



PARACLETE

APRIL 2026

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: office@holyspiritmissoula.org • Website: www.holyspiritmissoula.org

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH All Are Welcome

Celebrate Holy Week & Easter With Us

Palm Sunday
March 29 • 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
COMPLINE at 8:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 2 • 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 3 • 12:00 Noon

Easter Vigil
April 4 • 7:30 p.m.

Easter Morning
April 5 • 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
130 South Sixth Street East • Missoula • (406) 542-2167
holyspiritmissoula.org

Holy Week and Easter at Holy Spirit

Maundy Thursday
April 2 • 7 p.m.
In-person & livestream
Vigil follows until 7 a.m. Friday

Good Friday
April 3 • Noon
In-person & livestream

Easter Vigil
April 4 • 7:30 p.m.
In-person only • Begins in courtyard

Easter Sunday
April 5
9 a.m. in-person
11 a.m. in-person & livestream
Identical services with Choir

Holy Spirit calls The Rev. Nate Darville as our next Rector

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church is delighted to announce that the Rev. Nathaniel (“Nate”) Darville has accepted our call to become our next rector. His acceptance marks a joyful and hope-filled moment in the life of our parish, and we look forward to welcoming him and his family into our community.

Father Nate brings strong gifts to this role, shaped by leadership at two previous parishes and grounded in a deep and evident spiritual life. Parishioners who spent time with him during his recent visit spoke warmly of his sincerity, his thoughtful presence, and a sense of humor that

reveals itself as you get to know him. His spirituality, scholarship, and pastoral steadiness will be tremendous resources for Holy Spirit as we move into this next chapter together.

The Vestry moved quickly to extend the call, following the strong guidance of Bishop Marty. In today’s landscape, many clergy candidates receive multiple offers, and waiting to compare a field of candidates can mean losing gifted priests. With overwhelmingly positive feedback from parishioners and a clear sense of alignment, the Vestry acted decisively—and Father Nate shared

Continued on page 2



OUR STAFF

Clergy:

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NEWSLETTER

Paraclete, from the Greek meaning 'Holy Spirit,' is published monthly, September through May, by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. All material is due by the fifteenth of the month preceding the month of publication.

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From the Social Concerns Committee
Partnering to support migrants in Minnesota

In an effort similar to Holy Spirit’s relationship with the Rio Grande Borderland Ministry, your Social Concerns Committee has established a “partnership” with Casa Maria, in suburban Minneapolis, to assist immigrants affected by the chaos we have all read about in that part of the country.

Casa Maria is affiliated with St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Richfield, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul. Casa Maria was born from a desire to follow the Holy Spirit to do God’s work in their neighborhood, in the Spring of 2020 as COVID ramped up. Their vision is to live into God’s Beloved Community where all of their neighbors have the resources and social support to live a life of dignity and respect. Their mission is to improve the lives of the people in our

community affected by hunger, isolation, and limited social services.

With the events of this year, Casa Maria’s focus has shifted somewhat... to ensuring that their neighbors, especially immigrants, can continue their lives in as peaceful a manner as possible. This has included accompanying neighbors on shopping trips or other visits they need to do (medical, for example). It has also included bringing food to many of those neighbors who are so concerned that they don’t want to leave their homes.

And our “partnership” support has included a relatively small financial contribution and will include remembering Casa Maria and their community in our prayers. Please do remember to include them in your prayers, as well.

– JIM WILEY
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Rev. Nate Darville
continued from page 1

that it felt easy to say yes. “Somehow, things have lined up very well for Holy Spirit,” Molly Bowler reflected. “Thanks be to God.”

Father Nate currently serves as rector of St. Peter’s Church in Essex Fells, New Jersey, and previously served as rector of Grace Church in Pike Road, Alabama. He holds an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Master of Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary, along with additional certificates in Anglican Studies, leadership, and church management.

Nate and his wife, Rheagan—an environmental attorney and nonprofit administrator—are eager to make Missoula their home. Their sons, Wren (12) and Jule (8), are excited about the move as well. The family is drawn to Missoula’s beauty, its strong schools, and the sense that this is a place where they can put down roots.

Father Nate’s ministry with us will begin August 3. Before that, the Darville family will visit Missoula April 8–13 to explore the community and spend time with us. We are deeply grateful to the Search Committee, the Vestry, our co-rectors, and Bishop Marty for their faithful work in bringing us to this moment.

– MOLLY BOWLER
SENIOR WARDEN



Envelope Stuffing for the Missoula Food Bank
Tuesday, April 14
4–6 p.m. • Parish Hall

We're delighted to host another Food Bank Envelope Stuffing event — a simple, hands-on way to support the Missoula Food Bank's vital mission. By folding, stuffing, and sealing fundraising envelopes, we help stretch their resources and ensure more of our neighbors are fed with dignity.

This joyful volunteer opportunity is easy, social, and deeply impactful. Your time truly helps turn paper into possibility.

Drop in anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. Bring a friend, share a laugh, and be part of something meaningful.

To sign up, text or call **Rosemary Lyda** at 406-570-7074 or add your name to the sheet in the Parish Hall.



From the Missoula Food Bank March Newsletter
Showing up for one another, one action at a time – Our year with Holy Spirit

There is a particular kind of energy that arrives when a group of people decides, together, to show up. For the last 5 months, this energy has been arriving at MFB&CC time and time again, often in waves, carried by the community of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.

Rather than choosing just one way to help, Holy Spirit chooses many. Each month for a year, the congregation is stepping up with creativity and community-centric support for the families we serve.

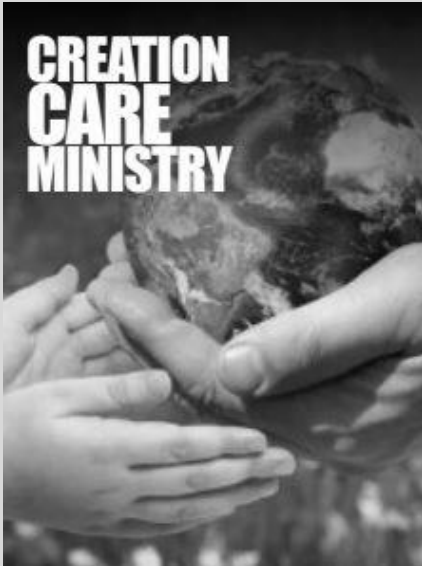
Sometimes that support looks quiet and steady: hands folding, sorting, and preparing 4,000 appeal letters each quarter so our dollars can stretch, and our story can travel farther. Sometimes it looks festive, like a holiday turkey drive that gathered nearly 100 birds for our annual turkey distribution. And sometimes it looks joyful and a little chaotic, like

January's volunteer day, when many congregation members gathered at MFB&CC to help build 6,000 Kids EmPower Packs so 1,500 Missoula-area children had reliable access to food each weekend. Families of the congregation gathered shoulder to shoulder, kids pitching in, and even a baby strapped in for the ride.

What makes this partnership special isn't just the scale of what Holy Spirit is accomplishing. It's the spirit behind it. A willingness to gather, month after month with willing hands and hearts. In nourishing this community, they remind us that food justice is not built only through programs, but through people choosing to care for one another, again and again.

We are so grateful to walk alongside them.

– MOLLY GIANARELLI
 DONOR ENGAGEMENT
 COORDINATOR



Creation Care: Upcoming Events

April 15 • 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Panel Discussion on Food Waste & Prevention

May • Date and time to be announced
Tour of the Rocky Mountain Gardens (Fairgrounds)

May 6 • 6:30 p.m.
Working for Creation — Terri Grotzinger

May 23 • 8:00 a.m. departure
Visit to Ninepipe U.S. Fish & Wildlife Area
(Optional: CSKT Bison Range or Ninepipes Museum)

June 20 • 9:00 a.m. departure
Visit to Lolo Pass & Packer Meadows — Camas Bloom

July • Date and time to be announced
Tour of Grass Valley regenerative agriculture operations

Fall & Winter
More installments of *Working for Creation*

We invite you to join us!

April 15 • 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Waste and how to avoid it

As part of Holy Spirit’s year-long focus on food, the Creation Care Ministry is hosting a panel discussion on food waste—why it happens, what it costs us, and how our community is responding. This event builds on our earlier programs exploring regenerative agriculture, container gardening, food and spirituality, conscious eating, and our ongoing partnership with the Missoula Food Bank.

If the food wasted in the U.S. were redirected, no one would go hungry. Our panel will look at the scope of the problem, its causes, and the creative

ways local organizations are working to reduce waste.

Evening Schedule

6:30 – Welcome, introductions, and overview

6:50 – *Leigh Ratterman*: Missoula’s food-waste and Zero Waste initiatives

7:10 – *Caitlyn Taix*: Missoula Food Bank’s food-rescue and Food Circle programs

7:30 – *Grocery partner* from the Food Circle program

7:50 – Questions and discussion

– WARREN GARTNER
CREATION CARE MINISTRY

It's more than a shame to waste food.

Did you know?

Rotting food waste creates methane gas, which is more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide.

For tips on how to reduce food waste, join us on April 15, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall for our Food Waste Panel.



How you can help reduce food waste

Reducing food waste is an easy way to care for both our households and the planet. Small, simple habits can save money, extend freshness, and keep good food out of the landfill.

1. Plan your meals.

Think ahead for the week and buy only what you'll use. Use "recipe trios" to stretch ingredients — roast chicken one night, tacos the next, chicken salad for lunch. Planning for take-out nights helps prevent forgotten produce and keeps your grocery list realistic.

2. Store food properly — and use your freezer.

Proper storage extends freshness: herbs in water, apples in the fridge, oranges on the counter, bread wrapped well. When in doubt, look it up. Your freezer is a "pause" button for almost anything, cooked or uncooked, and it can save both time and money on busy evenings.

3. Understand date labels.

"Best by" and "Best if used by" refer to quality, not safety. "Use by" is the true safety marker. If something looks, smells, and tastes fine, it's usually still good. Learning these distinctions can dramatically reduce what gets tossed unnecessarily.

4. Keep your fridge and pantry organized.

Create a consistent system so everyone knows where things go. Designate an "eat first" shelf for leftovers and track what's running low so you don't overbuy. A quick weekly tidy-up helps you see what needs to be used soon.

5. Plan an "eat-down" day.

Use up leftovers in tacos, soups, salads, or a family smorgasbord. Some people like "Wasteless

Wednesdays" or "Stir-Fridays." Leftovers also make easy lunches — just pack them up and reheat at work.

6. Compost what you can.

Fruit and vegetable scraps (and coffee grounds) are easy to compost at home. It's a simple way to keep food out of the landfill and enrich your garden soil.

7. Use scraps for broth.

Save vegetable ends or bones and make your own broth. Freeze in one-cup portions for soups and stews. It's economical, reduces waste, and tastes better than store-bought.

8. Shop bulk bins.

Buy only the amount you need — especially herbs, spices, grains, and flours. It keeps ingredients fresh and reduces waste from oversized containers.

9. Try upcycled products.

Look for items made from food byproducts, such as crackers from veggie peels or pasta from leftover grain. The Upcycled Food Association certifies these products, and the selection keeps growing.

10. Use markdown-alert apps.

Apps like Too Good To Go and Flashfood help rescue food at risk of being discarded. It's a win-win: less waste and lower prices.

11. Buy "ugly" produce.

Imperfect fruits and vegetables taste just as good and help reduce waste. Many stores — and companies like Misfits Market — offer great options.

12. Learn simple preservation methods.

Canning and dehydrating let you enjoy summer produce all year long.

— SARA STREETER
CREATION CARE MINISTRY



Phenology: Noticing the Seasons of Creation

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." — Ecclesiastes 3:1

Phenology is the study of nature's seasonal rhythms—when plants leaf and bloom, when insects emerge, and when birds arrive or depart. People have watched these patterns for thousands of years. As the Salish-Pend d'Oreille people describe, traditional life depended on knowing "the land's short and long cycles of scarcity and abundance."

These rhythms still matter. Paying attention to seasonal changes helps us understand how our ecosystem is shifting, including the effects of climate change. It also reconnects us with the beauty and steadiness of creation. Rachel Carson wrote of "the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

To help us notice these patterns, the Creation Care Ministry is introducing a **Phenology Board** in the Parish Hall. Each month, you're invited to record what you observe—first flowers, returning birds, ripening tomatoes, or any small sign of the season.

Together, we can grow in gratitude and connection with creation and the Creator.

Women’s Group: Living Our Faith Together

Looking for a space to reflect, connect, and grow in faith with other women? Come join the *Practicalities of Faith* group, a welcoming circle led by Julie Benson, where heartfelt conversation and spiritual companionship flourish. Whether you’re navigating life’s joys or challenges, this group offers a gentle place to share, listen, and explore how faith shapes our everyday experiences.

All women are welcome— bring a friend, bring your questions, and come just as you are. No preparation needed, just a spirit open to connection.

Upcoming gatherings:

April 7, 15

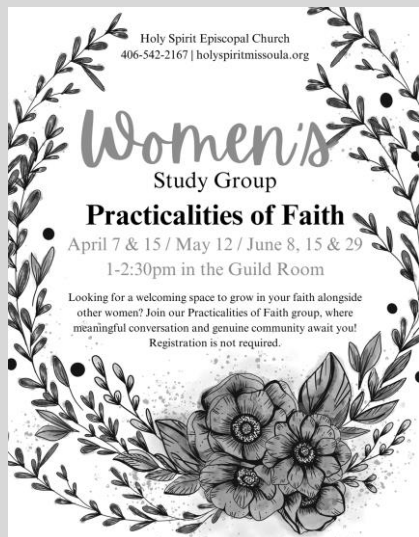
May 12

June 8, 15 & 29

1–2:30 p.m. in the Guild Room

Drop in for any of these sessions—no registration required. Whether you’re new to Holy Spirit or a longtime parishioner, we’d love to have you.

Come be part of a supportive community where faith meets real life, and where women encourage one another to live with purpose, grace, and joy.



Saturday, April 25 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

An Outing with the Wholly Fun Committee

Looking for a fun, free, family-friendly way to welcome spring? Join the Wholly Fun Committee for a joyful community celebration at:

PHLOX FEST — Rocky Mountain Gardens Annual Spring Opening
Saturday, April 25 • 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Gardens, 1075 South Avenue West, Missoula

Phlox Fest is one of Missoula’s most vibrant spring traditions. Enjoy **live music, food trucks, plant vendors, and hands-on displays** from many of Missoula’s gardens and green-growing organizations.

Why Phlox Fest?

The Rocky Mountain Gardens logo features the **Missoula Phlox (Phlox missoulensis)** — a tiny native flower found only in Missoula County and considered a species of concern. Chosen for its deep local roots, it highlights the importance of native plant conservation.

Missoula Phlox typically blooms from mid-April through June, and

several specimens will be flowering in the Montana Crevice Garden during spring? Join the Wholly Fun Committee for a joyful community celebration at: several specimens will be flowering in the Montana Crevice Garden during spring? Join the Wholly Fun Committee for a joyful community celebration at: several specimens will be flowering in the Montana Crevice Garden during spring? Join the Wholly Fun Committee for a joyful community celebration at:

This Year’s Theme

This year’s theme, “**Gardens of the Garden City,**” celebrates Missoula’s horticultural past, present, and future. Staff and partners will be on hand to share tips, answer questions, and help you discover ways to make your own garden thrive — whether you’re a seasoned grower or just getting your hands in the dirt.

Learn more about Phlox Fest: <https://missoulaeduplace.org/get-involved/our-calendar.html/event/2026/04/25/phlox-fest/553079>

And about Rocky Mountain Gardens: <https://missoulaeduplace.org/what-we-do/horticulture-agriculture/rocky-mountain-gardens/>

Watch the *Spirited Times* and Sunday bulletin for more details!
 – ELIZABETH DRUMMOND
 WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SPRING MARKET

**MAY
8 & 9**

Come by any time from 9am to 2pm on Friday or Saturday at
130 South 6th Street East, Missoula

Upscale clothing, jewelry, vintage and collectibles, books,
home decor and kitchenware, sporting goods and much more!

Get ready for Spring Market '26 – Let the sorting begin!

Spring Market '26 is coming up quickly, and the planning team can already feel the excitement building. As we prepare for another lively, community-wide event, we invite you to start gathering the high-quality items that make this sale such a success each year.

A little sorting now makes a big difference later. Try starting with a single drawer or a long-ignored shelf, then take a peek in those basement or garage boxes — the ones holding things that no longer spark joy at home. Bit by bit, you'll uncover wonderful items ready for a new life at Spring Market.

Donation drop-off dates:
Sunday, May 3 through Tuesday, May 5

(We appreciate your help in waiting until these dates — storage space is limited.)

Feel free to spread the word. Friends, neighbors, and family members often have great items they're happy to pass along, and it's a lovely way to extend the spirit of generosity that shapes this event.

Spring Market '26 sale dates:
**Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9
(9 am - 2 pm)**

What We're Looking For

(Spring Market is not a rummage sale — please donate clean, unbroken, and usable items.)

- Vintage and boutique clothing (women's and men's)
- Accessories and jewelry
- Home décor
- Cookware, dishes, flatware & other kitchen utensils
- Linens, fabric, yarn
- Books (no manuals, encyclopedias, or tapes), puzzles, games
- Sports and camping equipment
- Luggage
- Pet accessories
- Gardening and outdoor items, healthy plants, tools
- Small furniture

More details will be shared as we get closer. **Volunteer sign-up times: Sunday April 19 & 26; May 3.** Questions? Contact **Beverley Sherman** at (406) 544-0880 or beverleymt@bresnan.net.

— BEVERLEY SHERMAN
SPRING MARKET CHAIR

Alms Sunday April 26th, 2026 - National TPS Alliance

We are currently experiencing the largest de-documentation of legal immigrants in U.S. history. By September of this year, it is likely that over 1.5 million immigrants who have lived in this country for decades will lose their legal status to work and live here through the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) program. Most TPS holders have lived here for over 20 years so there is very little that is temporary about the lives they have built here.

For our April Alms Sunday, we will hear directly from TPS holders about their lives and their fight to protect themselves and their families. And we will be invited to support the work of the National TPS Alliance in empowering the voices of TPS holders and their families across our country.

A special offering will be taken during worship on April 26, or you can give via Pushpay or online at holyspiritmissoula.org. Thank you for participating!

— JESSE JAEGER
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



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