

**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: Pastor
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Luke Henderson: Director of Music
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Amanda Roche: 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

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Spokane, WA



CONNECTIONS

August 2022

We are off to a great start!



Pastor Alissa is looking forward to hearing from you !

Now that I'm settling in at Spokane Valley, I want to be sure you all know how to get a hold of me...and provide some clarification on my name! As many of you know, I got married on July 2nd to my handsome husband, C.J. (short for Clinton John) Amestoy...which means I now get the "fun" of going through the process of changing my name! It's hard to decide which last name is harder to pronounce or spell - Bertsch (pronounced like the tree but possessing of FIVE consonants in a row) or Amestoy (am uh stoi" and often confused by spell-check for a misspelling of "amnesty")! No matter which one I choose, with a first name like Alissa (uh liss uh - just like the actress Alyssa Milano), it seems I'm destined for a future with a challenging name no matter what! Thank you in advance for your efforts to both learn and transition to my *new* full name: Rev. Alissa Amestoy! Please know that Pastor Alissa always works, too!

Along with the new name comes a new email address: alissaamestoy@gmail.com. Thankfully, my phone number will stay the same (509-879-2278) - please feel free to call or text me! You can also find me on Facebook (*Alissa Bertsch Amestoy*) and if you'd like to follow my equestrian exploits, please feel free to like my Facebook page, *Riverland Equestrians*, which J'adorra and I share with my sister, Stacy Meredith, and her horse, Jules Verne! Again, thank you for your patience, understanding, and courage as we all get used to my new name!

Peace-
Pastor Alissa
alissaamestoy@gmail.com
509-879-2278

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.*



Prophet Margins

WORSHIP SERIES

Last summer, I got to do something I hadn't done in YEARS – I went on a summer road trip! C.J., Ethan, and I had never taken a big trip together and we've all wanted a chance to visit some of the National Parks, so we packed up two weeks' worth of clothes, camping gear, and food, stuffed it into our tiny Scamp trailer and hit the road! We went to Glacier and saw family in Montana, we visited Devil's Tower in Wyoming, Mt. Rushmore in North Dakota, then ended our travels with a quick trip through Yellowstone! It was a grand adventure and the perfect way to spend a summer vacation together as a family!

Isn't that what summers are for – loading up the car, jumping in, and heading off on an adventure for a few weeks letting the road take you away from the usual grind? Absolutely! It's in the spirit of summer vacation road trips that I'd like to invite us all to "jump in the car" together and go on a long summer worship journey! All you need to pack is a spirit of exploration and discovery as we hit the road to see what's at the heart of our faith!

Nine weeks might sound like a long time to spend on one series...but like a road trip, we can break up the "travel" and hit up a number of spots along the way! In the case of our next worship series, we've got five spots hit up along the way! As we journey through the rest of the summer into fall, our road trip will lead us to meet up with some interesting travel companions who aren't often found on the main highways and byways of our world. In fact, to meet up with these travelers, we'll have to get off the beaten path and head to the margins – the "Prophet Margins" that is!

In the Old Testament, prophets were called by God to speak some uncomfortable truths to the people of God during challenging times. They weren't always very popular and what they had to say wasn't always received very well (hence their being pushed to the margins of society more often than not) yet, they played a vital role in guiding people of faith back to the heart of God through tough messages full of hope, justice, peace, and restoration. When the people refused to listen (which they often did), they prophesied all the louder and provided visions of what the outcome would be if they continued to turn away from God and what the possibilities could be if they returned to right relationship with God.

As we journey on back roads to meet Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah, we will take the risk to listen allowing these Holy Ones of God to be our travel companions on the journey into the heart of our faith. Some of what we hear from them might be troublesome, some will lift us up "on wings like eagles", and some will challenge us to find reasons to hope even when all seems lost. In the end, they will offer us a renewed vision of the journey of faith we are all on and remind us that God does the best work on the margins of our lives. So, what do you say? Are you ready to hop in the car for a road trip to the edge of our faith? Awesome, then you're ready for "Prophet Margins"! I'll go start the car!

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United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

**Inland Missional District United Women in Faith
2022 Annual Meeting**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

**September 17, 2022
9:30 am—3:00 pm**

At Spokane Valley United Methodist Church

More information coming through circle meetings and next month's Connection

Grand re-opening of the United Women in Faith reading room!

The new opening will be ready on September 5, 2022.

The reading room has been relocated to room 201 next to the chapel.

The new bookcases will house all our books and room for other storage when needed. There are two bookcases and the second one will be used to store the past books from the reading program and a section will hold books recommended by our members that are not on the reading list. The new books for 2022 have been ordered and will arrive soon.

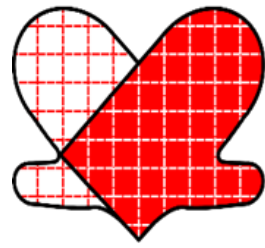


The Book Room is the Reading Program of United Women in Faith. The Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. There's something for everyone—adults, youth, and children. There are enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community. Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

You will also find copies of Response Magazine. Response is the award-winning, official magazine of United Women in Faith.

Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind with features such as: Bible studies, Opportunities for spiritual growth and development, Articles on people and projects supported by your Mission Giving, and Regular features such as "Bright Lights" and "Responsively Yours"





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

Mission Community Outreach Center (MCOC) 12th Annual “School Shoes for Kids”

Thank you to all who donated shoes and socks.
We have sent to MCOC 75 pairs of shoes and 232 pairs of socks!

Spokane Valley Partners Food Drive at the Connect Desk

Sundays—July 24, 31 and August 7 and 14

Especially needed are: Granola Bars, Applesauce, Fruit Cups, Fruit snack, Fruit rollups, Ramen, Cup of Noodles, Oatmeal, Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pot top canned sup, Pot top canned fruit, Pop top canned beans and chili, Pot top canned meant (spam, tuna, etc.)



Cinnamon Roll Sale Sunday, August 28th Supporting sponsorship of Emany at Jamaa Letu Orphanages

We support Hope for the Children of Africa by sponsoring Emany, at the Jama Letu Orphanage. Our sponsorship helps with operating expenses which include food, clothing, school fees, medical care, utilities, and the salaries. All the funds supporting a child at the orphanage are pooled to benefit all of the children.

Welcome back 55 Plus Luncheon and Program with one big change!

55 Plus will now be serving the last **Thursday** of the month at noon, September through May except for November and December which will be on the first Thursday in December. We will still continue to serve soup and sandwiches and Shirley’s delicious desserts. We will still be providing informative programs of interest to seniors.

The cost is still by donation.

Our first time back will be:

September 29th, Thursday, at Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Program: Pastor Alissa Amestoy

Lunch: Baked Potato Soup and Pulled Pork Sandwich

Giving for Memorials Q&A

Q: How do I give in memory of someone?

A: Make your check out to SVUMC on the “for” line and the name of the person you are memorializing or put a note in with the cash.

Happy Birthday



08/01 Marie Chapman
Tricia Madsen
08/02 Abigail Birdsill
08/03 Chandra Beauregard
08/04 Alyssa Arnold
Jodi Mackin
08/05 Nancy Moore
08/06 Howard Lloyd
08/07 Josh Graham
08/09 Maggie Madsen
08/11 Shannon Miller

08/19 Jim Dropper
Lois Cwiek
Andrea Henderson
Mary Alice Jones
08/20 Toby Pfeifer
08/21 Jack Gregory
Leanne Pope
Sheri Robinson
08/23 Ted Hanks
08/25 Tom Porter
08/27 Paul Norris

Happy Anniversary



08/03 Bill & Marilyn Wixom

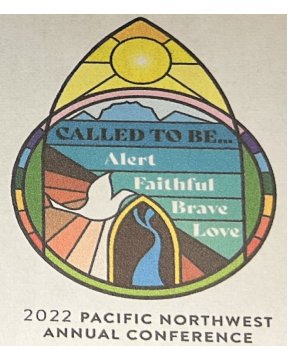
08/24 Paul & Michelle Bos

08/09 Tim & Susan Henderson

Josh & Katie Norris

Steve Ross & Sherri Robinson 08/27 Patricio (Noe) & Dorothy Carpinteyro

08/19 Ron & Edna Walter



2022 GREATER NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The 129th Session of the Greater Northwest Annual Conference was held on Zoom in June this year. In her final episcopal address to lay and clergy members retiring Bishop Elaine Stanovsky highlighted the area's efforts to address racism in our churches, a reflection to mark the Juneteenth holiday and ways local churches are active in mission.

She closed with, "Stand firm in your faith, that when God is doing a new good thing, there may be disruption. But there will be a way through it and it will be worth it."

Budget recommendations covering minimum compensation, retirement funds, allowances and general operation fees totaling \$4,526,784.00 passed. An increase of 1% from 2021.

Only church closure was Foothills UMC in Bonny Lake. They were consecrated in June 1991.

(a) Petition 12 passed and reads, "PNWC encourages individuals and congregations to do no harm by;
(b) Divesting from fossil fuel industry. (b) Reducing or eliminating the use of broad-spectrum herbicides in order to encourage the growth of native flowering plants, which will bolster populations of pollinators such as bees and butterflies. (c) Avoiding Styrofoam and single-use plastics."

Affirmed was a petition asking churches to observe Disability Awareness Sunday.

This year's conference offering raised over \$11K for relief efforts in Tonga, which is still recovering from a devastating Tsunami. It is interesting that there are more citizens from Tonga living outside of Tonga than on the island itself. To learn more or to give you can visit greaternw.org/tonga or text the code GNWTONGA to 44-321 on your mobile device.

Conference treasurers gave a report on the Boy Scouts of America pending settlement, commitments we would honor, and steps each conference will be taking to ensure our ministries are safe places for vulnerable persons.

A total of 12 candidate names for the three Bishop positions were turned over to the Western Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee for interviews this summer with final decisions made in November 2022.

Pastor Mike Graef was honored and interviewed along with nine other retiring PNW Pastors. We also celebrated the commissioning and ordination of seven new United Methodist leaders, one deacon and one elder. Bishop Elaine was honored in the closing session for her years of service including six as our Bishop.

During the final session and a day after the Supreme Court announced its overturning of Roe vs Wade a statement was presented for consideration to support access to vital reproductive healthcare. This statement was affirmed.

STATISTICAL NUMBERS reflect another year where local churches were restricted due to COVID-19:
....Membership stands at 30,984, down 1,644 from previous year.
....Worship attendance stands at 9,638, down by 3,302.
....Church school attendance stands at 2,767, down 598

Shirley Porter, Lay Leader and Linda Hansen Lay Member Delegate
(A complete detailed report can be picked up at the Connection Desk or see one of us.)

Children's Ministries



During the last few weeks of July the Children's Sunday school have begun going through the different people in the bible. They have learned about Aaron and Deborah so far and will continue their journey through others in the bible. With all the crafts and activities the kids have been staying busy and having loads of fun.

Nursery has yet to find its caregiver, however, there have been several people who have signed up to help out in there until we find someone. It has been a great blessing to have those volunteers in there to help aid in the beginning of their journey with God. If you or someone you know feels called to help part time in the nursery, please let Samantha Wallace know.

Youth Ministires



In Sunday School we are currently going through the Gospels, right now we are discussing teachings from the Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, specifically Matthew 6:1-15.

I will be out of the office from August 6th through the 13th.

