



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

February 2021

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Lenten Worship

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, February 17, there will be a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service, via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Of course, it is not possible to impose ashes via the internet, but we will have another symbolic ritual designed for this pandemic time. Please have a mask handy, along with a paper cross and a piece of tape.

The Sundays in Lent will focus on the covenants that God has made with God's people. A covenant is about living into a relationship, so this reflects the ancient theme of Lent as a time to grow in understanding about the Christian faith and living as believers in Christ. As part of Sunday morning worship, there will be a ritual of anointing with oil for healing. Everyone is encouraged to have oil (or lotion) for use during worship.

On the Wednesdays of Lent, there will be devotions with a Bible study that looks at the Passion of Christ, that time from the last supper to the death on the cross. This will begin and end with prayer and will include one verse of a hymn. Together, we will compare how the different gospel writers told the story. It will be via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.



Ringling Bells in Remembrance

In remembrance of members of the Hood River community who have died from Covid-19, people will ring bells throughout our county every Friday at noon. You are welcome to come to Spirit of Grace and safely sit in your car, while Sharon rings the Asbury bell.

Worship on Sundays

Pastor Sue continues to make use of an object at some point during worship. Everyone is encouraged to their own version of the object.

February 7 – a bandaid or bandage or ace wrap

February 14 – a piece of paper with the word “Alleluia” written on it

February 17 (Ash Wednesday) – a mask, a paper cross, a piece of tape

February 21 – a rainbow (also oil or lotion for healing ritual)

February 28 – a travel bag (also oil or lotion for healing ritual)

From our Interim

PASTOR

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

Lent is coming!

The season of Lent is the oldest season on the liturgical calendar. It began as a time of study and commitment for those who wanted to embrace Jesus and be baptized. The climax came during the Easter Vigil, which marked the beginning of Easter at sunset on Saturday. The new believers would be baptized, having demonstrated their understanding of the faith and their commitment to this new way of life.



Later, as Christianity became the religion of the Roman empire and baptism shifted to primarily children who would be brought up in Christian households, learning about the faith and living the Christian life, the focus of Lent shifted to preparing to observe the last days of Jesus' earthly life and the celebration of the resurrection. Lent became a time for repentance and penitence; many of us grew up with the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

In more recent years, another common Lenten theme has focused on journeys: the journey that is the life of believers, growing in faith; and the journey of Christ to the cross. Sometimes the two are interwoven, other times the emphasis may be more on one than another. And sometimes the journey involves looking at where we are going next and seeking to discern where God is leading.

Whatever the focus may be, the classic three disciplines of the Lenten season apply: fasting, prayer, and charity. Of course, these are good disciplines for any time, but the season of Lent gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves and expand our current disciplines.

- Fasting is not necessarily about food. One can resolve to fast from a particular behavior or attitude: "every time I feel like watching TV, first I'll read a chapter of Scripture" or "every time I catch myself being negative, I'll write a note of appreciation to someone."
- We can always spend more time in prayer, and Lent can be a time to experiment with a different form of prayer, such as using a prayer journal or praying with Scripture or trying a centering prayer.
- There are so many ways to grow in charity! We can increase our regular giving by five or ten percent. We can pay attention to those times when we buy something on sale at the grocery store and give the amount we saved to FISH. If and when another stimulus check comes, we can give it to someone who has lost their job in this pandemic time. We can increase our charity by advocating for those who are on the margins, by contacting our legislators and supporting the need to have a larger safety net during this pandemic time.



So what is Spirit of Grace doing this Lent? A combination of the classic themes! Read the article on 1 for more details. Meanwhile, let us enjoy these last weeks in the season after Epiphany, as the gospel readings on Sunday reveal different aspects of Jesus.

Blessings, *Pastor Sue*

Pastor Sue's Schedule

Feb 2021

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
a.m		1	2	3	4	5	6
p.m		Work at Home		ELCA Bishop Lectionary		Sabbath Day X	Women's Spirituality
eve		Transition Team	Text Study	SPRC	Book Study	X	Study at Home
a.m	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
p.m	Worship	Work at Home		ELCA Bishop Lectionary	MAMA	Sabbath Day X	Study at Home
eve		Transition Team	Text Study		Book Study	X	
a.m	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
p.m	Worship	Work at Home	Text Study	ELCA Bishop Lectionary	Interim Pastors' Meeting	Sabbath Day X	Study at Home
eve	Transfig- uration Sunday	Transition Team		Ash Wednesday Worship		X	
a.m	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
p.m	Worship	Work at Home		Work @ home		Sabbath Day X	Study at Home
eve	1st Sun- day of Lent	Transition Team	Text Study	ELCA Bishop Lectionary	Book Study	X	
a.m	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
p.m	Worship	Work at Home		ELCA Bishop Lectionary		Sabbath Day X	Women's Spirituality
eve	2nd Sun- day of Lent	Worship Comm. Transition Team	Text Study	Worship	Book Study	X	Study at Home

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.

Have You Heard the One about Two Churches and a Garden?

