



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

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June 2022

Thank you to all who stayed after worship and participated in our Garden Blessing last Sunday!

The following is a message that Amelia shared with us, since she was unable to join us on Sunday:

"I am honored to be able to help coordinate the garden here at Spirit of grace and the FISH food bank. It serves as a space of healing, growth, and community for me and for so many others in the Hood River community. I truly believe it spreads love to everyone's life it touches, in the form of a nutritious meal, service work, or a conversation while weeding or planting. It is a space filled with potential, purpose, hope and new life.

*We have volunteers from many ages and walks of life that come to the garden - students from the Khlare house and other local schools, Master gardeners, local businesses, and caring individuals. We could not grow all of this beautiful produce without them. We already have a variety of foods planted this spring - peas, broccoli, winter and summer squash, cilantro, radishes, chard, lettuce, and arugula, with plans to transplant peppers and pumpkins next week. Last year's garden supplied over **1500 lbs. of fruit, vegetables,***



Pastor's Message

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com



Beloved Siblings in Christ,

This month began on a somber note, as we continue to mourn the loss of the 21 children and teachers of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on May 24th, in addition to the numerous other victims of gun violence and mass shootings that have occurred surrounding this tragedy. We continue to hold all of the family, friends, and communities of these victims in prayer, knowing that their lives will be forever altered by this trauma. Tragically, we know that these events are not out of the ordinary - [mass shootings](#) and [school shootings](#) have reached an all-time high in our country, and have become an everyday reality for younger generations. As Christians, we know that **this is not the reality our God intends for us**, and we know that God weeps and mourns right alongside us in our pain and grief.

Yet, we cannot allow ourselves to become consumed by despair and hopelessness, nor can we become numb to and disconnect from the growing violence around us. As followers of Christ, **Jesus entrusted us with the task to be the presence of God in this world**. This means we must do more than pray and lament - we must allow ourselves to be **moved to action in order to create tangible change in this world** for future generations, as we work towards bringing about the peaceful, just reign of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

But what can we do? In the face of such enormously tragic events, this task to create change can feel insurmountable as individuals or even a small congregation. But, as Jesus promised us before he ascended, he has not left us alone in this. We are called and connected to one another in faith - not only in our local community, but across the state, country, and world.

At the Oregon Synod Assembly, we passed the [Lift Every Voice Oregon resolution](#), which voices our support as a synod for IP 17 and 18 to be placed on the November 8th, 2022 General Election ballot.



[Lift Every Voice Oregon](#) is an interfaith coalition of Muslims, Jews, Christians, Native American spiritual leaders, Hindus Buddhists, Sikhs, other people of faith and people of just good will in Oregon. They are working to reduce gun violence by advocating for strong, effective laws that will reduce gun violence in Oregon. [IP 17](#) would ban the sale of large capacity magazines over 10; would require a permit and training to purchase any gun; would require a complete background check before purchase, closing the Charleston loophole; and would address the registration of “ghost” guns. [IP 18](#) would ban the manufacture and sale of semi-automatic assault style weapons which includes many handguns, while allowing current owners to keep those they own after registering for restricted use only.

This is one, tangible step we can take towards creating real change in our communities - a way to practice aligning out actions with our prayers. Lift Every Voice Oregon has a goal of gathering **140,000 signatures by July 8th, 2022**. If you have access to a printer, you can sign the petition from home by following the steps laid out here. Please note that **you cannot sign and submit this electronically** - the signature sheet must be printed, signed and dated in 2 places, and mailed in as a hard copy.

Since not everyone has access to a printer, Spirit of Grace will have a signing table set up every Sunday in June, so that anyone can stop by to read the full text or summary of IP 17 and 18, and be able to sign and mail their petition if they so choose. If anyone would like to also write a letter to any of our elected representatives, we will have names, addresses, and supplies for you to do so.

continued

If you were not able to join us for worship on May 29th, I encourage you to take some time to at least **listen to the sermon I preached that morning** - it can be viewed on [Facebook](#), and the sermon begins at **20:20**. If you would like to discuss anything from my sermon, this message, or just want to know more about how we are called to embody our faith in times such as there, please reach out to me to set up a time to talk - I would be more than happy to do so.

I leave you with this prayer, and ask you to spend some time this week faithfully considering how and where God is calling you to respond to the brokenness and pain of our world.

God of resurrection, we hold in our hearts the countless lives that have been lost to gun violence already this year, taken from their family, friends, and communities far too soon. We know that you have wrapped your arms around these victims in love, offering them the healing and peace they were denied on earth. Grant healing and wholeness to survivors who are wounded or traumatized, and restore all whose spirits are maimed by such violence. Watch over these people and communities that will henceforth never be the same. We pray that we may serve as your arms of care to those in distress, and that you make us instruments of your peace. In the name of Jesus, in whose footsteps we strive to follow, we pray, Amen.

In Peace,

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller



Worship Technology Upgrades



Technology Grant

We are thrilled to announce that Spirit of Grace has been awarded a grant specifically for necessary technological upgrades in the amount of \$5,000 from the Columbia District Church Extension Society of the Oregon-Idaho UMC Conference! This grant money will be put towards making technology purchases and improvements to allow for a higher quality, more sustainable worship streaming setup.

Pastor Miranda will be working on setting up and developing this new streaming system this summer, and will be asking for congregational volunteers willing to learn how to facilitate the worship live-stream on Sunday mornings. We are hoping to make this a straightforward process, but some degree of familiarity with technology would certainly be necessary. If you think you could have the capacity to learn a new skill and are willing to commit to helping out once a month, please let Pastor Miranda know.

2022 Oregon Synod Assembly

Jim and I were honored to represent Spirit of Grace at the 2022 Oregon Synod Assembly in Sunriver, Oregon May 13-15. It was the first assembly in three years, and over 300 attendees gathered Friday afternoon with a celebration worship to kick off the weekend. There were inspiring speakers, informative break out sessions, good food and great fellowship. It was grand, glorious, and full of thanks and praise! A wonderful celebration in a beautiful setting.

There were 4 Resolutions and 2 Memorials that we voted on:

1. Resolution on Formation of an Oregon Synod Antiracism Resources Network
2. Resolution Regarding Type of Synod Assembly
3. Reparations and Land Return Memorial to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA
4. 2022 Inclusive Call Process Resolution
5. Memorial Calling for a Just Transition to 50% Reduction in US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030
6. Lift Every Voice Oregon Synod Resolution in Support of IP 17 and IP 18 (The Oregon Synod Memorialize the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to join in the call to ban the sale of assault style weapons and large capacity magazine and call for a national background check database while equipping our congregations to act locally on this issue for the public safety of our youth and the well-being of all who reside in this land.)

All Resolutions and Memorials passed. There was much discussion and a few amendments to the proposed wording.

Several positions were voted on for Synod Council, Consultation Committee, Discipline Committee, Endowment Board and Churchwide Council.

A highlight of the weekend for Jim and I both was that Pastor Miranda presided over the culminating worship service Sunday morning! She was wonderful and we were happy and excited for her opportunity at her very first in-person Synod Assembly!

Respectfully, Jim and Cheri Anderson



LIFE OF SPIRIT

James Moudy, a recent member of our congregation, has been hiking the PCT with his husband since the end of April. We've missed his joyful presence in worship, but were thrilled to receive an update from him at the end of May! He wrote:

"Happy Sunday to you all, I hope all is well. I'm finishing up my fifth week of hiking on the trail and after today I'll be at the 566 mile marker. Here's a photo of me at the 500 mile marker.

All is good. My feet hurt constantly, but what can you expect. And I've gone through 2 pairs of shoes so far. 140 miles until we start climbing in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and say goodbye to the desert. I think I'm happy about that, but not sure.

Take care, and God bless."

We can't wait until James returns and we can hear all of the stories he will have to share with us. In the meantime, be sure to check out his blog, manictravels.com, for updates he posts along the way!



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.

Graduate Profiles

On Sunday, June 5th, we recognized Miyuki Gerald and Amy Fowler, for their accomplishment of graduating high school, and blessed them for their upcoming new adventures!

Amy will be attending the University of Alaska Southeast, located in Juneau, beginning this fall. This school is situated between Auke Lake and the Pacific Ocean, making it an ideal option for someone like Amy, who is interested in pursuing Marine Biology! Amy hopes to gain valuable hands-on experience in this program so that she can follow her passion of caring for, protecting, and studying marine mammals by becoming an aquarium biologist.

We are thrilled that Amy has heard and accepted God's call to be a steward and caretaker of creation, and we will continue to hold her in prayer throughout this next journey in her life!

Miyuki has a wide variety of interests and passions, both in the humanities and sciences! Currently, she has decided to begin her studies at Oregon State University majoring in Mechanical Engineering, while still intentionally taking a variety of other courses before she makes a final decision regarding her major and career path. Whatever her career looks like, Miyuki knows that she wants to be able to interact with the outdoors, study the wonders of creation, and be an active part of the efforts to reverse climate change and pollution.

We will continue to hold Miyuki in prayer as she courageously follows the call of the wild Spirit of God, wherever that calling may lead!

Both students were awarded scholarships from Spirit of Grace through the Irv Johnson Scholarship Fund to help them get started with books and supplies for their studies. Amy & Miyuki each received a quilt handmade by Spirit of Grace's quilt group and.....We are honored to have been a part of the formative years of these young adults, and are eager to see where their lives lead from here!



It is perfect weather to get outside and grow some food! We have a variety of tasks and opportunities coming up in the garden including: prepping beds, weeding, transplanting peppers and basil, seeding our pumpkin patch and green beans, and more. Soon we will be planting cucumbers, beets, flowers, weeding, and harvesting our spring greens and herbs that are growing strong!

Amelia, Garden Coordinator. fishgardenvc@gmail.com

FISH/Spirit of Grace garden volunteer calendar

JUNE 2022

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

Highway 35 has been designated Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway

Recently the Oregon state legislature passed a bill to dedicate Highway 35 in honor of Oregon Japanese American WWII veterans. The bill was passed unanimously in both the Senate and House. A highway dedication ceremony is slated for Aug. 13 in Hood River. During World War II and the post-war recovery, more than 33,000 Nisei served with honor and distinction in the United States military, of which approximately 150 were from



Oregon and about 60 specifically from Hood River County. Their collective service came despite federal Executive Order 9066 issued in February 1942 that directed that Japanese Americans be removed to government-built camps. Funds for four highway signs and educational material about the historical importance of the Nisei Veterans of WWII must be privately raised. Donations are being accepted to help pay for the signs and future maintenance of those signs. For more information or to donate online go to: <https://www.pdxjacl.org/niseivetshwy/> . Donations can also be made by mailing a designated check made out to American Legion Post 22 to: American Legion Post 22 Cdr. Carl Casey PO Box 1803 Hood River, OR 97031 (Credit: <https://www.columbiagorgenews.com>. May 25, 2022)

Gorge Ecumenical Ministries

GEM: *Uniting diverse communities of faith through our common concerns and actions for justice, freedom, peace, and environmental care.*



GEM Members and Friends Community Picnic

June 14 5:30 - 7:30 pm Daubenspeck Skate Park, Bingen
Bring friends & family and a potluck dish to share



PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL June 26, 2022 in The Dalles

Festival 10AM to 6PM at Lewis & Clark Park 1 W. 1st Street
Parade starts at 10AM at 2nd Street between Monroe and Madison.

If your congregation will be at the festival brochures about GEM can be provided upon request.

Contact <http://gorgeecumenical@gmail.com>

Details about reserving a festival booth forthcoming.

Volunteers needed: Meals on Wheels Can you spare an hour or two once a week to help feed our elders in the safety and comfort of their own homes? Volunteer with Meals on Wheels. Drivers are sorely needed by the Hood River Valley Adult Center (HRVAC). Routes typically take 1-1 ½ hours and start at 11 a.m. Meals are delivered 5 days a week. Call Tammy Fuller at 541-975-4804 to apply. The application process includes a background check. Once completed staff at the HRVAC (541-436-0893) will contact you for training and scheduling.



Weekly Reflections

June 5 – John 14:26 *How does the peace of God differ from the kind of peace the world has to offer?*

June 12 – Romans 5:3-5 *When you are filled with hopelessness and despair, how can you call on the Spirit to fill your heart once more?*

June 19 – Galatians 3:28 *How do we still allow human barriers to divide us from our neighbor? How does God call us to break down these walls and divisions?*

June 26 – Galatians 5:22-23 *How are you tending and cultivating the fruits of the Spirit that God has planted within you? How are you tending the fruits of others as well?*

Miranda Bermes-Goller	1
Brian Marcroft	6
Joan Chapman	5
Bailey Murahashi	12
Lisa Crompton	13
Jenni Bermes-Goller	22



<u>Anniversary</u> Audrey & Myrin Bentz	2
<u>Anniversary</u> Muriel & Ray Ishizaka	18
<u>Anniversary</u> Lisa & Mark Crompton	29

On vacation? Enjoy yourself!

Going to sporting events or concerts? Wonderful!

Having parties and barbecues? Great!

Taking a break from work and life to have some fun is good for your soul. The life of your church goes on in summer, following God’s call. Spirit of Grace still has ministries to fund, bills to pay, and salaries to provide.

A full report of income and expenses is available in the church office for your convenience.



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.

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9am Quilt Grp 6:30 Bells	2 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	3	4 9am Women's Spirituality
5 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	6 10am Happy Hands	7 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	8 6:30 Bells	9 Book Study 6:30pm on Zoom	10	11
12 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	13 10am Happy Hands	14 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	15 9am Quilt Grp 6:30 Bells	16	17	18
19 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	20 10am Happy Hands	21 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom)	22	23	24	25
GNW Methodist Annual Conference—Virtual. See UMI.org for full information						
		<u>First Day of Summer</u>				
26 Food on the 4th 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	27 10am Happy Hands	28 10am Men's Fellowship (zoom) 2-4pm Women's bible study Zoom	29	30		

Worship Duties

June	5	12	19	26
	Sharon Pantely	Sharon Pantely	Jill McBee	Tom Hart
	Sharon Poynter	Sharon Poynter	Rick McBee	Kristin Marcroft
PowerPoint	Lee Huckins	Linda Boris	Sharon Poynter	Debby Chenoweth
Altar Guild	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)

Meets every other month

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

Meets quarterly

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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