



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

June 2020

Inside this issue:

Pastor David	2
Graduates	3
Worship & Studies	4
About Spirit of Grace	5

Welcoming Pastor Sue Seiffert

Plans are underway to welcome Pastor Sue Seiffert as our interim pastor at Spirit of Grace beginning in July. Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar has recommended Pr Sue as her most experienced interim. Indeed, Sue has served fifteen interims. Some involved parishes with more than one congregation; we will be her thirty-first congregation! One of the parishes was composed of two Lutheran congregations and one Methodist and she is excited about Spirit of Grace with its melding of Lutheran and Methodist traditions. Pr Sue worked as a registered nurse in Portland before beginning her ministry career in Minnesota. In more recent years, she has been in North and South Dakota and moved to Oregon in 2012. She loves the Pacific Northwest and fully embraces the challenge and joys of working in our small rural town of Hood River.

Tom, Jennifer, Debby and Jill interviewed Pastor Sue recently on Zoom and are comfortable with her approach to our needs. She describes this approach as follows:

“This is a time to address key questions of identity, context, and purpose: Who are you? Who are your neighbors? What is God calling you to do or to be? It is a time for members of the congregation to reflect and assess and discuss and discern God’s will. It is a time for people to listen to each other and to the voice of God. The interim pastor brings tools and experiences to help facilitate this process in a way that will make the most sense for the particular congregation. The interim pastor acts as a coach for the formation and leading of a Transition Team that will plan and lead the congregation’s work during this time. The interim pastor brings the perspective of a pastor who connects with the congregation and yet can bring an independent point of view.”

When asked what special gifts she brings to her work Pr Sue said that she is able to ask good questions and is an excellent listener. With her depth of research, theories and practices she will be able to guide us through the processes of self examination and the calling of a permanent pastor as quickly as possible.

Pastor Sue lives in Tualatin with her cat and likes to stay close to her 94 year old father who is in a residential care facility nearby. She will commute to Hood River at least until the weather turns nasty and/or the corona virus is less of a threat.

Spirit of Grace, like many congregations, at this stressful and uncertain time, has seen a decline in giving. Thus we can only offer Pr Sue a two-thirds time position at this time. This means she will work 27-33 hours a week and we will have to prioritize which areas of work she can emphasize. Certainly Sunday Worship and pastoral care will continue along with her focus on our transition. We are a strong congregation with many gifts and a unique constitution. With the power of God behind us, we will keep our committees and ministries going – governmental, financial, buildings, spiritual, musical, crafts, and fellowship. Pastor Sue will help us discern our future.

Dear Friends,

Well, this is not how I imagined leaving you. But it seems that everything has been turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic. Right about Friday the 13th of March, pretty much everything shut down, with not much warning at all.

Melissa and her friends at school are calling it “being Pompeii’ed.” One day they left school, expecting a short break. But they never came back. When Melissa went to clean out her classroom, everything was just as she had left it two months before. It had been locked in time, in a similar way—though admittedly less cataclysmic—as the time capsule of life created by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 CE.

When I returned to the sanctuary for the first time after we “suspended” in-person meetings, I found it prepped for Sunday worship. I had already planned not to pass the collection plates, and so there they were sitting on a table in the back of the sanctuary, never having been used.

It means that almost every “last time” happened when we didn’t know it was the last time. The last time celebrating Holy Week, the last Easter, the last Pentecost. They all happened in 2019. The last time sharing communion, the last time singing together, the last time passing the peace, the last time shaking hands and giving hugs. They all passed without us knowing. We only understand in retrospect.

I am very grateful for the opportunity I have had to be in ministry with you. We have listened hard for the movement of the Holy Spirit, we have taken risks, we spent time healing wounds, we have forged an identity: Spirit of Grace, ELCA UMC. We have seen the construction of a state-of-the-art food bank, the founding of a community garden, the confirmation of three classes of youth, the housing of the vulnerable, ministry with the young and the old and the in-between, a Community Room for the nurturing of health and community. I am very proud of our ministry here, and I feel blessed for having known each of you.

And while the circumstances of this move have turned out to be unexpectedly strange, I am excited for the future for each of us. I have been discerning for a while that Spirit of Grace is ready to take a bold next step and that God is bringing you the leader who is best equipped to take that step with you. I have full confidence in the process Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar and the Oregon Synod staff will lead you through to call a new pastor, and I look forward to hearing stories of the ways you will continue to proclaim and live out the good news of God here in the Gorge.

As for me, I am excited for the new opportunities in Forest Grove. I feel like this is where God is calling me. There is, of course, quite a lot of uncertainty in everything right now. We may not know what the future holds, but we can be pretty sure it will be an adventure.

I lack the words to thank you for the ways that you have supported me, Melissa, Karthik, Kaylah, and Kiahla. You have seen us through an adoption. You have seen me through a dissertation. We have been through fire and ice together, and now also pandemic. As I step down from being your pastor, I will continue to hold you in my prayers, and I will carry memories of our time together dear in my heart.

Blessings to each of you and to the vibrant community that is Spirit of Grace.

Your servant in Christ,

+Pastor David



Ethan William Fowler

Attending CGCC for 2 years with a transfer to OR State University



Marlene Lahti has two great grand daughters graduating from high school:

Vera Brown
Olive Branch , Mississippi

Portia Hayden
La Grande , Oregon

Emelia Elizabeth Gendreau

**BA in Dance with
Emphasis in Dance Science**

Muhlenberg College



*We are so
proud of you*

Willie J. Ishizaka

**Fire Science Degree
University of Alaska Fairbanks.**



Brian Marcroft	6
Joan Chapman	8
Bailey Murahashi	12
Lisa Crompton	13
Kathy Terry	23



Audrey & Myrin Bentz	2
Gigi & Jim Siekkinen	4
Ila Mae & David Schneeberg 63 Years!	8
Sally & Bob Havig Muriel & Ray Ishazaka	18
Jana & John Jacobson	23
Lisa & Mark Crompton	29

Prayer Requests can be sent to
Carol Kyger cckyger@gmail.com or 541-386-6341
Backup for Carol is Donna Fitch
 fitcheshr@gmail.com 541-386-4043

Thursday Bible Study Group 6-8:30pm
 begins a new 8 week Zoom study based on the book
 “Spiritual Gifts of Waiting”
 by UCC minister Holly Whitcomb.
 The book contains practical suggestions for reframing
 life's uncontrollable circumstances and is filled
 with personal anecdotes, poems, Biblical selections
 and excerpts from inspirational writing. Each chapter
 contains discussion questions and exercises for
 participants to be shared in our weekly meetings.
 For more information and book copies,
 contact **Donna Fitch** at 541-386-4043 or
fitcheshr@gmail.com.

FISH & Spirit of Grace Garden update
 In the garden we have green onions, salad
 greens, spinach, swiss chard, parsley, beets,
 lettuce, basil, radishes, cabbage, cauliflower,
 broccoli, kale, tomatoes, peppers, peas, and
 winter squash already planted and growing. In
 the next two weeks I hope to plant cucumbers,
 summer squash, and zucchini. Things we've
 been able to harvest already are radishes, salad
 greens, spinach, and rhubarb. —Tessa Yoo

Weekly Reflections

June 7 Matthew 28:19-20
*Where and how do you sense Jesus leading the way in this very
 unusual time?*

June 14 Matthew 10:7-8
*Where are you experiencing the good news of the kingdom of
 heaven?*

June 21 Genesis 21:19
*Is God revealing sources of refreshment to you in unexpected
 places?*

June 28 2 Corinthians 13:12
*Is God inviting you to reach out to someone you haven't spoken to
 in some time?*

**Congratulations and Blessings
 to our new Confirmands!**

Colin Gerald
 Miyuki Gerald
 Kaylah King
 Kiahla King
 Jack Siekkinen



Spirit of Grace

1140 Tucker Road
Hood River, Oregon 97031
Phone: 541-386-3993
Email: office@hoodriverchurch.com
Web site: hoodriverchurch.org

Sunday Worship Times

Worship Service 10:00am
Fellowship 11:00am

Education Times

Check with the Church Office

Office Hours

Pastor Mon-Wed 9-Noon. Or by Appt.

Staff Mon, Wed, Thurs 9am-2:00pm
Tuesdays 9am-1:00pm

Pastor

Rev. Dr. David D.M. King

Staff

Jennifer Fowler

Office Manager & Financial Secretary

Linda Boris

Pastoral Assistant



Board of Directors

Pastor David King, ex officio
Tom Hart, Chair (2021)
Sharon Poynter (2021)
Shelley Oates (2020)
Gordon Leigh (2020)
Michele Sibley (2022)
Bob White (2022)

Finance Committee

Pastor David King
Debby Chenoweth (2021)
Dottie Gilbertson (2022)
Muriel Ishizaka Treasurer
Jennifer Fowler Financial Secretary
Tom Hart Payroll
Shelley Oates Board Liaison

Ministry Team Leaders

Worship	Linda Boris, Dottie Gilbertson
Children & Youth	Melissa Mimier King
Men's Ministry	Marv Turner
Women's Ministry	Kris White
Outreach	Debby Chenoweth
Prayer Chain	Carol Kyger
Reception	Jill McBee & Pat Crompton
Building	Rick McBee

Music Ministry

Organist/Piano	Dottie Gilbertson & Audrey Bentz
Choir	Audrey Bentz & Sharon Poynter

Staff Parish Relations

Jill McBee	(2020)
Ty Sibley	(2020)
Rose Miller	(2021)
Sharon Pantley	(2021)

Representatives

Oregon Synod Assemble	Bette Lou Yenne
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conf.	



A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

Spirit of Grace

1140 Tucker Road

Hood River, Oregon 97031

Phone: 541-386-3993

office@hoodriverchurch.com

hoodriverchurch.org

Mail to: