



# PARACLETE

NOVEMBER 2020

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



## Stewardship Ingathering is November 1

Please complete your financial pledge card and mail it to church by Sunday, November 1 in the envelope that was provided in the stewardship mailing. You can also pledge online at <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/pledge/>. You can fill out the online pledge card there.

If you don't want to wait until Stewardship Sunday to make your pledge, you can call the church office at 542-2167 to pledge.



Stewardship 2021

## Stay in Faith – Stay the Course

Last stewardship season we were challenged to continue *Nearing the Summit*. Little did we know how challenging the year would be trying to cope with the pandemic and all the difficulties it brings to us. Our personal, professional, and spiritual lives are turned on end, and we are struggling to find a new normal for this time.

And yet, we've found ways to meet our challenges. In love and faith, we take care of each other, and we take care of our church. We are so grateful and humbled by the outpouring of personal responses from each of you as you call others, make masks, do errands for those who cannot go out, keep up your pledges and make additional gifts,

give to aid those in need, continue with ministries, and pray. We learned that while we love and miss being together as Church, we can join together virtually to worship.

You have, by now, received our mailing, including a pledge card and a letter from Terri. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please consider all the information prayerfully and positively; if you have returned a pledge card, we are most thankful. We know that stewardship in all forms is a component of a balanced spiritual life.

And so, we ask that you help us stay the course in faith into a new year when we can again meet face to face.

— STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



STEWARDSHIP 2021



## OUR STAFF

### Clergy:

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger,  
Rector

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The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,  
Assistant Priest

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### Organist/Choir Director:

Dr. Nancy Cooper

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**Sexton:** Lori Cordis

## 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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SPIRIT**  
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# HELLGATE SUNDAY



# CELEBRATE OUR HELLGATE MINISTRY

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Learn more about ways you can help with  
this ministry

## Community Ministries


# Hellgate Sunday 2020: Learn, pray, act with us November 15

There is little we recognize as normal, or typical, in these days of COVID, uncertainty, and unrest. We are looking at our lives and those of our neighbors through changed lenses. From our church yard, we can now see our Hellgate High School students crossing 6<sup>th</sup> in their masks, and we try to imagine all the ways their lenses have needed to change, too. Some of the challenges of "not enough" – time, access, clarity, respite, safe bases – are looming larger. And Hellgate's Family Resource Center coordinator, Tracy Ledyard, tells us that the number of students who are experiencing homelessness is already running two to three times that of recent years.

November 15<sup>th</sup> – this year's Hellgate Sunday – will invite us all to look

through the lenses of some of our Hellgate neighbors to help us learn, pray, and act in some ways that might bring Christ's Love into new focus for us all. On behalf of our Hellgate ministry coordinator, A'Lisa Scott ([adfams@montana.com](mailto:adfams@montana.com)) and your Holy Spirit family, thank you for joining us online on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and for considering a special gift to Holy Spirit at <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/> to support our Hellgate neighbors.

A DEACON LOOKING AND  
LOVING ALONGSIDE YOU,  
– THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA  
DVARISHKIS  
[dorcie@gmail.com](mailto:dorcie@gmail.com) ~  
406-239-7655 text/cell



Train children in  
THE RIGHT WAY,  
and when old, they  
WILL NOT STRAY.

Proverbs 22:6, NRSV

## Church School 2020

### Building faith habits

How do children learn? We know that one of the most powerful teaching tools we have as parents is our ability to model behavior. Like it or not, there it is. You know the power of example, I am sure. Studies about spiritual formation are no different. Kids learn faith by watching adults. This can feel daunting, particularly when our faith may feel so personal, private, and intimate. Sometimes our experiences and practices of faith seem to defy description. No worries, especially for small children, the description isn't as important as the practice.

Let them see you . . . reading the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, or other devotional book. What's on your nightstand? What books and resources are piled by your armchair? Be aware. Be intentional. Even these small things count. Have your children seen you journaling, or praying, or doing art, or going for a walk to celebrate God's beautiful creation? All these things count. Even a brief description such as, *journaling helps me talk to God*, or *making art helps me listen to the Holy Spirit*, are powerful examples!

Next invite your children into the practice as they are able and have

interest. Perhaps they need their own journal – a special one – to draw pictures for God. Maybe a special children's devotional book or children's Bible for their bedside table? Our kids are innately spiritual. Use their strengths – wonder, imagination, and play – as touchstones to discover their own spiritual wisdom.

Consider "playing" church with your kids. The lines between play and reality are blurry for children. That's OK. For children, play is a method for integrating reality. If you're playing church, ask them what sorts of things you will need to set the space. I am guessing they will know. Their imagination will assist you as you create a sacred space at home; perhaps you'll use color, or a special cloth, or candles. Once created you may decide together that your "home church" should periodically come back out. It could be a space for prayer, art, or Bible reading as you decide together.

Grace and peace to your family as you build faith habits together during this time of pandemic.

– THE REV. GRETCHEN STROHMAIER  
ASSISTANT PRIEST

### Here's what is happening in Church School this month

During November here are the stories your children can look forward to:

#### Sunday, November 1

Special All Saints Service  
Kids worship online with their whole church family.

#### Sunday, November 8

Ten Bridesmaids  
Children's Worship Video—The Spirited Times/YouTube

#### Sunday, November 15

Parable of Talents  
Children's Worship Video—The Spirited Times/YouTube

#### Sunday, November 22

Sheep & Goats  
Children's Worship Video—The Spirited Times/YouTube

#### Sunday, November 29

Special Advent Lesson  
Children's Worship Video—The Spirited Times/YouTube

As long as our buildings remain closed, we are offering intergenerational worship the first Sunday of the month and then offering online Children's Worship on the other Sundays. Links to the Children's Worship are sent out in our weekly e-newsletter, the Spirited Times. The Children's Worship links are also posted on the church website on the Online Community page here: <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/worship/online-community-life/>. The links may also be found under "Learn" on the Children's Ministry page here: <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/learn/children/>. Links to the family activity page that goes along with the lesson are also posted in both of those places.



## Explorations:

Opportunities  
to cultivate,  
challenge  
and live our  
faith

## Continuing in November – Prayer for Our Common Good

Join members of the Missoula community as together we pray for the common good. There are so many concerns before us to lift up, from the ongoing pandemic, to systemic racism, division, hurricanes, fires, and upcoming elections. We will continue to open the church on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 6 p.m. and on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. Come and spend some quiet time in the pews. Seek God's wisdom and solace in the beauty of this place, and hold our community, country, and world in prayer as together we seek the common good.

When you come to church, please wear a mask and know that the host will help seat you appropriately distanced from others. We ask that you use the provided wipes to clean the pew as you leave.

If you're praying from home, consider using Prayers for National Life in the Book of Common Prayer, starting on page 820.

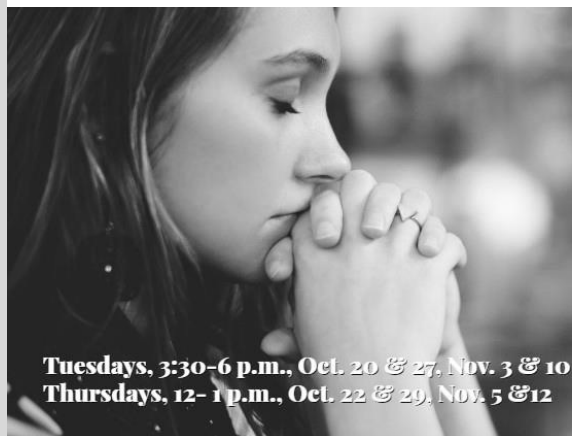
Here are the dates to join us:

**Tuesdays, 3:30 – 6 p.m.**

November 3 & 10

**Thursdays, 12 – 1 p.m.**

November 5 & 12



**Tuesdays, 3:30–6 p.m., Oct. 20 & 27, Nov. 3 & 10**  
**Thursdays, 12–1 p.m., Oct. 22 & 29, Nov. 5 & 12**

## *Prayer for the Common Good*

Join members of the Missoula community as together we pray for the common good. Join us in the church building for prayer and reflection.

## Access Centering Prayer online as well as in person

Until the weather turns too cold, we will meet for Centering Prayer in person on our beautiful Holy Spirit lawn. We will sit 6 feet apart and be masked. We plan to be there on the First Friday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on the Third Friday from noon to 1 p.m. Please bring a chair. All are welcome!

If you do not feel comfortable meeting in person, you can access our Centering Prayer online. You may visit the Holy Spirit website ([holyspiritmissoula.org](http://holyspiritmissoula.org)) and "sit" with the offerings by Jennifer Dousset that are saved for our use. April and May offerings were on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritMissoula>); look on the Video page for the Centering Prayer videos. The offerings from June are recorded on the church YouTube page. The direct links to those Centering Prayer gatherings are on the church website here: <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/event/2020-10-02-4-pm-centering-prayer/>.

If you have any questions, please call Willie Hoffer (541-815-9609) or Jennifer Dousset (406-880-1680). Peace to all!!

## Centering Prayer

Effortless Contemplation to Deepen Your  
Experience of God



## “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” (Psalm 137:4)

There is no question but that we are in a strange land now, one that none of us had imagined, and one that we remain stuck in for the foreseeable future. I miss the choir, the enthusiastic singing of hymns from the choir and congregation, and the faces I see coming up for communion, week after week. And yet.

Sunday morning services continue to gladden my heart, as we embrace the new normal with love and faith. Outdoor sermons, readers in their homes, happy pets, and glorious scenery – they are all brand-new, but still wonderful in their own ways. Behind the scenes, the choir has been supplemented by many singers and instrumentalists we have welcomed back over these seven months: former John Ellis interns Emily Silks (from Seattle!), Ben Cornelius-Bates (from Pittsburgh!), Ty Lundman (from White Plains, NY!) and Shannon Soderlund, who has been regularly recording hymns and participating with us from Great Britain! Other former choir members joined us around Easter: Caroline Allen in Victoria, British Columbia, and Rebecca Korf from Mt. Rainier National Park. What a miracle that so many former members of our

choir family have managed to worship with us again.

Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine we would have a choir like this, scattered from all over, or that our services would reach so many people, watching from all over. One of my former organ students has regularly been watching from Utah with her LDS family, after their stake closed for the pandemic. Family members have tuned in from Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Maryland. I’m sure many of you have experienced the same, as our services have reached our families who are far away, as well as those just down the road.

Yes, I miss working with the choir, face-to-face, and sharing music with the congregation – all in the same room! – and exchanging the Peace with people dear and NEAR. But weekly miracles have sprung up, big and small, and they have been unexpected and surprising, and I am so, so very thankful for them. So Happy Early Thanksgiving to you all, and for the many blessings we have shared together during “covid-tide.”

– DR. NANCY COOPER  
ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR



### Congratulations to The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier!

Congratulations to the Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier who has been called to serve as Priest in Charge part-time at St. Paul’s, Hamilton! Gretchen will continue to serve half-time here at Holy Spirit with some adjustments in scheduling from both congregations to allow her to serve in both places. We know that she has a wonderful set of gifts to offer and are pleased that St. Paul’s affirms that as well. Details are being discussed and soon Letters of Agreement will be crafted as required. No official start date has been set yet, but once it is, we will let everyone know.

Meanwhile, let us offer prayers of thanksgiving and tangible support to her and to St. Paul’s parish as they prepare for their journey together! May God bless this opportunity in ways we have yet to imagine. We are delighted for you, Gretchen!

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE,

– TERRI+







### Plans underway to make the Holiday Market an online sale this year

Can you believe it?! The possibility of our annual Holiday Market not happening in 2020 was all but certain due to the pandemic and a surge in Covid-19 cases. Thanks to creativity and thinking outside the box, it is looking like a Virtual Holiday Market will become a reality! Look for more information about how and when this will happen online once final testing and plans are prepared. Crafters, knitters, and other creative folks are being contacted to make this happen. **Do not bring any items to the church.** We are doing things differently this year, using the ability to photograph items and run a sale/auction on our computers. Once details are released, do let family, friends, and neighbors know so that they may participate. Pray for all aspects of this endeavor and watch for details to come!



### Baptism date announced

The next date for baptism will be on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at the 10:15 a.m. service. If you are interested in baptism at that time, either for yourself or for your child, please contact Rev. Terri at 542-2167. Rev. Terri needs to hear from you by December 6.

## Virtual Diocesan Convention? Who knew!

Everyone wondered how Diocesan Convention would happen this year due to the limitations on large gatherings brought on by the pandemic. The diocesan staff went to work months ago and produced a totally new online Virtual Diocesan Convention that was held with delegates from all over the diocese on October 9-10 with a diocesan-wide virtual worship service available October 11.

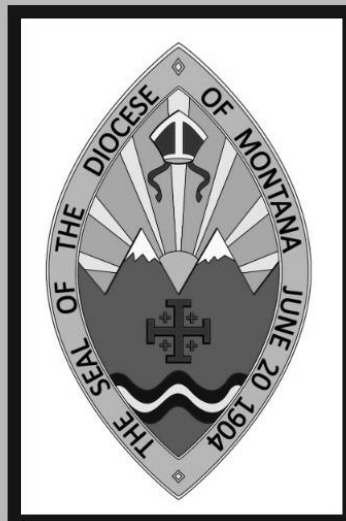
While we prefer to have worship together in person each day, we shared prayer, scripture, reflection and music thanks to the online contributions of many, even some of our choir members and organist Dr. Nancy Cooper, in the “Hollywood Squares” way we’ve used for our own virtual Sunday services. Bishop Marty did a wonderful job weaving the laments of one of our legislative resolutions on racism into the Saturday morning worship and her sermon time, resulting in a powerful and prayerful reminder that all we do at Diocesan Convention is immersed in prayer and done in response to God’s call to us in Christ.

Everything went very smoothly considering the entire endeavor had to rely on the patience and persistence of all the delegates with varying internet connections around the diocese and

learning as we journeyed along. The strength of the virtual format was the ability to hear instructions, voice concerns for and against resolutions, and complete the business of the diocese with voting in an efficient, orderly fashion without all the talk-over and noise confusion that are normal parts of a larger in-person gathering. More details about the decisions of this convention will come soon.

I want to especially thank diocesan staff members Barb Hagen and Jill Sallin for all the hard work that obviously went into the preparation for and implementation of the Virtual Diocesan Convention 2020, and to Bishop Marty for the way she oversaw all of it. Well done!! While we missed the opportunity to share work and fun with old friends and new, it was a worthwhile endeavor. Perhaps we will find a way to do a hybrid of sorts for the next convention, but meanwhile, thanks to everyone who supported the effort with their time and talents. Thanks too to all of our delegates from Holy Spirit: your willingness to learn new things and be together even online made a real difference!

— REV. TERRI



## The Episcopal Diocese of Montana

*A transformed and transforming church empowered by the Risen Lord*

## A Reflection from the Rector

## Oh, to be together again...

What challenging times we are in. I can't tell you how many times I've thought about our ancestors in recent months: what history tells us about the struggles they had with pandemics, economic hardship, and loss of loved ones, and in more difficult living circumstances than in our day and age. I find that scripture and prayer come to life in new ways, as in the laments of the Psalms with the cry of despair, and the longing for what was and is lost. Most of us have never been through a pandemic such as Covid-19, a very real virus that can destroy strong and weak alike or leave one physically less-abled even after "recovery." I am seeing and hearing anew.

Every day I awake wondering when we will be able to gather together again safely. Sound familiar? When will we *physically, together*, sing the hymns, hear the scriptures, offer our prayers (sung and said, choir and congregation), reflect, and share the Eucharist? When will we be together? When will we be able to visit our loved ones? When will we be able to celebrate weddings and funerals, Thanksgiving and Christmas, together, in the full presence of one

another? The answer is that we do not know, not yet. We wander, with God, in the wilderness.

I also awake daily aware of you, and I pray for whatever circumstances you may be experiencing. Others are praying too, near and far. When you are lonely, depressed, or despairing, know that you are remembered in those prayers. The struggles are real, and they hit all of us in different ways. None of us are "used to this," not one. Yet we hold on to the promises of God known to us in Christ Jesus, that we are loved, we matter, and this present darkness is not all there is. We give thanks, offer encouragement, and celebrate the tiniest of joys, nurturing life. The light shines in the darkness: in us and to the world, always.

If you need help, or know someone who does, let us know. We will do whatever we are able to respond. Keep the faith, for God is faithful. And may the peace of God that passes all understanding, remain with you – always.

WITH YOU ON THE WAY,  
– REV. TERRI +



### Stay connected with the Holy Spirit app

Keep up to date on upcoming events, access sermons, forms/registrations for events and other activities, see the latest newsletter or bulletin, or submit a prayer request – all that and so much more! This is also a convenient way to make electronic donations by ACH (bank account) or credit or debit cards in addition to making and managing recurring gifts.

Get a link to download the app by texting **HOLYSPIRITAPP** to **77977**. Be sure to put your caps lock feature on; that will bypass the auto-correct feature on your phone and ensure that the code is entered correctly! You may also download the app directly in the Apple iTunes App Store or on Google Play.

**Be sure to opt in to receive push notifications!**

# HOLY SPIRIT

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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HELLGATE SUNDAY



CELEBRATE  
OUR HELLGATE  
MINISTRY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Learn more about ways you can help with  
this ministry

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High School