season. If you have questions, concerns or special needs during this time, please feel free to contact me.

— WARREN GARTNER, SENIOR
WARDEN
317-872-2431
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Stories

Continued from page 1

underway to ensure that you, and those who discover this community for the first time, will be in good hands. Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier will serve as Acting Rector alongside Warren Gartner and Mark Dvarishkis, Sr. and Jr. Wardens of the Vestry. You will experience clergy from all over the

diocese, and new stories at Holy Spirit alongside those from the past. Why did I choose to reflect on the sacredness of story for my sabbatical theme? Because our lives, our stories, are sacred, and God is in the midst of them just as the stories of scripture. I'll return the end of November, and oh, the stories we'll share!

— WITH YOU ON THE WAY,
TERRI+

Creation Care Ministry Join us for these upcoming Creation Care field trips!

May 13 – Birding at Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge

Meet at the Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge office parking lot at 8 am to explore the meadows, ponds and forest for spring birds. Dress for the outdoors and be prepared to walk on uneven ground. Bring binoculars and bird books if you have them, and we will share the ones we have.



June 17 – Camas Bloom at Lolo Pass

Creation Care will again be hosting a trip to Lolo Pass and Packer Meadows on June 17 to see the Camas flowers in

bloom. This annual event draws people from all over the US as Packer Meadows turn a deep blue. This natural event is one all Montanans should see at least once. These are the fields where Lewis and Clark's expedition passed through on their

way to the Pacific. Many Indigenous tribes gathered in these fields to harvest the bulbs of the Camas which were a staple in their diet. You can learn about the importance of these flowers and method of preparation by the Nez Pierce Tribe at this link in a video we recorded in Packer Meadows spring 2021. [Camas Video](#)

We will gather in the parking lot of the Forest Service visitor center at Lolo Pass at 1:00 pm (Missoula Time; the pass is on Pacific time). If you would like to arrive early and bring a lunch, there is a picnic shelter next to the visitor center. After touring the meadows, there is the option of taking a short hike to an overlook of a Lewis and Clark campsite. We can also travel a bit further into Idaho to walk at Devoto Grove, a grove of huge Cedar trees along the Lochsa River.

Contact Warren Gartner (kwgartner@sbcglobal.net or 317.872.2431) to register for the trip, if you have questions, or if you need to carpool to Lolo Pass.

– KAREN SIMONS GARTNER
CREATION CARE
MINISTRY

A reminder about Rev. Gretchen's schedule

Just a reminder about Gretchen's schedule. She divides her time between Holy Spirit and St. Paul's in Hamilton, serving half time at both parishes. Monday and Tuesday she devotes to St. Paul's. Wednesday and Thursday she does Holy Spirit work. Friday and Saturday are her days off, and on Sundays she rotates between the two churches. Typically, Rev. Gretchen preaches one Sunday a month at Holy Spirit.



Join us for Family Worship on Sunday, May 21

Join other families and children on Sunday May 21 from 4:30 to 5:30 for Family Worship. You'll find us in the courtyard (if the weather is nice) or in the choir pews. We share a family friendly Bible story and music, plus prayers, Communion and then a game or a craft. We wrap up with a snack. It's a lovely opportunity for kids (and adults) to explore our worship space in a comfortable manner and begin to claim the place as their own. Join us.



Composting at Holy Spirit

Your Creation Care team has set up two composting buckets in the parish hall. Since we are now part of an industrial-sized composting system, you'll be surprised at all that we can compost. The compost will be put outside in a bearproof container and will get picked up weekly. In the containers at church, you can put:

- All food scraps;
- Fruit and vegetable scraps;
- Bread, grains, seeds and nuts;

- Coffee grounds and tea bags;
- Meat, dairy, bones and eggs;
- Pizza boxes, paper towels and napkins;
- Cardboard egg cartons;
- And the green and white compostable paper coffee cups.

Want to set it up for home? Go to <https://www.missoulacompost.com/>



Explorations:

Opportunities to cultivate, challenge and live our faith

Friends of the Children Alms Sunday set for May 14

Friends of the Children – Western Montana impacts generational change one child at a time by pairing salaried, full-time mentors, called Friends, with amazing children who have big hopes and dreams but who face the greatest obstacles due to their experiences with early childhood traumas and involvement in foster care.

Their professional mentors begin working with children when they are between ages 4-6 through high school, for 12+ years, no matter what. Friends spend 3-4 hours per week one-on-one with each child delivering fun and engaging activities that foster positive life skills and social-emotional development.

Friends of the Children prioritizes early prevention and trauma mitigation and keeping children and families out of systems like foster care and the criminal justice where possible.

The Missoula-based Western Montana chapter of Friends of the Children is part of the 30-year-old national network of Friends of the

Children – the nation's only long-term, evidence-based mentoring organization.

Friends of the Children is proud to partner with community organizations including Mountain Home Montana, Partnership for Children, Missoula

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Western Montana

Food Bank and Community Center, and Missoula County Public Schools.

Friends' outcomes are notable. Long-term, more than 92% of children in the program enroll in higher education, secure and sustain living wage employment, or serve our country, and 98% delay parenting until after their teen years. For every \$1 invested in the program, the public

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Rev. Gretchen chairs diocesan Liturgy Committee

Bishop Marty has recently called for a Liturgy Committee to be developed within our diocese. Reverend Gretchen has been asked to chair the committee. The group, which has both lay and ordained members from across the diocese, will meet monthly to explore and discuss new liturgies that are emerging throughout the church. Experimental liturgies can only be used with the bishop's permission. This committee will assist the bishop in the review process for new liturgies. This committee will keep track of experimental liturgies that are used within the diocese as well as feedback related to their use. This information will be fed back to the Liturgy Committee of the General Convention as they consider Prayer Book additions and revisions. While our familiar liturgies can bring comfort and solace, experiencing new liturgies periodically can catch our ears and touch our hearts in surprising and fresh ways.



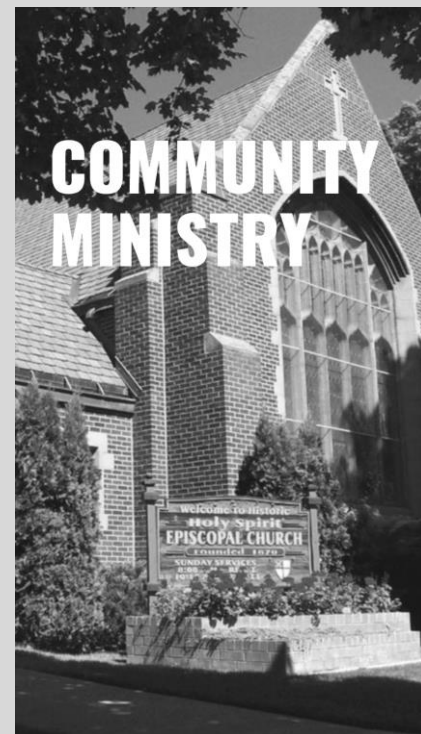
Join us for Choral Compline on May 7th at 8 p.m. **The Pilgrim's Way in the quiet of Compline**

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a Way as gives us breath,
Such a Truth as ends all strife,
Such a Life as killeth death.*

With the arrival of spring and the lengthening of days, we approach the next to the last of this year's choral compline services. We will use the quiet of the evening to consider our lives of spiritual searching and Christ's

insistent invitation: "I am the way, and the truth and the life."

The choir will begin the service with a setting of the incantational St. Patrick's Breastplate ("Christ be in my head and in my understanding"). The service will also include Vaughan Williams' setting of George Herbert's poem "The Call" and the pastoral psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the hills." Please join us.



Community Ministries **The gift of not going it alone**

Scripture reminds us often of what becomes possible when two or three gather in God's love. We witness that as we move in community – with Ivy Anderson and the Parenting Place team, with Rosemary Harrison and Tracy Ledyard at Hellgate High School, and with the leaders and volunteers at the Poverello Center, Missoula Food Bank and Community Center, and our Alms Sunday organizations. There is such a gift in not going it alone as we work to build a community rooted in love. I join you in giving thanks for the many partnerships that reveal love and the stories that continue to shape and move us.

Alongside you,
– THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA
DVARISHKIS
dorcied@gmail.com
406-542-2167 church office

Friends of the Children

Continued from page 4

saves \$7, or nearly \$1 million over the course of each child's lifetime.

For every child enrolled in the program, there are 3 other children in the community who could greatly benefit from these services. Friends of the Children invites the Holy Spirit congregation to help Friends of the Children sustain their organization and take a step closer to their dream that

one day every child in Missoula and beyond who is at risk of entering the foster care system will have a Friend.

To learn more about educational and support opportunities, please join us for our Friends of the Children Alms Sunday on May 14 at both services. Your special gifts to support the work of Friends of the Children may be placed in the offering plate at either service that Sunday, or you may give online through our website and on our giving app.

– JAMES WILEY
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



Learn more about best practices for advocacy by listening to Episco-Pols

New from the Office of Government Relations: Episco-Pols. Tune in to this public policy podcast to explore critical issues in federal legislation and policy, best practices for advocacy, and more, all aimed at equipping you for action through the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN).

In our first episode of Episco-Pols, we begin with the basics—who we are, what we represent, and how you can get involved. If you've just learned of our office, please consider this an invitation for you to get involved. If you've been part of EPPN for some time, even as a "green postcard person," we hope this episode provides perspective you weren't aware of, and perspective you can use to help bring more Episcopalians into our network.

You can subscribe on your favorite podcasting app or listen at <https://cms.megaphone.fm/channel/DFMS5965377312>.



Social Concerns Committee Borders not barricades

In two earlier articles in the *Paraclete*, I described how the National Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations (OGR) operated to represent the Church's political priorities to the government in Washington D.C., as well as the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN), which educates and equips Episcopalians to advocate for the policies passed by the General Convention.

