

PARACLETE

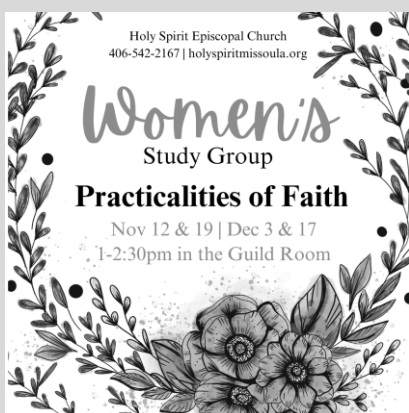


NOVEMBER 2025

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



Practicalities of Faith: A Women's Group for Connection and Growth

Looking for a space to deepen your faith and connect with other women? Join us for **Practicalities of Faith**—a welcoming group where honest conversation, spiritual reflection, and supportive community come together.

Led by Julie Benson, the group meets in the Guild Room from 1:00–2:30 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:
November 12 & 19
December 3 & 17

Come to any or all sessions as your schedule allows—no registration needed. Bring a friend and share in the journey!

— JULIE BENSON
GROUP LEADER

Stewardship 2026 / What is being revealed

As we look to our future at Holy Spirit

"...and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things"

— EPHESIANS 3:9

Your support of Holy Spirit feeds a buoyant community of faith where love and welcome help us share the hope of God.

We invite you to join in with your gift at this important time when we are preparing to call a new rector. In this year of expectation and discernment, we are steadied by grace and inspired by the Spirit's voice. Let's build on our momentum and prepare the way for new clergy

leadership with our pledge of annual gifts to support our church community.

Remember that everything that happens at Holy Spirit is brought to you by you. This year our goal is \$420,000. Thank you for making your annual gift on Stewardship Sunday, November 2 – remember to join us for a special "thank you" coffee hour after the 10:15 service.

What Is Being Revealed

**As We Look
to a New
Rector
in 2026**

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Your annual gift helps Holy Spirit build community, belonging and life-giving faith.
Everything that happens at Holy Spirit is brought to you by you.

Stewardship Sunday is November 2.



OUR STAFF

Clergy:

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,
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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.

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Alms Sunday presentation by the LifeGuard Group Standing with the vulnerable

On Alms Sunday, November 9, we welcome Lowell Hochhalter of the LifeGuard Group for a special presentation during both worship services. This Missoula-based organization is at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking, working to protect and restore lives right here in our community. Through advocacy, volunteers, and community partnerships the LifeGuard Group enacts their core values of 1) faith-led

action; 2) rescue and restoration; 3) community empowerment; 4) survivor-centered; and 5) urgency and integrity. They stand in the space of those who are most vulnerable, offering shelter, support, and a voice for the voiceless. Join us to learn how we, as a faith community, can be part of this vital work.

— MARCY HANSON
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



You're invited: Please join us for our 4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner!

Join us in the Parish Hall on **Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27**, for our **4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**—a joyful gathering of friends, family, and gratitude. All are welcome! **Dinner begins at 3 PM**, with the Parish Hall opening at **2:30 PM** for conversation and food drop-off. The kitchen's back door will be open for easy delivery.

To help us plan, reservations are required. When you sign up, please let us know:

- How many are attending
- What dish you'll bring

The sign-up sheet includes categories to guide your choice:

- **Main dishes:** turkey, ham

- **Sides:** stuffing, cranberry sauce or relish, vegetables, potatoes (roasted, sweet, or mashed)
- **Extras:** salad, bread rolls, butter
- **Desserts**
- **Drinks:** soft drinks, wine

Coffee and water will be provided. Please bring enough to serve **6–8 people**—this amount worked beautifully last year!

Sign up with Holly Swartz or Betsy Holmquist after services.

Questions? Call Holly at 406-542-1978.

Let's give thanks and break bread together!



Missoula Food Bank – Nourishing community

One in five people. That is the proportion of Missoula County residents who currently rely on the Missoula Food Bank. Put another way, the food bank serves nearly 25,000 individuals and 7,500 households! How does the food bank make it work? Through a choice-model store, a network of rural pantries, and special programs serving children and seniors in our community, the Missoula Food Bank is leading the movement to end hunger in Western Montana. These are some of the food bank programs that nourish our community:

- **Roots** is a monthly grocery delivery (or pick up) program for income-qualifying people aged 60 or older. Once a month, on the second Thursday of each month, staple food items are delivered to the doorsteps of seniors who may have transportation or mobility challenges.
- **Fresh Food Box** is a monthly, pay-for grocery delivery service for folks who may be homebound due

to transportation or mobility challenges. On the 4th Thursday of the month, perishable food items are delivered to the doorsteps of folks in our community who choose to sign up for this program.

- **Kids Table** is a summer and after-school program that provides healthy breakfasts, lunches and snacks to children in our community.
- **Food Circle** is a program where we accept prepared, perishable food from local restaurants and caterers to be repackaged into microwaveable, oven-safe entrees.
- **Kids EmPower Pack** is a weekend nutrition program helping students to stay healthy and nourished when school is not in session over the weekends.

Do you know someone who would benefit from one of these programs? Contact the food bank at 406-549-0543.

— AUDREY MURRAY
FOOD BANK MINISTRY

Bring a Bird to Church Day Sunday, November 16!

Let's share the spirit of Thanksgiving with families in need! Bring a *frozen turkey* to church on Sunday, November 16th. A refrigerated truck from the Food Bank will be parked outside, ready to receive your generous donations.

Together, we can fill tables with gratitude, comfort, and joy. Let's see how many birds we can gather—and how many hearts we can warm.

— REV. GRETCHEN



Food Bank Donation Basket in the Parish Hall

Let's help make Thanksgiving special for families in need. A donation basket is in the Parish Hall for the Missoula Food Bank, and we're collecting Thanksgiving staples – think non-perishable items like canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, boxed potatoes and pie fillings.

Your generosity can help ensure every family in our community has something to be thankful for. Please give what you can by the end of the month. Your kindness makes a difference!



Organ Plus Recital

The Missoula Chapter of American Guild of Organists is hosting a short recital on Sunday afternoon, November 16th, at 3 pm here at Holy Spirit. This will be a program of pieces written for "organ plus" -- including organ plus flute, organ plus oboe, and a lovely Mozart Church Sonata for organ plus two violins and cello, among other pieces. Local AGO members, including Nancy Cooper and John Ellis intern Matthew Aguon, will be featured.

All are welcome! It's free! Whether you're a longtime music lover or simply curious, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience the organ in a new light. Bring a friend and enjoy a delightful musical hour.

— DR. NANCY COOPER

**Free Recital
November 16, 3 pm
Holy Spirit Church**

Wholly Fun, Holy Spirit: Where Fellowship Meets Fun An invitation from the Wholly Fun Committee

Reading through the Holy Spirit newsletters – the *Spirited Times* each week and the *Paraclete* once a month – we find an abundance of opportunities for involvement in church community. If you're looking for a new way to engage, we might have just the thing for you.

The **Wholly Fun Committee** plans and facilitates activities that build and encourage community. Consider these events from the past year at Holy Spirit:

- A Little Night Music
- Halloween pumpkin carving and potluck
- Game night and white elephant gift exchange
- Lenten potluck with family food stories
- Summer and Kick-Off Sunday picnics
- Birthday Celebration potluck
- Campfire and cookout at the Gartner's home

We invite you to join us – make some fun and have some fun!

How might you participate?

1. Be a part of the committee as we look for engaging activities, then plan and prepare for them.
2. Sign up to lend a hand when needed. We need folks we can call on to help set up for a picnic or a potluck, to provide treats for an event or prizes for an activity, to step in when more hands are needed.
3. Come to the Wholly Fun events. Potlucks, game nights, excursions – connect with people you know, make new friends, relax and enjoy!

Questions or suggestions? Feel free to contact Elizabeth Drummond at eadrummond56@comcast.net or (406) 240-8873.

— ELIZABETH DRUMMOND
WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE



Community Ministries

Becoming “heartbeat people”

A recent Spiritual Direction session with Courtney Arntzen began with a request to find my heartbeat and to rest with it for a moment. She asked me to consider that, for all that was going on around me, there was also a lot going on right beneath my surface. This practice took on deeper meaning as I was holding our new granddaughter, Della Marie, on my chest. I thought about all that was going on around and in me, and for her, and all that brought us to this place of being “heartbeat people” for one another – intentionality and presence, relationship and trust, and love. And that got me wondering how my time with our neighbors – at Parenting Place, in the Meadowlark, or at a tension-filled gathering – might take some vulnerable and

revealing twists if we began time with another by resting in our own heartbeat, then placing a finger on the wrist of another to rest in each other’s heartbeat. What a powerful way to remember that for all that is going on around us, there is always a lot going on right beneath the surface – some things in common, some so different – and what an invitation it could be for shared story, relationship, and trust to grow.

Alongside you, and imagining more “heartbeat people” in our life at Holy Spirit,
– THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA
DVARISHKIS
dorcied@gmail.com
406-542-2167 church office

**“I wonder...”: An invitation to Godly Play**

“I wonder...” Each of our Godly Play stories from the scriptures ends with a handful of “I wonder...” questions, as we try to open up what the scriptures may be saying to us today. Come, wonderers, one and all,

to Godly Play during the 10:15AM Sunday service! To learn more and to complete an information form, reach out to Deacon Dorcie after worship or through the church office.

**Cursillo Retreat coming to Camp Marshall this Spring, April 17-19, 2026**

Planning is underway for a spring Cursillo retreat at Camp Marshall, April 17-19, 2026—and we’re looking for team members, candidates, and support staff to help bring this meaningful experience to life.

Cursillo is a three-day spiritual renewal retreat rooted in Christian community, reflection, and growth. Whether you’re curious about attending or eager to serve, there’s a place for you. To learn more or get involved, please contact Doug or Judy Anderson:

✉ Email: djka740@live.com
☎ Phone: 406-728-8822 or 406-360-3762

You can also explore the Cursillo movement online at NationalEpiscopalCursillo.org.

Check out the Holiday Market Raffle and Silent Auction Items!

Many, many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this year's Holiday Market Raffle and Silent Auction. This year's raffle will again feature a variety of raffle baskets filled with goodies, all supplied by generous parishioners. We have a Chocolate Lover's Basket as well as a Wine Lover's Basket. How about a Manhattan Basket with your favorite cocktail fixings? For our chefs there is a Gourmet Olive Oil & Wine basket, then a Lavender Spa Basket to soothe you after all that cooking. For our younger members we have a Children's Activity Basket featuring all manner of games and puzzles. The Book Exchange continues to support us with gift certificates for that book you always intended to read. How about Dinner at Porte Rouge? Tickets to MCT's production of *Annie*?

Continued on page 7



Chocolate Lover's Basket



Holiday Market set for November 7 and 8 It's time to get ready for the Holiday Market!

The Holiday Market is almost here—and we'd love your help to make it a joyful success!

Lend a Hand

Sign-up sheets will be available after church. We need volunteers for setup (Monday–Thursday, November 3–6), sale days (Friday and Saturday, November 7–8), and light lunches for our hardworking crew. No experience needed—just bring your good cheer and enjoy the camaraderie (plus early shopping privileges!).

Raffle Tickets & Silent Auction

Sales and bidding continue Sunday, November 2, during the Market (November 7–8), and on Sunday, November 9. Don't miss the creative basket lineup—details in a separate article at left.

Donate Your Holiday Treasures

We're accepting clean, gift-worthy items like:

- Holiday décor
- Christmas books
- Vintage & antique pieces

- Jewelry
- Needle & fabric arts
- Wood-crafted items
- New or regifiable items (preferably boxed)

Donation Drop-Off

Bring donations before or after church on Sunday, November 2 or between 9 a.m.–2 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, November 3–4. For early drop-off, contact Sue Lowery at slower14@gmail.com or 406-546-8401.

Shop the Market

Join us Friday, November 7 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and Saturday, November 8 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Enjoy the Coffee Bar, explore handmade crafts, jewelry, antiques, holiday décor, and the Regifiable Shop—Missoula's best-kept secret for ready-to-gift treasures.

Let's celebrate the season and the generous spirit of our Holy Spirit community. See you at the Market!

— SUE LOWERY

HOLIDAY MARKET COMMITTEE

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Search Process Timeline

- ✓ 1. Notify the Diocese of upcoming transition and establish a Search Committee.
 - ✓ 2. Search Committee training with Canon to the Ordinary and Vestry discusses budget for the new position.
 - ✓ 3. Post Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Timeline.
 - ✓ 4. Perform a Parish Survey and set Listening Sessions.
-
- ☐ 5. Create an Office of Transition Ministries Portfolio.
 - ☐ 6. Create a Parish Profile of Holy Spirit.
 - ☐ 7. Open Search: Begin marketing position and accepting applications.
 - ☐ 8. Screen applicants: Forward names to Bishop Marty for initial review.
 - ☐ 9. Interviews: Invite candidates to Holy Spirit for interviews and to preach.
 - ☐ 10. Hiring: Vestry extends call to finalist and offers a Letter of Agreement in coordination with Bishop Marty.

Questions? Please contact any Search Committee member or email: rectorsearch@holyspiritmissoula.org



RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Bill Drummond • CHAIR
Tracey Gage
Michael Irwin
Lindsay Iudicello
Sue LaRose
Natalie Jaeger
Zara Renander
Gary Swartz • VICE CHAIR
Adrienne Tranel

Continued from page 6 Raffle and Silent Auction Items

And, our own Blues Pit Master, Glenn Hladek, is providing a Rack of Smoked Pork Ribs, perhaps accompanied by some harmonica tunes, to the winning ticket holder. There's surely something for each one of you and for everyone on your gift list. Silent Auction items will feature a well-known Montana Fiber Artist and some beloved Holy Spirit Quilters as well a few surprises.

Raffle ticket sales and silent auction bidding begin after church on Sunday, October 26. Tickets will then be available Sunday November 2 and both days of the Holiday Market, Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8. Final ticket sales and auction bidding, plus the raffle drawing will take place on Sunday, November 9. (You need not be present to win.) Please consider how you can take part in this unique, fun, and very rewarding Holy Spirit tradition!

From the Search Committee Holy Spirit's heart on paper: Creating the Parish Profile

The Holy Spirit Search Committee (SC) continues to make progress on the path to finding a new Rector. With over 100 Parish survey responses and 75 people attending the two Parish listening sessions in September, the SC analyzed the results and believes it now has a good sense of Holy Spirit's values and what attributes we should be seeking in our next Rector.

The next step in the process is the development of a Parish Profile. Think of the profile as an advertising brochure for potential candidates, providing an overview of Holy Spirit and Missoula, and leaving potential candidates wanting to know more. The profile will describe Holy Spirit as our spiritual home, who we are as a congregation, and how we care for each other, our community, and the world. We will also have sections on our strengths and aspirations, and

what attributes we are seeking in our new Rector. It will also include a short history of Holy Spirit, our finances, and why Missoula is a great place to live.

The SC anticipates completing copy for the Parish Profile in early November, then handing it to our extraordinary visual artist Kirk Johnson to add pictures and embed videos. At the same time, we will be working on the National Episcopal Church's Office for Transition Ministries' (OTM's) Portfolio, a list of standardized questions that will accompany the Parish Profile when we officially launch our search.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact any SC member or write to rectorsearch@holyspiritmissoula.org.

— BILL DRUMMOND
SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR



A Rack of Smoked Pork Ribs

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