



# HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR / STEWARDSHIP 2021

*Dear Friends,*

**I am always amazed at the strength and resilience of the Holy Spirit faith community.**

In the midst of a pandemic when we are separated physically one from another, when uncertainty is a daily occurrence, and when adapting to change wears on all of us, you remain faithful to God.

This shows in your love and care for one another in a phone call, email, or handwritten note. It comes through your support to those in need of food, housing, and just keeping an eye out for others. It shines through the faithful giving to fulfill your financial pledges, and the willingness of some to go beyond their pledge, as they are able. And, too, it shows in the many gifts to discretionary funds that allow clergy to respond quickly to emergency needs. A generous spirit is visible through all of you.

Last year our stewardship effort sought to close the shortfall gap that we've had steadily for many years: the difference between our income and expenses. Your response was the best we'd had since the late '90s and it was a sign of hope for the future, *a blessing*.

Then the pandemic hit in March with an array of challenges to address. We moved from ministry in and out of our buildings to life and ministry dispersed from home. All of us miss being physically gathered for worship, fellowship – and those wonderful potlucks. We've adapted with technology, and creatively pursue other distanced ways to “be together,” a sign of love and care for one another.

**Through all of this,** your on-going pledges have meant that we still have our staff members and are able to shift duties to address this new world around us. So, can you see the impact of your sustained giving and the life it brings? Instead of digging deeply into our reserves to cover even more than the expected gap, it has been possible to keep things going without expanding that gap. You are to thank for that.

This year the Stewardship Committee and I want to celebrate all that you've been able to do during such a tumultuous time. Yes, we still have a gap between income and expenses, but we are managing, thanks to sustained giving and the gifts of others over the years that made our reserves what they are. Such funds are there to assist in moments just like these.

**Our message is simple and clear: Stay the Course.** Do fill out a pledge card. If you are able to give as you did last year – thank you. If you are in a position to give a bit more – thank you. If your situation has changed due to the pandemic, we support you and encourage you to pledge as you are able – thank you. If you have never pledged before, we invite you to make your commitment now. Together we will stay the course by the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Know that we are grateful, that you are loved, and that we all look forward to that day when we will physically gather once again, see each other face to face, and share a hug. *Peace and health!*

Faithfully,

*Terri+*

# Stay the Course



**NOVEMBER 1 / INGATHERING SUNDAY**

Please complete the enclosed Financial Pledge Card and mail it in by Sunday, November 1.

**HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

130 South 6th East / Missoula, MT 59801 / (406) 542-2167

*Thank you for your generous support of our Holy Spirit community.*

To make your pledge today, please call the church office at (406) 542-2167.

[holyspiritmissoula.org](http://holyspiritmissoula.org)

Thanks be to God