

# PARACLETE



MARCH 2025

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org) • Website: [www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org)

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



## Meet our Lenten book study leader, Zara Renander

We are pleased to announce that this year's Lenten book study will be led by Zara Renander, a dedicated Hospice Chaplain and valued member of our parish. Zara's background in Religious Studies and Theology brings a unique perspective to our community, and we are truly fortunate to have her share her wisdom and guidance with us.

Zara's journey has taken her from Great Falls, MT to Minnesota, then to Alabama, and finally back to Montana in Missoula. Her experiences and travels have shaped her into the compassionate and insightful individual she is today.

We look forward to delving into the Lenten book study with Zara at the helm, and we know that we will all benefit from her knowledge and expertise.

## Explore "The Universal Christ" by Fr. Richard Rohr this Lent

We are excited to announce our Lent study this year, centered around the renowned book, "The Universal Christ" by Fr. Richard Rohr. Whether you are new to Fr. Rohr's profound insights or already familiar with his thought-provoking work, this study group promises to be a rewarding experience for all participants.

Led by Zara Renander, the study group will meet after the 10:15 a.m. service in the Guild Room on March 16, 23, and 30, with April 6 as a backup date if needed. We encourage you to obtain a copy of the book either from your local library or through purchase from a bookstore or online.

Due to limited space available for this class, we kindly ask that you express your interest in participating by contacting the church office at 406-542-2167 or emailing us at

[office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org). We believe that this study will provide valuable insights and generate meaningful discussions among all attendees.

"Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world," reads a review of the book. We invite you to explore this revolutionary perspective alongside us as we delve deeper into the profound truths and teachings presented by Fr. Rohr.

Join us for this engaging study and immerse yourself in a deeper understanding of the Creator's presence in our lives and in the world around us. We look forward to welcoming you to our study group and sharing in this enlightening journey together.

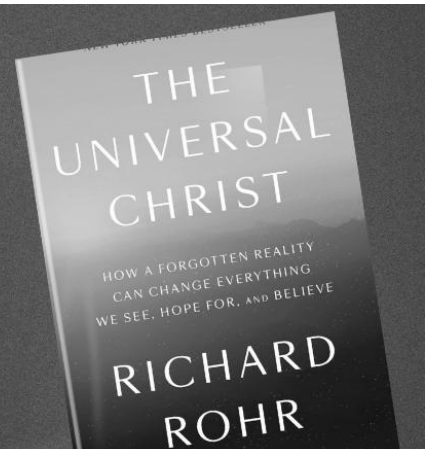
## Join our Lenten Book Study

Led by Zara Renander

As a Lent study this year, we'll read and discuss together "The Universal Christ" by Fr. Richard Rohr. If you haven't read Fr. Rohr's writings, you're in for a treat. If you've already read the book and are familiar with Fr. Rohr's thoughts, your insights are welcome!

Meets after 10:15 service in the Guild Room  
March 16, 23 & 30

To sign up for the book study, contact the church office, 406-542-2167 or [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org).



OUR STAFF

Clergy:

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,  
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(retired), Co-Rector  
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NEWSLETTER

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HOLY  
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## Celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a belly full of pancakes!

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras, is coming soon on March 4<sup>th</sup>. As a prelude to the Lenten season, it is an Anglican tradition to feast on eggs, butter, and sugar the day before the Lenten period. As in years past, the men of Holy Spirit will again celebrate this day by hosting a Pancake Supper for all parishioners and guests. Take a night off from shopping for groceries,

planning a meal, cooking, and cleaning up. We will serve “all you can eat” delicious pancakes (including gluten free options) and sausages, accompanied by syrup, coffee, juice, and milk. Hot pancakes will be ready to eat starting at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall, and we will continue to serve until 7:00 PM. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for anyone 4 and under.

## Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshippers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. As the service for Ash Wednesday says:

*Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that*

*it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5, as we begin our Lenten journey to Easter. **We will have Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon that day.**



**When does Baptism take place at Holy Spirit?**

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church. Baptism takes place during the Easter Vigil service (Saturday evening, in April), and at a Sunday service about three times a year: the Day of Pentecost (at the beginning of June this year), the Sunday after All Saints’ Day (early November), and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the first Sunday after Epiphany, in early January). Baptism may also take place when the bishop visits (in December this year), and on a Sunday during the summer on a date to be determined. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or for your child, preparation needs to take place. Please contact the office at (406) 542-2167 to speak with one of our co-rectors.

The next date for Baptism will be on Saturday, April 19, at the Easter Vigil service.



From the Senior Warden  
**What’s next for Holy Spirit?**

By now most of us know that Gretchen Strohmaier feels called to remain rector of St. Paul’s in Hamilton once Terri Grotzinger fully retires and the co-rectorship comes to a close in mid-2026.

Of course, many of us had hoped for a different decision. But, after traveling through my own disappointment, I’ve come to think: “If leading Holy Spirit isn’t right for Gretchen, it really can’t be right for us.” We’re being pushed and prompted to look at something new. Fresh leadership, a new take, a different path. As the Spirit spoke to Gretchen, the Spirit is also speaking to us.

We are a wonderful Episcopal parish, with lots going on. We have committed people, a strong history, and an abundant future. Our work together over the past 18 months demonstrates to me that we have the vision and vitality to move forward with confidence. A big positive: We have both Gretchen and Terri with us for many months ahead, which gives us time to move through a search process and, ideally, welcome a new rector.

As Bishop Marty Stebbins conveyed to us, recent searches at the major churches in Montana have

succeeded in attracting new priests. This offers us a promising road map. But – we’ll also approach this transition with care, so that we “make a match” with a new priest who is a fit for Holy Spirit. With luck and God’s guidance, we’ll make this connection. If the right match isn’t there when we search, we’ll think about an interim, or supply clergy, and look again. We’re strong enough, I believe, to do this.

The next step will center on organizing a search committee to begin work that includes a self-study, so that we can better know the leadership qualities that matter most to us in a new priest. It should be an exciting time of growth and possibility for all of us at Holy Spirit. Our goal is to be ready to reach out to potential candidates sometime in late winter/early spring of next year. **If you have someone in mind to consider for the search committee, please let me know.**

Take heart – we have many good things to be thankful for, and a future to build. I appreciate what each of you do to make Holy Spirit the place for compassion, welcome and love that we all value.

– MOLLY BOWLER  
SENIOR WARDEN



**Special music planned**

Some wonderful music is in your future throughout the month of March, which is Women’s History Month. Throughout the month, the services will include anthems by women, and beginning on the 9<sup>th</sup>, will also include preludes and postludes by women.

The 9<sup>th</sup> is an especially rich day, musically, when we join with churches of all denominations for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of Woman Composer Sunday. WCS started in England four years ago, moved to include America three years ago, and this year will include churches throughout Canada, the British Isles, Australia and New Zealand. The American Guild of Organists Task Force for Gender Equity spearheaded the expansion of WCS; and this past year created a Composition Competition for women throughout the US and England. 35 women submitted compositions, and the winning compositions have been published in our national journal so that organists throughout the US have more service-ready music at their disposal. The winning compositions from this competition will be played throughout March.

I hope you enjoy this new music and join us in celebrating the wealth of talent newly available from more of God’s children.

– DR. NANCY COOPER  
ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

March 2 at 8 p.m.

**Join us for the Light of Epiphany in the quiet of Compline**



*O eternal Light, shine into our hearts.  
O eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.  
O eternal Power, be our support.  
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance.  
Eternal Pity, have mercy on us.*

Please join us in celebrating the light of Christ in the candlelight of compline on Sunday, March 2, the Eighth and Last Sunday after Epiphany at 8 PM. The service meditations will center on a prayer written by Alcuin of York, a poet and theologian from Charlemagne’s time best known for the prayer “Almighty

God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known.” The choir will begin the service with a setting of *Phos hilaron* (“O Gracious Light”), one of the oldest texts in Hymnal 1982, and conclude with John Becker’s setting of “Now the Day is over.”

– KEITH KUHN  
COMPLINE COORDINATOR

HOLY  
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CHURCH

All Are Welcome

Children's Worship

Come for Godly Play  
every Sunday at the  
10:15 AM Service

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

**Journey through Lent together with Godly Play**

Our Godly Play lessons in March prepare us for the Mystery of Easter. We will think about Jesus, a baby who was born, a child who was lost and found, a young person who was baptized and had to discover who he was and what he was supposed to do in life, and an adult who did the work

of healing, and teaching. We will explore the “Faces of Easter” through these different stories of Jesus’ life and teachings. We look forward to the rich experience of journeying through Lent together.

– KARA HANSON  
GODLY PLAY STORYTELLER

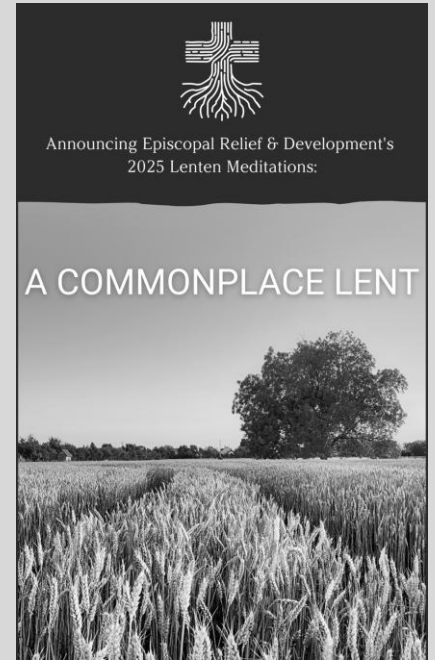
# ERD Sunday – a day to remember those in need

We encourage all Episcopalians to gather on **March 9, Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday**, to pray for people fighting poverty, disaster and disease in their communities and for all those around the globe leveraging local resources and expertise to address disparity and inequality in the world. Each year, Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives for more than 3 million people around the world struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster, and disease. The organization works with Anglican partners to create long-term development strategies focused on delivering results in three signature program areas: **Women, Children and Climate**.

ERD’s work with **Women** focuses on helping communities promote the rights of women and children and move toward the vision that everyone deserves a life free from violence. Their work with **Children** supports and protects kids under six so they reach appropriate health and development milestones. ERD’s

**Climate**-related work focuses on how families and communities can work together to adapt to the effects of rapidly changing weather patterns. In addition, ERD’s **US Disaster Program** offers critical resources and training to help people prepare for disasters and provide emergency support so vulnerable communities can make a full and sustained recovery.

We will be taking a special offering at both services on March 9 in support of ERD’s mission to assist people impacted by poverty worldwide. All gifts from our offering will be designated to Episcopal Relief & Development’s Global Needs Fund. This fund enables ERD to reach those most in need around the world. You can support this work by making a donation in one of the special envelopes provided in the pews that day or by donating on our giving platform Pushpay. Just choose “Episcopal Relief & Development” from the dropdown menu of funds.



## Join Episcopal Relief & Development in exploring A Commonplace Lent

Episcopal Relief & Development is blessed by the opportunity to join readers on their spiritual journeys with thought-provoking Lenten Meditations. During the 2025 Lenten season, we will explore what we share in common: spiritual practices, worship, service and faith. Written by Jerusalem Jackson Greer, our 2025 Lenten Meditations also remind us of how to look—and find—God in the ordinary, everyday aspects of life. Episcopal Relief & Development is committed to “Working Together for Lasting Change.” Each day, these meditations offer insight and inspiration for ways we can share in this bold mission and in our common path to be faithful disciples of Christ.

Visit [episcopalrelief.org/Lent](http://episcopalrelief.org/Lent) to subscribe to daily emails, download a PDF, read the meditations and access a Group Study Guide to reflect on the meditations with others.



# Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

**March 9**



**Here's what you need to know about recycling prescription bottles**

We recently sent 4 boxes (31 pounds) of **medicine bottles** to the group [Matthew 25 Ministries](#) in Cincinnati where they are included in shipments of medical supplies to areas needing disaster relief and humanitarian aid.

HOWEVER, they will not use any bottles that have labels or label residue left on them. We had to throw away about a third of the bottles that were left at the church because they still had glue residue or paper on them. Please don't put them in the recycling box if they aren't ready to go.

When you bring bottles to be recycled, please be sure they are empty, clean and have ALL of the paper and glue off of the outside. At the Gartner household we have found that filling the bottles with really hot water and leaving them for about 5 minutes loosens the glue, and the labels are much easier to remove. We haven't yet found a place that will recycle those with residue on them, so please don't include them with those you leave at the church.

- CREATION CARE MINISTRY



**FREEZOUT LAKE FIELD TRIP**  
**March 7 & 8**  
*Come view the spring migration of thousands of snow geese*

Call the Church Office to Sign Up: 406-542-2167 or [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org)

For More Information [kwgartner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kwgartner@sbcglobal.net)

**Join Creation Care Ministry on a Freezout Lake Field Trip**

Holy Spirit's Creation Care Ministry is offering a field trip on March 7 and 8 to Montana's Freezout Lake Fish & Wildlife Area to view the spring migration of thousands of snow geese. This gathering of birds is one of Montana's most spectacular wildlife events. The geese stop at Freezout Lake on their way from their wintering grounds in California and the southwest to their nesting grounds on the northern edge of Canada.

We will leave from Holy Spirit at 1:30 pm on Friday, March 7. The trip takes about 2 1/2 hours, and that will ensure we arrive at the wildlife area in time to see the geese return from a day of feeding on leftover grain in local fields.

You can either choose to camp (there is a primitive campground at the wildlife area) or stay at the closest motels which are in Choteau (15 minutes north of the wildlife area). You will need to make your own reservations at the motels. There are also choices of restaurants in Choteau.

On Saturday, March 8 we will want to be at the lake around

daybreak to see the geese take off to spend the day foraging for food in nearby fields. We will also see other types of waterfowl, and we will have field guides, binoculars and a spotting scope for the group to use. If you don't have binoculars and would like a pair for the trip, you can borrow binoculars from the Missoula Library.

We will probably start back to Missoula around midday and arrive at Holy Spirit around 2:30 pm.

If you would like to join us on this adventure, please contact the church office to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Warren Gartner at 317-872-3421 or [kwgartner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kwgartner@sbcglobal.net).

**Choteau Motels:**

**Stage Stop Inn** 406 466 5900 1005 Main Ave N Choteau

<https://www.stagestopinn.com/>

**Big Sky Motel** 209 Main Ave S, Choteau, MT 59422 406-466-5318

**Gunther Motel** 406 466 5444 20 7th Ave SW Choteau [https://gunther-motel.edan.io/#google\\_vignette](https://gunther-motel.edan.io/#google_vignette)



# PARENTING PLACE SUNDAY

**April 27**  
Both Sunday services

Learn about educational and service opportunities

## Holy Spirit Women's Retreat: "Growing Connections"

Please join the Holy Spirit Women's Retreat at Camp Marshall the weekend of April 25 to 27, 2025. Our theme is "Growing Connections," and this is a great way to deepen relationships within our church family. We will start Friday evening and meet through Sunday morning (single night options available). The cost is \$90 with registration details to follow. Do not let lack of funds prevent you from participating. Scholarships are available. If you have questions and/or are interested in being part of a small planning committee, please email Natalie Jaeger ([natalie@jaegerfamily.us](mailto:natalie@jaegerfamily.us)) or call/text to 406-207-3341.



## Reminder of our Co-Rectors' Office Schedules

In order to provide more clergy coverage in the office, Rev. Terri has changed her office days to Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Rev. Gretchen's days in the office continue to be Wednesdays and Thursdays. Judy Parock is in the office Monday through Friday and can connect with one of the clergy in case of emergency.

## Community Ministries Celebrating the impact of Parenting Place

As a parish, we have been serving alongside the families and leadership of Parenting Place since their founding in 1981. It is hard to truly measure the impact of their work to strengthen families and prevent child neglect and abuse throughout western Montana in all those years, but here is a glimpse of the lives changed through Parenting Place in 2024:

- Parenting classes offered in the jail, pre-release center, and community engaged 195 participants, for the benefit of 186 families and 390 children.
- Twenty-four training sessions for building awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma, and resilience drew 267 individuals from businesses, nonprofits, and government offices in Missoula and the surrounding counties.
- The YWCA's Planet Kids supports supervised visits for children and noncustodial parents at Parenting Place.
- The year ended with a budget in the black, a complete staff, and a facility at 8<sup>th</sup> and Caitlin that is now owned outright.
- Donation Warehouse, a small business and premier fundraising engine for Parenting Place, generated just shy of an amazing \$154,000 in support of staff salaries and all programs.
- The new year begins with an expense budget of approximately \$380,000, beyond upcoming capital improvements being supported in part by the Missoula Building Industry Association, Missoula Exchange Club, and Holy Spirit.

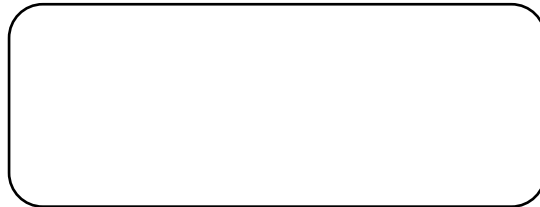
Parenting Place will be with us April 27<sup>th</sup> as our Alms Sunday feature during April's Strengthening Families Month, so come learn with us as we lift up their vital community service!

Alongside you,  
– THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA  
DVARISHKIS  
[dorcied@gmail.com](mailto:dorcied@gmail.com)  
406-542-2167 church office

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH  
130 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Missoula, MT 59801-4222

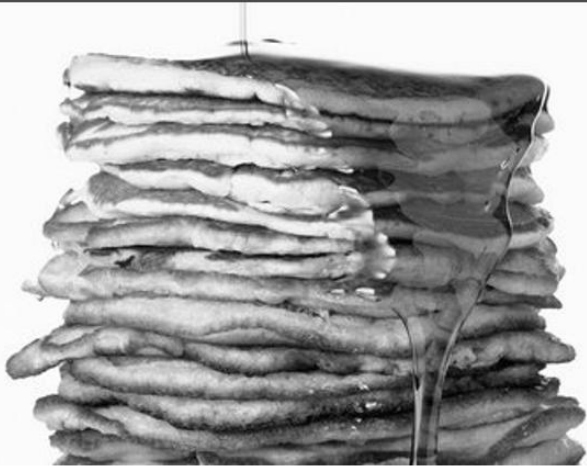
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Permit #157

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Mar. 4 ▪ 5 p.m. ▪ Parish Hall



Pancakes and sausages served  
from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$6; Kids, 5-12, \$4;  
Kids, 4 and under, free!

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