



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

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April 2022

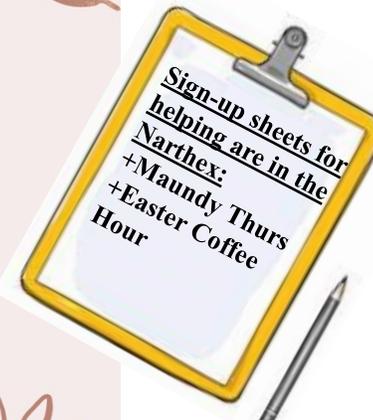
Holy Week
at
Spirit of Grace Lutheran-Methodist
Cooperative Church
1140 Tucker Road Hood River OR

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 10th
10:00 am - Worship

Maundy Thursday - April 14th
6:00 pm - Dinner Church Service

Good Friday - April 15th
11am-1pm - Sanctuary Open for Prayer

Easter Sunday - April 17th
9:00 am - Fellowship
10:00 am - Worship




Palm Sunday.
We will gather to begin worship outside (weather permitting) at 10am with the blessing of the palms as we process in together to continue our service.

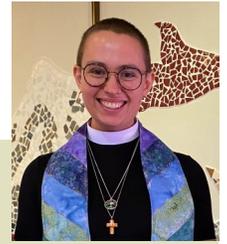
Maundy Thursday
Dinner Church Service at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. The service will begin with the washing of feet and hands for those who choose to participate. Worship will continue at the dinner table, as we share a simple meal of soup and bread before receiving Communion from one another, remembering the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. The service will conclude with the traditional stripping of the altar.

Good Friday
while we will not have a formal service, the church will be open and Pastor Miranda will be available from 11am-1pm for anyone who wants to come for prayer and contemplation.

Easter Sunday at last!
We will gather together at 9am for a time of fellowship as we revel in the Good News of the resurrection together. Worship will begin in the sanctuary at 10:00am as together we proclaim,
"Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!"

Pastor's Message

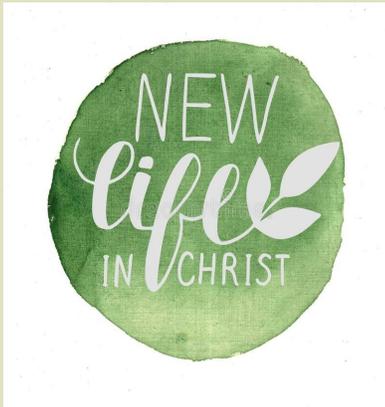
Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com



Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Welcome to April! Spring is here and new life is emerging everywhere we look. Trees are budding, tulips are starting to find their color, and cherry blossom petals are floating in the wind. The sunny weather welcomes our hands back into the earth as we prepare garden beds, and the rainy days offer much needed nourishment for all. Our county's COVID cases have continued to drop, allowing us to resume more normal rhythms and practices, such as singing joyously and sharing in Holy Communion together. Though the pandemic continues, many of us are beginning to feel truly hopeful for the first time in a long time. And as we prepare for Holy Week and the coming Easter Resurrection, I can't help but find myself reflecting back on those first few weeks of the pandemic – back when we knew so little and most of us had no idea how long of a wilderness journey this would be.

Many of you know that I was in the middle of my internship when the pandemic began. I remember talking with my supervisor one morning as we were packing up computers and books to take home with us – we were speculating how long this might last, and what it would feel like when we were finally able to return to worship in-person together. We imagined this pandemic period like an extended time of Lent – a season in the wilderness – and that once it was finally over (a thought that seems almost laughable now), our return to worship would feel like an Easter resurrection, regardless of the time of year. Neither of us could have imagined that we would wait more than 2 years for that resurrection to feel even remotely like a possibility.



As we begin to emerge from this prolonged season of wilderness wandering, I'd like to invite us all to think about what resurrection might look like in us and our communities. To be resurrected is not simply to return to an old life and way of being; rather, it is to become something new. In his second letter to the people of Corinth, the apostle Paul wrote, "And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is made new!"¹ Similarly, author Damon Garcia observed recently, "Many of us desire a post-pandemic world where we could return 'back to normal,' but we've slowly learned that returning to how things used to be is impossible. We cannot hold on to what was. Reality of old is dead and gone. Jesus calls us to let go and go forth in search of something new." This is the gift we receive at the Easter resurrection: the opportunity to experience and embody life anew, as a free creation in Christ.

As we enter into this Easter season and reflect on these past two years of life in a pandemic, I hope that we won't rush too quickly into "the old order" without considering what gifts and opportunities a new creation might have to offer. How have we changed in these past years? What have we learned? Who do we want to be in the time to come? What do we wish to leave behind? How does the gift of our new life in Christ free us to live boldly in this world?

New life takes time to cultivate and grow – but if we are committed to the process and are willing to place our trust in God, we might be transformed and led into something wonderful that we never could have imagined on our own.

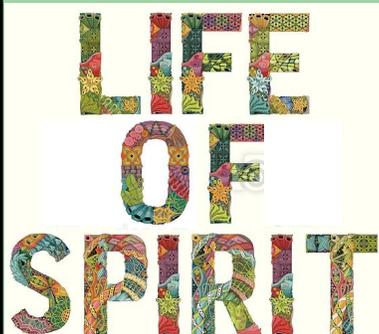
As always, it is a joy and a privilege to be on this journey with you.

In Peace,

Pastor Miranda

¹ 2 Corinthians 5:17

New Newsletter Column: “Life of the Spirit”



As we enter into this new season of life here at Spirit of Grace, we want to find more ways to lift up the lives and stories of those who make up our community! Next month, we hope to introduce a new regular item for our newsletter: “Life of the Spirit.” Anyone who wants to participate can sign up for a particular month to write about something they are passionate about, something happening or upcoming in their life, or something that is life-giving for them! We look forward to sharing and reading these stories in the months ahead as we learn more about the diversity of life here in our community. If you would like to sign up to write or if you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Miranda.

Second Community Prayer Vigil for Ukraine

Wednesday April 13th 5:00pm

All are welcome at this interfaith peace vigil in Rheingarten Park, 282 N. Main Ave, White Salmon, WA. Hosted by Gorge Ecumenical Ministries.



COVID Update As of April 4th, Hood River County has stayed steadily in the “medium risk” category, according to COVIDActNow. For this, we rejoice and give thanks! We have continued worshipping in-person, and have been able to resume more singing as well as our practice of celebrating Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. We will continue to wear masks in the church building for the foreseeable future, but most other COVID restrictions can be set aside for the time being. We continue to keep a close eye on trends and cases in our area, and will pivot as necessary. Thank you for your patience as we’ve approached our return to worship with an abundance of caution. We hope to see you at worship sometime soon!

Welcoming Church – Seeking Team Members!



We are still looking for three more individuals to volunteer to be on the Core Team for our RIC/ RMN process as we work to become an official Welcoming Church! If you are wondering how God is calling you to be a part of new life and creation here at Spirit of Grace, this might be just the opportunity you have been waiting for. If you haven't already, please take some time to read more about this process in our [February Newsletter](#) and consider whether God is calling you to serve on this team. If you have any questions, Pastor Miranda would love to schedule a time to sit down and talk with you!

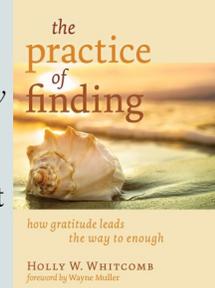
RWR Update

Our Reckoning with Racism Team continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month. This program was set to run from October through May, so we are beginning to look ahead to what actions we might be called to embrace as a result of this time of intentional listening and learning. While the process of uncovering hidden and suppressed stories of racism is never complete, the point of this work must always be to drive us to transformation and relationship. We hope that in the coming months and years, we can continue our learning process by gathering and forming partnerships with those who experience racism and marginalization today in our own community. If you have ideas about what those partnerships might look like or who we might reach out to, feel free to reach out to Pastor Miranda to be a part of this ongoing commitment and journey!



