



# PARACLETE

MARCH 2026

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org) • Website: [www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org)

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



## Working For Creation

Join us **Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 pm** for the first of the Working for Creation series presented by Creation Care. The series will highlight the Creation-related work or hobbies of Holy Spirit parishioners.

**Nate Jourdonnais** will kick off the series with a presentation on his long-term research on Weddell seals in Antarctica's Erebus Bay, sharing experiences from two field seasons in one of Earth's most remote and extraordinary ecosystems.

If you have questions or suggestions for future presentations, contact Warren Gartner at [kwgartner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kwgartner@sbcglobal.net) or 317-872-2432.

## Bob Deaton: Shaping Holy Spirit through Justice, Compassion and Humility

Bob Deaton, who died Feb. 4 at age 89½, was the very model of a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. He exemplified that famous exhortation in Micah: Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.

Whether or not he learned humility in the piney woods of east Texas and western Louisiana where he was raised, that trait was deeply ingrained by the time he and Lucy joined Holy Spirit in 1997. By inspiring others to begin a new project or by joining in as

a team member or when doing a church task, Bob never sought to promote himself but led by example. That doesn't mean he always followed orders (ask Lucy) but rather he guided others toward a good result.

As a former social work professor at UM, and by dint of his deep faith, Bob was a social justice warrior who shaped many of our outreach ministries. He co-founded and worked

*Continued on page 2*



OUR STAFF

**Clergy:**

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,  
Co-Rector  
[Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org)  
The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger  
(retired), Co-Rector  
[revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org)  
The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis,  
Deacon  
[dorcieed@gmail.com](mailto:dorcieed@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:**

Dr. Nancy Cooper

**Parish Administrator:**

Judy Parock  
[office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org)

**Bookkeeper/Office Assistant:**

Jackie Espinoza

**Technology Specialist:**

PJ Willett  
[pjrwillett@gmail.com](mailto:pjrwillett@gmail.com)

**Webmaster:**

Elizabeth Serviss  
[serviss7@msn.com](mailto:serviss7@msn.com)

**Sexton:** Lori Cordis

NEWSLETTER

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HOLY  
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**A Lenten Journey in Godly Play**

We enter the wilderness with Jesus in Godly Play this March, growing in faith as we walk in his footsteps through the scriptures. Children are invited to join us in the Tower Room during a portion of the 10:15 a.m.

service as we wonder, explore, and prepare for the journey toward Easter. If you'd like registration information or want to learn more, Deacon Dorcie is your Godly Play point person and would be glad to help.

**Bob Deaton**  
From page 1

hard for the organization that became The Parenting Place, strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect. He founded our Social Concerns Committee almost 25 years ago, leading and participating in a catalog of local as well as far-reaching projects in Mexico, Haiti and elsewhere. For years, he led our parish teams wielding hammers and saws at Habitat for Humanity builds. He helped newly-released prisoners re-establish themselves in the community because helping the marginalized was his passion. In the Housing Advocate Network, he

helped the program thrive in its mission to help the houseless find dignity in a secure home.

Bob served God and our church through his gifts of empathy and compassion, as a leader of the home visitation team for more than 25 years, calling on house-bound parishioners while also sharing social work knowledge with the team. "He was a very special person," remembers team member Lani Brewer, who also worked with Bob in a monastery in Myanmar, training English teachers ten years ago. "He never sought credit. He just did it, with a smile on his face."

— CLEM WORK  
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



# PARENTING PLACE SUNDAY

**March 22**  
Both Sunday services

Learn about educational and service opportunities

## Community Ministries

# We welcome The Parenting Place for our March 22 Alms Sunday

Since 1981, The Parenting Place has been strengthening our community by working alongside families who are navigating the challenges and wonders of parenting, and service providers and business leaders who want to incorporate trauma-responsive practices into their lives and work. In 2025, they worked with 197 parents/caregivers of 423 children in parenting classes and 1:1 Parent Aide visits. Trauma-informed trainings were also offered to 194 individuals from businesses and nonprofits. And 133 foster and program children received gifts through the Holiday Giving Tree at Donation Warehouse. As we look ahead to April as Child Abuse

Prevention Month, let's learn from the Parenting Place about ways to engage with their strengthening and prevention efforts. Visit [parentingplace.net](http://parentingplace.net) for an overview of programs and initiatives and for April prevention advocacy opportunities as they are posted. A special offering will be taken during worship on March 22, or you can give via Pushpay or online at [holyspiritmissoula.org](http://holyspiritmissoula.org). Thank you for participating!

For every child and their caregivers alongside us,  
 – THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA  
 DVARISHKIS  
[dorcied@gmail.com](mailto:dorcied@gmail.com) ~  
 406-542-2167 church office

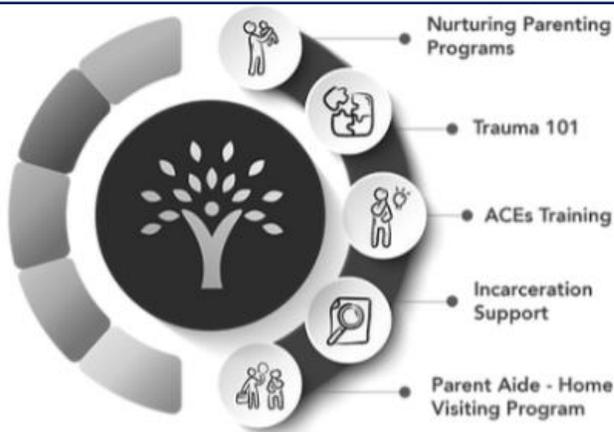
## When does Baptism take place at Holy Spirit?

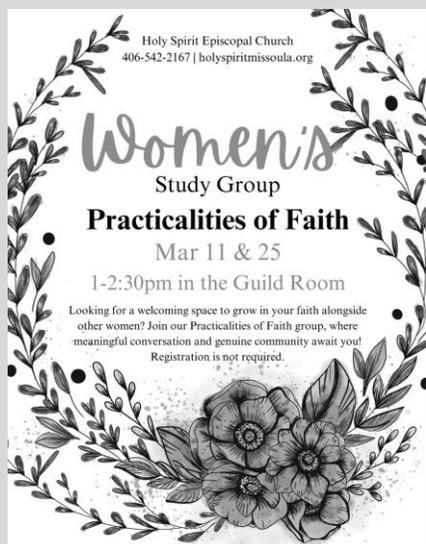
Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. Baptism takes place during the Easter Vigil service (Saturday evening, in April), and at a Sunday service about three times a year: the Day of Pentecost (at the end of May this year), the Sunday after All Saints' Day (early November), and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the first Sunday after Epiphany, in early January). Baptism may also take place when the bishop visits (in December this year), and on a Sunday during the summer on a date to be determined. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or for your child, preparation needs to take place. Please contact the office at (406) 542-2167 to speak with one of our co-rectors.

The next date for Baptism will be at the 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 4.



The Parenting Place provides services to strengthen families across Montana





**Women’s Group: Living Our Faith Together**

Looking for a space to reflect, connect, and grow in faith with other women? Come join the *Practicalities of Faith* group, a welcoming circle led by Julie Benson, where heartfelt conversation and spiritual companionship flourish. Whether you’re navigating life’s joys or challenges, this group offers a gentle place to share, listen, and explore how faith shapes our everyday experiences.

**All women are welcome—**bring a friend, bring your questions, and come just as you are. No preparation needed, just a spirit open to connection.

**Upcoming gatherings:**  
**March 11 & 25**  
**1–2:30 p.m. in the Guild Room**

Drop in for any of these sessions—no registration required. Whether you’re new to Holy Spirit or a longtime parishioner, we’d love to have you.

Come be part of a supportive community where faith meets real life, and where women encourage one another to live with purpose, grace, and joy.

**Food for Thought Book Study: What we learned**

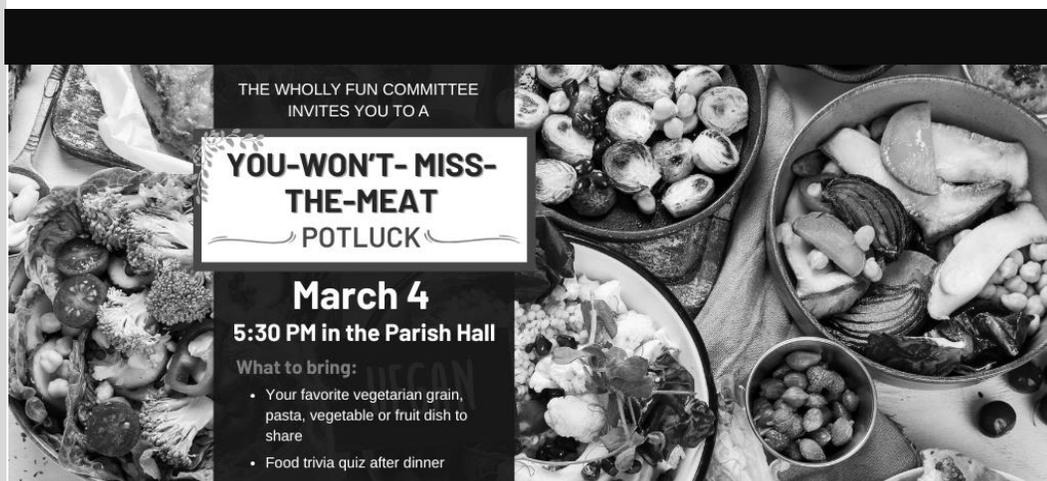
Our recent Food for Thought book study explored two engaging books — *Animal, Vegetable, Junk* by Mark Bittman and *How to Be a Conscious Eater* by Sophie Egan. Together, they helped us look more closely at how food is grown, how it reaches our tables, and how our choices can support healthier people and a healthier planet.

Participants reflected on the history of food production, the challenges facing modern agriculture, and the impact our daily eating habits can have on the environment and on communities around the world. Egan’s

book offered practical guidance for making thoughtful, sustainable choices in our own kitchens.

To celebrate the end of the study, the group — together with the Wholly Fun Committee — will host a parish-wide **“You Won’t Miss the Meat” Potluck** on **March 4**, featuring delicious plant-based dishes. All are warmly invited to join us. (See article below.)

– SARA STREETER AND CARLA METTLING  
FOOD FOR THOUGHT BOOK STUDY



**Bring a dish, bring a friend, bring the fun!**

The Wholly Fun Committee invites you to the **“You-Won’t-Miss-the-Meat Potluck”** on **March 4** at Holy Spirit, as a follow-up to the “Food for Thought” book study.

Bring a favorite dish featuring **rice, beans, pasta, vegetables, or fruit** to share. Members of the book study will also be providing dishes, along with beverages for everyone.

After dinner, enjoy a lively **food-themed trivia quiz** with questions about food facts in Scripture, food

idioms in English, and fun food facts from history. Expect great prizes and fun for all ages.

Watch for more details in the *Spirited Times*, the Service leaflet, and the *Paraclete*. We’ll gather at **5:30 in the Parish Hall**.

Looking for inspiration? A collection of terrific recipes are posted on the church webpage here: <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/news-updates/vegetarian-recipes-for-conscious-eating-potluck/>.

Holy Spirit Community Concerns Night  
 Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall  
**Learning from Lived Experience  
 with Food Insecurity**

As part of our ongoing exploration of food systems and food insecurity, our March Community Concerns Night will focus on the voices and stories of those who know these challenges firsthand. We are honored to welcome participants from the Missoula Food Bank & Community Center’s **LEVL program**—*Lived Experiences, Voices, and Leaders*.

The Missoula Food Bank & Community Center believes that lived experience is essential to shaping policies, programs, and practices that create meaningful change. LEVL is a five-month leadership and advocacy program that brings together people who have personally experienced food insecurity. Participants learn new skills, share their stories, and build community as they explore how their voices can influence decisions that affect families across Missoula.

During our gathering, LEVL participants will share what they wish

the wider community understood about food insecurity—what it looks like, how it affects families, and what barriers people face when trying to access nutritious food. Their insights remind us that food insecurity is not an abstract issue but a lived reality for many of our neighbors.

Staff from the Missoula Food Bank & Community Center will also be present to answer questions about broader policy issues, local trends, and ways we can support meaningful change. Together, we’ll consider how our parish and our wider community can respond with compassion, advocacy, and action.

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall** for an evening of learning, listening, and connection.

– JESSE JAEGER  
 SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



**A good morning begins with your generosity**

In March, we’re focusing on **breakfast favorites** to help start our neighbors’ mornings with comfort and nourishment. Please consider donating:

- Coffee and tea
- Oatmeal
- Boxed cereal
- Syrup
- Pancake mix
- Jams and jellies
- Honey
- Pop-Tarts
- Muffin mix
- Juice
- Granola bars
- Nuts, raisins, and other dried fruit

Thank you for continuing to support the Missoula Food Bank with such steady generosity. Every item you share helps brighten someone’s day.

– KATHY BERMAN  
 FOOD BANK MINISTRY

This month's presentation and discussion:

**Learning from Lived Experience with Food Insecurity**

**Mar 25**  
 7:00 PM  
 Parish Hall

**community  
 concerns**

**Help us celebrate Easter with flowers**

*Easter Flower donors needed*

One of the most vivid and beautiful symbols of the Easter tradition is the return of flowers to our altar and church. Along with joyous music, beautiful liturgies, and the return of Alleluias, flowers herald the arrival of light and warmth and the promise of renewed life. To make the special services come alive with the color, scent, and beauty of these flowers, extra donations are needed and greatly appreciated.

Please contact the church office at (406) 542-2167 or via email, [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org), if you would like to give toward the Easter flowers. Any amount is most welcome. Gifts can be sent to the church office, and special prayers and memorials will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

**In order for your memorial to appear in the Easter bulletins, we need to hear from you by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18.** Thank you in advance for your special help with the Easter flowers.



March 29<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.

**Palm Sunday in the quiet of Compline**

*Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,  
day by day you sustain the weary with your word  
and gently encourage us to place our trust in you.*

Please join us for a special edition of choral compline in the penitential darkness of Holy Week. The choir will chant Psalm 31 (“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble”) as well as several seasonal anthems.

Interspersed through the service will be brief meditations on darkness and courage.

– KEITH KUHN  
COMPLINE COORDINATOR

**Keeping watch on Maundy Thursday night**

Jesus said, “Could you not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” — *Matthew 26:40–41*

You are invited to spend an hour in prayer with Jesus on Maundy Thursday night, April 2, remembering his time of watching and waiting in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The **Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil** sign-up board will be in the Parish Hall beginning in mid-March. The vigil begins in the church immediately following the Maundy Thursday service and continues until 7:00 a.m. on Good Friday. Time slots

are one hour each, and we hope to have two people signed up for every hour.

For safety, the church doors will be locked once the vigil begins. When it is your time, simply knock and the current watcher will let you in. Please include your phone number when you sign up.

This is a quiet, holy opportunity to pray in the dimly lit church and keep watch with Christ during his final night.

If you have questions, please contact **Holly Swartz at 406-542-1978.**

– HOLLY SWARTZ  
VIGIL COORDINATOR

# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SPRING MARKET



**MAY  
8 & 9**

Come by any time from 9am to 2pm on Friday or Saturday at  
130 South 6th Street East, Missoula

Upscale clothing, jewelry, vintage and collectibles, books,  
home decor and kitchenware, sporting goods and much more!

## Spring Market set for May 8 and 9 One drawer at a time – Spring Market prep begins!

One of Holy Spirit’s favorite spring traditions is almost here — **Spring Market ’26 is coming up soon**, and we’re gearing up for another joyful, community-powered event. To make it a success, we need your donations!

This is the perfect time to start a little spring sorting. Begin with one drawer... then a shelf... then maybe a closet. And what about those “storage” boxes in your basement, garage, or storage unit — the ones full of things no one in the family really wants anymore? Before long, you’ll feel the good energy that makes Spring Market such a festive time for everyone who participates.

Please bring your donations to the church **Sunday, May 3 through Tuesday, May 5**.

We kindly ask that you **wait until those dates** — we simply don’t have room to store items beforehand.

Feel free to invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to contribute their no-longer-needed treasures as well. It’s a wonderful way to spread the spirit of the event.

**Spring Market ’26 sale dates:  
Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9.**

More details will be coming soon. Questions? Contact **Beverley Sherman** at (406) 544-0880 or [beverlymt@bresnan.net](mailto:beverlymt@bresnan.net).

### What We’re Looking For

(Remember — Spring Market is *not* a rummage sale. Please donate your best clean, unbroken, and usable items.)

- Vintage and boutique clothing (women’s and men’s)
- Accessories and jewelry
- Home décor
- Glassware and kitchen items
- Linens
- Books (no manuals, encyclopedias, or tapes)
- Sports and camping equipment
- Luggage
- Pet accessories
- Gardening and outdoor items / healthy plants
- Small furniture

– BEVERLEY SHERMAN  
SPRING MARKET CHAIR

### Butterfly Grants are back!

Your Holy Spirit Social Concerns Committee seeks to broaden our impact by supporting causes embraced by our parishioners. Toward that end, we intend to once again fund small grants (up to \$300) and invite our parishioners to submit proposals using the brief application form found on the church website at [www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org).

Click on “Butterfly Grants” under the Ministries tab on the website. We look forward to learning about your outreach interests at the local, state, national, or international level.

Grant application deadlines are:

- June 1, 2026
- September 1, 2026
- December 1, 2026

We will respond to your request within 30 days of the submission deadline.

– HOLY SPIRIT SOCIAL  
CONCERNS COMMITTEE

**Holy Spirit Giving Grants**

We'll pay you to flutter your wings



You can help those in need.  
And we'll help you!

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**HOLY SPIRIT  
BUTTERFLY GRANTS**

Do you have an idea for an outreach project?  
You can apply for a Butterfly Grant from the  
Social Concerns Committee.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH  
130 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Missoula, MT 59801-4222

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE  
INVITES YOU TO A

**YOU-WON'T-  
MISS-THE-MEAT**  
POTLUCK

**March 4**  
5:30 PM in the Parish Hall

**What to bring:**

- Your favorite vegetarian grain, pasta, vegetable or fruit dish to share
- Food trivia quiz after dinner