



# Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

Pastor Miranda	2
Life of the Spirit	3
Reckoning with Racism	4
Mission Updates	5
Notes-N-News	6
Calendar	7
About Spirit of Grace	8

## May 2022

### 5th Sunday Giving for May

Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion but we don't know how to help. If you've wondered how to volunteer to quilt for charity, look no further. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. (from [lwr.org/quilts](http://lwr.org/quilts))

This month our 5th Sunday giving on 5/29 will go to help our group of quilters cover their expenses as they continue faithfully with this important, impactful mission. Please consider giving if you can. Our quilting group could also use more helpers to make the quilts. If you can help in this way, please contact Dottie Gilbertson. ~ The Worship Committee



There is much that goes into the making of these quilts – several individuals make the tops at home – Sally Havig, Rose Miller, Marlene Lahti, Nancy Radley, and Ila Mae Schneeberg have all donated to this project. We – Dottie Gilbertson, Roberta Schweller, Rose Miller, Anne Sutton, Sharon Poynter, Sally Havig and myself assemble the quilts at the church on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday mornings of each month. The 3 parts are assembled, then tied and Roberta sews the edges. If she isn't available – Sally takes them home and completes this part of the project. Once a year in May, Bob & Sally Havig take the boxed quilts to a gathering of quilts at a Portland Lutheran Church and they are shipped to a national gathering place for Lutheran World Relief.

Our May/June women's magazine "gather" has a quilt picture as the cover this year and contains several articles concerning quilting for Lutheran World Relief. One article entitled -"What I Learned from Quilters – one quilt, one cup, one conversation at a time" by Pastor Jordan Miller Stubbendick has several comments that expresses our hearts! *"I attended my first quilting group in the basement of one of the congregations I served... The women welcomed me to the ministry they had sustained for decades.... Those quilts produced over the years matter to those who receive them. The friendships the quilters have nurtured matter too."*

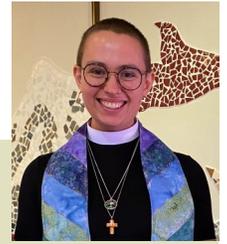
We would like to invite all women of our congregation to join us- to help with this project and to strengthen our community at Spirit of Grace.

Bette Lou Yenne



# Pastor's Message

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller  
[spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)



Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

It filled my heart with joy to see our sanctuary on Easter Sunday filled with members of our community, both new and old – to see the joy and curiosity of children – to hear our voices raise together in praise and celebration. As we gathered together for an in-person Easter celebration for the first time in years, I was reminded that as Christians, we are people of the resurrection – a people whose faith is defined by resilience and resistance to death and the forces of sin and evil in this world. This is the cornerstone of our faith: that Christ defeated death for our sake so that we may have abundant, eternal life together.

To be a resurrection people goes far beyond the empty tomb, though. Christ calls us to seek and embody resurrection throughout our lives, that we might continually co-create new life in this world with one another and the Divine.

One of the most beautiful things about resurrection, I believe, is that it is not only about the new, but the old as well. The resurrected Christ was still the same Jesus the disciples knew and loved and honored, yet he was also so drastically different that none could recognize him without having their eyes opened.



Resurrection honors the life and history of that which has been and allows its legacy to continue with the divine gift of new life. Spirit of Grace knows a thing or two about resurrection and new life. Years ago, our parent congregations made the decision to trust in and embrace God's promise of resurrection – to allow that which was to pass away in order to be resurrected and become something altogether new. Yet, the old does not vanish, but rather becomes a part of the new life in Christ.

The history and identity of our congregation is rooted in our belief in God's ability to do new and wondrous things in this world – to raise new life out of what otherwise might have been dead. This kind of creation through resurrection depends on the past to create a new future. How does this influence the way we see ourselves and our role in our community? How does this change our perspective on what it means to live out our faith authentically in this world? How are we honoring the legacy of our parent congregations through our commitment to one another in our new life together here at Spirit of Grace?

Though I have not been here very long, I have already had the privilege to hear so many wonderful stories from those who belonged to Our Redeemer Lutheran and Asbury United Methodist. As we work together to discover our new identity in this next chapter for Spirit of Grace, I hope that we choose not to forget our past, but rather continue to lift up those stories of the past in order to enrich our faith and ministry for years and decades to come.

In Peace,

*Pastor Miranda*

# LIFE OF SPIRIT

## The Gerald Family



### **Life of the Spirit – The Gerald Family**

The time of the lockdown was good for our family.

We moved as a unit, taking advantage of getting some projects knocked off the list and getting in ski tours and summer hikes. We also worked through the unexplored territory of navigating our business through a pandemic. This included determining how to change our business name to Pure Stoke® (which was on the agenda to happen in May 2020 starting in 2018) during the time of lockdown without losing or alarming our regular customers.

Our success in that transition is due to the four of us Gerald's going all-in on the work, excitement and fun.

Now the pandemic is shifting to endemic and yet more transitions loom ahead for our family. Colin will be promoted to high school and Miyuki will be off to college in the fall.

For today, though, they are both active in their schools living it up.

Colin has been running cross-country and track and has been playing the trombone during his HRMS career and continues to ski with his buddies on the slopes. In his free time he runs with me and skis with the family whether it's downhill, ski touring or Nordic skiing.

Miyuki is rounding out her high school career on the Varsity Nordic Ski Team and Varsity Tennis Team in addition to several clubs she is active on. She and a couple friends are still organizing two clean-up sessions a day for fellow students and the community at the Waterfront the third Sunday of every month for the last 3 years. After social time, she fills the gaps of her time working at Pure Stoke® as an Assistant Bookkeeper and Sales Person.

These days, Pepi and I are constantly on the lookout for Sales Staff and an Inventory Accounts Manager so we can get the business back to pre-pandemic staff levels and, in addition, get as many opportunities to enjoy our time as a four-some as possible and always maximize the laughs and fun before we are reduced to a three-some in September.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some details of our life with you!

Blessings, Erica Gerald and family

**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! If you would like to sign up to write or if you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Miranda.**

May is  
**ASIAN  
AMERICAN**  
and  
**PACIFIC  
ISLANDER**  
Heritage Month



### “Train of Tears” events at Riverside Community Church

In early May, Riverside Community Church will host events in which they recall and reflect with regret the forced removal and internment of more than 400 Japanese-American men, women, and children from the central Gorge Community. May 13th, 2022 will be the 80th anniversary of this tragic and shameful part of Hood River Valley’s history.

The first event was on **Tuesday, May 3**. Janet Hamada, executive director of The Next Door, and community leader and historian Maija Yasui presented a program titled “Lessons from Heroes in our Past: The Japanese Experience in Hood River.” It was presented at Riverside Community Church, 317 State St., in Hood River.

Beginning at **11:30 a.m. on May 13**, another program at the church will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the day when valley residents of Japanese-American ancestry were ushered to waiting train cars for transport to internment camps. Exhibits from the History Museum of Hood River County and refreshments will be available before the presentation at noon.

The event will feature special guests, music, and speakers, including Episcopal Bishop Diana Akiyama, who spent her childhood in the valley. The congregation will also share a statement of reflection about its own failure to stand up to the fear, scapegoating and unjust actions that led to the forced removal and imprisonment of local families. A procession to the train station and installation of a peace pole will follow.



**On May 13, 1942, Japanese-American residents of Hood River County prepared to board trains for transport to the internment camp at Tulelake, Calif.**

Photo courtesy History Museum of Hood River County / Hood River News

### Reckoning With Racism Update

*Congregational Invitation from Sharon Poynter*

One of my favorite TV programs is “Finding Your Roots” hosted by Henry Louis Gates Jr. As they research their guests’ past, surprising histories are revealed. Sometimes a guest will find that their ancestors were slaves, sometimes they will find slave owners in their past. This knowledge allows for some sobering reflection. It allows a broader understanding of where they came from and who they are. We cannot change the past but the revelations of that past can help change our perceptions and guide new understandings.

As the four of us on the Reckoning with Racism team: Pastor Miranda, Alicia Bermes, James Moudy, and myself (Sharon Poynter) have delved into the history of Spirit of Grace and our land story, we learned more about our own uncomfortable past, and how the land we now steward was stolen from its original inhabitants, the Hood River Wasco people, among other indigenous communities. We shared part of this discovery with many of you on Zoom recently. The response was enthusiastic. We have only scratched the surface into the complexity of this work. We as a team invite you to share with us in continued discovery as we begin to consider how God calls us to respond to these learnings. We invite you to join us in this work of acknowledgment and reconciliation.

**All are invited to join us on Zoom for our last 2 sessions on the 3rd Tuesdays of May 17 and June 21 at 6:30 PM, to brainstorm where we go from here. —Sharon Poynter**

### Garden Blessing

As we look towards summer and the height of the growing season, we as a church would like to gather together and offer a blessing for the *Spirit of Grace* & FISH Food Bank Garden! All are invited to stay after worship on **May 29th** as we gather outside for a brief service of thanksgiving and blessing.

Amelia, Garden Coordinator. [fishgardencv@gmail.com](mailto:fishgardencv@gmail.com)

## FISH/Spirit of Grace garden volunteer calendar MAY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Work Party 4-7p.m.	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Work Party 4-7p.m.	11	12	13	14 Work Party 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
15	16	17 Work Party 4-7p.m.	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Work Party 4-7p.m.	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Work Party 4-7p.m.	June 1	2	3	June 4 Work Party 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Thank you everyone for your support of our Laundry Love program, through donations of both time and money.** We've seen a large increase in the need for this program this year, with the number of clients almost doubled from previous years. We spend an average of \$142.50 each time we host, and have spent \$192.75 on our largest day.



Because of this, we have more than used up the money in our fund. If anyone feels called to help with this program, donations can be put in the offering plate marked for laundry love, or sent to the church office. And if anyone would like to help provide service on laundry days, just let me know. Thank you, Linda Boris

**2022 Oregon Synod Assembly**  
 May 13-May 15 in Sunriver



*Trusting in the Spirit  
 Jesus Promises*

The keynote speaker is Dr. Susan Abraham, a theologian from the Pacific School of Religion. The assembly will also be joined by ELCA churchwide representative and Senior Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Judith Roberts. Topics to be discussed:

*Pathways Toward a Hybrid Church. Reckoning with Racism as Communities of Faith in Oregon. Community Vitality and Engagement. Sacred Organizing & Reckoning with Racism Cohorts. Transformational Transitions for Congregations. Renewed Vitality, Ecumenical Partnership, Holy Closure and more.* If you wish to watch the livestream go to **Oregonsynod.org** which will give you the link.



<b>Ray Ishizaka</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Carol Kyger</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sharon Pantely</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Lee Huckins</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Erica Gerald</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Jill McBee</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Adeline Schull</b>	<b>25</b>
<u>Anniversary</u> <b>Linda &amp; Nathan Boris</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Donna Fitch</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Carolyn Peyton</b>	<b>30</b>

***Weekly Reflections***

**May 1** – Acts 9:17-18 *How has God removed scales from your eyes in the past and called you to change?*

**May 8** – Revelation 7:9 *How does God call us to embrace the duality of unity and diversity, as depicted in this vision from Revelation?*

**May 15** – John 13:34 *Where have you seen the love of Jesus lived out in the world recently?*

**May 22** – John 14:27 *How do you call on God for comfort in times of trouble, fear, and anxiety?*

**May 29** - John 17:25-26 *How do you know that the love of God lives within you? How do you make this love visible in your life?*

**Choir Rehearsals Resume**

The Spirit of Grace choir will resume meeting again in May, in hopes of singing in worship sometime soon! All who love to sing are invited to come and join as we make a joyful noise! Rehearsals will be from 5-6pm on Thursdays, beginning May 5th through June 9th. Our church's choir will attempt one more month or so of rehearsals and worship leadership. We would be so happy to have a few more join in with us for this short "gig". Questions? Call Audrey 541-993-2460.

**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.

# May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	2 10am Happy Hands	3 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	4 9am Quilt Grp 6:30 Bells	5 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	6	7 Women's Spirituality
8 10am Worship 11 Fellowship 	9 10am Happy Hands	10 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	11 6:30 Bells	12 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	13	14
15 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	16 10am Happy Hands	17 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	18 9am Quilt Grp 6:30 Bells	19 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	20	21
22 Food on the 4th 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	23 10am Happy Hands	24 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom) 2-4pm Women's bible study Zoom	25 6:30 Bells	26 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	27	28
29 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	30  Memorial Day Office Closed  REMEMBER AND HONOR	31 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	27 6:30 Bells	28 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	29	30

## Worship Duties

April	1	8	15	22	29
	Debby Chenoweth	Jennifer Fowler	Jennifer Fowler	Sharon Poynter	Jill McBee
	Kristin Marcroft	Sharon Poynter	Debby Chenoweth	Rick McBee	Kristin Marcroft
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Lee Huckins	Linda Boris	Sharon Poynter	Debby Chenoweth	Rick McBee
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Marlene Lahti		Marlene Lahti		



## 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



*A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church*

*Spirit of Grace*

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