



PARACLETE

DECEMBER 2022

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



More Christmas carols, please!

On Sunday, December 11th, at 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Valerie Hess will lead the singing of all your favorite Christmas carols, talking about their backgrounds and giving the history behind some beloved Christmas traditions. Requests to sing your favorite will be taken. A holiday reception will follow with cocoa and Christmas treats. This will be a fun time for everyone of all ages. Bring your children, friends, and neighbors, and let's sing!

Please join us

Bishop Marty's Annual Visitation takes place on December 4

The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins, the 10th Bishop of Montana, will make her visitation to Holy Spirit Parish on Sunday, December 4. Please mark the date on your calendars!

As chief pastor and teacher of the diocese, Bishop Marty will preside and preach at both services that Sunday. Her presence connects us to Episcopalians beyond our walls, in Montana, in the Episcopal Church, in the Anglican Communion, and back through the Church's history. While most of us will only see her on Sunday, she will be working hard to learn more about Holy Spirit Episcopal Church by meeting with

the Vestry and clergy, hearing and responding to their concerns and questions.

As is the custom in our diocese, an offering for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund will be taken at the service that day. Your checks should be paid to the order of "The Episcopal Diocese of Montana," designating on the memo line 'Discretionary Fund.' Or you can use our giving platform Pushpay to make your donation. Simply choose Bishop's Discretionary Fund from the list of funds available. It is from the Discretionary Fund that pastoral needs are met. Please be generous.



HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

invites you to join us in welcoming

The Rt. Rev. Martha E. Stebbins Bishop of Montana Sunday, December 4, 2022

The bishop will make her annual visitation to Holy Spirit on December 4. We hope you will plan to join us at either service that Sunday and at the special Coffee Hour following the 10:15 a.m. service!

OUR STAFF

Clergy:

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger,
Rector
revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org
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.

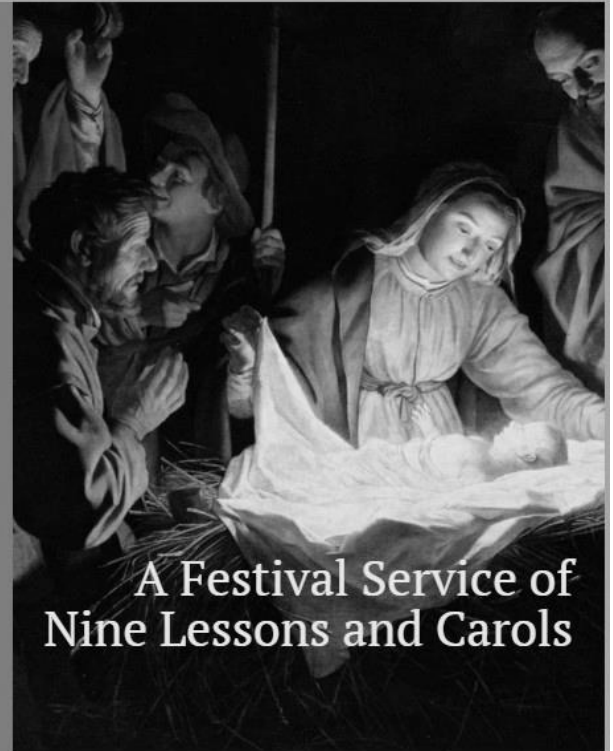
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*The Christmas
Story in
Word and
Song*

Sunday,
December 18
7 p.m.

*In-person service only
this year*



A Festival Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols

Our celebration begins on December 18

Join us in person for Lessons and Carols

The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, December 18, at 7 p.m. in the church. The choir and organ will be in splendid voice, and the beautiful carols and anthems will be the perfect introduction to the last days before Christmas.

The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which began in England in the early 1900s, is now a part of Anglican and Episcopal worship throughout the world. The service is made up of lessons alternating with the singing of congregational and choral music. Beginning with the story of Adam and Eve, the lessons trace the prophecies

of the Nativity and end with the beautiful passage from John: "In the Beginning was the Word..."

I invite all of you to join the choir on the 18th, and in the words of the beautiful opening prayer,

to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass...

A reception will follow in the parish hall.

This service will not be live-streamed or recorded but is in-person only. We hope to see you there!

– DR. NANCY COOPER
ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

The beautiful carols and anthems will be the perfect introduction to the last days before Christmas. Please join us at 7 p.m. for this in-person only service!



Flower donors needed for Christmas

We are now in the season of Advent, and we would like to remind everyone that, although there are no flowers on the altar during this season, your special prayers and memorials are still read. Your contributions for flowers during Advent are used for the special flowers at the Christmas celebration, and at that time, your prayers and memorials are noted once again in the Christmas bulletin. **Please let us know by noon on Monday, December 5, if you would like to have flowers listed in the Christmas bulletin.** Extra help with flower gifts is always appreciated at this time of year.

Please call the church office at (406) 542-2167 or email us at office@holyspiritmissoula.org to let us know. Thank you!



From the Rector
Christmas services are expanding this year!

It has been three years since we actually held in-person Christmas Services, and this year we will have offerings that we hope will help as many people to gather as possible. Last year we learned that there is a desire for an outdoor service that is designed simply with prayer, Communion, and caroling, concluded with the singing of *Silent Night* by candlelight all around the big Spruce tree in the courtyard. We will bring that into our worship schedule this Christmas Eve and will add a service of Morning Prayer on Christmas Sunday morning. The light of hope will brighten our courtyard every evening, Advent through Christmas, and maybe even into Epiphany!

Please review the schedule below and make sure to double check the times of services throughout. They may have changed a bit from years past so as to allow us to offer all of these on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Worship Services for December 24th

- **4:00 p.m.** Early Service with **all** ages in mind: A telling of the Christmas Story, simple familiar carols, and Holy Eucharist. **This service will not be livestreamed.**
- **6:30 p.m.** Outdoor Service for all ages: prayers, caroling, fire pits for physical warmth, and Eucharist and the singing of carols to warm and lift up the heart. Candlelight singing of *Silent Night* around the Spruce tree. **DRESS WARMLY!!**
- **10:00 p.m.** Traditional Choral Eucharist in the church with the singing of the choir and full congregational hymns. **This service will be livestreamed.**

Christmas Sunday Morning, December 25th

- **9:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer in the church.

— REV. TERRI+



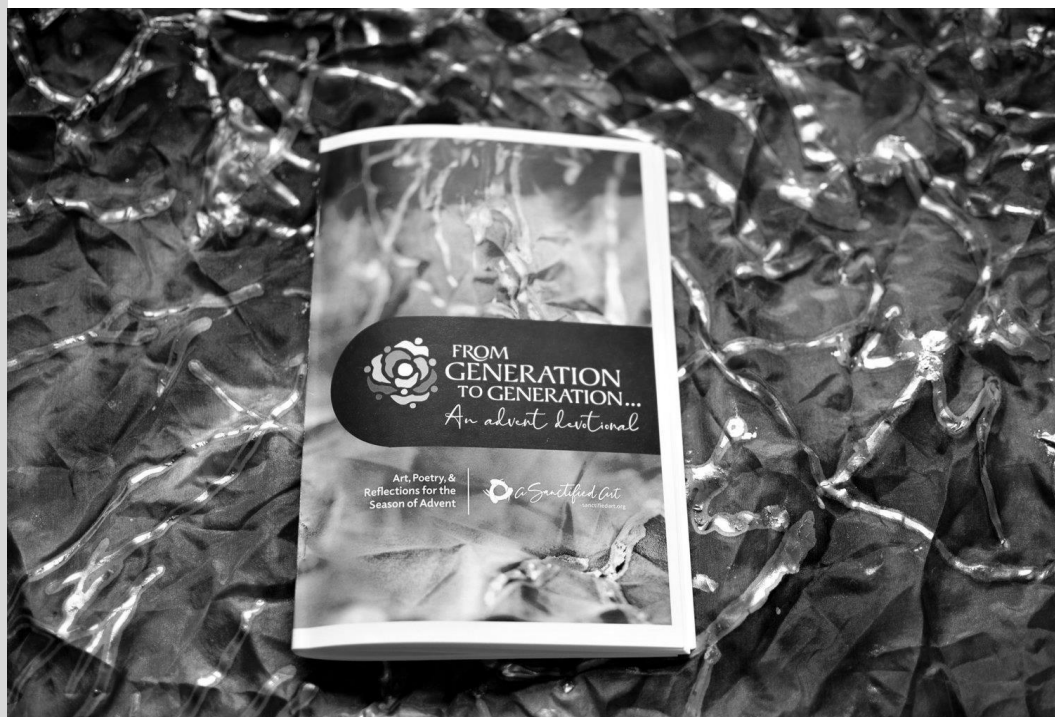
New Advent Devotionals available

Check out the Advent devotionals by Sanctified Art that are new this year. These 17-page full color Advent booklets will be available at the back of the church and in the parish hall (for free). They offer daily opportunities to reflect on Advent themes as they relate

to the Christmas story. Using Scripture, journal prompts, art, hymns and even recipes, these devotionals will encourage you to dig a little deeper into this season and engage it from a variety of angles. Take one home and be ready to dive into Advent.

Explorations:

Opportunities to cultivate, challenge and live our faith



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

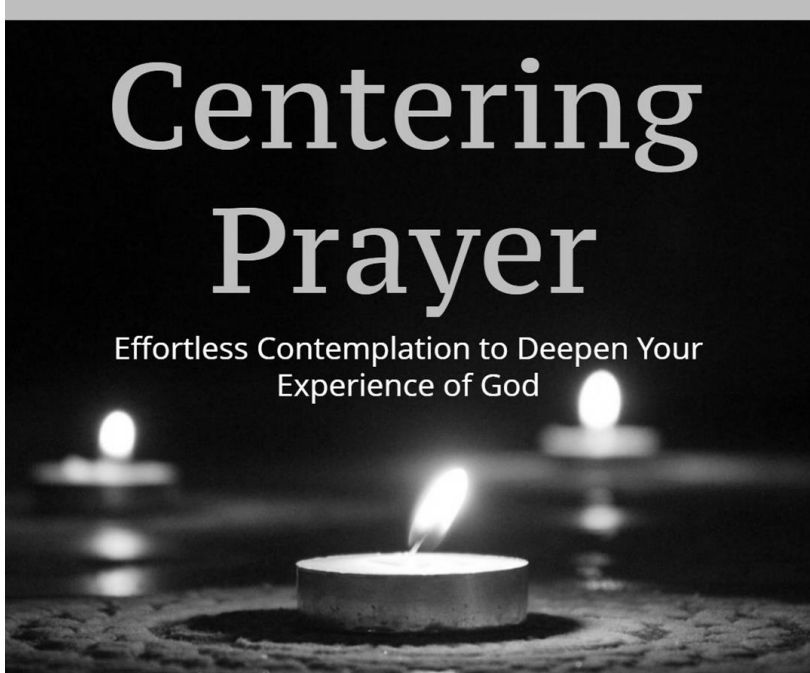
Join us for Centering Prayer in December

All are welcome to a circle of silent prayer. 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.

You will be gently led in and out of a 20-minute time of silence with prayer or readings. We gather in the Guild Room at Holy Spirit the third Tuesday of each month from 4 to 5 pm. That means we'll meet on **Tuesday, December 20** in December. If you have any questions, please contact Willie Hoffer at 541-815-9609.

Centering Prayer

Effortless Contemplation to Deepen Your Experience of God



A new book study is on the horizon Simplicity and Community: Getting a Grip

When the holidays are over, and winter sets in for real, please join Margaret Watson and Carla Mettling for conversation and refreshments in a small HSP group. There will be some common weekly readings, mostly out of the book *Less is More*, by Cecile Andrews and Wanda Urbanska, and discussion on the topics of getting past busyness, clutter, loneliness, and anxiety, by way of community. We will

meet alternately in our two homes, some 10 or so Thursday afternoons, and get acquainted or reacquainted after two years of isolation. Books will be available for around \$5 at our first meeting—3 p.m., on January 12th at Margaret's house. To join the discussion, contact Margaret Watson at marg59803@gmail.com or Carla Mettling at carlamettling@gmail.com.



St. Paul's Update

Here are a few updates about what is happening with your brothers and sisters at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hamilton, MT.

- St. Paul's is working with Caleb Koebble from Montana Interfaith Power and Light to find practical ways to decrease their carbon footprint.
- They are working to keep their Little Free Pantry full of food donations during these cold winter months. The food pantry (similar to the Little Free Library idea) offers free food 24/7. It's on a honor system: take what you need, share what you can.
- In November Steve Oreskovich taught a class, *God is in the World or Nowhere*.
- St. Paul's is collaborating with other mainline churches in the Valley to offer an Advent service on Tuesday, December 13th at Corvallis United Methodist Church at 7 p.m.

Rev. Gretchen works half time at St. Paul's and half time at Holy Spirit. She is in Hamilton every other Sunday (and spends the night there twice a month). She is there every Monday and often works remotely on Tuesdays, doing St. Paul's work from home.



Join us for Family Worship on December 11

This month families will meet on Sunday December 11th at 4:00 pm and participate in the Christmas Carol sing with Valerie Hess. We'll start with a family-friendly Advent story, and then we will sing all of our favorite

Christmas carols. And, of course, there will be snacks: cocoa and Christmas treats. Join your whole church family on Sunday December 11th as we savor Christmas music.

—REV. GRETCHEN+



We're updating our Prayer List

An important part of our worship at Holy Spirit is the opportunity to pray by name for people in need. We pray for members of our congregation and for many others for whom our prayers are requested. **On January 1, we will make a fresh start with the Prayer List included in the Sunday Prayers of the People.** In order to keep our prayers current and meaningful, we are asking for your help. If there is someone whose name you would like to have on the list, please give that information to Judy Parock (office@holyspiritmissoula.org). The renewed list will include only the names which have been sent to us and the names of our shut-in parishioners. We will renew the list again in six months' time. People may remain on the Prayer List for as long as necessary because we know and understand that many needs are ongoing. However, when someone is ready to be removed from the list, we ask that you let us know. Thank you for your help and for your understanding.

– JUDY PAROCK

Community Ministries Learn more about becoming a foster parent on December 6

Holy Spirit is working with Youth Homes' Dan Fox Family Care Program and our fellow Missoula Interfaith Collaborative congregations to encourage foster parenting consideration. We will host an informational session via Zoom on December 6 from 7-8PM for people to learn more about getting prepared and licensed for foster care.

The Dan Fox team works closely with the Department of Child and Family Services to provide services to kids in the foster care system. They focus on stable, long-term placements, in the hope of reunifying children with their biological family or adoption into their foster family. Potential foster parents are trained for therapeutic foster care to participate in a network of trauma-informed

therapy for children who have experienced neglect and abuse. Their next complete online foster parent and adoption training begins January 10.

Might full-time or respite foster care parenting be a possibility for your family or for a family you know? Please join us via Zoom on December 6, 7-8PM, to learn more; other dates and times for informational sessions are also available. To receive a Zoom link, please contact me. Thank you for your prayers and consideration.

With you as we grow the network of love for our community's children,

– THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA

DVARISHKIS

dorcied@gmail.com

406-542-2167 church office



Social Concerns Committee

Thank you for celebrating with us!

A big THANK YOU! For celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the entire Holy Spirit family being active in Outreach to our Community!

And if you missed it, the Social Concerns Committee's 20th Anniversary booklet is now on the Holy Spirit website here:

<http://holyspiritmissoula.org/about->

[us/articles/social-concerns-committee-20th-anniversary/](http://holyspiritmissoula.org/articles/social-concerns-committee-20th-anniversary/).

Physical copies of the 16-page publication are also available in the literature rack in the entryway of the church until they run out.

Here's to the next 20 years!

– JIM WILEY, CHAIR

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



Stories from the border Migrant Farmworkers in Montana

At The Farm Workers Center, in a gritty part of El Paso, we learned that during World War II, five million Mexican workers were sprayed with DDT as they entered the US, then deported after the war. We heard about the hardships and indignities of workers' lives. As we listened, men quietly came and went, doing paperwork, using the computers and the showers.

Feeling strangely at home, I thought of the early days of Vet Centers, where Vietnam veterans — alienated, down-and-out — gathered in gritty parts of town to apply for benefits they had earned and to talk about war, exposure to toxins, feeling discarded and scorned. Both veterans and migrant workers do dirty, dangerous, sometimes deadly work. Both feel misunderstood and unappreciated despite their vital contribution to society. Both experience sexual violence.

Montana is emerging as a migrant worker destination. Migrants love Montana for the same reasons everyone else does: natural beauty, fewer crowds, less crime, good education. They do jobs locals don't want. They face unique challenges: few Spanish speakers, little public transport, and the impossibility of blending in.

Migrant farm workers are vital to Montana's economy. In 2005, there were 48,300 workers; in 2017, there were 200,000, including Latinx cherry harvesters and Peruvian shepherders. Also, Montana businesses recruit foreign workers and handle paperwork for farmers and ranchers. It is difficult to fill positions because the farm labor market is tightening due to social changes in Mexico. Employers could recruit and retain workers by providing benefits, bonuses, and improved workplaces and by educating supervisors regarding state and federal laws, especially around sexual violence and harassment.

Workers are looked after by The Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers, a division of the Montana Department of Labor. Montana Migrant and Seasonal Farmworks Council (MMC) is a private organization dedicated to improving the lives of agricultural workers and others living in rural poverty. In March, National Farmworker Month, Holy Spirit participated in the Long-Sleeved Shirt Drive sponsored by National Farm Workers Jobs Program. Montana collected 2229 long-sleeved shirts for Flathead Cherry workers — more than any other state!

— NANCY ERREBO, PILGRIM



MONTANA INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL
MISSOULA, MONTANA

Hosts Needed!

HELP US WELCOME OUR 2023 CHOIRS TO MISSOULA!

JULY 19-22, 2023

**CATALONIA
COLOMBIA
COSTA RICA
GEORGIA
GERMANY
LITHUANIA
PHILIPPINES
POLAND
SINGAPORE
UGANDA**

Lifelong Friendships
Hosting allows for a uniquely personal Festival experience, and many lasting friendships have developed between host and guest(s) throughout the years, sometimes lasting a lifetime!

A Missoula Tradition!
Hundreds of Missoula residents have graciously opened their homes and hearts to our international guests.

Scan the QR code for more info and to register as a 2023 host!

(406) 936-0393 | www.choralfestival.org

Bring home the world's best singers

Every three years, the Montana International Choral Festival brings hundreds of outstanding singers from all over the world to Missoula, and we need host families! Host families not only house the singers, but also feed their guests, transport them to the Festival performances and introduce them to the beauty of Missoula and of Montana.

Our next Festival will take place from **July 19 - 22, 2023**. If you can host a couple of international singers, we would greatly appreciate your signing up on our web page:

<https://www.choralfestival.org/host-family-application/>

If you have beds, but cannot drive the singers to their performances, or are willing to provide a few meals for them but have no room to put them up, please consider sharing the responsibilities with a friend or neighbor! This has turned out to be a very convenient way to make the hosting process a big success for everyone!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Christmas Services

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4 p.m. - Christmas Eucharist with a special telling of the Christmas Story. This service will not be livestreamed.

6:30 p.m. - Outdoor Service for all ages

10 p.m. - Traditional Christmas Choral Eucharist
This service will be livestreamed.

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

9 a.m. - Morning Prayer on Christmas Day