



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

September 2020

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Hello!!

This note is to introduce myself, Marly Beck, the new Jesuit Volunteer in the Garden and Community Outreach Coordinator position with FISH and Spirit of Grace Garden. I am from Indianapolis, Indiana, and am looking forward to getting to know everyone in the extended garden community!

In the garden we are harvesting for FISH still, and are able to safely host small groups of people outside right now. We normally work in the garden 8 -10 am on MWF, but I am around quite a bit and can be flexible if

people want to volunteer at a different time! In a time of frequent zoom meetings, nothing is quite as nice as spending some time outside, in the sun, with some plants and pleasant (distanced) company.

Please feel free to reach out to me via this email (fishgardenvc@gmail.com) or reach out to my cell at (317) 750-1922 if you want to volunteer or if you just want to say hello!

Marly



Vigils —‘Somos Uno’

Join the weekly vigil in Hood River, a peaceful gathering, to remember, to learn and to build the Beloved Community: a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love for all.

When: Every Tuesday, 5:00-6:00pm

Where: The Salmon Fountain at 2nd and State Street

Including: Remembering – 9 minutes of silence kneeling, sitting or standing. Singing, Sharing and Standing in Solidarity to show our love for our neighbors. We will wear masks and keep a distance of 6 feet between us. Hosted by Somos Uno/Building Community Connections –a committee of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries.

From Somos Uno Facebook page August 20, 2020

“NORCOR ends ICE Contract!! Today the NORCOR Board voted unanimously to suspend its contract to hold adult detainees. They also cancelled their agreement to hold juvenile detainees. No longer will any immigrants be accepted. The contract will end, as legally required, within the next 30 days.”

In 2018, GEM had a presence at the daily vigils held at NORCOR, which was the only Oregon jail that had a contract to hold Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees. Our own Pastor David had stood with other GEM representatives and Spirit of Grace helped provide phone cards for detainees to use.



Pastor Sue Seiffert
971-272-3743
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

September! Traditionally, the first month of the school year and often the time to re-start various programs and activities at churches. But this year is different. This year we are in “Covid-time”. Not a recognized season in the church year, but the reality that shapes what we do and how we do it. Initially, we all thought that this time would be short, perhaps a few weeks at most. But we have come to realize that it will be much longer. No one likes it; but we need to continue to behave in the best possible way to avoid passing the virus on to others who might suffer serious consequences. Paradoxically, loving our neighbor in Covid-time means that we have to physically distance ourselves from one another.

Practicing physical distance, however, does not mean that we are disconnected from each other. We are connected in all sorts of ways. We are connected via technology – Zoom, e-mail, regular mail, the telephone. We are connected emotionally – caring about one another, loving each other. We are connected spiritually – praying for each other, praying for people we will never meet, seeking to discern God’s will for us.

Every transition time involves discernment. The world is in the process of discerning how to live with the coronavirus. And Spirit of Grace is in the process of discerning God’s will for the next phase of its life as a congregation. We are in the first step of this process: discernment around the formation of the Transition Team. Thirty-two members of the congregation responded to the request to name four people who are trusted and spiritually wise. Twenty-one people were named frequently enough to put them on the list of potential Transition Team members, and I began calling the names that were named most frequently. Some have said “yes”, some said “no”. Remember that discernment takes time; but there is late breaking news: as of the afternoon of Sunday, August 30th, we have a Transition Team:

Debby Chenoweth

Rick McBee

Michele Sibley

Donna Fitch

Cindy Murahashi

Bette Lou Yenne

Dottie Gilbertson

Shelley Oates



God is always at work. God is even at work through this Covid-time; I can’t claim to know exactly how God might be bringing something good out of a pandemic, but I trust Paul’s words in Romans 8:28. And meanwhile, we can be faithful to what God is calling us to do each day. For Spirit of Grace, that includes making good use of this current transition time. When the Transition Team begins its work, they will be asking each of you to participate in different ways. The usual way of doing things will have to be adapted, just like everything else has to be adapted for this Covid-time, but we will

figure things out. Meanwhile, pray for those who have agreed to serve on the Transition Team and those who are praying about it.

I am still in the process of seeking to get to know you better through Zoom visits or telephone calls; I much prefer Zoom so that I can see faces, but I understand if the telephone is necessary. If I have not yet set up a time to visit with you, please reach out! My contact info is above.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Sue

Pastor Sue's Schedule

Sept 2020

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A.M.	30 Worship	31 Work at Home	1	2 Work at Home UMC-DS	3	4 Sabbath Day X	5 Women's Spirituality
P.M.	Visits		Text Study	ELCA Bishop	UMC-DS	X	Study at
Eve				lectionary	Book Study	X	home
A.M.	6 Worship	7 Holiday X	8 Work at Home	9 Work at Home	10	11 Sabbath Day X	12 Study at Home
P.M.		X		Text Study	ELCA Bishop	X	
Eve				lectionary	Book Study	X	
A.M.	13 Worship	14 Work at Home	15	16	17 Interim pastors' meeting	18 Sabbath Day X	19 Study at Home
P.M.		WorshipCom	Text Study	Annual Conf	UMC_DS	X	
Eve				Annual Conf	Book Study	X	
A.M.	20 Worship	21 Work at Home	22	23 Work at Home	24	25 Sabbath Day X	26 Study at Home
P.M.			Text Study	ELCA Bishop		X	
Eve				lectionary	Book Study	X	
A.M.	27 Worship	28 Work at Home	29	30 Work at Home			
P.M.			Text Study	ELCA Bishop			
Eve				lectionary			

Please note that this is subject to change!! (Remember that Pastor Sue is two-thirds time). She will answer the phone or respond to e-mails at any time other than the spaces that are **VACA** or **X'ed** out.

Pastor Sue continues to work from home, but she is eager to interact with people via Zoom, telephone or e-mail (see contact info on page 2). Please feel free to contact her. When in doubt, call Jennifer in the church office, as she will have the most updated schedule.

“Thank You” to the folks of **Spirit of Grace** for their participation in the Imagine event on July 25th. Members did a fantastic job of sharing the story of Spirit of Grace honestly, effectively, and in such a way as to inspire others. They fulfilled the expectations of the planning team. Thanks to their sharing, others have been inspired to begin to explore ecumenical partnerships. My thanks, and that of the planning team, in helping make the event a success.



Peace,

Rev. Timothy L. Overton-Harris
Columbia District Superintendent
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

What does **Love** Require?

Do No Harm:

Fighting COVID-19

Do Good:

Dismantling Racism

Stay in Love with God:

Reimagining Life Together



The **Oregon-Idaho Conference** will be on Wednesday, September 16th from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Conference will be held on-line, which makes it easy for anyone to attend! Watch for information about how you can access this event.

<https://www.umi.org>

Oregon-Idaho (UMC) Laity Session

Wednesday, September 23rd
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

A time to focus on the ministry of local churches in this time of pandemic, confronting racism, and imagining a new future.

This will include:

A short video

Worship

New ideas

Opportunities for leadership development

To register:

https://greaternw.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fXfd3oJsTmOKv3WcCUEzUA

Greetings –

Your church's apportionment contributions in the first half of 2020 have increased from where you were last year. Good job, and thank you for financially prioritizing your church's wider connection to the United Methodist Church. I know that isn't easy in a year as turbulent as this one. Together we can transform lives and the world.

Keep working at it: while the goal is always 100% I am happy to see that your participation in Shared Ministries has increased year-over-year. Thanks for your faithfulness!

In Christ,

Tim Overton-Harris

Columbia District Superintendent



Synod Assembly for this year is an online one day event to take place on November 7th.

<http://oregonsynod.org>

Oregon Synod (ELCA) Day of Learning

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

+A day of rest

+A day of learning

+A day of delighting in what God can do in us when we come together to take seriously Christ's call to love our neighbor as ourselves, and scripture's challenge to heed the wisdom of the eloquent and of the "least of these"

Session topics include:

+Innovative and Online Worship Ideas

+Oregon Synod Horizon, Values, &Stepping Stones for the Future

+Health Care and Racial Equity: What COVID-19 has Revealed.

And more!

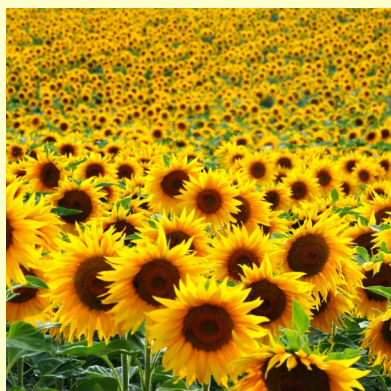
Cost \$25. For more details and to register:

<https://oregonsynodelca.regfox.com/synod-day-of-learning-liberating-our-hidden-stories>



Carol & Curt Kyger	26
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Patrick Crompton	1
Kate Siekkinen	5
Craig Terry	10
Craig Sheppard	12
Jan Dutton	16
Michele Sibley	17
Emelia Gendreau	18
Pastor Sue Seiffert	19
Mark Crompton	22
Erik Siekkinen	24
Tyler Sibley	26
Linda Boris	29
Ila Mae Schneeberg	30



Spirit Of Grace Worship Links

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548310619>

<https://hoodriverchurch.com/>

This brings you to Spirit of Grace's website, where you click on "Zoom" (in blue lettering) to access worship.

To access worship by phone (audio only) call one of the following numbers, **1-669-900-9128** (San Jose) **1-253-215-8782** (Tacoma) and then enter the "Meeting ID" of **815 4831 0619**.

Prayer Requests can be sent to

Carol Kyger cckyer@gmail.com or 541-386-6341

Backup for Carol is Donna Fitch

fitcheshr@gmail.com 541-386-4043

Weekly Reflections

Sept 3 Matthew 18:20

What images come to mind when you ponder this verse?

Sept 10 Matthew 18:21

How does forgiveness feel?

Sept 17 Philippians 1:25-26

What do these verses say about being part of a community of faith?

Sept 24 Philippians 2:6-11 is an early Christian hymn.

Is there a hymn or song that summarizes what you believe about Christ?



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

Zoom Worship Service 10:00am
Zoom Fellowship 11:00am

Education Times

Check with the Church Office

Office Hours during COVID
Please call the church office

Pastor (Interim)
Sue Seiffert

Staff

Jennifer Fowler
Office Manager & Financial Secretary

Mon 9am to 2pm
Wed 9am to 2pm
Thurs 9am to 2pm

Linda Boris
Pastoral Assistant



Board of Directors

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

Finance Committee

Pastor
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
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.



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Mail to: