

**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
Samantha Wallace- Ministries with Young People
Britny Grovom- Sunday School teacher
Cassandra Strickland: Nursery Caregiver

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

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 69
Spokane, WA

Return Service Requested



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.*



CONNECTIONS

August 2023

Grief and Healing Support Group

A Grief and Healing Support Group will commence Friday, September 8, 10:00 a.m. through Friday October 3.

It will be held at Nancy Ashworth's home, 14405 E. 5th Avenue. This group is for anyone who recently lost a loved one or for someone grieving a loved one's passing a while ago. Grief has no timeline. Books from Grief Care Fellowship will be available for \$10 which we will use for discussion. Please sign up at the welcome desk.

For questions, please call Nancy Ashworth, (509)993-9074



**"Thank you for all the beautiful cards and prayers during Ed's passing."
-Nancy Brown**

Calling all Seniors

We are planning to go to lunch together Sunday, September 3rd, at noon, location to be announced. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk. Reservations are a must so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. We plan to go to lunch the first Sunday of each month, September through May.

***For questions, please call
Nancy Ashworth, (509) 993-9074***



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Though we're right in the midst of the Summer of 2023, I'm already thinking ahead to the future of worship and ministry at Spokane Valley UMC, and by my estimation, May 19, 2024, has the potential to a very exciting day in the life of the church! In addition to celebrating the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ on a day of Pentecost, we *may* also be celebrating the baptism and confirmation of faith of several of our youth!

Like many United Methodists, some of our youths were baptized as infants so their parents spoke their baptismal vows for them and promised to raise them in the church. Others were likewise raised in the church but have yet to be baptized. With most of our youth at an age where they are ready to start taking the lead on their own discipleship (7th grade+), it's time to offer them the opportunity to undergo the theological and spiritual preparation necessary to make the choice of whether they will "confirm" the faith that their parents' chose for them and take upon themselves the commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ or choose a different path. And so, it is with great anticipation that I announce that we will be offering a year-long confirmation class for our youth starting this September!

Beginning Sunday, September 10th, youth 7th grade and higher will be invited to dedicate time after worship each week during their traditional Youth Group time (10:45am-12pm) to learning about the Bible, Christian beliefs, what it means to be a disciple, who Jesus was, and more. They will have a chance to study the history, polity and theology of the United Methodist Church and what makes us unique in the world of Christendom. Using a curriculum from Sparkhouse called “re:form” (as in “reformed tradition theology”), we will spend each session watching some fun, animated videos and exploring a main questions through discussion, activities, and prayer. To give you an idea of some of the more than 30 questions (!!) to be explored, here’s a small sample:

- Who wrote the Bible, God or humans?
- Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?
- Why should I follow Jesus; can't I just say I believe in him?
- Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?
- If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions?
- Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me?
- What the heck is prevenient grace and do I have to learn geometry to be a Methodist?

Each of these questions are designed to give our youth and the brave adult volunteers who sign up to join us more on that below!) the chance to explore an area of faith while being free to ask even more questions of their own. The ultimate goal of confirmation isn't to teach our young people the stock answers to age-old questions of faith or even pressure them to say "yes" to being confirmed, but to help them nurture a practice of asking questions and turning to God and the church to find ways to grow in understanding their faith.




Children & Youth

MINISTRY NEWS

Sunday School



Summer has been full of a lot of new activities. We are halfway through the year so we are looking for volunteers who want to come up to Sunday school to see what the kids are learning. With VBS starting up we are needing volunteers to help.



Youth Group

Coming up on **August 17th** we will be heading out to Silverwood for the day. Be sure to email Samantha for more Information on that. Be sure to RSVP for Silverwood by **August 10th** so that way we have a headcount and get the right amount of cars to get the youth to and from Silverwood.

Youth group for the remainder of the summer will be following Church from 10- 11:30 am.

Other Information

If you are Interested
In the silverwood trip
send me an email for
more Information

If you would like to help out with Sunday school come find me after services on Sundays.

Samantha Wallace

Email: Samantha.marie00@outlook.com



Twin Lakes History: 95 Years of Twinlow Camp

It all started with Rev. Mark Freeman who wanted to create a little patch of woods on the shores of Twin Lakes (then called Fish Lake), a place for young people to gather. With that vision in mind, Rev. Freeman worked tirelessly to build cabins and a dining hall, dig a well, and clear hundreds of trees. Rev. Freeman, also the first manager of what we now call Twinlow Camp and Retreat Center, wanted a place out of the city where young people could connect with their Creator.

For more than 90 years, Twinlow has been that place. A place away—a quiet place—a place where young people could go to experience something new and challenging. A culture of grit always existed here in North Idaho, and it was evident at Twinlow from the very beginning. In the 1920s folks had no place to stay overnight here nor any running water. Rev. Freeman, with the help of many volunteers, managed to build a camp from nothing. He knew that water was needed for this place to succeed, so he started by digging a well—by hand—by himself. Legend has it that he dug 100 feet by himself before the Camp Commission hired professionals to dig the remaining 240 feet. We still use this well at camp today, and share it with our neighbors.

It started in 1928 and has lasted far beyond that—the culture that all are welcome at Twinlow, that we are a community, and that we are here to offer Christian Hospitality on Holy grounds. During World War II, Twinlow housed soldiers and their families, made room for them to eat together, and offered a place to find peace in a troubled time. “Twinlow always will be a safe haven for all to find adventure, relaxation, and rest.

When Twinlow was founded, it was an escape from the noise of war, of the city, of early century new technology taking over the quiet focus on God. Twinlow remains the same escape 95 years later. We invite you to find adventure, rest, and relaxation. Escape to the wilderness.

With that in mind, our curriculum was chosen because it not only helps to create a space to wrestle with some of the tough issues of faith, but it also ultimately helps teach that part of a life of faith *is* asking questions and prayerfully wrestling with God and trusted faith friends to find the answers. I am very excited to be partnering with Samantha Wallace, our Coordinator for Children’s Ministry, who is expanding her current focus to include our youth for the 2023-2024 academic year. Now serving as our *Coordinator of Ministries with Young People*, Samantha will work with me and a few other adult leaders to offer confirmation and other youth group fellowship opportunities this year.

As I mentioned above, we have need for some brave, adult volunteers to make confirmation a faith-filled success! Because a critical mass is always helpful and our youth group is currently a small, but mighty gathering of 4-5 kids *and* because being disciplined by trusted adult mentors is integral to growing one’s faith, we’re inviting EVERYONE in the congregation to be a part of confirmation! In the middle of August, we will have a sign-up sheet available at the Connect Desk for adult members of the congregation to volunteer to join the confirmation class as an adult “confirmand” for just one week sometime over the next eight months to help boost our class size and witness to the ways in which you’ve grown as a disciple of Jesus. You can choose a week based on your schedule or, you can take a look at the questions we’re going to explore and pick one you’d like to learn more about yourself! No matter which one you choose, you’re bound to have fun and be a part of growing the faith of our youth!

I hope you share my excitement about our new confirmation class and the potential to confirm or baptize members of our youth group next May! Please join me in expressing gratitude to Samantha for her willingness to serve and please (please!) consider signing up to join our class one week! For more information about youth confirmation, please contact me: alissaamestoy@gmail.com or 509-879-2278.

Peace-
Pastor Alissa



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**

July Thank You

Katherine Parker, our missionary from Nepal, thanks all who enjoyed a delicious cinnamon roll on July 9th and contributed to EVE (Ending Violence for Equality) in Nepal. We were able to raise \$725.60!



Mission Community Outreach Center appreciates your donations of shoes, socks and financial support for their annual “School Shoes for Kids” drive.



At the Connect Desk in August

Mission Community Outreach Center Distribution of School Shoes Friday, August 18 at Stevens Elementary School

If you would like to help, sign up at the Connect Desk on July 30, August 6 and 13.

Naomi Paper Drive—July 30, August 6 and 13

Each quarter we hold a paper drive for Naomi collecting paper products.

This quarter we are again collecting paper towels and toilet paper.

This past year Naomi has served over 65 women and their families.

Our partnership with Naomi has helped these women make choices for their lives that allowed them to thrive!

Cinnamon Roll Sale for Jama Letu Orphanage—August 20

The sponsorship program of Jamaa Letu Orphanages supports the operating expenses of the orphanages which include food, clothing, school fees, medical care, utilities and the salaries of the house mothers. There are up to 60 girls and 30 boys in the orphanage.

Children range in age from infants to their completion of high school. Each child has support from more than one sponsor and the funds are pooled to benefit all the children. We sponsor Emany. We do this each year through a cinnamon roll sale in the summer. Our goal each year is \$500 plus. We appreciate your support.



**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.

United Women in Faith is pleased to announce the election of Sally Vonner to the position of General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer.



Ms. Vonner joined the organization’s national staff in 2010 as Assistant General Secretary of Membership and Leadership Development. With reorganization in 2018, she became the Transformation Officer, coordinating the organization’s visioning and strategic development to positively impact the lives of women, children, and youth. She oversaw an organizational rebranding that opened new ways for women to join, introduced program innovations and initiatives, and rolled out United Women in Faith as the new public-facing name.

“My primary focus is to continue and expand the mission and reach of United Women in Faith as we put our love and faith in action to change the world, and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world,” Ms. Vonner said. “I commit to lead with faith and trust in God, the support of the directors, the Program Advisory Group, my colleagues, and most of all, the members of United Women in Faith.

The Texas native has served The United Methodist Church in several other capacities including women’s retreat leader, and jurisdictional conference delegate and alternate in 2008, 2016, and 2020 representing the North Texas Annual Conference. Ms. Vonner was an organizer for the denomination’s work on immigration assistance, community development initiatives, and dismantling racism work. She was commissioned as a U.S. missionary by the General Board of Global Ministries in 2000 to serve in the North Texas Annual Conference as the Communities of Shalom Coordinator.

Ms. Vonner is a graduate of Perkins School of Theology with a M.Div. and Women’s Studies Certification and Texas A&M Commerce with a B.S. in Biology.

A longtime member of First United Methodist Church of Grand Prairie, Texas, she regularly attends Teaneck United Methodist Church in New Jersey, where she is a member of the local United Women in Faith group.

Ms. Vonner enjoys spending time with her adult children, Wesley and Lessie, reading, walking, and traveling.

Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Circle Meeting Times .

Esther Circle will meet September 12 in Room 115 at 12:00 pm.

Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

Rachel Circle will meet September 14 in the Fireplace Room at 11:00 am.

Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

Rebekah Circle will meet September 19 in Room 115 at 11:00 am.

Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

Sarah Circle will meet October 2 at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet September 11 and 25 in the Fireplace Room at 10:00 am

Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-4074