



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

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November 2021



The Food Drive from October 24th brought in 201 lbs of food.

“We send you our gratitude for the wonderful variety and much needed food items for our clients. Thank you so very much!”

Marianne Brevard
FISH Food Bank
Director of Operations

Special Offering on October 31st for International Support for Refugees raised \$215.00 .

Thank you everyone who was able to donate!

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

New Member Classes & New Member Sunday

For anyone interested in becoming a member of Spirit of Grace, we will have a class offered in two parts, following worship on November 7th and 14th, and lasting about an hour per day. On the final Sunday in our liturgical year, which this year falls on the third Sunday in November, we will welcome our new members into our community! Be sure to join us for worship on November 21st for this celebratory occasion.

If you or someone you know is interested in pursuing membership, or if you are interested in helping out with these membership classes by sharing your experience with Spirit of Grace (or either of our parent congregations), please contact **Pastor Miranda** (spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com) for more information.

Pastor's Message

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com



Beloved Siblings in Christ,

This last month, I had the opportunity to attend the Oregon Synod's annual Bishop's Convocation; a time for the rostered leaders of our synod to come together for renewal and reflection. Over the course of three days, we met on Zoom to ground ourselves in the Spirit by engaging in prayer, conversation, and embodied practices. I'll admit that it is often difficult for me to feel engaged in gatherings like this through digital platforms. Too often I will catch my mind racing ahead of me, trying to get ahead on whatever else it is I am working on, rather than taking the time to be mindful and present. However, I have found that embodied practices - practices designed to engage and incorporate our bodily senses - allow me to slow down my mind and settle into my body. I was immensely grateful to my colleagues who led and facilitated such practices, and helped me find a sacred stillness I had been longing for.

In just the few short months that I have been with Spirit of Grace, I have already found myself getting caught up in a sense of urgency. I see so many possibilities for our future ministry together, that I want to rush ahead and get there as quickly as possible. Yet, in my hurry, I forget to slow down - to breathe - to walk along God's path rather than run along my own.

On the morning of our final day together, one of the leaders helped us ground ourselves by engaging all of our senses. We touched something soft, tasted something sweet, smelled something familiar, and looked at something other than our zoom screens. For sound, the leader had us listen to a simple song called "[The Way Knows](#)" by Lyndsey Scott. The lyrics are short and repeat many times, so we were invited to simply close our eyes and listen, or join in singing if we felt called to do so. As I stilled my mind and learned this song, I couldn't help but sing as well. The more I sang, the more embedded the words felt within my body, as though the Spirit were drawing these words out of my very being:



*You don't have to know the way
The way knows the way
You don't have to plan the way
Trust the way, feel your way
The way knows
The way knows
The way knows the way*

It is so very human of us to think that we have to plan for every step of the future and rush to get there as quickly as possible. As Christians, God both knows the way and is our Way - and it breaks God's heart to see us distracted and consumed by our everyday hurrying. In the midst of our business, the Spirit of God comes to rest upon our souls, calling us to "Be still, and know that I am God," reminding us of our divine invitation to simply be. The Spirit grounds us in moments of sacred stillness, calling us back to the divine Way.

What grounding moment of sacred stillness is the Spirit inviting you to dwell in this day? As the days grow shorter, the leaves begin to fall, and clouds settle in on the hills, consider all the beautiful ways in which God is inviting you to slow down - to notice - to breathe - to simply be.

In Peace,

Pastor Miranda

Pandemic Plan Update

We are continuing to monitor the progression of the pandemic in our community, making our worship and ministry plans accordingly. Though our numbers began to spike early on last month, we are beginning to see them trend downwards again. We are hopeful that this trend will continue so that we can continue returning to familiar practices and traditions that bring us comfort, especially as the holidays draw near.

We are continuing to worship in-person with limited singing, masks required, and full vaccination strongly encouraged, as well as live-streaming our service to Facebook for those unable to join us in-person. While we aren't making any changes at this time, we hope that as the cases in our community lessen, we can begin to incorporate more singing and perhaps return to gathering for a time of fellowship after worship. We ask that you all continue praying for our community and showing your love for our neighbors by getting vaccinated and wearing a face mask when in public.

Reckoning with Racism Team Update

Over the last couple of months, Spirit of Grace has put together a team of four to participate in the 2021-2022 Reckoning with Racism cohort, which is facilitated by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). Our team consists of Pastor Miranda, Sharon Poynter, James Moudy, and Alicia Bernes. We meet twice a month - once with the cohort of churches and organizations from around the state, and once with just our team members. We will be meeting together from October thru May, and we will do our best to update you on what we are hearing and learning, so that our entire community can be a part of this process with us.

This last month, we learned more about the history of the indigenous people who called this land sacred and home long before any white people first set foot on this continent. We are continuing to learn more about the indigenous groups who were native to the land that Spirit of Grace now resides upon, in hopes that we can enter into a journey of reconciliation with their descendants. We were privileged to hear the story of Randy & Edith Woodley, who run Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice in Yamhill, OR. To learn more about their work, please visit their website (eloheh.org) or watch this video put together by EMO: <https://www.facebook.com/emoregon/videos/1082907382453106>

Midweek Advent Worship & Fellowship

The leaves are falling, the weather is growing colder, and Advent will be here before we know it! Advent begins in November this year, with the first Sunday falling on November 28th. This year, we will be offering a midweek Advent worship via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, followed by a time of guided fellowship afterwards. More information will be sent out later on in the month, but for now please mark these dates on your calendar:

December 1st - 6:30-8:00 pm

December 8th - 6:30-8:00 pm

December 15th - 6:30-8:00 pm

December 22nd - 6:30-8:00 pm



NOTES FROM THE BOARD submitted by Shelley Oates

On September 28th she met with the Board and the following items were discussed:

Outreach House - Spirit of Grace received a check for \$3900 from our insurance claim for water damage in the utility room. That money is being put aside for now as the building is beyond our capacity to repair. Snow damage to the roof and trusses from years past as well as damage to the ceiling were not covered. The house will be emptied of contents by making a donation to Habitat for Humanity resale store in The Dalles sometime in November. The Board has recommended removal of the building.

Pastor Miranda reports she is settling in well and has made contact with colleagues in our community. She has been getting acquainted with all phases of organization in Spirit of Grace and has met with several, if not all of our standing committees. She is meeting with our various church groups. She is also establishing goals for the coming year. She told us of an upcoming opportunity to participate in a discussion on racism. Sharon Poynter offered to attend.

A New Directory is planned for next January and a survey will be done to collect current information.

UMC Charge Conference is on November 28th. District Superintendent Tim Overton Harris will attend.

Since our last meeting Bob White has resigned from the Board. We appreciate his service of many years, and thank him for the time he has spent as a valued Board member. As yet we have not been able to fill his position. **Next Mtg Nov 9th via Zoom at 6 p.m.**

Pastoral Goals

Last month, Pastor Miranda submitted her goals for her first year of ministry with Spirit of Grace to the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Below you will find a summary of these goals. If you feel called to support Pastor Miranda in any of these endeavors, please reach out to her to see how you can be involved in this work.

Goal One: Congregational Relationships

To form healthy and trustworthy relationships with congregation members, as well as to help foster a sense of community within this congregation.

Goal Two: Community Connections

To increase the congregational presence in the life of our surrounding community.

Goal Three: Worship Creativity & Innovation

To incorporate creative liturgies and other practices into the worship life of Spirit of Grace.

Goal Four: Missional Identity

To begin walking with the congregation through the process of rediscovering and renewing our sense of missional identity.

Goal Five: Boundaries & Delegation

To prioritize my own self and spiritual care, and ensure that I am keeping to my 85% time call.

Happy Hands will not be having a bazaar this fall, but we don't want you to miss out 2 years in a row. So starting Sunday, November 28th, we will have a variety of items available following church service. We will vary the items each week up until Christmas. We have dish towels, wash cloths, knitted hats and scarves, scrubbers, greeting cards, knitted slippers, and on and on!! You will have fun looking over the variety!!

Just a reminder that we have an open gathering every Monday at 10 a.m. to visit and support one another during this time. Masks are required. Bring your favorite hot drink or have some coffee we will have available. This is also a time you can stop by to shop items. Feel free to contact me if you need to arrange another time to shop.

Kristen White [503-799-3656](tel:503-799-3656).



November Weekly Reflections

Nov 7th John 11:35

What does it mean to you to believe in a god who shares in our grief and sorrows—who weeps as we do?

Nov 14th Mark 13:2

Though earthly things will crumble and fall, our God is a sure and everlasting foundation. How can you lean more on God in your everyday life?

Nov 21st John 18:37

In a world that focuses on power, God calls us to turn our hearts towards Truth. How do you understand the truth to which Christ came to testify?

Nov 28th Luke 21:25-36

What are signs that you have witnessed, which assure you of God's love and presence among us?



Scott Fitch Colin Gerald Pat Moore	5
Muriel Ishizaka	6
Myrin Bentz	10
Sean Crompton	11
Grant Anderson	14
Roy Pettit Gigi Siekkinen	18
Piper Sibley	19
Jim Edwards	20
Tom Hart	23
Bob White	26
Pat Crompton	30

Prayer Requests

Personal prayer requests can be sent to Carol Kyger at cckyger@gmail.com or call 541-386-6341.



November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Budget requests and Surveys due today	2	3 9am Quilters	4	5	6 9-1 Women's Spirituality
7 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Ends 10am Worship 11:15 New Member Class	8 10am Happy Hands 6pm Financial Meeting	9 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom) 6pm Board Meeting	10 6:30pm Bell Choir	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14 10am Worship 11:15 New Member Class	15 10am Happy Hands	16 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	17 9am Quilters 6:30pm Bell Choir	18	19	20
21 Christ the King 10am Worship New Member Day 11:15 Safe Sanctuary	22 10am Happy Hands FISH Duty	23 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	24 6:30pm Bell Choir FISH Duty	25 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	26 FISH Food Bank Closed	27
28 Food on the 4th 10am Worship	29 10am Happy Hands	30 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)				

Worship Duties

November	7	14	21	28
	Jennifer Fowler	Sharon Pantely	Debby Chenoweth	Tom Hart
	Sharon Poynter	Kristin Marcroft	Bob & Kris White	Rick McBee
	Cindy Murahashi Shelley Oates		Cindy Murahashi Shelley Oates	
Sound System Power Point	Rick McBee	Lee Huckins	Sharon Poynter	Debby Chenoweth



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)

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.



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Mail to: