



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

Pastor Miranda	2
Worship News	3-4
Financials	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries	6
Groups & Ministries	7
Calendar	8-9
About Spirit of Grace	10

September & October 2021

Worship Plan Update

We are continuing to offer worship in-person as well as online. All individuals worshipping in-person must wear a mask for the entirety of our service, unless they are speaking from the front of the sanctuary without anyone else nearby. In addition to wearing masks, please remember that full vaccination coverage is the best protection for yourself and those around you. It is our calling as Christians to do whatever we can to serve and protect our neighbor, especially in these challenging and tumultuous times.

For those who prefer to worship online, we have switched from Zoom back to Facebook Live. The livestream begins on our Facebook page at 9:55am on Sunday mornings, and there is a direct link available on the homepage of our website along with a bulletin of the worship materials.

Please know that we are monitoring the pandemic in our area closely and making decisions for our church community based on current numbers provided by [covidactnow.org](https://www.covidactnow.org). If the situation worsens, we may choose to pause in-person worship until the caseload in our community lessens. If that happens, we will ensure that everyone is notified well in advance in order to plan accordingly. We have no plans to discontinue offering an online worship option, as it is the best way to reach those in our community who are unable to be physically present with us for whatever reason.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about ways to improve our online worship offering, please contact Pastor Miranda at spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com to set up a time to talk.



FISH News

Many thanks are extended to everyone who volunteered to help last week at **FISH Distribution**. Several volunteered and their interest is always appreciated. We served 68 requests and that counted for 191 individuals. It means so much that we as a church can serve our community by providing food as the need is great.

—Bette Lou Yenne

The picnic tables in the garden got a fresh coat of paint and a new look!

Pastor's Message

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Fall is a time for transition - a time for change - a time for letting go of that which was in order to embrace and make room for that which will be. How fitting that this is the season in which we will start our ministry together and begin to learn what new paths God is calling us to explore and journey on as a community.

For the last several years, I have felt as though my life consisted only of transitions. Since graduating high school in 2012, I have moved well over a dozen times, and have had to find new communities to be a part of almost as frequently. To live this way has been exhausting to say the least, and for years I have yearned for stability and a consistent community which I can call my home.

Yet, it has been in the midst of these transitions that I have learned the most - about myself, the world, and the Divine. I learned who I was and who I was not. I learned what it means to be made in the image of God, and how to look for the Divine in all whom I encounter. I learned of the brokenness of this world, and where to find God in the midst of our brokenness. I learned about the kingdom of radical love and inclusiveness that God calls us to build, and how I can be a co-creator of that reality. I learned how to stand firm in that which I believe, and how to listen to the wisdom of others in order to root my beliefs in justice, life, and peace. I learned that God continually calls us into that which is unknown so that we might never stop learning and growing throughout our lifetime. What a gift and opportunity the Divine has blessed us with!

You, the people of Spirit of Grace, are the answer to my prayers: a community which I can call my home. And together, we are all embarking into an unknown. I've never done this before - but neither have you. I've never pastored a church before, and as a congregation, you've never had a pastor who is a young, openly queer woman. This is new and uncharted territory for us all, and inevitably we will all make mistakes.

But together we will learn humbly - we will grow graciously - we will change readily. We will teach one another what it means to be a part of this community and how to live faithful lives as people of God in this world. Because it is in these places of newness and uncertainty that the greatest opportunities for learning and growth may be found. In the words of my favorite fictional teacher, the best way to learn is to, "Take chances, make mistakes, and get messy!"

It is my joy, honor, and immense privilege to abide with you all in this place and accompany you on your journeys of faith and discipleship. May God guide us on this path, and may we step boldly into a beautiful unknown together.



In Peace,
Pastor Miranda

¹*The illustrious Miss Frizzle of The Magic School Bus, multiple occasions.*



Blessing of Animals will be Sunday October 3rd during worship.

If you have a fluffy, furry, scaly, or feathered friend you would like included in this blessing, **please email your pet's picture and name to Linda Boris (lindajboris@gmail.com) by Monday, Sept. 27** for inclusion in a slide show during worship on that day. St. Francis of Assisi was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant who renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Many of the stories that surround the life of Francis say that he had a great love for animals and the environment.

Indigenous People's Day

October 11th is Indigenous People's Day. As part of our commitment to reckoning with the racist history of our church, state, and country, we acknowledge that the land we now worship on was unjustly stolen from the peoples who first called this land home. This Indigenous' People's Day, here are a few ways that you can honor the history and heritage of native people and communities today:

- ++Use this interactive map to learn the native history of the land you reside upon: <https://native-land.ca/>
- ++Donate to Confluence, a project which seeks to connect people to the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices: <https://www.confluenceproject.org/support-donate/>
- ++Learn more about the epidemic of missing indigenous women and girls: <https://www.nativewomenswilderness.org/mmiw>
- ++Go outside and put your feet on the soil, which bears the tragic stories and history of the indigenous people who call this land home, and hold this prayer in your heart:
Creator God, We look at your world and praise you for the diversity all around us. Thank you for the gift of relationships; our connection with people, animals and the land. Help us, Lord, to see differences and diversity as strengths. Help us to listen and understand; to meet one another with wonder and anticipation. Help us to love as you love, without expectation. Reveal to us your way of reconciliation and guide us into right relationships with all living things. Lead us to understand how Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be profoundly harmed by settler people and institutions. Lead us to repent when we as settlers deny Indigenous peoples respect, dignity and fullness of life. Help us to listen compassionately, to speak humbly and to act justly. Help us to seek the peace, justice and reconciliation you desire among all your children. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Amen. (prayer by Dianne Climenhage, MCC Maritimes Regional Representative)

Reformation Day

October 31st is Reformation Day, the day that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses in Wittenberg in 1517, and the day that we in the Church honor and remember the start of the protestant reformation. We will be celebrating this day in worship on Sunday, October 31st with a special service of Holy Communion. All in attendance are invited to wear red, which is the festival color of the day.

But the reformation is about more than a singular moment in history. Martin Luther believed *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*, which is latin for "the church reformed, always reforming." What this means is that the church must be continually reforming itself, so as not to become trapped and governed by earthly ways. This reformation day, you are invited to consider:

- What does it mean to be a church that is constantly reforming?
- In what ways our church today is in need of a reformation?
- How can we create change in our church in order for our mission and actions to be in accordance with the will of God?

5th Sunday Giving for October 31

Focus will again be on support for immigrants and refugees, this time on an international level. We will split the giving between the two organizations listed below. Click on the links to get more information about each program and to hear personal stories about the amazing work being done by our denominations to support those seeking refuge in a new home.

UMCOR Global Migration Advance <https://advance.umcor.org/%2Fp-525-umcor-global-migration.aspx>

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services <https://www.lirs.org/>



—The worship committee

September *Weekly Reflections*

Sept 5 Mark 7:34-35

To what might God be calling you to open your ears and your heart in this world?

Sept 12 Mark 8:29

How have you come to know who Jesus is? Who or what has shown you what it means to follow in the footsteps of Christ?

Sept 19 Mark 9:36-37

How can we, as a church and as individuals, work to prioritize the needs of the vulnerable in our community?

Sept 28 Mark 9:40

What arbitrary divisions exist within our community and prevent us from working together for the sake of the world? How can we work to overcome these divisions?

October *Weekly Reflections*

Oct 3 Mark 10:14

Think about the children in your life. What lessons might we learn from them about what it means to have faith and care for one another?

Oct 10 Mark 10:21-23

God calls us to redistribute our resources into our community. How can you give of your abundance to benefit your neighbor?

Oct 17 Mark 10:43-44

God's definition of greatness is completely different from how the world tells us to be great. How can you alter your priorities to be more aligned with that of the Divine?

Oct 24 Mark 10:51

If we have the courage to ask, God will open our eyes to that which we have not seen. Where can you admit your own blindness and ask for God to renew your sight?

Oct 31 John 8:31-32 *Jesus teaches us God's divine truth, which is incompatible with the ways of the world. In what ways does God's truth set you free from that which has burdened you?*

Board Update

The Spirit of Grace Board of Directors is eager to jump into a new chapter of our ministry, and will be meeting on Tuesday, September 28th to attend to old business and begin discussing what our future can look like. Look for an update on this meeting in the November Newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns you would like to raise with the board, please contact Shelley Oates at oates.orchard@gmail.com or Pastor Miranda at spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com.

Membership Inventory and Engagement Survey Notice

In preparation for creating a newly updated church directory, we will be sending out a Membership Inventory and Engagement Survey sometime in October. The purpose of this survey is primarily to collect updated contact information of current Spirit of Grace members, as well as to assess what kind of worship, ministries, and programs are worthwhile and life-giving in this community. Once this inventory is complete, we will begin coordinating the process for an updated photo directory, likely sometime in January.

Financials for Spirit of Grace

Tom Hart, Treas.

Income Comparison as of 8/31/20	8/31/20 Actual	8/31/21 Budget	8/31/21 Actual	Difference
General Fund Offerings	69,817.90	72,000.00	71,492.00	(508.00)
Building Expense Reimbursement	5000.00	0.00		0.00
Memorial Funds	1320.00	0.00		0.00
Solar Panels Fund	1613.10	1333.33	1280.00	(53.33)
Designated Giving	775.00	1850.00	1260.00	(590.00)
Good News Gardening Rent	450.00	400.00	750.00	350.00
Thrivent	26.00	16.67		(16.67)
FISH Food Bank Rent	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Pastor's Expense Reimbursement		0.00	2000.00	2000.00
Quilting Group		0.00	330.00	330.00
Totals	79,003.00	75,600.00	77,113.00	1513.00

Clearing the Outreach House

A variety of household items remain in the Outreach House. If someone is capable of and willing to try selling some items on Craigslist or HoodRiverHappenings, we might recoup some of our losses. Lamps, bookcases, storage cabinet, dining table, and appliances are available. Call the office if you can help. 541 386 3993

- If you or someone you know can use any of these items, we will be happy to receive your donation.
- Items remaining at the end of October will be offered to the Habitat for Humanity resale shop in The Dalles.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Carol & Curt Kyger	26
-------------------------------	-----------

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



Miranda & Jenni Bermes-Goller	3
John & Jana Jacobson	26
Craig & Jean Sheppard	30

Marlene Lahti	7
Nathan Boris	10
Robert Godard	17
Cory Saenz-Hart	22
George Bentz	24

Prayer Requests

If you'd like to join the Spirit of Grace Prayer Chain, just send me (Carol Kyger) your email address or give me a call at 541-386-6341. My email address is cckyger@gmail.com. After joining, you will be sent Prayer Request emails, so you can include those requests in your prayers. Personal prayer requests can be sent to Carol Kyger.

Spirit of Grace Current Groups & Ministries

Here at Spirit of Grace, there are many ways to be involved beyond our Sunday morning worship services! The following is an updated list of our current groups and ministries, which will hopefully continue to grow and be diversified in the coming months and years. If you have an idea for a group or ministry that you would like to be a part of that you do not see represented in the list below, please contact Pastor Miranda to set up a time to talk about how we can make that a reality!

Women's Spirituality Group

Schedule: 9am-noon, the first Saturday of the month

Location: Zoom

Contact Person: Carol Kyger - cckyger@gmail.com

Description: The group picks a spiritual book to use throughout the year. Each month we start by checking in with each other. Next we read a chapter of the book together. We then take time by ourselves to journal, answer study questions for the chapter, meditate, draw, or relax. Finally, we get together again to discuss any thoughts about the session we'd like to share.

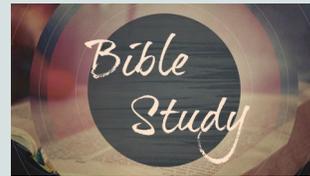
Women's Bible Study

Schedule: 2pm, the 4th Tuesday of the month

Location: Zoom

Contact Person: Dottie Gilbertson - dottieg@gorge.net

Description: We use the Lutheran woman's magazine "Gather" as our study resource, which publishes a Bible study for each month.



Men's Fellowship Group

Schedule: 10am Tuesdays Location: Zoom (formerly Rosauer's) Contact: Marv Turner or Bill Crompton

Thursday Study Group

Schedule: 6:30-8pm, Thursdays (beginning September 30th)

Location: Zoom

Contact Person: Donna Fitch - fitcheshr@gmail.com

Description: We gather together to study and discuss a common text. Our upcoming text is "Blessed: Monologues for Mary" by Jerusha Matsen Neal.

Quilting Group

Schedule: 9am-noon, the first and third Wednesday of the month

Location: Fellowship Room

Contact Person: Dottie Gilbertson - dottieg@gorge.net

Description: Open for any interested person to join us. Our quilts are usually shipped once a year to Lutheran World Relief and are used as needed worldwide.



Happy Hands

Schedule: 10am, Mondays

Location: Fellowship Room

Contact Person: Kristen White - goirishcream@embarqmail.com

Description: This is a time for the women of Spirit of Grace to gather and connect in an informal way. Bring your own drink, or coffee will be available. As our members' hands have gotten older and unable to do as much, we are in the process of morphing into more of a support and encouragement group for one another. We will still respond where we can to be backup for projects and needs within the church. Do come by and join us. Help us change the direction of the women of Spirit of Grace.

Bell Choir Schedule: 6:30pm Wednesdays Location: Spirit of Grace Contact Person: Linda Boris lindajboris@gmail

Voice Choir Currently not meeting due to Covid. Contact Person: Audrey Bentz amsong@gorge.net

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
19 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Outdoors	20 10am Happy Hands	21 10am Men's fellowship—Zoom	22 6:30 Bell Choir	23 2pm Women's Bible Study – Zoom	24	25 Synod Day of Learning
26 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Outdoors	27 10am Happy Hands	28 10am Men's fellowship—Zoom 6pm Board of Directors Meeting	29 6:30pm Bell Choir	30 6:30pm Study Grp—Zoom		

Worship Duties



September	26
Scripture Reader	Jill McBee
Usher	open
Sound System Power Point	Linda Boris



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 9-1 Women's Spirituality
3 World Comm. Day Blessing of Animals 10am Worship	4 10am Happy Hands	5 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	6 9am Quilters 6:30pm Bell Choir	7	8	9
10 10am Worship	11 10am Happy Hands	12 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	13 6:30pm Bell Choir	14	15	16
17 10am Worship 11:15 SPRC	18 10am Happy Hands	19 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	20 9am Quilters 6:30pm Bell Choir	21	22	23
24 Food on the 4th OR Synod Hunger Awareness 10am Worship	25 10am Happy Hands	26 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	27 6:30pm Bell Choir	28	29	30
31 Reformation Day 10am Worship						

Worship Duties

OCTOBER	3	10	17	24	31
 Ushers & Greeters	Sharon Poynter	Kristin Marcroft	Bob & Kris White		
 LECTORS	Jennifer Fowler	Sharon Pantely	Debby Chenoweth	Tom Hart	Jill McBee
 Altar Guild	Open		Open		
Sound System Power Point	Linda Boris		Linda Boris	Rick McBee	Linda Boris



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 in person
and Facebook live
Outdoor Fellowship 11:00am (weather allowing)

Education Times

Check with the Church Office

Office Hours

Pastor

Miranda Bermes-Goller

Mon-Wed 9-12 or by appointment

Staff

Jennifer Fowler

Office Manager & Financial Secretary

Mon 9am to 2pm

Wed 9am to 2pm

Thurs 9am to 2pm

Linda Boris

Pastoral Assistant

Tues 9am to 1pm



<https://www.facebook.com/HoodRiverChurch>

Board of Directors

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

Finance Committee

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
Debby Chenoweth (2021)
Dottie Gilbertson (2022)
Tom Hart Treasurer & Payroll
Jennifer Fowler Financial Secretary
Shelley Oates Board Liaison

Ministry Team Leaders

Worship Linda Boris, Dottie Gilbertson
Altar Guild Marlene Lahti
Children & Youth
Men's Ministry
Women's Ministry
Outreach Debby Chenoweth
Prayer Chain Carol Kyger
Reception/Hospitality
Building Rick McBee

Music Ministry

Organist/Piano Dottie Gilbertson & Audrey Bentz
Voice Choir Audrey Bentz & Sharon Poynter
Bell Choir Linda Boris

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: