

MARCH/APRIL 2023

Newsletter



SPIRIT OF GRACE
LUTHERAN-METHODIST CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

Lent 2023

CONTEMPLATION IN COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 22ND – APRIL 7TH

Sundays at 8:30am
*Contemplative & Creative Prayer Practices
with Pastor Miranda*

Sundays at 10am
Worship Service

Wednesdays at 5:15pm
Soup, Study, & Holden Evening Prayer

1140 TUCKER ROAD, HOOD RIVER, OR 97031

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Lent 2023

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Pastor's Letter

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Some of the most beloved, cherished memories of my life happened while I was living in a remote mountain community, secluded and nestled deep in the north cascades of Washington. So it really shouldn't come as a surprise that I love the season of Lent precisely for its wilderness themes. When Easter comes, we are reminded that we are a resurrection people – our faith is defined by the belief in new life given to us by the grace of God. Lent, though, reminds us that we are also a wilderness people, and have been from the very beginning. Though the story of Jesus in the wilderness is often viewed as the grounding text for Lent, wilderness has defined our faith journey since the very beginning – since God sent Adam and Eve out from the garden of Eden and into the wilderness of the world. Time and time again, God has revealed Godself to their people in the wilderness, bringing them to a new understanding of their relationship with the Divine. From the beginning of our story, we have been a people wandering in the wilderness, looking for signs of wonder that will lead us back to our Creator.

I am a deep believer in the necessity of taking intentional time away – set apart from the busyness and stress of daily life and human interactions – in order to reconnect with our innermost selves and the Divine that lives within us, so that we can continue to change and grow closer to God throughout our lives. My time at Holden Village was a turning point in my faith journey, in ways that I am still discovering even now, years later. And while not all of us have the ability to simply run away to the mountains for a year to reconnect with ourselves and God, there are still plenty of ways we can make space in our lives for us to step out of our certitude and into the wilderness of wonder and wondering God calls us to explore.



Pastor's Letter

Incorporating contemplative prayer into our daily life and faith practices is one way to help our brains disconnect from our regular thinking patterns and open up to the mysteries and questions that await us in the silence and the stillness. To practice contemplation may sound daunting at first, but the contemplative life is not only for the religiously devout who spend hours in prayer or meditation or silence. Contemplative prayer is rooted in simplicity – it is slowing down, quieting our minds, quieting our hearts, grounding in our bodies, and paying attention to the divine presence that is found in all things. As the monk, mystic, and author Thomas Merton describes it, contemplation is "...spiritual wonder. It is spontaneous awe at the sacredness of life, of being." The more we pay attention to this wonder, the more connected we find ourselves to the source of this wonder.

This lenten season, I encourage you to take time to regularly step into the wilderness to find renewed connection with the Divine. Perhaps this will look like going for a daily walk in a place you are not familiar with, or sitting quietly for 5 minutes every morning, or spending unplanned time writing in a journal to see where your mind leads you. I hope that your time in the wilderness this season will lead you to a newfound understanding of the Divine in our world and in our hearts, that we might stand boldly with Christ on Easter morning as he rolls away the stone.



*Snowshoeing
through a
snow labyrinth
was one way I
connected with
God during the
lenten season I
spent at Holden
Village!*

In Peace,
Pastor Miranda BG





CONTEMPLATIVE & CREATIVE PRAYER PRACTICES

SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM

Join Pastor Miranda on Sunday mornings in Lent to explore ways to deepen our prayer life through contemplative prayer: immersive and creative forms of communing with the Divine, with ancient roots from around the world.

MARCH 5TH

An Introduction to Contemplative Prayer

MARCH 12TH

Reflection: Prayer of Examen & Lectio Divina

MARCH 19TH

Grounding: Making & Using Prayer Beads

MARCH 26TH

Movement: Labyrinths & Walking

APRIL 2ND

Art: Praying in Color





MIDWEEK LENTEN GATHERING

SOUP, STUDY, & HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Come and gather on Wednesday evenings in Lent for a simple meal of soup and bread, while we engage in a scripture discussion together, exploring the meaning and importance of wilderness stories throughout the Bible. The meal and discussion will be followed by a contemplative evening prayer service.

5pm - Set-up + Gathering

5:15pm - Soup Super Served

5:30pm - Scripture Study

6:15pm - Holden Evening Prayer

MARCH 1ST – ABRAHAM

MARCH 8TH – HAGAR & ISHMAEL

MARCH 15TH – MOSES

MARCH 22ND – THE ISRAELITES

MARCH 29TH – ELIJAH

APRIL 5TH – JESUS



Annual Meeting Minutes

Spirit of Grace Annual Meeting, January 15, 2023

Before the meeting packets of the reports were distributed, the ballots, and the insert of Proposed Mission Statements & Guiding Values.

The meeting opened with a responsive reading of a Liturgy and the singing of Hymn "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart".

Pastor Miranda then read greetings from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and ELCA Oregon Synod Bishop Laurie Caesar.

We were then introduced to the new UMC Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth via video. He is in charge of the Greater NW Area which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Two thoughts I wrote down from his talk are: "Maintain Hope in Jesus Christ 1st and Foremost" and "Hope is on the other side of division."

Pastor Miranda then introduced Reverend Tim Overton-Harris of the UMC in charge of the Columbia River Region. He noted that some of the UMC churches of the area are experiencing splintering, but noted this is the time to determine who we are, what we believe, and where we go from here.

Pastor Miranda read her 'Pastor's Report. Her conclusive paragraph: "I wholeheartedly believe in the mission and ministry of Spirit of Grace, and I believe that God has called us to be agents of change and bearers of the Good News in this time and this place. As the year begins, I invite you all to spend some time in contemplation and discernment. Why has God called you to this community-Spirit of Grace- in this time and this place? How do you understand your role in this community? What are your hopes and dreams for this little congregation with a big Heart? Where do you see the Spirit moving among us recently? Who is God calling you to become in this new year? Come – let us dream together and see what new thing God is inviting us to explore."

Annual Meeting Minutes

Shelley Oates Board Co-chair then led the meeting to vote for 2 new members to the Board; Cindy Murahashi and Doug Swanson. 2 new members for Staff-Parish Relations Committee; Margaret Godard and Lee Huckins. 2 delegates to the ELCA Oregon Synod Conference in May via Zoom this year; Tom Hart and Alicia Bermes. Thank you all for offering your service. 21 Ballots were returned with unanimous votes for all nominees. This meets our quorum requirement.

The meeting continued with the Board Chair's report submitted by both Shelley Oates and Tom Hart. Staff-Parish Relations Committee Report presented by Jill McBee (Chair) who will be leaving this position this year.

Rick McBee delivered the Building Ministry Team Report, acknowledging the following members who are dedicated to maintenance of our church grounds: Scott Fitch, Donna Werhley, Craig Terry and Alan Yenne. Thank you to all who steward this space. Alicia Bermes then gave an update of the Welcoming Church Team activities. This is our commitment to become a 'Reconciling in Christ' congregation (ELCA) and part of the 'Reconciling Ministries Network' (UMC). The team members are Alicia Bermes (Chair), Linda Boris, Debby Chenoweth, Michelle Sibley, and Sharon Poynter. We will be conducting one on one interviews with members of the congregation as we explore this journey.

Finally, Tom Hart delivered the Financial Report. See the separate hand out. Approval of this report goes through the Board and it is informative for the congregation.

Lastly Shelley then directed us to the Proposed Mission Statement and Guiding Values. All attendees were given a copy to peruse. A question from the floor was are the Guiding Values in a specific order and the answer is no, the presentation was somewhat random. The suggestion was to prioritize them.

Approval of this document was presented to the congregation asking for a verbal 'Yea' vote and it passed unanimously.

Pastor Miranda closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Poynter, Board Secretary

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement:

To be a vital, forward-thinking congregation that lives into God's call to love the world by embodying service, change, and mutual-relationships with one another and our community.

Vision Statement:

To be agents of change, called to serve as God's Living Bridge, connecting community with God's grace so that all may know God's unending mercy, abundant love, and radical welcome to all people, just as they are.

Guiding Values

1. Abundant Love & Radical Welcome

We believe that sharing the abundant love of God is a central part of our Christian Identity, and we are called to live out the radical welcome that Jesus taught us through his ministry on earth.

2. Community & Relationship

We are committed to living in community and being in intentional relationship with one another and our neighbors, living in mutual-relationship as Christ taught us.

3. Honoring Tradition & Embracing Change

We honor the traditions of the past, including that of our Lutheran and Methodist heritages, while also knowing that we must seek out and embrace change in order to grow and become the church God longs for us to be in this world.

4. Listening & Learning

We know that we do not hold all the answers, and are committed to listening and learning from a wide variety of people, communities, and sources so that we might develop a greater understanding of humanity, creation, and the Divine.

5. Living Word & Holy Sacrament

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God and came to reconcile humanity to our Creator, giving us the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Communion through which to encounter and be changed by the Triune God.

6. Repentance & Reconciliation

We acknowledge the hurt, harm, and abuse that the Church has perpetrated in the past, and are committed to repenting for our role in that, and taking concrete steps towards reconciliation with historically marginalized communities.

7. Simultaneously Saint & Sinner

We believe that no human is fully perfect – and yet we are fully redeemed and restored by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, set free from our bondage to sin to live our lives dedicated to God and to our neighbor.

8. Stewardship & Service

We believe that we are called to give of ourselves for the sake of our neighbor and the world, that we might be God's hands and feet on earth, giving of ourselves and using our unique talents to serve our communities

2023 Leadership Team

Below are the names of those serving on our Leadership Team of elected lay leaders for 2023. These committees meet on a quarterly basis to attend to the mission, vision, and business of the church. You will find the meeting dates for this year listed below as well, so that you can hold these leaders in prayer as they attend to the work God has called them to in this place.

Board of Directors Members

Shelley Oates (chair)
Gordon Leigh
Sharon Poynter (secretary)
Tom Hart (treasurer)
Cindy Murahashi – ***newly elected***
Doug Swanson – ***newly elected***

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

January 22nd
April 23rd
July 30th
October 22nd
December 12th

Finance Committee

Debby Chenoweth
Dottie Gilbertson
Tom Hart (church treasurer)
Jennifer Fowler (financial secretary)

Finance Committee Meeting Dates

April 25th
July 18th
October 17th
Tuesday, November 21st

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Sharon Pantley
Pat Moore
Margaret Godard – ***newly elected***
Lee Huckins – ***newly elected***

SPRC Meeting Dates

March 5th
April 30th
August 13th
October 29th

2023 Goals for Ministry

At the first meeting of the year, the Board of Directors reviewed and refined the long-term goals set by the board at the start of 2022, and set new short term goals to focus on in our ministry for 2023. These are goals meant to be worked towards by the entire congregation. You are encouraged to review them and meditate on how you feel called right now to help us work towards achieving these goals as a collective community of faith.

Long Term Goals (by 2027-2032)

- Establish and grow our presence as Spirit of Grace Church in the local community in order to become more visible, accessible, and welcoming towards our neighbors.
- Increase commitment, vitality, and relationship within our congregation.
- Improve landscaping structures, signage, and features in order to better serve the needs of our congregation and community.
- Become an official Welcoming Church and work intentionally to live into this commitment publicly.

Short Term Goals (by end of year)

- Create more regular opportunities for faith-based education and fellowship.
- Enrich our relationship with the surrounding community through personal conversations and connections.
- Establish a plan for financial stability by holding a stewardship campaign and exploring ways to diversify our income.
- Support and participate in advancing the RIC/RMN journey, in order to vote on our new Welcome Statement in 2024.

2023 Ministry Team Meetings

If you're looking for ways to get involved and support the ministry of Spirit of Grace, joining one of our ministry teams is a great place to start! These teams are open to anyone involved with our community, regardless of church membership. Meetings last 30-60 minutes. Reach out to Pastor Miranda if you have any questions, or just show up to one of our meetings to learn more!

Note: All meeting dates are listed on the church calendar on our website.

Dates are subject to change – changes will be announced in the weekly email, and updated on the church calendar.

Community Outreach

(bi-monthly, first Tuesdays at 6pm)

Tuesday, March 7th
Tuesday, May 2nd
Tuesday, July 4th
Tuesday, September 5th
Tuesday, November 7th

Hospitality & Fellowship

(bi-monthly, second Sundays at 11:15am)

Sunday, March 12th
Sunday, May 14th
Sunday, July 9th
Sunday, September 10th
Sunday, November 12th

Lifelong Learning

(quarterly, first Tuesdays at 6pm)

Tuesday, April 4th
Tuesday, June 6th
Tuesday, October 3rd
Tuesday, December 5th

Worship Planning

(bi-monthly, Tuesdays at 9am)

Tuesday, February 7th
Tuesday, March 14th
Tuesday, May 9th
Tuesday, July 11th
Tuesday, September 12th
Tuesday, November 14th

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Prayer & Visitation (monthly, first Wednesdays at 10am)

Wednesday, March 1st
Wednesday, April 5th
Wednesday, May 3rd
Wednesday, June 7th
Wednesday, July 5th
Wednesday, August 2nd
Wednesday, September 6th
Wednesday, October 4th
Wednesday, November 4th
Wednesday, December 6th