This time I'll describe one example of parishioner advocacy the OGR calls for—that we urge our elected and appointed officials to oppose a new immigration rule of the federal government.

Under the new "Circumvention of Legal Pathways Rule," announced by the Department of Justice on 2/21/23, people seeking asylum are assumed to be ineligible for asylum if they entered the U.S. at our border with Mexico, and only at this border, unless 1) they are part of a parole program, available only to a very small number of people from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, or Venezuela, or 2) they entered at a Port of Entry with an appointment made on a cell phone app, or 3) they crossed into the U.S. after being rejected for asylum by a country traveled through to get to the U.S. There are a few exceptions for unaccompanied minors, those having a severe medical emergency, or those having been trafficked or tortured. In practice, the new rule makes it nearly

impossible for most asylum seekers at the Mexican-U.S. border to enter and seek asylum, as they won't be part of the parole program, won't be able to get an appointment through a dysfunctional phone system, and can't afford to live at risk in an intervening country waiting for months, even years, to be rejected for asylum.

This new rule violates U.S. law, which states that *Any alien who is physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of arrival...), irrespective of such alien's status, may apply for asylum...*⁸ *United States Code Sec. 1158(a)(1)*

It also violates international treaty law, which states that *No Contracting State shall expel or return...a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Article 33, 1951 Refugee Convention*

Finally, the new rule violates the dozens of positions the General Convention of The Episcopal Church has adopted about immigration and asylum policies. Here are two examples, one calling on Episcopalians to *Urge all nations, especially the United States, to*

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Centering Prayer meets the third Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

Join us for Centering Prayer

All are welcome to a circle of silent prayer on May 16 from 4-5 p.m. in the Guild Room. Centering Prayer is a meditation process that invites us to an inner sacred space to quiet our minds, open our hearts and take rest in the Love of God. This ancient meditation style called

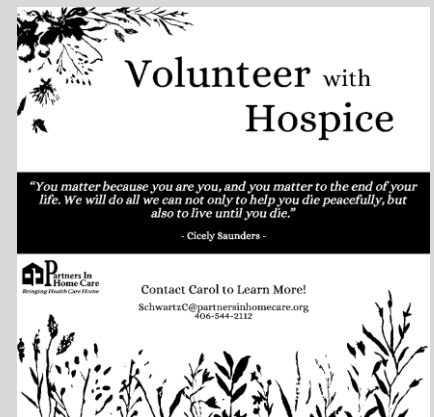
Centering Prayer is simple and easy to learn if it is new to you. The leader will be gently leading the group into and out of a 20-minute silent time.

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month from 4-5 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Willie Hoffer at 541-815-9609.

Centering Prayer

With Willie Hoffer

Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 4pm-5pm in the Guild Room



Volunteer with Hospice

"You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die."
- Cicely Saunders -

Partners In Home Care
SchwartzC@partnersinhomecare.org
406-544-2112

Contact Carol to Learn More!

Volunteer with Hospice

The core of hospice comes from a genuine desire to provide comfort, peace, and care to patients, caregivers, and families during the transitions at the end of life. Volunteers play a critical role in Hospice Care by providing general companionship, caregiver respite, administrative support, help with special events/projects, bereavement support, and so much more!

Traits of effective hospice volunteers include:

- A spirit of compassion and understanding
- Respect for all ways of life, cultural customs, and religious views
- Keen understanding of personal limits and self-care
- Willingness to listen without an agenda
- Comfort with silence

If this sounds like you, Partners in Home Care is currently expanding its volunteer program, and we have a place for you! Even if you have a passing interest, please reach out to Carol with questions or to set up a time to talk about what volunteering can look like in more depth. Contact Carol Schwartz at

SchwartzC@partnersinhomecare.org or 406-544-2112.

Borders not barricades

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actively accept vulnerable refugees and not send them back to their countries of origin, where they face persecution, violence, prison and possible death, and another, that we Acknowledge the regional nature of this [refugee] migration and call for a robust, holistic, regional humanitarian response from the U.S. government and its allies that addresses the root causes of violence in the Central America region (including the deportation policies of the US government, arms trafficking, and drug consumption in the United States). (2015-D033)

The new rule primarily impacts black, brown, and indigenous people from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala,

Mexico, and Venezuela, who cannot afford airfare to enter at ports of entry, outside the Mexican-U.S. Border.

Members of HSP can go to this website—www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/migration-refugees-immigration—and find Bishop Curry's overview of advocacy on refugee and immigration issues, plus General Convention's Resolutions on Immigration and Refugee Resettlement, various diocesan ministries, interfaith partners in the work, resources for a local church's immigration ministry, current featured actions individual parishioners can take, plus points and tips to help us write to government officials, and a link to join EPPN. Let's do it, HSP!

— CARLA METTLING
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Help us celebrate the
gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Wear Red for Pentecost

Sunday, May 28
Both Services