Submitted by Jewel McKenzie, OSU Hood River
Extension Master Gardener volunteer, Jan 26, 2021



Many know OF the garden, but most don't know ABOUT the garden. Let me start at the very beginning ... there were once two Hood River churches, Asbury United Methodist Church and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, that decided to join forces to become Spirit of Grace Church. Located at 1140 Tucker Road in Hood River, the church contributed regularly to the FISH Food Bank with volunteers, financial support and crops from their small on-site garden. Mostly root crops were grown and donated in the beginning (which the moles and voles were thrilled to share with multiple generations!). To keep with the spirit of giving, the church decided to try opening some of the garden to the community, providing small raised beds for individual use. Interest waned, unfortunately, and it was decided that returning the area to one large garden and donating those crops to FISH Food Bank would have a much broader impact in the community.

And so, with much help from church volunteers, school groups, non-profits and numerous local businesses the Spirit of Grace garden grew — to 7,500 square feet! Land was eventually donated by the church for a new building to be built for the FISH Food Bank. Success!

While all of this was going on, in 2016 the then OSU Hood River Master Gardener Education Program Coordinator Rachel Suits received approval to make the Spirit of Grace Garden a project by which Master Gardeners could receive qualifying volunteer hours, while helping to produce fresh produce for the FISH Food Bank. This project was much too large for either the church or Master Gardeners to take on individually, so it was decided that the church would apply for a Jesuit Volunteer Corps /AmeriCorps volunteer, with the help of grants, Master Gardeners and local business donations. That annual volunteer would be the overseer of the garden, along with a Master Gardener project leader.

The Spirit of Grace Garden is truly a result of an entire community of volunteers and donations, providing more than 2,100 pounds of organic produce to the FISH Food Bank this past year alone. A garden has never been more important, nor made more of a community impact than this garden, started so long ago by a truly caring community and supported to this day by so many.

I would be remiss in not mentioning three people who have been involved with this garden from the very beginning and remain active to this day. Hats off to Debbie Chenoweth and Alan Yenne (church members and volunteers) and Scott Fitch (Master Gardener).

I tell you this story because a garden is so much more than a source of food. It is a place to learn about nature, a place to nurture friendships, a place where hope is planted and passed on to others. So plant a garden, no matter how small, the ripple effect can be far-reaching.

© Columbiagorgenevents.com. Jan 26, 2021

Valentine Special Memories

Something meaningful to me was getting to know fellow church members better during our caring circle telephone chats. ~ Jan D.

Every year on Valentines day my mom and dad would get us an ice cream cake from Dairy Queen. As an adult it feels like such a simple act, but kids it felt SO SPECIAL getting a treat like that when it wasn't someones birthday. I've always remembered it. I started the same tradition with my girls except we get a decorated cookie cake <3 Michele S.

Ruth Akiyama is passing on this quote from writing by Lisa Uzunoe, minister of the Konko Church of Portland:

Start each day with a peaceful heart.

Have a wonderful day with a joyful heart.

End each day with a grateful heart.

For Christmas our son and his wife gave Pat and I a DVD of season one of a series about the life and times of Jesus. It's called "The Chosen". This is not what you've seen in movies of the past. You feel like you've time traveled back and are witnessing history as it's happening. I've never felt closer to Jesus than in episode Episode 4 – "The Rock On Which It Is Built" where Jesus calls the fishermen as followers – it was a spiritual experience. If you aren't already aware of, or a follower of this series (over 82 million views), it is recommended viewing from Pat and I. It is financed by way of crowd funding. To access this video series: there's an app for Apple and Android mobile devices; <https://studios.vidangel.com/the-chosen>; <https://www.amazon.com/Chosen-Season-One-DVD/dp/B08LLGNBKM>; <https://thechosensupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360043676013-Viewing-Guide-How-to-Watch-The-Chosen>. Apparently it is available on YouTube, Facebook, and Netflix, but I don't find how to do that by searching Google. -Roy. P.





Roberta Schweller	3
Joyce Gilbertson Kristin Marcroft	17
Pepi Gerald	24

**Feb 6 9:00am
Women's Spiritual Group**

**Feb 8 9:00am
Happy Hands meeting**

FISH Duty

Spirit of Grace has Feb. 15,17,and 19 and April 26,28,30. If anyone wants to call and join in distribution (only 2 or 3 from Spirit of Grace are needed for each date) contact Bette Lou Yenne.

Thank you Kristin Marcroft for becoming Spirit of Grace's representative on the FISH Board. Her help is very much appreciated!



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**.

If you miss a live Zoom worship service, you can watch a recorded version at:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/HoodRiverChurch/videos/?ref=page_internal

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

Weekly Reflections

February 7 Mark 1:34

Why does Jesus heal?

February 14 Mark 9:7

What does it mean that Jesus is God's beloved Son?

February 21 Genesis 9:16

What do you think of God saying, "I will remember"?

February 28 Genesis 17:1

What do we need for a journey of walking with God?



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

Pastor (Interim)

Sue Seiffert
Please call the church office

Staff

Jennifer Fowler
Office Manager & Financial Secretary

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

Linda Boris
Pastoral Assistant



Transition Team

Debby Chenoweth	Cindy Murahashi
Donna Fitch	Shelley Oates
Dottie Gilbertson	Michele Sibley
Rick McBee	Bette Lou Yenne

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: