



# PARACLETE

MAY 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

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## Be Part of a Farewell Gift for Terri and Gretchen

Episcopal parishes have a longstanding tradition – the gift of a “purse” for leaders who are leaving our midst after long and successful service. We’re joining in that tradition by creating a special thank you fund for Rev. Terri and Rev. Gretchen.

It’s one way, if you are able, to help them know how much we have valued their part in our Holy Spirit community. It’s also voluntary and anonymous. To contribute, put a check in the Sunday offertory plate (with “Purse” on the memo line), mail a check to the office, or use Pushpay. Thank you for considering this request.

## Honoring our Co-Rectors on May 31 Join in for a special celebration

Please join us on Sunday, May 31, after the 10:15 service to celebrate and honor Gretchen and Terri. We will meet in the Parish Hall to acknowledge the incredible impact they have had on us, our families, our local community and communities around the world.

Be prepared to share stories, laughter, food and fun as we offer a giant, heartfelt thanks to two very special people who will always have a special place in our hearts.

Terri arrived in Missoula with her Corgi puppy Journey in fall 2011. She brought a ready, engaging spirituality and, because of her work as a wildlife biologist, a core connection with the

Montana landscape. Blessed with a lovely voice, Terri has been known to sing during a sermon, and her rich timbre has brought an aural beauty to everything from simple summer Sundays to festive Easter celebrations. Terri’s “no notes” sermon-giving style continues to be a remarkable thing. And just sometimes, she talks about bears! Her strongly rooted commitment to Holy Spirit has most recently meant unpaid service after her official retirement as Co-Rector with Gretchen. We are very grateful.

Gretchen has created a deep well of experiences among us at Holy

*Continued on page 2*



OUR STAFF

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The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,  
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NEWSLETTER

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HOLY  
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## Working for Creation: Rev. Terri shares her story

Thank you to everyone who joined us in March for the first installment of our new *Working for Creation* series, featuring Nate Jourdonnais and his fascinating presentation on Weddell seals in Antarctica's Erebus Bay. It was a wonderful beginning to this parish-led exploration of Creation-related work and passions.

Our next presentation will take place on **Wednesday, May 6, at 6:30**

**p.m. in the church.** Rev. Terri Grotzinger will share stories from her years with the U.S. Forest Service and the ways her work has connected to caring for Creation. We hope you will join us for this second installment as we continue learning from the experiences and callings of Holy Spirit parishioners.

– CREATION CARE MINISTRY

## Celebration

Continued from page 1

Spirit, beginning with her role in children's education. Through this work, she touched and shaped many of our young people with her approachable and caring ways. We also have been part of Gretchen's transformation – to deacon and then to priest. Few can doubt her skills as a quick and committed, irrepressible

spiritual leader for all of us, demonstrated in these last two-and-a-half years serving as Co-Rector with Terri.

Of course, there is more to say, and we'll say it when we gather on May 31. Godspeed and many blessings upon your next steps, Terri and Gretchen.

– PATTI BECKLEY AND MOLLY BOWLER



## Spring Market 2026 is almost here

Sale Days May 8 and 9 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day

Spring Market '26 is just days away, and we need your help to make it our most successful Market yet. Donations are essential — but just as important is your time. Whether you can give an hour or an afternoon, your presence truly makes a difference.

Beginning Sunday, April 19, you can sign up in the Parish Hall for the many roles that make the Market run smoothly. We need volunteers to help prepare and staff the Market, provide lunches for our workers, assist with sales, and support the behind-the-scenes work that keeps everything moving. Whatever time you can offer will be invaluable — and we promise you'll enjoy yourself along the way.

Spring Market sale days are **Friday and Saturday, May 8–9, 9**

**a.m. to 2 p.m.**, with donation drop-off running **Sunday, May 3 through Tuesday, May 5.**

Please remember: **Spring Market is not a rummage sale.** We ask for your best clean, unbroken, and usable items, including Vintage and Boutique Clothing, Accessories, Jewelry, Home Décor, Cookware, Dishes, Flatware, Linens, Fabric, Yarn, Books, Sports and Camping Equipment, Tools, Luggage, Pet Accessories, and Small Furniture.

Please stop by the Market sign-up table on Sundays — including May 3 — or contact **Beverly Sherman** at (406) 544-0880 or [beverlymt@bresnan.net](mailto:beverlymt@bresnan.net) with any questions.

— BETSY HOLMQUIST  
SPRING MARKET COMMITTEE

### The Easter Anthem and all its birdsong

Our dear friend Carol McQuade was a great lover of dogs, birds, and church music, and when I found Christina Rossetti's magnificent Easter text, it seemed like the perfect lyric to set as my first Easter anthem. I struggled to create an organ part, until I thought again about Carol's love for birds, and I spent hours at the church organ with my Audubon bird app, attempting to write down the calls of western Montana birds. Just in case they sounded familiar to you, here's what they were, in order of appearance! Mourning dove, chickadee, song sparrow, robin, and western meadowlark. (Anything else was my approximation of generic birdsong, capturing the spirit if not the actual song.) I hope to get the anthem up on YouTube so that you may listen again, if you so desire; feel free to email me if that address doesn't appear soon.

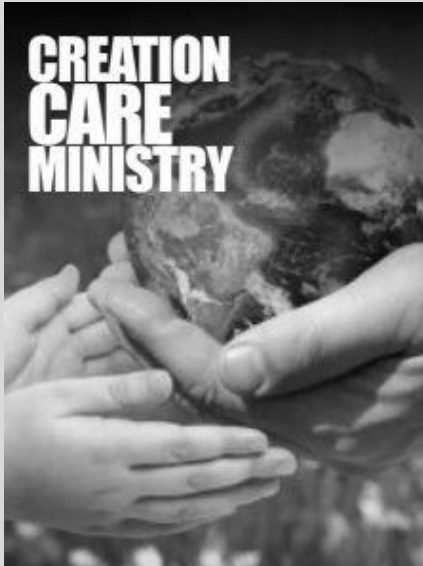
— NANCY COOPER  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



## Enjoy a free organ and instrument recital on May 3

The Missoula Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is hosting a free recital of music for organ and instruments at **3 p.m. on Sunday, May 3**, here at Holy Spirit. Community and student musicians will offer pieces for trombone and organ, flute and organ, saxophone and

organ, strings and organ, along with a few surprises. Our John Ellis Intern, **Matthew Aguon**, will be performing, as will **Nancy Cooper** and several other community organists. The recital will last about an hour, and all are warmly invited to attend. We hope to see you there.



**Join us for these Creation Care upcoming events**

**May 6 • 6:30 p.m.**

*Working for Creation* — Terri Grotzinger  
Terri shares stories from her years with the U.S. Forest Service.

**May 23 • 8:00 a.m. departure**

Visit to Ninepipe U.S. Fish & Wildlife Area  
Enjoy Spring migrants and waterfowl. Optional afternoon side trips may include the CSKT Bison Range or the Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana.

**June 20 • 9:00 a.m. departure**

Visit to Lolo Pass & Packer Meadows — Experience the Camas Bloom (timing dependent on bloom dates)

**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!

# The Gift of Discernment

*Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you. — Parker Palmer*

I have felt the call to ministry several times in my life. It has lived with me like a whisper in the back of my head — a drawing toward justice and service, a desire to deepen relationships with those around me, an opening up to a fuller understanding of God’s presence in my life.

Even though I felt the calling, I did not see myself in the ministries that have been around me until I came to Holy Spirit Church and got to know our Deacons. I have felt a real connection to the way Myrna, Doug, Judy, Anita, and Dorcie have both served our community inside our church building and drawn us out to live our faith more fully outside our church doors.

The other thing that had been missing from my previous feelings about a call to ministry was an intentional process to work through and better understand what that call is. Our church community and the Episcopal Church had an answer for that: the Discernment Committee.

Once I was finally able to talk about my calling to others, I was invited into one of the most transformational processes I have ever had the chance to participate in. Trying to tell our life what we intend is largely a solitary process. Listening for what life intends for us needs community.

The Discernment Committee that you, the Holy Spirit Church community, gathered up for me has been a true gift. For six months, I sat in Sue Talbot’s living room with Glenn Hladek, Diane Rasmuson, Lucia Solorzano Work, Bob Beckley, and Sue, as they helped me listen to what God was calling me toward. Every time I left one of those discussions, I felt a profound sense of rightness in the direction I was going and the calling I was experiencing.

