

PARACLETE

SEPTEMBER 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



Don't miss the return of our 8 am service on September 7

Don't forget to join us for the return of our 8 a.m. service on September 7! The 8 a.m. service offers a peaceful atmosphere and contemplative worship, with new volunteers playing important roles with everything from Scripture reading and greeting to hosting a first Sunday of the month coffee hour. Stay for a special coffee hour afterwards on September 7. It's a great chance to connect with our 8 a.m. community and engage in meaningful worship. We hope to see you there!

Join us on Kickoff Sunday, September 7, at both services

Join your Church Family for Kickoff Sunday, September 7, as we celebrate the Lord's strength and intimate presence that sustains and empowers our discipleship. Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is anything but easy. It comes with a cost, and it requires sacrifice. As we look around at our hurting world, we are acutely aware of the needs. It's easy to become overwhelmed as we try to respond. On this Kickoff Sunday we'll celebrate a new program year and the beginning of the Season of Creation. Together we'll lean into the strength of our faith that fills us with hope, grace, and light to accomplish God's work.

We will return to our two-service schedule that day (at 8 am and 10:15 am). After the early service there will be a special coffee hour. After the 10:15 service everyone is invited to

head directly to the Reserved Picnic Site at Bonner Park for a potluck picnic. Your favorite entree, side dish, salad or dessert can be kept cold in your car's cooler or the church refrigerator or warm in the church ovens during worship. The Wholly Fun Committee will have tables set up at the park as well as all necessary plates, utensils, paper items, and coolers of drinks awaiting you. Supper Club information and sign-up sheets will also be at the picnic site. Bring an extra chair if you enjoy that seating rather than at a picnic table.

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; (Psalm 139:1). Together let's draw upon the Lord's intimate presence and find strength for the work we are called to do. Join us on September 7.

— REVEREND GRETCHEN

HOLY
SPIRIT
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

All Are Welcome

Kickoff Sunday

September 7 / Both services

There's a place for everyone here—join us!

OUR STAFF

Clergy:

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

Organist/Choir Director:

Dr. Nancy Cooper

Parish Administrator:

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office@holyspiritmissoula.org

Bookkeeper/Office Assistant:

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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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**EPISCOPAL
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From the Search Committee

New Rector Search: Check out our progress on the timeline!

We are making great progress toward finding a new Rector. By the time you read this, we will have completed our Parish survey and have scheduled two listening sessions for Parishioners; the first will follow the Sunday service on September 21, and the second will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, September 23, at 7:00 pm. As the process timeline shows (see timeline on next page), following the listening sessions the Search Committee will begin

preparing the Parish Profile explaining who Holy Spirit Parish is, what our values are, and what attributes we are looking for in the new Rector. All of this is aimed at having a new Rector in place by August 1, 2026. If you have any questions or comments, please write to: rectorsearch@holyspiritmissoula.org.

— BILL DRUMMOND
SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR

From the Senior Warden

The reality of our Rector Search

When the link for the Search Committee's survey landed in my inbox, things got a little more real. *We're looking for a new priest for Holy Spirit.*

This is exciting, nerve-wracking, full of hope and, truly, inescapable. We're looking for a new rector to take us into the future.

The survey's arrival also brought forward a long list of potential attributes that might also have crossed your mind: dynamic, spiritual, self-starting, empathetic, committed, engaged, outgoing – no, introspective! – well-spoken, efficient, funny, charismatic, strong-headed, collaborative and more. They should know about AI and social media. They should be steeped in the majesty of our tradition. Ha! This list likely is endless. But no doubt our rector will be human, as well.

From my vantage point working closely with clergy and staff over this time, I'm looking for someone who can hold, both intellectually and emotionally, the spirit of our church.

What are you looking for, hoping for, praying for? The listening sessions set for later in September will be wonderful times to share your ideas, so the Search Committee and Vestry can know what's in your heart as we search for a new clergy leader.

This summer, so many people at Holy Spirit have contributed to our vital, God-loving and welcoming life together, from our new Audit Committee (Sue Lowery, A'Lisa Scott and Sara Streeter) to the ongoing events produced by Wholly Fun to our first work session for Missoula Food Bank and Julie Benson's well-attended Practicalities of Faith. And more. There's a lot of mutual gratitude for what everyone does to make Holy Spirit what it is.

I'd like to ask everyone to do one more thing – to continue to pray for God's help and inspiration as we move this fall into the reality of our new rector search.

— MOLLY BOWLER
SENIOR WARDEN



Rector SEARCH *for Holy Spirit*

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

Act with Mercy & Compassion
 Ministry

We're off to a great start!

We are thrilled to share the success of our recent kickoff event at the Missoula Food Bank. Our 30 dedicated volunteers worked diligently to assemble 6,000 food packs for children in need, all while enjoying each other's company. The positive atmosphere and sense of accomplishment were truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a success. Stay tuned for future opportunities to volunteer at the Food Bank (including work you can do while seated).

In the meantime, you can support the work and mission of the Missoula Food Bank by making a donation any Sunday in one of the little manila Food Fund envelopes that can be found in the pews. You can also support the Food Bank by making a donation on our giving platform Pushpay. Simply choose "Missoula Food Bank" from the drop-down list of funds.

– ALICE CAPLINS





Join us on September 28 for a Worship Enrichment Committee presentation on Angels

Angels are far more than mythical beings in white dresses, halos and wings. Angels are spiritual entities that serve as intermediaries between God and humankind. Most often they are messengers, protectors, comforters, or illuminators.

At the services on Sunday, September 28, the Worship Enrichment Committee will celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels with a program on angels that includes the experiences of several parishioners and the force of angels in their lives. We hope you will be there.

– KEITH KUHN

WORSHIP ENRICHMENT
COMMITTEE



Join us for the Community Concerns Movie Night on September 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Bad Faith and its Unholy War

On September 17, HSP's Social Concerns Committee will host the next Community Concerns evening for the Holy Spirit Parish. It will feature the 90-minute documentary *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy* at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This intensely absorbing and informative video will help you out if you've ever pondered any of the following questions:

Why did Donald Trump get re-elected?

Why have evangelical Christians overwhelmingly supported him?

Why have billionaires joined the evangelicals in this support?

Why is abortion the all-important issue for evangelicals?

Was it the issue that first galvanized their movement?

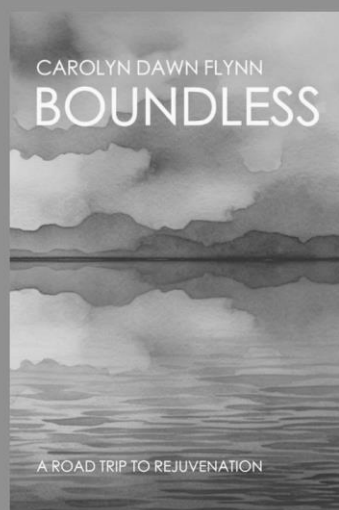
Why do evangelicals demonize Democrats and government?

Why do evangelicals see democracy as incompatible with their goals?

What does becoming a Christian Nation mean to evangelicals?

There will be refreshments before and after the showing, which will feature an intermission, with discussion afterwards. Please invite your friends from outside the church to come.

– CARLA METTLING
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



A Memoir & Mini-Retreat

Deepening our Experience of God's Story, through reflecting on One Woman's Story

Missoula, Stevensville & Polson You are invited to meet author Carolyn Flynn!

Dinner
Opening Meditation
Presentation
Conversation



WHEN September 30, 5:30-7:30 PM

WHERE Holy Spirit Episcopal Church

RSVP Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier
Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org

The Wholly Fun Committee and Dr. Nancy Cooper
present

A Little Night Music

The Wholly Fun Committee is excited to announce a collaboration with Dr. Nancy Cooper to help celebrate our "new" Steinway piano in the Parish Hall with a four-week series called "A Little Night Music."

For four Wednesdays, beginning September 24, there will be a 30-minute musicale featuring at least six pianists (including Holy Spirit pianists Nancy Cooper, Steven Hesla, Margery Whatley, Barbara Blegen, and Phil Youngholm), and more than a few community instrumentalists, playing music related to nighttime, and/or autumn, everything from ragtime to the classics to popular music of the 1930s.

The performances will be preceded by a half hour of light sweet munchies and conversations; you are encouraged to BYOB's of all kinds. The Parish Hall will be candlelit, and (if weather permits) the windows will be open. Tables for 4 will be set up for a more informal listening experience. Atmospheric, and short! Mingling at 7, music at 7:30, homeward by 8.

Come join us for "A Little Night Music!" September 24, October 1, 8 and 15. Free! Please join us!

— DR. NANCY COOPER AND THE
WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE

THE WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE AND
DR. NANCY COOPER PRESENT

A Little Night Music

September 24, October 1, 8 and 15
7 pm / In the Parish Hall

Celebrate our "new" Steinway piano with a series of 30-minute musicales featuring Holy Spirit pianists and community instrumentalists playing music related to nighttime. Mingling begins at 7 pm, music at 7:30 pm, and home by 8 pm. Please join us!

Holy Spirit Giving Grants

We'll pay you to flutter your wings



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

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.

Support one of your favorite social causes with a Butterfly Grant

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. 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:

- September 1, 2025
- December 1, 2025

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

— HOLY SPIRIT SOCIAL
CONCERNS COMMITTEE

What are you thankful for?

Our Fall Ingathering for the United Thank Offering (UTO) will take place on Sunday, September 28, at both services. Special envelopes will be in the pews that day for your donations, and you can bring your Blue Boxes to church and place them in the basket at the back of the church.

The monies raised from the thank offerings are given back in the form of grants in support of programs within the dioceses of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion that address compelling human needs and supporting the alleviation of poverty.

The UTO Prayer

Gracious God, source of all true joy; accept we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all life. Keep each of us ever thoughtful for all the blessings of joy and challenges that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Community Ministries

Listening, Listening, Listening

During a recent gathering of the Episcopal clergy in western Montana, we were sharing our ideas of essential practices for someone newly ordained. Time and again, listening was woven into our responses. And what we know is that the Episcopal Church recognizes the Ministry of Listening as a powerful and compassionate way to care for others. Here are a few key listening principles from Stephen Ministry training:

- **Listening is Active:** It requires energy and commitment. Focus on what the other person is saying, rather than planning your response. Maintain eye contact and remain engaged.
- **Patience is Key:** Building trust takes time. Be patient and allow the person to open up at their own pace.
- **Beyond Words:** Pay attention not only to spoken words but also to body language.

Sometimes what is unsaid or expressed non-verbally is as significant.

- **Restate and Explore:** Restate key thoughts to ensure understanding. Remain curious and ask focused questions to encourage deeper exploration.
- **Over Time:** Listening happens over multiple conversations. Look for recurring themes or contradictions to delve deeper.
- **Confidentiality:** Maintain confidentiality whenever possible to build trust and show care.

This fall, as we move in new and familiar ministries with new and familiar people, may loving listening guide our prayers and actions.

— ALONGSIDE YOU,
DEACON DORCIE





Our Fall Blood Drive is set for October 2 Roll up your sleeves and donate at our Fall Blood Drive!

One of the tasks I really enjoy during our semi-annual blood drives is sitting at the snack table. It's an opportunity to meet the donors and get to know a little about them as they refresh themselves with a homemade cookie and carton of juice. Many donors tell me they donate blood because they have an uncommon blood type. One of our "regulars" is a gentleman who has a rare antibody in his blood that is lifesaving to some newborns. All of these donors recognize they have a special trait they can share with others who may need it. That is so important, because every two seconds someone needs a blood transfusion.

But did you know that all blood types are needed on an ongoing basis? Of greatest immediate need is Type O blood which doctors reach for in emergency situations. Type O

negative is the universal type, and Type O positive can be safely transfused into approximately 80% of the population. *Individuals of all types are needed to ensure a strong supply.*

On October 2nd we will host our fall blood drive in the parish hall from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Of course, we need donors. Will you consider signing up?

(<https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>) And, of course, we will need cookies. HSP has a reputation among Missoula blood donors for fine cookies! We also need a few volunteers to ensure things run smoothly. To volunteer, please call Audrey Murray, 612-968-2108. Thanks so much!

— AUDREY MURRAY
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

What do I need to know to be a donor?

Our annual blood drive takes place on Thursday, October 2, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Here is what you need to know to be a donor.

- Men who are generally in good health and weigh 110 pounds or more can usually be donors. For women, those 5'6" or taller have the same minimum weight requirements as men, while those **shorter**, must weigh **more** (5'1" – 133 lb., 5'3" – 115 lb.)
- Youth between 16 and 18 must have a parental consent form.
- The most frequent exclusions are for those who have traveled in certain foreign countries.
- Low iron (hematocrit count) is another exclusion factor.

If you are a regular Red Cross donor, you cannot give blood between August 8 and our blood drive to allow 56 days between donations.

For answers to further questions about eligibility to donate, call Red Cross Blood Services at 1-800-733-2767.



Sign up to donate at our Fall Blood Drive at the Red Cross website at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
130 South 6th Street East
Missoula, MT 59801-4222

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HOLY
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EPISCOPAL
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All Are Welcome



Kickoff Sunday
September 7 / 10:15 am

130 South 6th Street East
Just North of Hellgate High School

Family Friendly & Full Choir
Traditional Service
Picnic follows at Bonner Park

Holy Spirit is an open, welcoming,
active, and engaged community.
We care for one another, uplift our
youth and work for justice and peace.



HOLY SPIRIT
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(406) 542-2167
holyspiritmissoula.org

There's a place for everyone here—join us!