

PARACLETE

SEPTEMBER 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



Father Nate's office hours and contact information

As Father Nate begins his ministry with us, he welcomes the chance to connect with parishioners. His regular office hours are **Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

How to Reach Him

Office: (406) 542-2167

Work Cell: (406) 284-5530

Email:

DarvilleN@holyspiritmissoula.org

Scheduling Time with Father Nate

If you would like to set up an appointment, please call the church office, and we'll help you find a time that works well for both you and Father Nate. He notes that scheduled appointments are much better than drop-ins.

From the Rector

Raise the Song of Harvest Home

It's that time of year, again. Over the next several weeks, we will return to our usual routines filled with school, jobs, and all those extracurricular activities we set aside for the summer. Summers are busy with leisure, but fall is busy with work. Extra busy, in fact, because we have to catch up on the many things we took a break from during July and August. So, autumn is a bit of a transition period where we recalibrate and hopefully get at least a soft reset.

This is also the time for a plethora of wonderful treats and holidays. We can find virtually any kind of food flavored with pumpkin spice. Of course, there's the usuals, like Starbucks's Pumpkin Spice Latte, but new products keep popping up every year. Here's some so far for 2026: pumpkin spice dog treats, pumpkin spice cheese, and pumpkin spice protein bars. And of course, stores, both online and mortar, have already

Continued on page 2



OUR STAFF

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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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Raise the Song

Continued from page 1

begun to bring out Halloween displays. So, as we begin fall, we celebrate cooler weather and multi-colored foliage, while at the same time dying plant life and macabre costumes.

In an article on onbeing.org, Parker Palmer calls autumn “a season of paradox.” For Palmer, fall is when we embrace the passage of time and all the things we have lost individually and collectively. In our personal lives, our youth, the work we have done, and the relationships we have built slowly fade away. In our shared experience in this world, we see the summer green turn brown and tree leaves fall to the ground and die. But Palmer says there’s also hope in this decay. The death we see in nature provides the “compost” necessary to feed “the seeds” that have also fallen to bring new life. And likewise, we can always find possibilities in the autumns of our lives, where our composts can feed our seeds. This insight has much to teach us.

We can also view this through the lens of Jesus. As we move through

fall, we are also continuing our journey through the Season After Pentecost. Pentecost is harvest-time, where we see the fruit of our labors over the past 12 months as a parish family. And you all have worked so hard and have produced so much that has fed so many – through Wholly Fun, the Missoula Food Bank, and the Red Cross Blood Bank, just to name a few. All of this effort has brought new life to Holy Spirit and our greater community. I am excited and honored to be joining you in this and in many harvests to come.

But our ultimate harvest comes from God. Remember, Pentecost is all about the Spirit. Through the fall season of the calendar year, the many falls in our lives, and every time in between, the Holy Spirit is always there to feed us. No matter how difficult our lives may get, God will never stop loving us and will always give us new life no matter how much death and decay might come our way. And this is the reason why autumn is such a wonderful time of year and why we give God our thanks and praise.

– Yours in Christ,
NATE

HOLY
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CHURCH

All Are Welcome Kickoff Sunday

Sept. 13 / 8 & 10:15 am

8 am Worship: Peaceful, Contemplative

10:15 am Worship: Traditional Service ☪ Full Choir
Family Friendly ☪ Ministry Fair Follows in Courtyard

There's a place for everyone here—join us!

Join the Wholly Fun Committee

Celebrate with us on Kickoff Sunday, September 13

Wholly Fun is helping organize this year's Kick-Off Sunday on September 13, so expect, well, *fun*. We're moving things outside for a full-on ministry fair in the courtyard. You can look forward to a number of treats, as well as the chance to celebrate and share all that we do at Holy Spirit Parish. It all happens after the 10:15 service.

We're planning for blue September skies, but we'll redirect our festivities if needed. Come and see old friends, welcome new ones, plan things to do, and meet our just-arrived rector, Father Nate Darville.

— MOLLY BOWLER AND ELIZABETH DRUMMOND
WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE

The 8 a.m. Service returns on Kickoff Sunday, September 13

After a refreshing summer pause, our 8 a.m. service returns on **Kickoff Sunday, September 13**, and we're looking forward to gathering again in the quiet beauty of early-morning worship. This service offers a peaceful, contemplative start to the day, with Scripture, prayer, and the steady presence of volunteers who help shape the experience through reading, greeting, and hosting our first-Sunday coffee hour each month.

The return of the 8 a.m. service is also a chance to reconnect with one another — those familiar faces who cherish the early hour and the gentle rhythm it brings. We hope you'll stay for a special coffee hour afterward on September 13, a warm opportunity to visit, share summer stories, and ease into the new season together.

Join us for a Sunday Chicken Dinner at Bonner Park on September 20

MEET AT THE BONNER PARK PAVILION (1600 Ronald Avenue) Sunday, September 20, 12:00 noon

This year's Holy Spirit church picnic promises chicken (fried or lemon pepper roasted), great camaraderie, delightful accordion music, and delicious potluck dishes for everyone. Be there by noon with a salad and/or side dish if your last name starts with A–M or a dessert if your last name starts with N–Z.

In addition to the chicken, plates, eating utensils, cold water, and an assortment of canned beverages (no plastic bottles) will be provided.

Bring a chair if you like, serving utensils for your potluck dish, any lawn games folks might enjoy, and your summer stories to share.

Because of the picnic, we will not have a coffee hour following the 10:15 a.m. service that Sunday.

— KATE LANEY
WHOLLY FUN COMMITTEE





What do I need to know to be a donor?

Our annual blood drive takes place on Thursday, September 10, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Here is what you need to know to be a donor.

- Men who are generally in good health and weigh 110 pounds or more can usually be donors. For women, those 5'6" or taller have the same minimum weight requirements as men, while those **shorter**, must weigh **more** (5'1" – 133 lb., 5'3" – 115 lb.)
- Youth between 16 and 18 must have a parental consent form.
- The most frequent exclusions are for those who have traveled in certain foreign countries.
- Low iron (hematocrit count) is another exclusion factor.

If you are a regular Red Cross donor, you cannot give blood between July 16 and our blood drive to allow 56 days between donations.

For answers to further questions about eligibility to donate, call Red Cross Blood Services at 1-800-733-2767.

Our Fall Blood Drive is set for September 10 Roll up your sleeves and donate at our Fall Blood Drive!

Holy Spirit will once again partner with the American Red Cross to host our **Fall Blood Drive on Thursday, September 10, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall.** Because this drive arrives early in the month, it may not yet be on everyone's radar — and we hope you'll help us spread the word and consider signing up soon.

Blood donations often dip at the start of September, even though the need remains steady across Montana. Hospitals rely on a consistent supply for surgeries, emergency care, cancer treatments, and chronic conditions. Each appointment helps ensure that our wider community has what it needs as fall begins.

Signing up is easy, and early appointments help the Red Cross plan staffing and equipment. You can reserve a time at: <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>. If you've donated before,

you know how simple and meaningful the process can be. If you're new to donating, this is a wonderful chance to try it in a familiar, welcoming setting.

And of course — **we will need cookies.** Holy Spirit has a well-known reputation among Missoula blood donors for offering some of the finest cookies around, and we'd love to keep that tradition going. If you enjoy baking or picking up a favorite treat, your contribution will be warmly appreciated.

We also need a few volunteers to help ensure the drive runs smoothly. If you can lend a hand with greeting, refreshments, or simple hospitality, please call **Audrey Murray at 612-968-2108.**

Thank you for keeping this important ministry in mind and helping us start September with generosity and care.



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

Why do we vaccinate?

What is a social contract and what does it have to do with vaccination? Quite a lot, it turns out, according to a recent documentary to be shown at our September 30

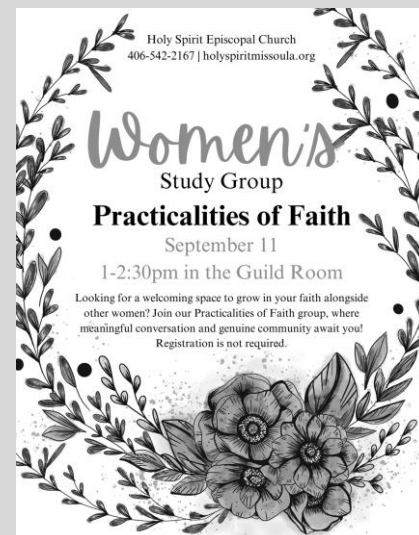


Community Concerns evening in the Holy Spirit Parish Hall.

Shot in the Arm, produced by Academy Award nominee Scott Hamilton Kennedy, takes a close look at vaccine hesitancy historically and in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic that killed more than 15 million people worldwide, yet prompted the rapid development of vaccines that saved just as many. The film also explores how public trust, scientific communication, and community responsibility shape our collective response to health crises.

The social contract — the idea that we give up some individual freedom in exchange for mutual protection — was frayed during the pandemic. The documentary invites viewers to consider how communities rebuild trust and how shared responsibility can strengthen public health.

Join us as we explore this timely topic, beginning at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30**. Beverages and snacks will be available, and all are welcome to stay for conversation afterward.



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 gathering:
September 11
1-2:30 p.m. in the Guild Room

Drop in for this session—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.

Holiday Market Raffle & Silent Auction Big fun for cheerful hearts!

For a rollicking, joyful experience at the 2026 HOLIDAY MARKET RAFFLE, we need donations of gourmet chocolates, gourmet oils and vinegars, children's games, toys and books, gift certificates, and wine!

And if you have any unique items — fine art, a quilt, antique jewelry, a used 4x4 Kubota, a dinner for four, a palapa in Yelapa, or a fine bottle of Scotch — they would be most

welcome for our **2026 HOLIDAY MARKET SILENT AUCTION**. (Puppies and kittens, though adorable, are not accepted.)

Please leave donations by **October 1** in the Holiday Market decorative box in the parish hall. Call or text **Karen Orzech at 406-880-1998** with any questions or fabulous ideas. Thank you for your generosity!

— KAREN ORZECH

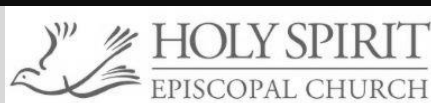
What are you thankful for?

Our **Fall Ingathering** for the United Thank Offering (UTO) will take place on **Sunday, September 20, at both services**. Special envelopes will be in the pews that day for your donations, and you can bring your Blue Boxes to church and place them in the basket at the back of the church.

The monies raised from the thank offerings are given back in the form of grants in support of programs within the dioceses of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion that address compelling human needs and supporting the alleviation of poverty.

The UTO Prayer

Gracious God, source of all true joy; accept we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all life. Keep each of us ever thoughtful for all the blessings of joy and challenges that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen.



UTO
UNITED THANK
OFFERING

Thank You

Thank you, to the United Thank Offering (UTO)!
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and MIC are honored to receive a \$35,000 UTO grant to support our work in the community.

Community Ministries

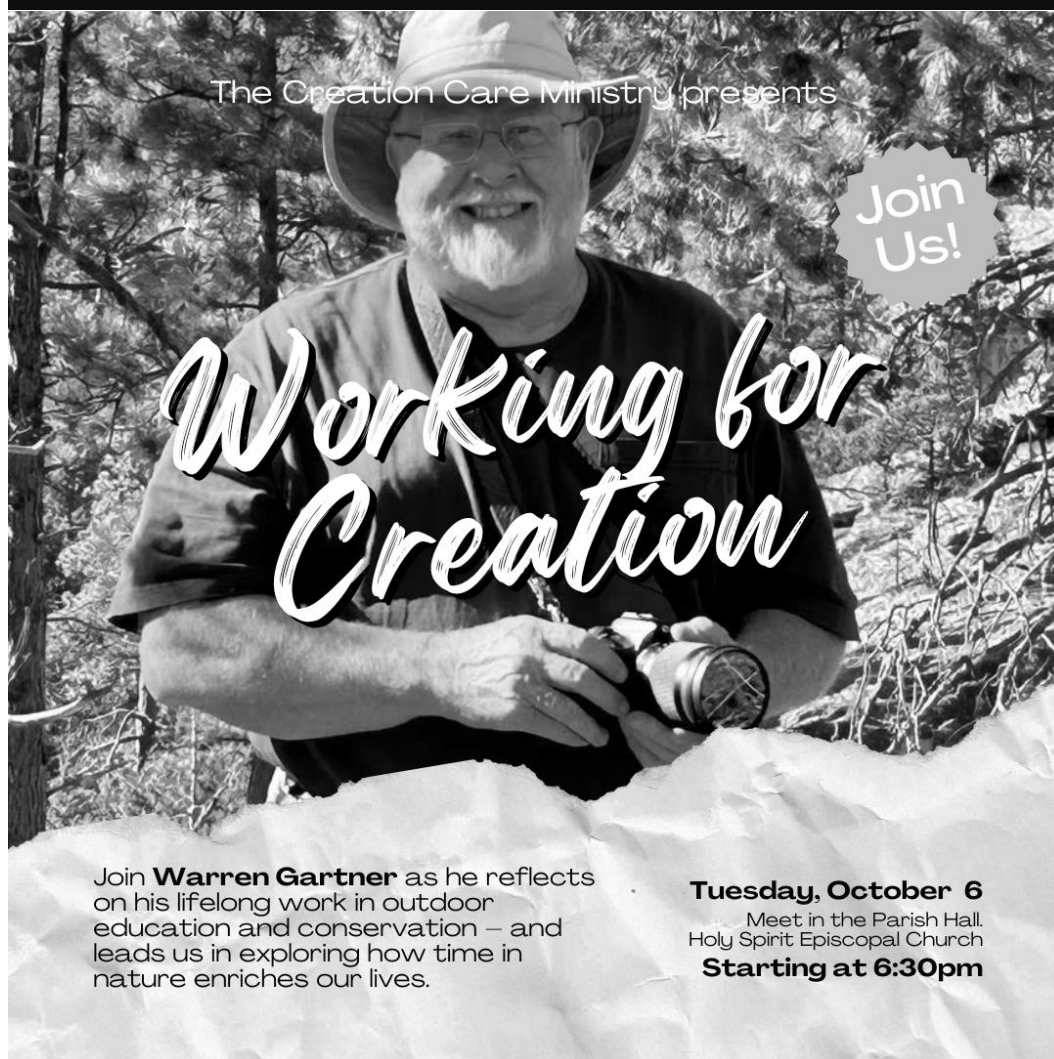
Celebrating a United Thank Offering Grant Award for Holy Spirit and MIC

Holy Spirit and Missoula Interfaith Collaborative are honored to have been chosen by United Thank Offering (UTO) to receive a 2026 grant of \$35,000 in support of our collaborative efforts to channel resources of diverse faith communities directly toward a pressing local need—skyrocketing housing costs for families. UTO's support will fuel how we move through relationship building and conversation to expanded work—onboarding a project coordinator, identifying potential housing sites, and developing affordable ways to get families in safe, secure homes. Beyond adding affordable housing to the city's limited supply, the project will foster lasting trust among diverse congregations, demonstrating how

shared work across differences can help prevent and reverse houselessness in the community.

Personally, I can't help but feel the spirit of Bob Deaton flowing throughout this project. Bob, who passed away in February of this year, was instrumental in past UTO-supported projects that engaged Holy Spirit members and our greater community, and he was also a founding member and faithful volunteer of Missoula Interfaith Collaborative. May his spark be lovingly reflected in what unfolds.

With you in justice and mercy work,
— THE REV. DORCIE KAFKA
DVARISHKIS,
DEACON AND MIC FAITH
OUTREACH TEAM MEMBER



Join **Warren Gartner** as he reflects on his lifelong work in outdoor education and conservation — and leads us in exploring how time in nature enriches our lives.

Tuesday, October 6
Meet in the Parish Hall,
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
Starting at 6:30pm

Working for Creation • Tuesday, October 6 • 6:30 pm

Tales from a life in nature education

Our third presentation in the **Working for Creation** series will feature the wide-ranging career of **Warren Gartner**. Warren worked as a camp counselor, outdoor education staff member and program director, wilderness trip leader at YMCA Camps, Indiana Project WILD Coordinator, Conservation Education Director for the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, President of the Environmental Education Association of Indiana, and creator of the Indiana Children and Nature organization. His lifelong commitment to helping

people connect with the natural world has taken him into classrooms, forests, camps, and communities across several states.

Come and enjoy tales from his wild past and participate in some of his engaging education activities. We will also discuss the importance of experiences in nature to our well-being and how time outdoors shapes our understanding of Creation and our place within it.

Join us for an evening of learning, laughter, and lively stories — and come ready to join in the fun.

Celebrating women in music with organist and composer Brenda Portman

Mark your calendars now for a wonderful evening of music co-hosted by the John Ellis Endowment for Liturgical Music and the Missoula chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We will be welcoming organist and composer Brenda Portman in a recital featuring music by women, half of which will be her own compositions. **Wednesday, October 7, 7:30 pm**, reception following. It's free! And all are welcome! More information to come.

Save the Date!
October 7, 7:30 p.m.
In the Church



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All Are Welcome



Kickoff Sunday September 13 / 10:15 am

130 South 6th Street East
Just North of Hellgate High School

Family Friendly 🐦 Full Choir
Traditional Service
Ministry Fair follows

Holy Spirit is an open, welcoming,
active, and engaged community.
We care for one another, uplift our
youth and work for justice and peace.



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There's a place for everyone here—join us!