

# Holy Spirit Episcopal Church

## Parish Profile 2022





## **Table of Contents**

<b>Welcome to Holy Spirit!</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>3</b>
Worship Ministry	4
Social Justice & Outreach Ministry	5
Hospitality & Parish Life Ministry	6
Christian Formation Ministry	6
<b>Where We Live &amp; Minister</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The Diocese of Western Michigan</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>The History of Holy Spirit</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Leadership</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Closing</b>	<b>11</b>

# Welcome to Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church

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We are an inclusive community. We invite you to bring your questions, your small noisy people, your uncertainty and your best hopes. All are welcome.

We practice ancient traditions. We read the Bible, pray with the Book of Common Prayer, and share communion, keeping alive rituals and customs practiced around the world for generations. We keep them because they keep us focused on what matters most.

We love God and neighbor. Jesus Christ taught us that the greatest commandment was to put God first in our lives and to love our neighbor as ourselves. That's our goal – and we grow together on the journey.

On September 1, 2022 Fr. Daniel (Dan) Buchin entered into a Covenant Agreement with Holy Spirit Episcopal Church as Priest in Charge. We welcome Fr. Dan to lead Holy Spirit in both worship and outreach ministries. Fr. Dan's years of experience in worship, outreach, and pastoral care, along with a strong desire to serve, are a blessing to Holy Spirit and to the broader community.





# Ministries

## Worship Ministry

In response to God's love for us, we worship God.

As Anglicans, our worship is guided by the Book of Common Prayer. Our traditions of common prayer go back through more than five hundred years to the time of the reformation in England. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a prayer book was developed that enabled a "middle way" between the Catholic and Protestant traditions. We use the successor of that prayerbook today. As a result we often discover that people raised in both Catholic and Protestant churches feel welcome and included here. This was the intent of our founders and we are glad to carry it forward. We also are honored to welcome those who were raised in other faith traditions or no faith tradition.



Sunday morning worship often includes communion, which we call "Holy Eucharist." The word "eucharist" means thanksgiving. As we take communion, we give thanks to God for the gift of life and for becoming one with Christ through God's grace and mercy. Communion nourishes us to continue to grow in Christ as we receive his presence in the bread and wine.

All persons who have been baptized, and are therefore part of the extended family that is the Church, are welcome to receive bread and wine during Holy

Communion, and be in communion with God and each other. There is no one who is ineligible or otherwise unwelcome to celebrate with us, no one who is too old or too young, no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. Our altar is the table of our loving God, a table that is set to feed all creation through the love of Jesus Christ.

Children are welcome in worship with their families. Children are brought by grandparents, parents, and friends. We encourage worshipers with children to sit up close so children can see and follow along with the service.

Members of our congregation believe that music is an important part of praising God. We are blessed with a part-time organist and some capable parishioners. We are praying for singers, pianists, organists, guitarists, and other musicians to grow with us as we would love to expand our worship music capabilities.

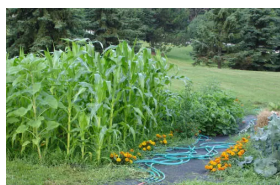
# Social Justice & Outreach Ministry

## Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

What started as a few shelves of non-perishable foods in our Sparta location is now a large addition to our building that has served hundreds of families. The Loaves & Fishes Food pantry is a joint mission of Holy Spirit and Assumption BVM Catholic Church in Belmont. Our partnership began in 2006 and we have worked together to gather food, organize and staff the pantry. Many community groups and individuals also support the pantry with food or funds. The pantry is currently open one evening a week. People needing food assistance contact North Kent Connect for a referral. Because it is considered an emergency clinic, clients are able to shop for a 2 or 3 day supply of food from a variety of healthy and fresh food as well as some personal care items. During the growing season, items are also available from our church garden.



## Community Garden



Helping to provide good healthy food to our community has been a priority for Holy Spirit. Church members work to prepare the ground, plant the vegetables and tend the garden. As the produce grows, it is picked, cleaned and provided to our food pantry as well as church members. In 2021, we joined the Good News Gardens movement of the greater Episcopal Church.

## Family Promise

In 2019, Holy Spirit, Peace Lutheran Church, Zion Lutheran Church and Hope Lutheran Church, partnered with the National non-profit, Family Promise to offer help to those in northern Kent County who were experiencing homelessness. This was the first year the program was available in our part of the county. We were thrilled to be able to work with others to meet the goal of providing children and their families with shelter, basic needs and assistance as they seek permanent housing. Family Promise keeps families together during this process. Many Holy Spirit members provide food and companionship as the families are housed at Peace Lutheran in Sparta.

## Road Clean-up

Holy Spirit has adopted a section of Pine Island Drive. Members gather two or three times a year to pick up and bag trash along the road. It is truly part of our ministry of ministry of caring for God's creation.



## Little Free Library



For a number of years, Holy Spirit has provided a "Little Free Library" to the community. This is part of a national network providing 24/7 access to free books. Based in Wisconsin, this non-profit has a vision of a "Little Free Library" in every community and a book for every reader. Volunteers from Holy Spirit check the location right in front of the church from time to time to resupply the books for both children and adults. The community is happy to have this resource and we are blessed to be able to provide it.

# Hospitality & Parish Life Ministry

## **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

Holy Spirit has had a very active and involved ECW from the very beginning. The women's group meets once a month and along with having fun, they plan and run two big events for the church. One event is the Second Best Sale held in late August. Church members and others donate gently used items to the church, they are organized and priced reasonably so that the community can find many "good deals" and the items are given a new home. The other event is "Christmas Delites". Held every year in November, Christmas Delites brings the community into a wonderful holiday event where they can find craft items, gently used Christmas items, delicious baked goods, cookies and a silent auction. These two events give the ECW funds to fulfill the community outreach portion of their budget as well as helping with memorials and funeral lunches and supporting the church.

## **Hearts, Hands and Hooks Crochet Group**

What do you get when you put women from various faith traditions together with a passion for doing good works and skills with a hook and yarn? You get the Hearts, Hands and Hooks crochet group. 2018 was the year that connected women from Peace and Zion Lutheran churches with the women from Holy Spirit. When asked, "Would we like to host a group once a week to gather and create items to share with shut-ins, veterans, and others needing comfort?" We said yes!!!! In the years since then, the women have gathered, created, and come together as friends. Some had skills already and some needed to learn, but they all believe in the mission of giving to others. The group has created dozens of lap blankets, hats, gloves, and other items, all freely donated to those in need. Prayer brings them together every Tuesday afternoon and while they work, they talk and support one another. It has become a blessing for all involved.

# Christian Formation Ministry

Adult Christian Formation has traditionally been part of our Sunday morning Adult Forum Group. These are very inspiring sessions with plenty of thought-provoking ideas. The discussions of each topic are times of great spiritual nurture and growth for all who attend. All are welcome. Recently we have completed a study of *The Greatest Invitation* by Father David Ottsen. During the pandemic in 2021, the Book Club met on Zoom to read and discuss Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's new book, *Love is the Way*. In 2019, our former priest, Mother Nurya, led a Confirmation Class in 2019 for new members. In the past, members have gathered for Bible study in the evenings.

At this point, children are included in our services. Pre-pandemic, we offered Sunday School weekly throughout the school year during the worship service for those in preschool through 3rd grade. Most weeks the lessons were based on the same lectionary readings being presented to the adults in church, so parents would have insight into what their child was learning in Sunday School. We currently offer a soft space adjacent to our worship space for little ones and their parents.

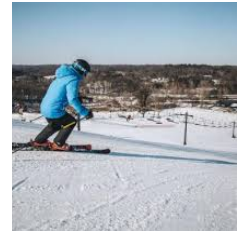
# Where We Live & Minister



Belmont is a quiet suburb situated along the Grand River just 10 miles northeast of Grand Rapids that is part of the Plainfield Charter Township. With an 11-mile commute into Grand Rapids, Belmont is popular with families looking for affordable housing that's still close to the conveniences of the city. Belmont is largely residential, but there are a few local hotspots along West River Drive. Community parks, golf courses, and large wooded areas give Belmont a more secluded, rural feel, but this is a suburban oasis through and through. Rockford sits just a few miles north of Belmont and provides a charming escape from the sprawl of the area with a wonderfully quaint downtown.



Plainfield is home to more than 33,000 residents who are drawn to great schools, inviting parks and trails, plentiful restaurants, and recreation on the Grand and Rogue Rivers. The White Pine Trail, the longest rail-to-trail corridor in Michigan, runs right through this neighborhood giving its residents short bike rides to ice cream, parks, and the local elementary school. The area also contains specialty farms Frozen Creek Farms and Lenderik Family Tree Farms. For the winter fanatics, Cannonsburg Ski Area is a state of the art tubing facility with 18 runs, the longest being 1,800 ft.



Grand Rapids is a vibrant city that is home to a mix of arts and culture, breweries, restaurants, shopping and outdoor activities. It's located less than an hour from the shore of Lake Michigan and is the largest city on the west side of the state. Grand Rapids was once known as America's Furniture Capital. Most recently it was named "Beer City USA" as it has 40+ breweries. It is a culturally rich city with many attractions like Frederick Meijer Gardens, the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and a fantastic children's museum.



# The Diocese of Western Michigan



The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan is part of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Together, we are members of the worldwide Anglican Communion, the third largest Christian communion on Earth with over 70 million active members.

In 2019, the diocese partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan to engage in 3-5 years of exploratory conversation and intentional sharing, considering how church structures and resources may be collaboratively aligned to better serve the Kingdom of God from coast to coast.

The Rt. Rev. Prince Grenville Singh, Ph.D. serves as Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan. He was elected by the joint convention of the dioceses held in Lansing, October 2021.

## **Our Vision**

Our Vision is to live our values and be healthy, mission-focused diverse parishes with innovative, collaborative engagement at all levels.

## **Our Mission**

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers. To respond to human need by loving service. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

*From the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan website: <https://edwm.org/about/>*



# The History of Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit opened in May 2003 as a mission parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, in the former St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Sparta. The congregation was made up of families from St. Matthew's, an Episcopal parish founded in 1955 in Sparta, and families from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids who volunteered to help start a new church plant. In 2018 we became a parish church under the guidance of our first rector, Mother Nurya Love Parish.



*Holy Spirit members receive the certification of Parish status. November 3, 2018.*

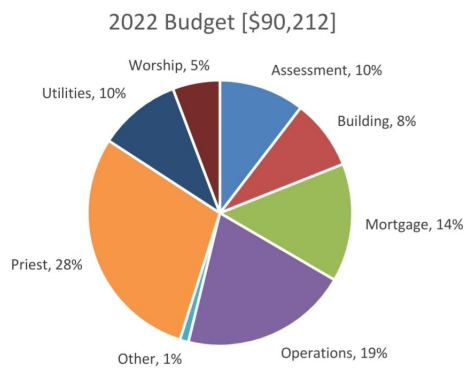
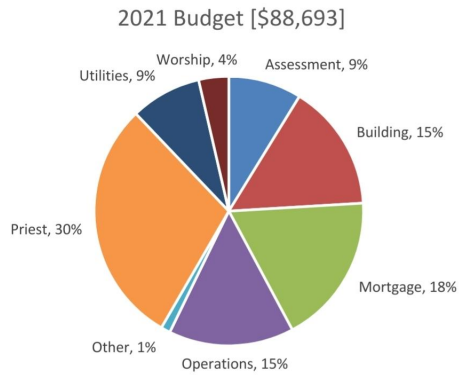
*Photo credit: Canon Katie Forsyth*

Our congregation moved to its current location at the corners of Post and Pine Island drives in Belmont in 2005. Our building itself has a long history of service to the community. The building's core is the old Post School, which served as a one-room schoolhouse from the 1880s until well into the 20th century. The building also has served as an administrative building for the Comstock Park school district, and at least one other church.

Today, we are a healthy, stable, small and growing congregation. We come from different backgrounds, income levels, family structures, and religious viewpoints. Most of us, after visiting, stayed when we felt the warm and accepting atmosphere and experienced genuine worship. We found Holy Spirit to be a place in which exercising our skills was encouraged. We all come from somewhere else, bringing a richness of diversity. Therefore, there is no division between the "old" and the "new" as we are all working together to grow and nurture the place we have been given.

As we are reminded in Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." We are currently in a season of thoughtful prayer and discernment in our search for a new clergyperson as Mother Nurya was called to minister at Plainsong Farm & Ministry. During this time we are being wonderfully served by a select group of supply priests as they celebrate Holy Eucharist and worship with us. We also celebrate morning worship with our lay preachers one Sunday per month". Our God continues to shower blessings upon Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.

# Annual Budget



## Leadership

### 2022 Vestry

*Senior Warden:* Todd Stewart

*Junior Warden:* Vickie Finkler

Kelly Alcock

Brenda Benham

Mary Macomber

Ginger Rohwer

Donna Scott

Ruth Smith

*Treasurer:* Michael Hirt

*Clerk:* Michael Rohwer

# Closing



Holy Spirit Episcopal Church is committed to reaching out in service to our neighbors and friends in the community. We currently meet weekly for worship services in-person and online on Facebook and YouTube on Sundays at 10 am. We practice ancient traditions. We read the Bible, pray with the Book of Common Prayer, and share communion, keeping alive rituals and customs practiced around the world for generations.

Our blessings continue to outshine any challenges we have experienced. These blessings have come in the lives of the people who have been part of our congregation. We give thanks for all of them - those who came before, those who join with us today, and those who will come after.

Please prayerfully consider joining us in our ministry.

God's peace be with you.