Welcoming Church (2nd Sundays: 2pm, Zoom 4th Sundays: 11:15am, in-person)

Sunday, March 12th
Sunday, March 26th
Sunday, April 23rd
Sunday, May 14th
Sunday, May 28th
Sunday, June 11th
Sunday, June 25th
Sunday, July 9th
Sunday, July 23rd
Sunday, August 14th
Sunday, August 27th
Sunday, September 10th
Sunday, September 24th
Sunday, October 8th
Sunday, October 22nd
Sunday, November 12th
Sunday, November 26th
Sunday, December 10th

Holy Week & Easter

Good Friday

7:00PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH

We gather on this solemn night for our service of darkness (Tenebrae) to recall the Passion Narrative, reminding us of Christ's humble journey to the cross. We remember both the pain of this story as well as the promised hope of new life that we know will be fulfilled.

Easter Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH

8:30AM BREAKFAST

10AM WORSHIP

Christ has arisen -- Alleluia! Join us for breakfast and fellowship before we begin worship in praise and celebration to honor the resurrection of Christ and remember our heritage as a resurrection people, called to new life in the Divine.

Lifelong Learning

Women's Bible Study

Fourth Tuesday of the Month

March 28th & April 25th

On the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2pm, women of Spirit of Grace and our surrounding community are invited to gather at the church building for a time of study and fellowship with one another. This group is led by lay members, using the Bible Study from the ELCA magazine, "Gather," which is currently offering a four-session study of the 10 commandments, written by ELCA pastor and author Christa von Zychlin, to help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance.

Book Study Groups Resume

Sunday Mornings & Thursday Evenings

April 16th & 20th

Our Book Study Groups have been reading Rachel Held Evans' Wholehearted Faith this year, and will be picking up again with part two of the book after Easter. If you didn't get a chance to participate in the Winter session, feel free to pick up a copy and catch up to start up with us in the Spring! Our Sunday morning group meets at 8:30am before worship, and the Thursday group meets at 6:30pm on Zoom, but will likely switch to in-person for the Spring.



Living [in the] Word
Third Sunday of the Month
March 19th & April 16th

On the third Sunday each month, Pastor Miranda leads a Bible Study after worship, during which we dig into a scripture text from the lectionary in the last month that we didn't have time to address during worship. This is a chance to engage with scripture as the Living Word of God. We ask questions of the text that help us better understand the history and context of the story, as well as consider how the text has changed over time and what meaning it has in our lives today.

Church Updates

FISH Distribution Dates

Our next opportunity to volunteer with FISH distribution will be on **March 20, 22, and 24**. This is an excellent opportunity to support and connect with our local community! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Bette Lou (abyenne@gorge.net) to sign up for a day to serve.



A Note from the Welcoming Team

When the opportunity to join the Welcoming Team came up, I was eager to join. In churches, it is often thought that if we are nice to people that is the same as being welcoming. However, to truly welcome someone, especially someone very different from ourselves, just being nice isn't enough. Learning how to accept people, to have them become a part of us, without having to become like us, is a challenge. I saw the chance to gain education and insight through the Reconciling in Christ/Reconciling Ministries Network process as a great step forward in becoming truly welcoming. I have learned a lot and look forward to our team sharing what we're learning with the rest of the congregation. Right now, we are in the process of reaching out to congregation members to talk about the process and answer questions/concerns and gather feedback. If there is ever a time during this process when you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of our team: myself (Linda Boris), Debby Chenoweth, Sharon Poynter, Michele Sibley, Alicia Bermes, and Pastor Miranda.



Linda Boris
Welcoming Team Member
lindajboris@gmail.com

Community Support

Support for Earthquake Victims

As many of us feel helpless watching the aftermath of the recent earthquakes, it's important to not become paralyzed by our fear and to remember that God calls and empowers us to help as we are able. As Lutherans and Methodists, our denominations have relief organizations dedicated to responding to crises such as these – and the best way we can support them right now is with funds. Use the links below to give directly to support the relief efforts in Turkey and Syria:

Lutheran World Relief

UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery

GEM Community Meetings

GEM (Gorge Eccumenical Ministries) has reinstituted their monthly community meetings, meant to provide an opportunity for people of faith from around the gorge to come together, connect with and learn from one another, and hear more about the important work being done by local organizations in our communities! These meetings happen on the third Thursday of each month, with fellowship beginning at 11:30am and the presentation beginning at noon.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH

FELLOWSHIP: 11:30-NOON PROGRAM: NOON-1PM

HOSTED BY SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN-METHODIST CHURCH

GUEST PRESENTER: MARIANNE DURKAN, BOARD CHAIR

The FISH Food Bank of Hood River was established in 1969 after a group of concerned citizens recognized that some of their neighbors, and others passing through the town, needed food, clothing, and other assistance. Today, FISH is a 501(C)(3) organization with locations in Hood River, Cascade Locks, and Parkdale. The letters in FISH stand for Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help – which is what you'll find at our three locations. FISH serves people in need of food assistance in Hood River County and Mosier.

Thursday, April 20th

Fellowship: 11:30-noon Program: noon-1pm

Location & Presenter TBA

Prayer

For What Shall We Pray?



"For What Shall We Pray?" is a weekly post through ELCA Worship inviting individuals, groups, and congregations to lift up our world in prayer.

See more like this at
blogs.elca.org/worship

*For continued relief and recovery efforts in
Turkey and Syria...*

*For continued clean-up efforts following the East
Palestine, Ohio train derailment...*

*For all who are digging out and warming up
following winter storms in the Midwest...*

*For the families and loved ones of the Orlando
shooting victims...*

*For an end to gun violence across our nation and
our world...*

*For the loved ones of those killed in a plane crash
near Little Rock, Arkansas...*

*For those injured and killed during violent raids in
the West Bank...*

*For peace in our world, especially at the one-year
anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine...*

*For recovery efforts after an open pit mine
collapse in China's northern Inner Mongolia
region...*

*For all facing unemployment, job insecurity, or
financial instability...*



If you have prayer requests that you would like to be lifted up by our prayer chain and in Sunday morning worship, please email Carol Kyger (cckyger@gmail.com), who will pass your request along to our prayer chain.

If you are interested in being a part of our prayer chain that receives prayer request emails as they come in, please email Carol Kyger to be added to that list.

If you have a prayer request that you would like to be kept **confidential**, please email Pastor Miranda. These prayer needs will not be shared publicly unless expressly mentioned.

Weekly Reflections

March 5th - Genesis 12:1

Think of a time in your life when God called you into something new and unknown. How did you turn to God for help in your uncertainty? What are signs of God's presence you have learned to look for?

March 12th - Exodus 17:2

Have there been times in your life when you have had needs go unmet? How have you felt connected or disconnected to God in these moments?

March 19th - Psalm 23:5

Where is God preparing a table for you in your life - calling you to feast on God's promise of abundance? What blessings cause your cup to overflow with God's goodness?

March 26th - John 11:35

How is your faith impacted by the fact that we believe in a savior who was not above our human weaknesses and emotions, but felt them intimately with us?

April 2nd - Isaiah 50:8

How does your faith in God through Christ Jesus give you the confidence you need to stand up for the gospel in the face of adversaries such as systemic oppression and discrimination?

April 9th - Jeremiah 31:2

What grace did you find in the wilderness this lenten season? What lessons are you taking with you as we step out with the resurrected Christ into the new life God has given us?

April 16th - John 20:25

Think of some doubts you have had in your faith throughout your life. How have those doubts and questions led you into a closer relationship with God?

April 23rd - Luke 24:30-31

When have you been in the presence of Christ, through your neighbors, without being aware of it? What caused your eyes to open to the sacredness of that encounter?

April 30th - Acts 2:44-45

God calls us into radical, interdependent community with one another, where all support and are supported by one another. When have you experienced this kind of mutual care in your life?



March Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Food on the 4th 8:30am - Lenten Study 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:15am - Welcoming Church	27 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	28 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @ 2pm - Women's Bible Study	1 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 9am - Quilting Group @ Fellowship 10am - Prayer & Visitation 5pm - Midweek Gathering 7pm - Bell Choir	2 9am - Church Office Open: 9am-	3 9am - Women's Spirituality Group	4
5 Holy Communion 8:30am - Lenten Study 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - First Sunday Fellowship @	6 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	7 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @ 6pm - Outreach Team Meeting	8 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 5pm - Midweek Gathering 7pm - Bell Choir	9 9am - Church Office Open: 9am-	10	11
12 8:30am - Lenten Study 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - Hospitality Team Meeting 2pm - Welcoming Church Team	13 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	14 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 9am - Worship Team Planning 10am - Men's Coffee Group @	15 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 9am - Quilting Group @ Fellowship 5pm - Midweek Gathering 7pm - Bell Choir	16 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 11:30am - GEM Community	17	18
19 Holy Communion 8:30am - Lenten Study 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - Living [in the] Word	20 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	21 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @	22 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 5pm - Midweek Gathering 7pm - Bell Choir	23 9am - Church Office Open: 9am-	24	25
26 Food on the 4th 8:30am - Lenten Study 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:15am - Welcoming Church	27 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	28 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @ 2pm - Women's Bible Study	29 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 5pm - Midweek Gathering 7pm - Bell Choir	30 9am - Church Office Open: 9am-	31 9am - Women's Spirituality Group	1