Now, with the blessing of the Discernment Committee, the Holy Spirit Vestry, and Bishop Marty, I am taking the next step in my discernment and formation process. I have moved from an Aspirant to a Nominee to become a Deacon. I have started seminary classes at Bexley Seabury and also started with the Montana School of Deacons at the end of April. If all goes well, I will become a Postulant in September, followed by about three years of formation as I continue to discern my calling.

As I move to this next step in the Deacon formation process, I feel a deep sense of gratitude to our Holy Spirit Church family and a profound sense of support for the journey I am on. Thank you for this gift.

— JESSE JAEGER



Community Concerns Evening  
 May 20 • 6:30 pm – 8 pm • Parish Hall

## Getting to know our neighbors to the North

Over the past 30 years, Holy Spirit’s **Jim Taylor** has worked in several capacities for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, including as the Managing Attorney of the Tribal Defenders Office (1996-2006), Managing Attorney of the Tribal Prosecutors Office (2019-2022), and Associate Attorney Justice on their Court of Appeals (2022-2025). In December 2025, Jim was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals for the CSKT and currently serves in that capacity.

His talk, “**Getting to Know our Neighbors to the North: The**

**Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,”** will present a brief history of the Flathead Reservation, admittedly from the perspective of a non-member, but a non-member with significant contacts with the Tribes over the past three decades.

Be sure to join us May 20 to learn more about the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes with Vestry member Jim Taylor, the recently named Chief Justice of the CSKT Court of Appeals.

📅 **Wednesday, 6:30–8 p.m.**  
 📍 **Parish Hall**  
 All are welcome.



### A Really Special Alms Sunday on May 17

Beth Israel is a Jewish Congregation in Jackson, MS. In January of this year, their synagogue was severely damaged in a targeted arson attack... for the second time.

After Beth Israel was damaged in January, Jackson’s faith community stepped in to help, including St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, located directly across the street. This Episcopal church has maintained a long-term, supportive relationship with the synagogue, and following the attack, St. Philip’s opened its doors as a supporting community partner.

This is inspiring. And it reaffirms the value we all place on the freedom to worship that has defined life in our country – no matter whether you are Episcopalian, or Jewish, or Muslim, Baptist, Catholic or LDS, or whatever faith tradition you prefer.

To quote our Co-Rector Gretchen, we cannot allow hatred to have the last word, and so we stand with our brothers and sisters of faith. We help them get back on their feet. We show them they are loved and supported by other people of faith, including this Episcopal church in Missoula, MT.

We hope you will join us on May 17 to send our support to fellow Americans who also prize the ability to worship in freedom.

– JIM WILEY  
 SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

This month's presentation and discussion:

**Getting to know our neighbors to the North**

**May 20**

6:30PM  
 Parish Hall

# community concerns

Join us as Vestry member Jim Taylor, recently named Chief Justice of the CSKT Court of Appeals, shares stories and insights from three decades of work with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

**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.

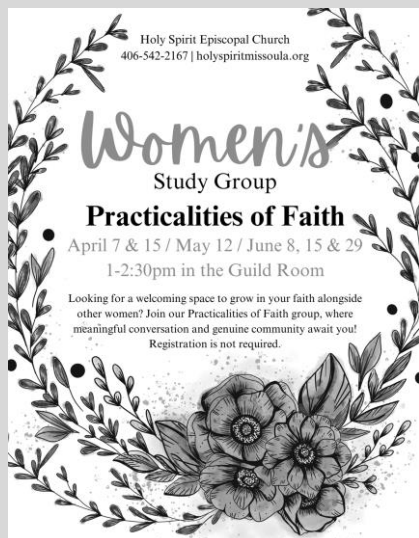
**All women are welcome—** bring a friend, bring your questions, and come just as you are. No preparation needed, just a spirit open to connection.

**Upcoming gatherings:**  
**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.



*Pastor Arne Bergland and wife Susie*

**Summer at Holy Spirit  
 Pastor Arne Bergland joins us for  
 June and July**

We’re looking forward to welcoming Pastor Arne Bergland to Holy Spirit for summer worship in June and July, when we’ll have a single service at 10:15.

Pastor Bergland will be our celebrant and interim clergy from June 3 – August 2, before Rev. Nate Darville joins us on August 3. Arne’s first Sunday will be June 7, the day of our parish’s Summer Picnic. Please plan to come to the 10:15 service and then to this first big parish event of the summer to welcome the Berglands.

Arne has been married for 46 years to Susan Korda Bergland, and they have two daughters, Greta and Grid. Arne has a B.A. in Theater Arts from Augsburg University, and a Master of Divinity from Luther Theological Seminary. Arne was ordained as an ELCA Pastor in 1985. His first posting was at Zion and Deer Creek Lutheran in Glendive. From there he came to Missoula, and for eight years

was an Associate Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran in the 1990s.

Arne’s life as a pastor has also taken him to postings at Trinity Lutheran in Mason City, Iowa, Spanaway Lutheran in Spanaway, Washington, and California Lutheran University. Arne’s last full-time posting was as Lead Pastor for Our Redeemers Lutheran in Helena. When he “retired” in 2021, Arne and his wife Susie moved to the Minneapolis area where their two daughters live.

Since moving to Minneapolis, Arne has been an interim pastor at three different congregations, Augustana Lutheran, St. Mark’s Lutheran, and Gethsemane Lutheran. Arne and Susie still have many ties to Missoula and many friends here. He is a devout Griz fan, and he and Susie could not be more excited about spending two months with us this summer.

– MOLLY BOWLER  
 SENIOR WARDEN

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH INVITES YOU TO A

# PICNIC IN THE PARK

**Don't Forget:**

- Sunday, June 7, after church
- Picnic at 12:30 pm at Meadowlark Shelter at the Fort
- Lawn games to play
- Your favorite picnic food to share
- Sunscreen and Hats for Sun Protection

Meadowlark Shelter at the Fort  
3031 South Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59803

JUNE 7, 2026  
MEADOWLARK SHELTER

## Holy Spirit Summer Picnic – June 7 at 12:30 p.m. Meet us at the Meadowlark Shelter at Fort Missoula

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 7, when we'll gather at 12:30 p.m. at the Meadowlark Shelter at Fort Missoula for our annual summer church picnic. Come enjoy delicious fried chicken (or lemon pepper or barbecue roasted chicken), great camaraderie, delightful accordion music, and all the potluck favorites our parish is known for.

Please bring a dish to share:

- **A–M:** salad or side dish

- **N–Z:** dessert

We'll provide plates, utensils, cold water, ice, canned beverages (no plastic bottles), and Holy Spirit's famous punch. Feel free to bring a lawn chair, serving utensils for your potluck item, lawn games, and your best summer stories to share.

We look forward to seeing everyone on June 7!

– KATE LANEY

WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE

## May Missoula Food Bank Focus: Picnic Favorites

For May, we're collecting **picnic-themed** non-perishables for the Missoula Food Bank. Please consider donating the following items:

- Peanut butter and jelly
- Pretzels and chips
- Condiments, pickles
- Trail mix, granola or protein bars
- Crackers
- Marshmallows
- Canned meats and meals
- Nuts and seeds
- Nut butters
- Jerky and meat sticks
- Shelf-stable milk or cheese snacks
- Olives
- Pantry add-ons (vinegar, dressings, broth)
- Juice boxes
- Bottle or sparkling water
- Unsweetened tea or drink mixes

### Gluten-free items are always appreciated.

Every item helps brighten someone's weekend. Thank you for giving so generously.

May 20 • 4:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

## Join us for an EmPower Pack Build at the Missoula Food Bank!

We have an EmPower Pack Build opportunity on **Wednesday, May 20**, and we're looking for **30 parishioners** to volunteer. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Parish Hall.

Please arrive at the Missoula Food Bank (**1720 Wyoming St**) at **4:15 p.m.** using either the front door or the

parking-lot side door. We expect to wrap up around **6:30 p.m.**

Kids EmPower Pack is a Missoula Food Bank & Community Center weekend nutrition program that helps students stay healthy and nourished when school is not in session.

– KATHERINE BERMAN

FOOD BANK MINISTRY



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# 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!