

**SPOKANE VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
115 NORTH RAYMOND ROAD
SPOKANE VALLEY WA 99206
509 924-7262

Sundays
Traditional Service 9 a.m.
Sunday School 9a.m

Staff:

Congregation: Ministers of the Church
Alissa Amestoy: Reverend
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Luke Henderson: Director of Music
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Amanda Johnson: Church Secretary
Nate Dunigan: Technical Ministry
James Gilreath- Youth Ministries
Samantha Wallace- Children's
Ministries
Britny Grovom- Sunday School
teacher

Volunteer Staff Position:
Shirley Porter: Lay Leader

Church Office: (509) 924-7262
Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00am to 12:00pm
1:00pm to 3:00pm

Church Website:
www.spokanevalleychurch.org
Church E-mail:
secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org

Return Service Requested

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Spokane, WA



CONNECTIONS

April 2023

Youth opportunity (Grades 7-12th) to learn about native culture & perspectives

Youth (grades 7-12) and their leaders from the Greater Northwest conferences – Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest – are invited to come together for a unique opportunity to get to know one another as they learn about and serve the Yakama community July 16-21 for a S.L.A.M. Trip on the Yakama Nation reservation in Wapato, Washington.

Mending Wings, the largest faith-based native youth ministry in the country, will host this trip with native staff who will offer orientation to native culture and give an indigenous perspective on missions and Christianity. S.L.A.M. is an acronym for *Students Learning About Mission*. As youth and their leaders go to the reservation, it is an opportunity to go with a mindset of openness to learning as they serve.

During the S.L.A.M. Trips week, cultural activities will include a native craft taught by a local artisan, a drum circle and traditional dance by members of Mending Wings, and a traditional salmon bake. Historical and cultural site visits include the Yakama Tribal Museum, a longhouse, and Fort Simcoe (the site of an Indian Agency boarding school).

Examples of service projects of past years include:

- Building wheelchair ramps for the elderly.
- Pulling the brush in yards for the fire safety of elders.
- Removing carpets in an elder's home to prepare for new flooring.



OUR PURPOSE: *Spokane Valley United Methodist Church is here to invite people to: follow Jesus, love others, and transform the greater community through the grace of God.*

*Invite Friends &
Family to
Join us for our
Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 a.m. April 9th!*



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Holy Week and Easter Season Overview

In lieu of my standard article, I am dedicating this month's "From the Pastor's Desk" to a detailed overview of Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and the Sundays to follow. Please be sure to read about all that is happening in the coming weeks to prepare for and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! For more information on any of the services and Holy Week opportunities, please contact me: alissaamestoy@gmail.com or 509-879-2278. ~ Pastor Alissa

April 2 - Palm/Passion Sunday 9am

We begin our Holy Week with a Sunday service of lessons and music designed to invite us to join in the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to reckon with his betrayal as his disciples turn against him and flee, and to grieve along with the witnesses at the cross as he is crucified. 10 lay readers will join me to help guide us all through the whole Passion Narrative from the Gospel of Matthew beginning with the

Palm Procession and ending with Jesus' death. The Traditional Choir and Bell Choir will be offering special music and we will join together in singing a number of congregational hymns. As always, this service will be livestreamed and available on both our YouTube and Facebook pages.

April 2-8 - Stations of the Cross in the Fellowship Center

Following worship on Sunday, all are encouraged to join in a time of Coffee Chat in Room 115 and explore the *Stations of the Cross* that will be set up in the Fellowship Center for the duration of Holy Week.

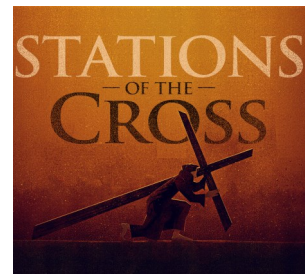
These self-guided *Stations of the Cross* are designed to lead you through the Passion Story in Mark's Gospel and provide an interactive spiritual discipline at each station. Each station invites you to reflect on the scripture in a different way - examples include Lectio Divina, walking the labyrinth, and praying a mandala. If you choose to participate, please know that you are welcome to do the stations in order, pick and choose, and/or visit the stations as often and for as long as you desire through the week. All the stations are accessible or have an accessible option. The Fellowship Center will be open the following days and hours:

Sunday, April 2 until 12pm

Monday through Wednesday from 9:00am to 3:00pm (during office hours)

Thursday and Friday 9:00am to 7:00pm

Special arrangements for individuals and small groups desiring to visit the stations outside the listed hours are available by scheduling with Pastor Alissa: alissaamestoy@gmail.com or 509-879-2278.



Children's Ministries



It is beginning to be busy as we get into the spring for Children's Ministry. The children will be handing out the palms on Palm Sunday. The following week there will be an Easter egg hunt for all the kids during Sunday school. This summer VBS will be returning from July 24th through the 27th. If anyone is interested in signing up to volunteer come talk to me for more information.

I will be out of the office from the afternoon of April 2nd to April 8th for vacation.

As always, if there are ever any questions feel free to reach out to me through email or find me in my office on Sunday.

Coordinator of Children's Ministry

Samantha Wallace

Samantha.marie00@outlook.com



Volunteers needed for our Food And Support Team Ministry (FAST)

Our Food and Support Team Ministry reaches and provides hot meals for church families that are in need. The meal includes an entrée, salad and dessert. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sherri Robinson (509)927- 4931



Spokane Valley United Methodist Church Mahan Memorial Scholarship 2023-2024 Academic Year Scholarship

This scholarship is available to students attending school for an undergraduate or graduate degree during the 2023-2024 academic year. Applicant must be a member or an active constituent of SVUMC. Scholarships will be for a minimum amount of \$800.

Please call the church (509)924-7262 to request an application. Completed applications must be received in the church office by May 7th, 2023.



Prayer Vigil on Good Friday (April 7th) Sign-Up

The Prayer Vigil sign-up will be April 2nd, at the Connect Desk there are two ways to be involved in the vigil, you can sign-up to pray from home if you are unable to make it to the church or you can sign-up to pray in the Sanctuary.

Out of Office:

Pastor Alissa will be out of office April 10th-15th.



April 5 - Holy Week Service - 4pm in the Fellowship Center

In lieu of a traditional Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 4pm for a Holy Week service focused on our final witnesses at the cross, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. As we consider the roles these two men played following the death of Jesus, we will be invited to reflect on our own calling to be witnesses to Jesus' death. Following this service, the *Stations of the Cross* will be open until 7:00pm.

April 7 - Good Friday Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary or at home

It is a tradition of our church to join together in a Good Friday Prayer Vigil to witness faithfully to the death of Jesus lifting up those in our congregation who are in need of prayer and. Sign-ups for the 45-minute prayer slots will be offered on Palm Sunday (April 2) and there are options to pray in the Sanctuary or in your home. For more information, contact Margie Collin: prayer_svumc@yahoo.com.



April 9 - Easter Sunday with Egg Hunt and Brunch

Join us at 9am on Easter Sunday in person, on Facebook livestream, or YouTube to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and join with Mary Magdalene as witnesses to the empty tomb! Our service will include communion and the Traditional Choir singing. Following worship, we will offer an Egg Hunt for our Sunday School kids in the church yard by the Chapel. We will also offer an Easter Brunch for everyone in the Fellowship Hall with a goodwill offering taking to support the repainting of the Chapel.

Please invite your friends and family to join us in celebrating the Good News of the resurrection!

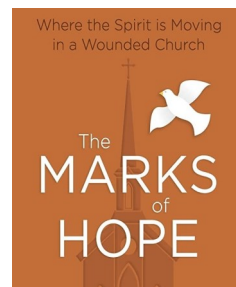
April 16 - Easter 2 - Guest preacher: Joyce O'Connor-Magee

The Sunday after Easter we will gather to continue our celebration of Jesus' resurrection and welcome guest preacher, Rev. Joyce O'Connor-Magee, retired UMC elder, who will preach on the Doubting Thomas passage. This Sunday is often called "Low Sunday" because the attendance is traditionally *low*, but we hope you'll make a special effort to join us because our service will not only feature our guest preacher but also our Hymnsing and the Bell Choir!



April 23 - New Series: Marks of Hope

Last, but not least, we will kick off a new Easter Season worship series based on the book *The Marks of Hope: Where the Spirit is Moving in a Wounded Church*. Madelyn Bafus, our Missions and Service Team Leader, read this book last Fall and after finding it full of new ways to be in ministry in a changing world, enthusiastically recommended it to Pastor Alissa. With all the division and conflict that is going on in the world, the UMC, and even our local community, it's easy to become discouraged and think there's no hope to be had. Three young pastors (Revs. Juan Carlos Huertas, Katie McKay Simpson, and Matt Rawle) think otherwise and offer a new and hopeful way of thinking about the future of the church! With them as our guide, our pastor will help us explore the opportunities in our midst and how we can be agents of spreading hope here in Spokane Valley and beyond!





Helping Hands

serving one another in love
GALATIANS 5:13

*“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”
John Wesley*

March Thank You



670 pounds of food and a check for \$3,500 was presented to Cal Coblenz, CEO of Valley Partners, on Sunday, March 19. \$2,000 of this check represented money given individually from this congregation and \$1,500 was from our benevolence giving in our church budget. The use of the money allocated to this line item is the responsibility of the Mission and Service Team. They choose ministries and nonprofits within our community that could benefit from additional funds. They are then to allocate the money as they determine among those chosen. There are 11 ministries and a budget of \$12,000. Valley Partners Food Bank is one of these. Thank you to all for your donations of food and money.

Thank you to all who provided soup, salad, rolls and cookies. Lunch was served to the teachers and staff at Broadway Elementary on March 28. This is one way of saying thank you to the ones who educate our children within our community. We appreciate them!

At the Connect Desk in April

Mission Community Outreach Center Toiletry Drive April 16, 23 and 30



Items Needed:

Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Lotion,
Deodorant, Bar Soap/Body Wash, Razors, Laundry Detergent,
Baby Shampoo, Baby Wash



Ali Norris, Executive Director of MCOC, suggests we purchase items from the dollar store. The cost would be less, the product is good and we can get more for the dollar. Ali will be our Mission Moment during worship on April 30th.

**Cinnamon Roll Sale
supporting our Covenant Relationship
with
Missionary Katherine Parker
April 16, Sunday
During Fellowship Time**



Mark your calendar for Worship on July 9. Katherine Parker will be here giving the sermon. Watch for more information about her visit in the next newsletter.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



Women of the Church you are invited to join us for our

Spring General Meeting and Luncheon Saturday May 20 from 11:30 am — 1:00 pm

A Salad Lunch will be served at 11:30 am in Room 115

Guest Speaker

Sara Cardwell, Interim Executive Director of Naomi

A suggested donation of \$10

You can make reservations by calling Madelyn at 509-869-8213

Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Circle Meeting Times .

Esther Circle will meet April 11 in the Fireplace Room at 12:00 pm.
Program: Social Security Fraud
Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

Rachel Circle will meet April 9 in the Fireplace Room at 11:00 am.
Program: Racial Justice
Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

Rebekah Circle will meet April 18 in Room 115 at 11:00 am.
Program: Prayer and Self Denial
Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

Sarah Circle will meet May 6 for a field trip to Camp Caro
Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet April 10 and 24 in the Fireplace Room at 10:00 am
Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-4074