

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Newsletter



## The River of Grace at Spirit of Grace

We have once again joined with ecumenical partners around the world to celebrate the Season of Creation with the theme "Let Justice and Peace Flow," symbolized by a Mighty River.

**Throughout this season you are encouraged to participate in our interactive prayer piece: the River of Grace!**

In the Narthex you will find a basket of paper fish on which you can write your prayer of lament or hope for Creation. At any point before, during, or after service, you are welcome to come and place your fish in the river. If you don't have words to articulate your prayer, you may choose to simply take a rock to place in the river to symbolize your wordless prayer. Throughout the season our prayers will multiply and fill this river, as God filled the waters at the beginning of creation.

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# Pastor's Letter

## Beloved Siblings in Christ,

As the chilliness returns to the morning air and the days begin to grow shorter, we prepare to bid farewell once more to summer and welcome the return of autumn. Some of us may be clinging to the last lingering moments of summer; squeezing in one last trip to the lake with the family or enjoying the final warm, sunny days – while others of us are eagerly looking forward to fall already; pulling out the cozy sweaters and waiting for the leaves to begin changing color. Even though we say that the first day of fall is September 23rd, we know that the seasons will change whenever they decide the time has come; one day we may be sweating in 90 degree heat and the next thing we know, a storm will roll in and the cool weather of autumn will be here to stay.

Even though fall is by far my favorite time of year, each season holds something unique that I look forward to each year. The slow, quiet, snowy days of winter, when the clouds hang low and snow coats the tree branches – the first flowers of spring, filling fields with bright colors of yellow and purple and orange that give me such joy – the long days of sunshine and abundance of summer that fills me with warmth and energy – and the brilliant colors of fall that remind me how beautiful it is that this cycles continues and repeats each and every year.

I've been trying more and more to align my life with the seasons, and to remember that my rhythms and patterns and plans are allowed to ebb and flow and change throughout the year as well. The earth is not perpetually in a season of producing abundance – the seasons of rest and waiting are just as vital as the seasons of growth and harvest. We too have different seasons in our lives that will require different things from us. Spending time observing the patterns and rhythms of nature can help us be more aware of these patterns within ourselves, rather than trying to force ourselves into what it is we think we "should" be doing.

# Pastor's Letter

This October, I am looking forward to returning to Holden Village with my wife, Jenni, for a week to volunteer and help them transition the village for winter. Holden Village is a small, remote community that operates on hydro power and heats most buildings with wood furnaces – so in the winter months, many of the buildings are closed up and shut down to conserve energy and resources. Holden is one of the first places that taught me how to honor the seasons in my life, and allow myself to move and breathe in a way that is more in tune with the natural world around me. I'm grateful for the opportunity to return to this place once more; to spend some time living and working in a different way, and be reminded of how to slow down and pay attention to the seasonal transitions in my own life.

As we head into fall, what are some changes you are observing in your own season of life? Are you preparing for a busy school year after a summer of rest? Are you eager to put the garden to bed after a long summer of tending and weeding and watering? Are you emerging from a season of winter in your soul and wondering what budding flowers God might have in store for you?

In this Season of Creation, may we all take time to reflect on what new season God may be calling us toward, and how we are called to support one another in their changing seasons as well.



Photo of Buckskin Mountain at Holden Village, Fall 2016

In Peace,  
*Pastor Miranda BG*



# Welcoming Church Team

After months of dedicated conversations and education, the Welcoming Church Team has put together the draft of our Welcome Statement! This draft is now available for your feedback, prior to our official vote in October. This is your final chance to raise any questions, concerns, or considerations you may have.

We have two versions of the Welcome Statement - a short version and a long version. **We are not asking people to vote between the two - both versions will be used depending on the situation and context.** All we are asking is if this Welcome Statement feels like an accurate representation of the kind of community we are at Spirit of Grace, and the kind of community we long to become.

We will be receiving feedback on the Welcome Statement draft throughout the month of September. On Sunday, September 24th, the Welcoming Church Team will meet after worship to review feedback and discuss changes. If you have any questions or concerns about the Welcome Statement and/or the RIC/RMN process in general, you are encouraged to come and share these questions or concerns with the Welcoming Church Team.

If you will not be making it into the church before the end of the month, please use [this online feedback form](#) to let us know your thoughts and feelings on this draft of our Welcome Statement!

**On October 29th, we will hold a Congregational Meeting/All Church Conference, during which we will vote to officially adopt this Welcome Statement and become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) and Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) congregation.**

Thank you all for your prayers and support throughout this process, and remember - the vote on October 29th is not a finish line, but rather the beginning of an important ministry and community commitment.

The Welcoming Church Team  
Alicia Bermes, Sharon Poynter, Michelle Sibley  
Linda Boris, and Debby Cenoweth

# Welcome Statement Draft

## **Proposed Spirit of Grace Welcome Statement(Short Version)**

At Spirit of Grace, we believe that the love of God knows no bounds, and that every person is beloved by God, bearing the image of the Divine. We welcome people of any and every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, and physical or mental ability,, and we affirm the inherent goodness of these children of God who have so often been prohibited from being their whole, authentic selves in God's church on earth. We believe that God calls us all to be one in Christ, united in our uniqueness and diversity. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are loved by God, and you are welcome here.

## **Proposed Spirit of Grace Welcome Statement(Longer Version)**

At Spirit of Grace, we believe that the love of God knows no bounds, and that every person is beloved by God, bearing the image of the Divine. We welcome people of any and every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and we affirm the inherent goodness of these children of God who have so often been prohibited from being their whole, authentic selves in God's church on earth.

We lament the harm that the greater Church has committed against marginalized communities, and are working to take intentional steps towards repair and reconciliation with these communities. Our faith moves us to commit ourselves to the work of racial equity and anti-racism, as we strive to create a world that more closely resembles God's promised Kingdom.

We long to be a community of people from all walks of life, made up of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, education, and faith history. We will not tolerate views that promote hatred or exclusion, nor will we allow conflict over differences to divide us. We believe that we are all growing into the fullness of who God wants us to become, and strive to practice grace with one another as we learn and grow.

We believe that God calls us all to be one in Christ, united in our uniqueness and diversity. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are loved by God, and you are welcome here.



# UMC Ministry Initiative

At the 2023 Annual Conference for the Greater Northwest Area of the UMC, newly elected Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth introduced a new ministry initiative for our area for the coming year. Bishop Bridgeforth is encouraging congregations and ministry settings to go the "M.I.L.E." this year and focus on Jesus' call in the story of the Good Samaritan to "Go and Do Likewise." He preached an overview of this initiative at his installation service in Juneau, AK, and gave an overview of the theme and the meaning behind each step of the M.I.L.E. at each subsequent Annual Conference gathering.

In response to this invitation and initiative, our District Superintendent Tim Overton-Harris will be visiting congregations in the Columbia District to preside over an All Church Conference, at the end of which we will vote on what our congregation will commit to do for each element of the M.I.L.E. in the next year, with a report back at the All Church Conference Fall 2024.

**Our All Church Conference will take place on Sunday, October 29th immediately following worship.** The first item on the agenda will be to vote on our proposed Welcome Statement in order to become an official RIC/RMN Congregation - after this, DS Tim will preside over our All Church Conference as we discern what commitments we will make to go the M.I.L.E. in our ministry in the coming year.

**It is of the utmost importance that as many members of our congregation are present for this meeting on October 29th, so please mark the day on your calendar now, and plan to stay for a couple of hours following worship.** As we get closer, we will coordinate a potluck lunch so that we can all eat together and be nourished as we prepare for this important discernment work.

# Go the "M.I.L.E."

Go to [greater-nw.org/m-i-l-e-2023-annual-conference-sermons/](https://greater-nw.org/m-i-l-e-2023-annual-conference-sermons/) to watch any of Bishop Bridgeforth's sermons on the M.I.L.E., or simply click on the bolded title of any of the sermons below to be taken directly to the online video recording.

## **How do we travel a M.I.L.E. in the Greater Northwest Area?**

*At his installation service in Juneau, Alaska, in May, Bridgeforth gave an overview of the theme and the meaning behind each step of the M.I.L.E.*

### **M: Ministry that Matters**

*Ministry that Matters is about how churches and ministry settings can go outside of themselves to turn from the mirror and look out the window to be part of their communities. Specifically, Bridgeforth preached about the need to be engaged in the work of houselessness and health in our communities.*

### **I: Itineration and location**

*Bishop Cedrick encouraged churches to be window people, not mirror people, and spoke about Itineration [and Location] as it relates to clergy who are called to lead and the ministry settings in which they serve. In his sermon he asked people to think about how we might address inequities in the itineration system within The United Methodist Church to best suit the pastor, church and community in which they are all serving.*

### **L: Lay Ministry Enhancement**

*At the opening of the PNW Conference, Bishop Bridgeforth preached about the importance of lay ministry enhancement as the church changes shape. Laity are already a critical resource in our congregations and ministry settings, but there is a need to equip and empower laity to be a more active voice in our churches and communities we serve.*

### **E: Eliminating Racism**

*As people of faith, we need to renew our efforts to eliminate the racism that is pervasive not only in society, but within our congregations, ministry settings and the institution of the church in general. During this sermon at the close of Annual Conference season, Bridgeforth laid out plans for resources to be developed to engage churches and ministry settings in meaningful discussions and evaluate practices that lead to institutional racism and societal harm.*

# Ministry Teams & Lay Leadership

In an effort to create a sustainable ministry model for our congregation, we are developing two lay-led ministry teams: one for outreach ministry and one for in-reach ministry (that is, ministry focused on our congregation). In order for the future of our church to be sustainable and lead to growth, the bulk of our ministry needs to be led by lay members of our community, rather than just by the pastor. To that end, **we are looking for two people willing to be co-leaders of each of these teams (four leaders altogether)**. These team leaders would work collaboratively with Pastor Miranda to form these teams and establish their goals and responsibilities.

As we look ahead to the M.I.L.E ministry initiative put forward by Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth for the UMC this year, these ministry teams will be an integral part in living out the ministry goals that the congregation will articulate at vote on at our All-Church Conference on October 29th with District Superintendent Tim Overton-Harris.

The Leadership Team of Spirit of Grace would like to encourage you all to take some time to consider whether you have the time, capacity, and calling to take on this roll and help Spirit of Grace live into our collective mission, vision, and guiding values. If you want to know more about what one of these co-leader positions would entail, reach out to Pastor Miranda to set up a time to chat.





# Lifelong Learning

## Women's Bible Study

*September 26th & October 24th*

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." This fall, sessions will focus on "Holy Places," a study by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Physical places often shape our identities, relationships and faith. Faith resides in our whole bodies, and how our bodies "live and move and have our being" in the sacred places where God encounters us. In this study, written by an ELCA missionary living in Jerusalem, we'll explore what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever we may be.



## Living [in the] Word

*September 17th & October 15th*

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

**Our "Living in the Word" in September will focus on "Clobber Passages" that have been used to harm LGBTQIA+ people of faith, as we prepare to officially adopt our new Welcome Statement.**



# Lifelong Learning

## New Fall/Winter Book Study

### *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us*

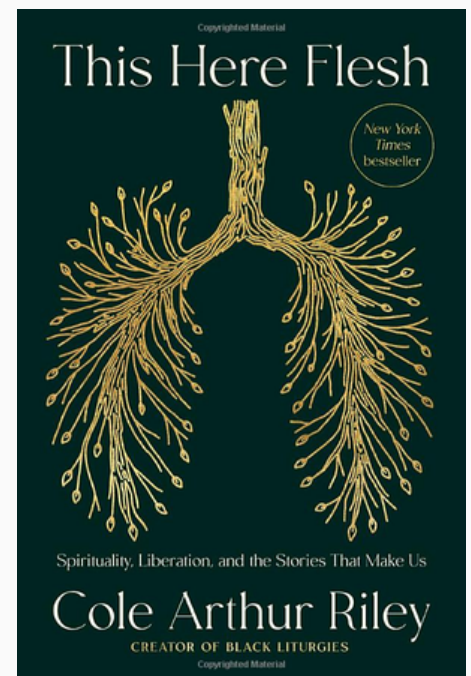
*"From the womb, we must repeat with regularity that to love ourselves is to survive. I believe that is what my father wanted for me and knew I would so desperately need: a tool for survival, the truth of my dignity named like a mercy new each morning."*

*So writes Cole Arthur Riley in her unforgettable book of stories and reflections on discovering the sacred in her skin. In these deeply transporting pages, Arthur Riley reflects on the stories of her grandmother and father, and how they revealed to her an embodied, dignity-affirming spirituality, not only in what they believed but in the act of living itself. Writing memorably of her own childhood and coming to self, Arthur Riley boldly explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith: How can spirituality not silence the body, but instead allow it to come alive? How do we honor, lament, and heal from the stories we inherit? How can we find peace in a world overtaken with dislocation, noise, and unrest? In this indelible work of contemplative storytelling, Arthur Riley invites us to descend into our own stories, examine our capacity to rest, wonder, joy, rage, and repair, and find that our humanity is not an enemy to faith but evidence of it.*

*At once a compelling spiritual meditation, a powerful intergenerational account, and a tender coming-of-age narrative, This Here Flesh speaks potently to anyone who suspects that our stories might have something to say to us.*

This September, our Book Study Groups will resume meeting on **Sunday mornings at 8:30am** and **Thursday evenings at 6:30pm** to discuss this enlightening text! This book has 15 chapters, which we will begin to discuss over ten weeks in September-November, and will conclude in 5 weeks in January and February, with a pause in the middle for Advent.

**Study groups resume the week of September 17th** - but individuals are welcome to join in at any time! Email [office@hoodriverchurch.com](mailto:office@hoodriverchurch.com) to sign up today.



# Worship



## A Mighty River Amos 5: 24

## Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

Throughout the 5 Sundays of the Season of Creation, our worship and prayers will be centered on creation themes and reminding us all of our calling to protect and steward God's precious creation.

**September 3rd: Waters of Change**  
**September 10th: Waters of Promise**  
**September 17th: Waters of Forgiveness**  
**September 24th: Waters of Renewal**  
**October 1st: Waters of Justice & Peace**

### ***Fifth Sunday Giving*** ***October 29th***

Our fifth Sunday giving in October will be in support of World Communion Sunday, which we will celebrate on October 1st. It will go to a UMC fund that provides scholarships and leadership development opportunities for international students and U.S. racial-ethnic students who are pursuing advanced degrees. Gifts not only make an impact in the lives of individual students, but also the religious, social and civic communities in which they lead and serve.

Learn more at: [umcmission.org/special-sunday-offerings/](https://umcmission.org/special-sunday-offerings/)



# Church Updates

## FISH September Distribution

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with our upcoming distribution at FISH on September 18th, 20th, and 22nd! If you haven't signed up yet but would like to help out, contact Bette Lou Yenne (541-386-5031 or [abyenne@gorge.net](mailto:abyenne@gorge.net)) to get started.



## Collecting Care Kits

The women of Spirit of Grace have decided to collect items throughout the year that will be used to make up Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kit. These kits are being collected by Lutheran World Relief, , and will be sent to places all over the world where there is need.

We will be collecting items for these kits through May 1st, 2024. There will be two large plastic containers in the church narthex where donations can be placed. We hope that all will participate in donating materials as they are able. Monetary donations are also accepted - be sure to indicate on the check or giving envelope that the donation is for "LWR Care Kits."

For information on donation guidelines, pick up an instructional sheet in the narthex, or visit [www.lwr.org/kits](http://www.lwr.org/kits).

If you have any further questions, reach out to Dottie Gilbertson ([dottieg@gorge.net](mailto:dottieg@gorge.net)).



# Church Updates

## Membership Audit & Updated Directory

Thank you to everyone who has returned your membership audit forms with your updated contact information! We have received about 70% of responses so far. If you have not returned your form yet, please do so as soon as possible. Towards the end of September, we will begin calling those we have not heard from yet to confirm membership status and contact information.

Once all responses have been received, we will work on compiling our membership information into a new directory. This directory will be published through an **online membership directory program**, which will enable us to update the directory much more frequently and easily. Church members will be given a password to use to access the directory online - however, **printed copies of the directory will still be made available upon request!** Your contact information in the Online Directory will be password protected, meaning that only members of our congregation will have access to it. However, if you still have privacy concerns, you can contact the church office to let us know if you would prefer your contact information be kept off of the online directory.

## Church Grounds Clean Up September 30th - 9am

On Saturday, September 30th, we will be hosting a Church Grounds Clean Up to prepare our grounds and gardens for the upcoming cold and rainy season.

We are asking for **volunteers to arrive around 9am**, and to bring gloves, clippers, and weeding tools if you have them (we will also have extra tools available for use). We appreciate any extra help we can get with this project!



# Job Posting

We are looking to hire someone part-time to manage the FISH Community Room. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please share the following job description with them.

## **Position Description: Community Room Manager**

Spirit of Grace Lutheran-Methodist Church is seeking a part-time employee to manage the FISH Community Room. This room is located in the FISH Food Bank building, and rentals are currently run through the church. With an increase in rental and use of the room, we are seeking a designated individual to be responsible for the rental and management of this room.

The Community Room Manager position is approximately 3-4 hours a week. Most of the work can be done from home, via phone and email, but will require occasional time at the FISH Community Room or the Spirit of Grace Church Office. The details of a regular, weekly schedule can be worked out with the candidate upon hiring. This position is under the supervision of the current pastor of Spirit of Grace Church.

### Position Duties & Responsibilities

- Manage room reservations for community meeting room.
- Receive communications via a designated work email and cellphone (will be provided).
- Collect forms and fees, assist with reservation questions, and update reservation calendar and spreadsheets.
- Update rental forms as needed.
- Assess room for cleanliness and damages on a weekly basis. Document and report any issues with the room in a timely manner to the appointed contact person.
- Coordinate with supervisor and members of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) committee.
  - The O&M committee is a joint committee between Spirit of Grace and the FISH Food Bank, for the purpose of overseeing the general care and stewardship of the building.
- Meet monthly with the pastor and/or O&M committee representative to review the status of the room and recent reservations.

### Required skills

- Ability to communicate clearly in English and Spanish via phone, e-mail, and in-person.
- Ability to use Google Suite apps (Google Docs, Sheets, Forms, Calendar, and Email).
- Ability to interact with the public in a clear, positive, and respectful manner.
- Ability to operate independently and communicate questions and problems.
- Ability to get to and from the Community Room independently.

Compensation: \$20 per hour

### Application Materials

- Resume
- Cover Letter articulating your interest in and qualifications for this position

Please email application materials to Miranda Bermes-Goller at [spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com). The position will be open until filled.



# Oregon Synod Day of Learning

On years when the Oregon Synod of the ELCA does not gather in person for our annual assembly, the Synod Office hosts a Synod Day of Learning online as an opportunity for us to gather and engage in learning, worship, and conversation together. This year's sessions center around **"Nurturing Authentic Spiritual Friendship and Healthy, Vital Faith Communities through the Gift of Sacred Encounter."** This event will take place on **Saturday, September 23rd from 9:30am-3pm**, online via Zoom. You are all invited to come and gather at the Spirit of Grace Church building, where we will participate in this online event together! The schedule is as follows:

## AGENDA

- **9:15 am - Church Building Opens**
- **9:30-10:30 Opening Ritual and Introduction (Sanctuary)**
- **10:45-12:15 Morning Sessions (Sanctuary & Fellowship Room)**
  - **12:15-1:00 Lunch (Fellowship Room)**
- **1:00-2:30 Afternoon Sessions (Sanctuary & Fellowship Room)**
  - **2:30-3:00 Closing Prayer (Sanctuary)**

For each of the morning and afternoon sessions, there are four session options. You can read about all four offerings [on the event page](#). Our congregation has registered to participate in two of the four sessions - one will be projected in the Sanctuary while the other group gathers in the fellowship room.

### Morning Option 1:

**From the Community of Corinth to COVID: How can Spiritual Growth Emerge from Crisis?**

### Morning Option 2:

**We are RIC (Reconciling in Christ), Now What?**

### Afternoon Option 1:

**Basics of Supporting Vitality in Congregations**

### Afternoon Option 2:

**Exploring the "Three Pathways" or "Four Options" for Congregations with Decreasing Resources**

If you would like to participate, but for whatever reason can't make it to the church building, you are welcome to register on your own and participate from the comfort of your own home!

The registration fee is \$35 per screen (not per individual) - you can learn more and register at this link:

<https://oregonsynodelca.regfox.com/day-of-learning-2023>

# 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](https://blogs.elca.org/worship)

*For those facing the immense grief of natural disasters and their devastation: flooding in Libya, earthquake in Morocco, floods in Massachusetts, Typhoon Haikui in southern China, and those in the path of Hurricanes Lee and Margot...*

*For victims of gun violence, especially in Sacramento, CA; Chicago, IL; Colorado Springs, CO; Choctaw, OK; Minneapolis, MN; Kansas City, MO; and Pittsburgh, PA...*

*For all facing financial insecurity...*

*For renewed civility, grace, and commitment to the common good among political leaders and governments...*

*For peace in areas of war or conflict, especially in Ukraine, Myanmar, Syria, and Palestine...*

*For those struggling with anxiety, depression, or suicidal ideation...*

*For doctors, therapists, counselors, social workers, and all mental health professionals and advocates...*

*For Jewish neighbors who are entering a season of holy days...*



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](mailto: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



## **September 3rd - Matthew 16:26**

*How do you stay committed to Christ's calling even in times of fear, anxiety, or uncertainty? Why is it that you choose to follow in Christ's footsteps?*

## **September 10th - Romans 13:10**

*Paul tells us that Love is the fulfillment of the Law. How do you ground yourself in Love and allow all your actions to flow from that Love?*

## **September 17th - Genesis 50:15-17**

*When was the last time you asked for forgiveness from someone you hurt? How did it make you feel? How did it affect your relationship?*

## **September 24th - Jonah 4**

*Have you ever felt yourself get so caught up in righteous anger that you lost sight of God's mercy? How do you bring yourself back to humility?*

## **October 1st - Amos 5:24**

*Where do you see the need for God's justice in this world? How are you called to be a small drop of water in that stream?*

## **October 8th - Matthew 21:43**

*How have you seen people outside of your own faith community producing the fruit of the Kingdom of God? How can you learn from these fellow workers in the vineyard?*

## **October 15th - Psalm 23**

*How are you experiencing the love and care of God in your life today? What are the blessings that make your cup overflow?*

## **October 22nd - Isaiah 45:2**

*What are the mountains that stand before you in your journey of faith, which you need God's help to conquer?*

## **October 29th - Romans 3:28**

*There is nothing we can do to earn the love and grace of God. How does this truth free you to live your life in service to your neighbor?*

# September Church Calendar

Spirit of Grace Church Calendar

Sep 2023 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Holy Communion</b> 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - First Sunday	9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Men's Coffee Group	9am - Church Office Open: 9am - Quilting Group @	9am - Church Office Open:		9am - Women's Spirituality
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am - Worship @ Sanctuary	9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	9am - Church Office Open: 9am - Worship Team 10am - Men's Coffee Group	9am - Church Office Open:	9am - Church Office Open:		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Holy Communion</b> 8:30am - Book Study: "This 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - Living [in the] Word	9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Men's Coffee Group	9am - Quilting Group @ 7pm - Bell Choir	6:30pm - Book Study: "This		9am - Oregon Synod Day of
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Food on the 4th</b> 8:30am - Book Study: "This 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:15am - Welcoming	9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Men's Coffee Group 2pm - Women's Bible Study	9am - Church Office Open: 7pm - Bell Choir	9am - Church Office Open: 6:30pm - Book Study: "This		

## Important Dates

September 18th, 20th, 22nd: FISH Food Distribution

September 23rd: Oregon Synod Day of Learning

September 30th: Church Grounds Clean Up

# October Church Calendar

Spirit of Grace Church Calendar

Oct 2023 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion 8:30am - Book Study: "This 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - First Sunday	2 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	3 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Men's Coffee Group	4 9am - Church Office Open: 9am - Quilting Group @ 7pm - Bell Choir	5 9am - Church Office Open: 6:30pm - Book Study: "This	6	7 9am - Women's Spirituality
8 8:30am - Book Study: "This 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 2pm - Welcoming Church	9 10 11 12 13 14 Pastor Miranda Out of Office					
15 Pastor Miranda Out of Office Holy Communion 8:30am - Book Study: "This 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - Living [In the] Word	16 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	17 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Men's Coffee Group 6pm - Finance Committee	18 9am - Church Office Open: 9am - Quilting Group @ 7pm - Bell Choir	19 9am - Church Office Open: 6:30pm - Book Study: "This	20 Newsletter Submissions Due	21
22 Food on the 4th 8:30am - Book Study: "This 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:15am - Welcoming 2pm - Board of Directors	23 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	24 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Men's Coffee Group 2pm - Women's Bible Study	25 9am - Church Office Open: 7pm - Bell Choir	26 9am - Church Office Open: 6:30pm - Book Study: "This	27	28
29 5th Sunday Offering Reformation Sunday 8:30am - Book Study: "This 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11am - Congregational	30 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Women's Coffee Hour	31 9am - Church Office Open: 10am - Men's Coffee Group	1	2	3	4

## Important Dates

October 9th-15th: Pastor Miranda Out of Town

October 17th: Finance Committee Meeting

October 22nd: Board of Directors Meeting

October 29th: Reformation Sunday

October 29th: All-Church Conference/Congregational Meeting

# Contact & Connect

## Sunday Worship

10:00 am

In-Person & Online

[hoodriverchurch.com](http://hoodriverchurch.com)

## Church Office Hours

9am - 1pm

Monday - Thursday

## Staff

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**

[spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@hoodriverchurch.com)

## Leadership Team Members

### Board of Directors

*Meets quarterly*

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, 2023*)

Dottie Gilbertson (*end of term, 2023*)

Tom Hart, Treasurer (*Treasurer & Payroll*)

Jennifer Fowler (*Financial Secretary*)

### Staff Parish Relations Committee

*Meets quarterly*

Sharon Pantley, Chair (*end of term, 2024*)

Pat Moore (*end of term, 2024*)

Margaret Godard (*end of term, 2025*)

Lee Huckins (*end of term, 2025*)

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