Important Dates

Sunday Mornings - Lenten Prayer Study with Pastor Miranda
 Wednesday Evenings - Midweek Lenten Gathering
March 16th - Hosting GEM Community Meeting

April Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Food on the 4th 8:30am - Lenten Study 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:15am - Welcoming Church	27 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	28 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @ 2pm - Women's Bible Study	29 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 5pm - Midweek Gathering 7pm - Bell Choir	30 9am - Church Office Open: 9am-	31	1 9am - Women's Spirituality Group
2 Holy Communion Palm Sunday 8:30am - Lenten Study 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - First Sunday Fellowship @	3 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	4 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @ 6pm - Lifelong Learning Meeting	5 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 9am - Quilting Group @ Fellowship 10am - Prayer & Visitation 5pm - Midweek Gathering 7pm - Bell Choir	6 Maundy Thursday 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 6:30pm - Book Study Group @	7 Good Friday	8 Holy Saturday
9 Bell Choir 8:30am - Easter Breakfast 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary	10 Pastor Miranda Out of Office 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	11 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @	12 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 7pm - Bell Choir	13 9am - Church Office Open: 9am-	14	15
16 Holy Communion 8:30am - Book Study Group @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - Living [in the] Word	17 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	18 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @	19 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 9am - Quilting Group @ Fellowship 7pm - Bell Choir	20 Newsletter Submissions Due 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 6:30pm - Book Study Group @	21	22
23 Food on the 4th 8:30am - Book Study Group @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:15am - Welcoming Church 2pm - Board of Directors Meeting	24 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	25 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @ 2pm - Women's Bible Study 6pm - Finance Committee Meeting	26 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 7pm - Bell Choir	27 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 6:30pm - Book Study Group @	28	29
30 5th Sunday Offering 8:30am - Book Study Group @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - SPRC Meeting	1 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Women's Coffee Hour @	2 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 10am - Men's Coffee Group @ 6pm - Outreach Team Meeting	3 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 9am - Quilting Group @ Fellowship 10am - Prayer & Visitation 7pm - Bell Choir	4 9am - Church Office Open: 9am- 6:30pm - Book Study Group @	5	6 9am - Women's Spirituality Group

Important Dates

April 2nd - Palm Sunday

April 7th - Good Friday Worship (7pm)

April 9th - Easter Sunday Breakfast & Worship (8:30am & 10am)

April 10th-16th - Pastor Miranda Out of Office

April 30th - Abuse Prevention & Awareness Sunday

April 20th - Newsletter Submissions Due

Contact & Connect

Sunday Worship

10:00 am

In-Person & Online

hoodriverchurch.com

Church Office Hours

9am - 1pm

Monday - Thursday

Staff

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Available during office hours or by appointment

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Available Tuesdays, 10am - 1pm



Spirit of Grace
Lutheran-Methodist Church

1140 Tucker Road

Hood River, OR 97031

541-386-3993

office@hoodriverchurch.com

Leadership Team Members

Board of Directors

Meets every other month

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

Tom Hart, Treasurer (*end of term, 2024*)

Sharon Poynter, Secretary (*end of term, 2024*)

Shelley Oates, Chair (*end of term, 2023*)

Gordon Leigh (*end of term, 2023*)

Doug Swanson (*end of term, 2025*)

Cindy Murahashi (*end of term, 2025*)

Finance Committee

Meets quarterly

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

Debby Chenoweth (*end of term, 2022*)

Dottie Gilbertson (*end of term, 2022*)

Tom Hart, Treasurer (*Treasurer & Payroll*)

Jennifer Fowler (*Financial Secretary*)

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Meets quarterly

Sharon Pantley (*end of term, 2024*)

Pat Moore (*end of term, 2024*)

Margaret Godard, Chair (*end of term, 2025*)

Lee Huckins (*end of term, 2025*)

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