Directory photos are finally happening! Gordon Leigh will be available in the FISH Community Room to take photos for the directory following worship this Sunday (April 10th) and the Sunday after Easter (April 24th). For those unable to make either date, they can contact Gordon at 541-386-2160 to set up another time to have their photo taken.

Thursday evening book study will resume on April 21st at 6:30pm. Our final eight-week study before summer break is *"The Practice of Finding: How Gratitude Leads the Way to Enough"* by UCC minister the Rev. Holly Whitcomb. We began the pandemic with her book *"Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting"* and look forward to our new study as a follow-up. Meetings will start out on Zoom. You may contact Donna Fitch for more information.



Get Started with Online Giving!

QR Codes are available on Spirit of Grace's website, our Facebook page, and on the last page of this newsletter each month. You may download the Tithely App for even more convenient giving.

April Weekly Reflections

Apr 3 – John 12:8 *How can we treat those in poverty with the same extravagance we would offer Jesus if he were in our presence?*

Apr 10 – Luke 23:34 *In his final moments, Jesus embodied the true forgiveness that he longs for us to both give and receive. How can forgiveness be transformative, and lead to resurrection in our lives?*

Apr 17 – Luke 24:5 *Christ is risen—Alleluia! Where can you look for signs of the risen Christ in the world? How can you embody the resurrected Christ in our community?*

Apr 24 – John 20:25 *Far too often, those who have experienced abuse or assault are not believed unless they have tangible evidence to offer. How does the crucified and risen Christ call us to respond to victims of abuse?*



Debby Chenoweth	2
Curt Kyger	4
Anniversary Debby & Art Chenoweth	7
Zach Boris	9
Ethan Fowler	13
Ruth Akiyama	20
Dean Kleinsmith	24

April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Women's Spirituality
3 Lent 5 10am Worship	4 10am Happy Hands	5 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	6 9am Quilt Grp 6:30 Lent Worship and Study 6:30 Bells	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 10am Worship	11 10am Happy Hands FISH Duty	12 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	FISH Duty	14 Maundy Thurs 6pm Dinner Service	15 Good Friday 11-1 open prayer FISH Duty	16
17 Easter 9am Fellowship 10am Worship	18 10am Happy Hands	19 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom) 2-4pm Women's bible study Zoom	20 9am Quilt Grp 6:30 Bells	21 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	22	23
24 Food on the 4th 10am Abuse Awareness & Prevention Srvc Blessing of the Quilts	25 10am Happy Hands	26 9am Worship Team Meeting 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom) 2-4pm Women's bible study Zoom	27 6:30 Bells	28 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	29	30

Worship Duties

April	3	10	17	24
	Linda Boris	Jill McBee	Jennifer Fowler	Sharon Pantley
	Sharon Poynter	Kristin Marcroft	Rick McBee	Sharon Poynter
PowerPoint	Rick McBee	Linda Boris	Sharon Poynter	Debby Chenoweth
Altar Guild	Michele Sibley		Michele Sibley	



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 zoom

Education Times
Check with the Church Office

Office Hours

Pastor
Miranda Bermes-Goller
Mon-Wed 9-12 or by appointment

Staff
Jennifer Fowler
Office & 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 (3 yrs)

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
Tom Hart, Co-Chair (2021)
Sharon Poynter (2021)
Shelley Oates Co-Chair (2020)
Gordon Leigh (2020)
Cindy Murahashi (2022) 1 year

Finance Committee

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
Debby Chenoweth (2022)
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 (2yrs)

Sharon Pantley (2020)
Pat Moore (2022)

Representatives

Oregon Synod Assembly: Jim & Cheri Anderson
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conf.



Tithely



Facebook



Church Website

Easter Blessings



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Spirit of Grace

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Mail to: