

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

Return Service Requested

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

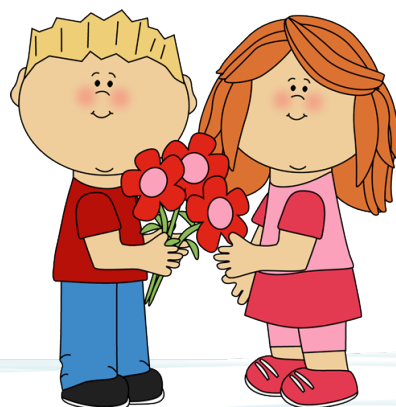
**Staff:**

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](http://www.spokanevalleychurch.org)  
Church E-mail:  
[secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org](mailto:secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org)



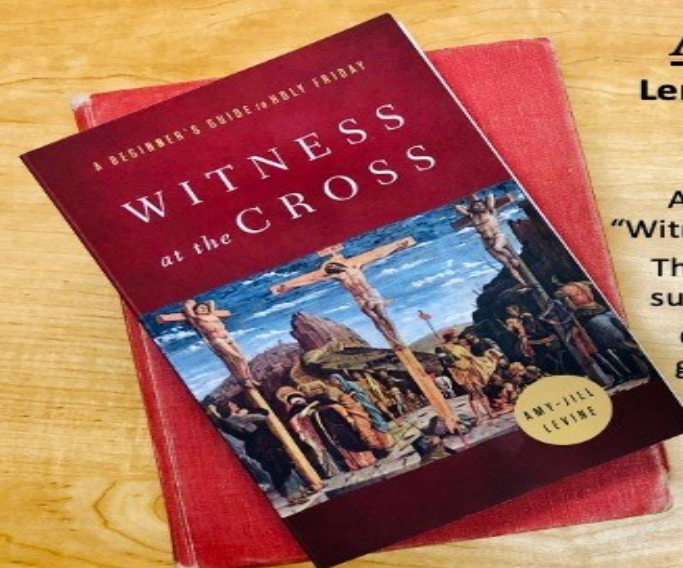
**OUR PURPOSE:** *Spokane Valley United Methodist Church is here to invite people to: follow Jesus, love others, and transform the greater community through the grace of God.*

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# CONNECTIONS

## February 2023



### All-Church Lenten Study

**Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 22 at 7pm in the Chapel.**

Everyone is encouraged to join in our All-Church Lenten Study of Amy-Jill Levine's book, "Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday"

The book will be available at the Connect Desk for a suggested donation beginning Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Go deeper with the study - join one of our small groups or attend Adult Sunday School after worship!

More information will be provided in upcoming worship bulletins in the Sunday News and in the March newsletter.

The Sunday worship services will be co-led by Pastor Alissa Amestoy & Sue McGrath.

*Save The Date to join us for another Holy Pub Event*

## 🎵 *The First Annual Irish Sing-a-Long!* 🎵



Sunday 12 March at  
45Degrees Brewery  
10421 E Sprague Ave,  
Spokane Valley, WA

3:00pm-4:30pm

Good food, good drink and lots  
of good fellowship!

*"Raise your glass and Raise your Voice"*

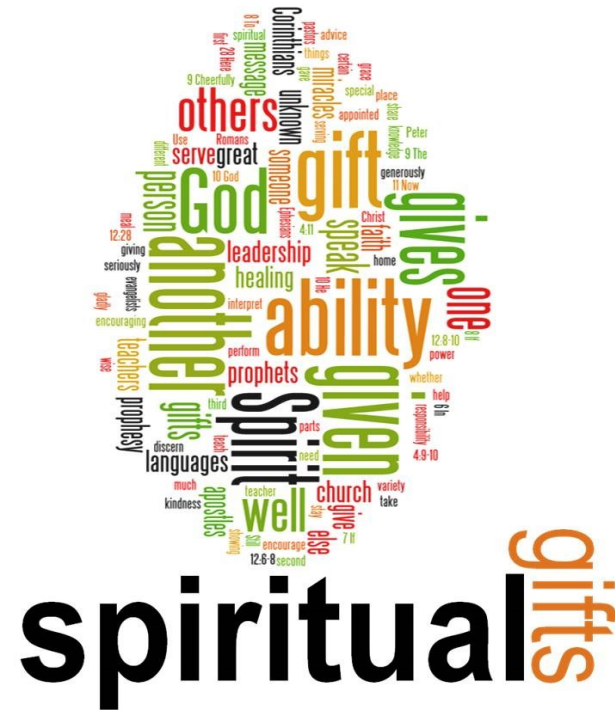
**This is a no host event for those 21 and older.**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Long before I arrived at Spokane Valley UMC, you all had undergone a significant season of visioning and creating a plan for future mission and ministry under Pastor Mike's leadership. You renovated your worship space, redesigned your worship services, and reconfigured your staffing model all with an eye to continuing to offer the vital ministries of this church into the future and inviting a whole new generation of people to become disciples of Jesus Christ. As I've learned about that process and the goals that you had accomplished, I learned that a goal yet to be met had to do with discovering and amplifying the spiritual gifts of this congregation.

Scripture teaches us that everyone has received a unique package of spiritual gifts that are desperately needed for the building up of the whole Body of Christ. Some are gifted with talents in teaching, preaching, and prayer. Others in witness, prophecy, and writing. More still with healing, listening, and organization. This is only a tiny list of the many and varied gifts that the Spirit pours out on the people of God in order to equip them as a group for their corporate work of bringing forth the kingdom of God but it gives you a sense of the scope!

I've been in ministry long enough to know that some of you, having read the previous paragraph, are thinking to yourself, *"Spiritual gifts? I don't have any spiritual gifts...I must have been absent when the Spirit was passing them out!"* Well, I'm here to tell you - that is flat out not true! The Holy Spirit gives *everyone* spiritual gifts without exemption, so the problem isn't in the assignment process. The trip-up usually occurs on our side of the equation - the part where we have to do the work of *discovering* them and, more importantly, *activating* them! Knowing that discovering spiritual gifts is part of the vision of our church *and* know that there are gifts to discover and activate within each of us, I'm proposing that we spend time throughout this year focusing on spiritual gifts - where they come from, what they look like, how to figure what we've been given, and how to put them to work!



## Children's Ministries



Coming into the new year there are some exciting things for the Children's program. For Nursery and Sunday school, there is a new sign-up sheet to volunteer in the classroom. If you feel called to help, and take an inside look at what the kids are learning be sure to come by and sign up for a Sunday.

As part of the new direction of the program, we are all working to begin new lessons that will allow the children to dive deeper into the Bible.

If there are any questions about anything going on during the year do not hesitate to reach out.

Samantha Wallace

Email: [Samantha.marie00@outlook.com](mailto:Samantha.marie00@outlook.com)

## Youth Ministires



If any congregant has interest joining our youth for Sunday school after service, there is a sign up sheet by my office!

For clarification, although I will be stepping down in May because of graduation and studying for the bar exam, I am not leaving. I will remain on as a volunteer, and I will still be here most Sundays!

James Gilreath

Email: [jgilreath@lawschool.gonzaga.edu](mailto:jgilreath@lawschool.gonzaga.edu)



### ***Audubon Park UMC has an opening for an Administrative Assistant!***

The position is part-time (20 hrs/ week, Sunday - Thursday) and you can find the job description with more details on

Audubon Park UMC's website:

[audubonparkumc.org/employment](http://audubonparkumc.org/employment).



**For more information, please contact**

**Pastor Geoff Heton:**

[geoff@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:geoff@audubonparkumc.org)

### ***Our 55+ Luncheon speaker for February 23rd is Sonia Bertsch!***

*who will be sharing a presentation on the 99th "Viking" Infantry Battalion from WWII, a Norwegian-American Army winter combat unit.*



### **Flannel Shirt Sunday**

February 19th, 2023

wear your favorite flannel shirt to church  
and be cozy while worshipping God



Every 2nd Sunday of the month is our Hymn-sing with Wes Holmquist,

***If you have any requests  
be sure to let Wes Holmquist know!***  
[wesleyross@protonmail.com](mailto:wesleyross@protonmail.com)



To kick off this year-long exploration, we're going to start a new four-part worship series on Sunday called *Greater Gifts* in which we will learn from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians about the spiritual gifts of God - where they come from, how to activate them, and why we need them. Along the way, I'm hoping you'll have a chance to reflect on your spiritual gifts - what they might be, why you should put them to use, and how you can activate them in the church. We will start the series by going to the source - the Spirit - and grounding ourselves in the roots of our spiritual gifting. The second week will focus on Paul's description of spiritual gifts - i.e. how the Spirit works in and through them and how we are gifted to serve as one vital part of the whole body of Christ. A little bit of explanation is needed around the theme for week three, "Being Needy". This phrase has a certain negative connotation that often relates to people who require a little more attention than others (we all likely know people like this...might even be us!) I would like to redeem the meaning by asserting that we all, regardless of our own gifts, *need* one another in order to be part of the whole body of Christ...so being "needy" can actually be a spiritual gifting! The purpose of all these gifts is revealed in the final week, in which the whole point of acting together is revealed - "having love," which is the most important of the "marks of the new birth" (faith, hope, and love), as shared by both the apostle Paul and John Wesley.

Here's the plan for upcoming worship:

January 29 - "With A Demonstration" - 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

February 5 - "Gifted for Others" - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (Communion)

February 12 - "Being Needy" - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (Hymnsing)

February 19 - "It's All About Love" - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Flannel Sunday)

To get a head start on the spiritual work of this series and on our year-long focus on discovering and amplifying our spiritual gifts, I'd like to invite you to assess YOUR spiritual gifts through the taking of a spiritual gifts inventory that can help you realize the nature and potential for your gifts. There are two options that you can find below. If you choose to do one, and you're willing, please set up a time to share your results with me! One of the steps in activating your gifts is letting someone in the church know so they can help you grow that gift and even connect you with a ministry group so you can put them to work *or* work with you to create a new one ministry!

Here are the options:

- For an online option, click this link or type it into your browser:  
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>
- For a printed version, stop by the Connect Desk to pick up an inventory.

Thank you for considering this invitation! May God bless us with the wisdom and courage to discover our spiritual gifts and activate them here at Spokane Valley UMC!

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

## January Thank You

### **Thank you for your support of the Washington Legislative Conference**

\$1,092 was raised through the lunch served at this event. Proceeds go to our financial commitment for our covenant relationship with Katherine Parker.

Thank you to all who helped set tables & rooms, prepared soups, greeted in the parking lot and hallways, served the lunch and helped with clean up. Also thank you to the wonderful cookie bakers!

**Cinnamon Roll Sale  
supporting our Covenant Relationship  
with  
Missionary Katherine Parker  
February 5, Sunday  
During Fellowship Time**



## At the Connect Desk in February

### **Naomi Paper Drive—January 29 and February 5 and 12**

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 40 women and their families

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

### **Spokane Valley Partners Food Drive—February 19, 26 and March 5**

**“Hunger Is on the Rise—**

**But Together We Can Help Families in Need”**

Items especially needed:

Granola Bars, Applesauce, Fruit Cups, Fruit snack,  
Fruit rollups, Ramen, Cup of Noodles, Oatmeal,  
Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pop top canned soup,  
Pop top canned fruit, Pop top canned beans and chili,  
Pop top Canned meat (spam, tuna, etc.)



**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.

In November 2022 Spokane Valley United Women in Faith tried their Harvest Dinner as both a Dining In and Take Out meal. It was a success!

They decided to hold their Annual Easter Dinner the same way.

**Mark your calendar** for this delicious Easter dinner supporting their pledge to mission.

**Spokane Valley United Women in Faith  
Dining In and Takeout  
Annual Easter Dinner  
April 1 (Saturday) from 4:00-6:00 pm**

Dining in from 4:00—5:00 pm  
Take out from 5:00—6:00 pm



Ham and Creamy Potato Casserole  
Carrots, Cole Slaw and Roll  
Easter Cake for Dessert

Adults - \$15  
Children (6 – 12 years) - \$7  
Children 5 and under - Free

The March Newsletter will have full information on ordering either Dining In or Take Out Meals

Together, we welcome new women into our sisterhood.  
It's an exciting time to be part of United Women in Faith!  
Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood,  
we are working to improve the lives of women, children and youth.  
We show up. We take action. We get it done.  
Come and join us. Check out one of our circles .

**Esther Circle** will meet February 14 in the Fireplace Room at 12:00 pm.

Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

**Rachel Circle** will meet February 9 in the Fireplace Room at Noon.

Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

**Rebekah Circle** will meet February 21 in Room 115 at 11:00 am.

Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

**Sarah Circle** will meet February 6 at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet February 13 and 27 in the Fireplace Room at 10:00 am

Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-4074