

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

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

Return Service Requested



CONNECTIONS

JULY 2022

Sundays

Traditional Service 9 a.m.
Sunday School 9a.m
Youth Group 6 p.m.

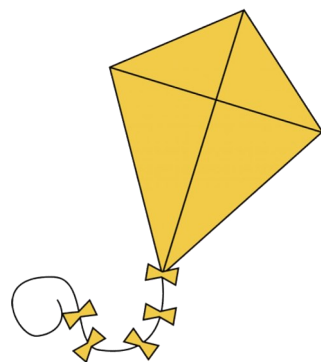
Staff:

Congregation: Ministers of the Church
Mike Graef: Pastor
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Luke Henderson: Choir Director
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Amanda Roche: Church Secretary
Nate Dunigan: Technical Ministry
James Gilreath- Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Samantha Wallace- Coordinator of 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



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.*



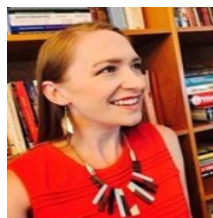
Galatians 5:13

13 "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love."



Congratulations!

Brody and Avery Taylor who were Baptized on June 5th!



Join us at 9:00am on Sundays online or in person.

Hello Spokane Valley UMC!

After months and months and MONTHS of anticipation, I am beyond excited that the wait is almost over and that, within just a few weeks, I will join you all in mission and ministry at Spokane Valley! I have already been overwhelmed with the warm welcome and helpful resources that the staff and leadership of the congregation have offered me as well as the time that Pastor Mike dedicated to helping me be ready to come with success. I haven't even officially started, and I already feel well-loved and supported! What a blessing and a gift!

Before my first official day in the office on July 5th there's just one or two things I need to wrap up...coordinating the PNWAC Service of Commissioning and Ordination on June 23rd and, oh, getting married! My fiancé, C.J. and I will FINALLY tie the knot on July 2nd after waiting out the pandemic for two years. Once the ink is dry on our marriage license, and we've had a chance to celebrate with friends and family, I'm headed your way!

My first Sunday will be July 10th and I do hope you are able to join us in person or streaming online! On that day, we'll have a chance to inaugurate our new partnership together and I will kick off my first sermon series with you which I have entitled *The Long Game*. When we talk about "playing the long game" what we're alluding to is creating a vision for what we want to accomplish in the long-term and not sacrificing that vision for short-terms wins or gains. Usually, we apply it to romantic relationships, career goals, or competitive sports with a mind to how little, yet intentional, choices and actions executed with the big picture in mind, can lead us to achieving our ultimate goal in love, work, and athletics. For the purposes of worship and our practice of faith as Christians, however, we'll spend the month of July considering the ways in which God through the *Holy Spirit* has been playing a long game in our lives and in our world!

Ever since God's Spirit first "swept over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2), the Holy Spirit has been at work in every aspect of creation to bring forth God's vision of salvation for our world. The Bible is full of stories in which the Holy Spirit, over countless eons, has been at work inspiring individual people, couples, rulers, even entire nations, to respond to God's calling in their lives and offer themselves as agents in small and big ways to bring all of creation ever closer to God's dream. One of the best places to find examples is the Book of Acts – a book of the Bible that is all about the work of the Holy Spirit! Therefore, during the month of July, which falls in the summer season of Pentecost (which is *always* dedicated to the work of the Holy Spirit), we'll take a look at a number of people from the early church through whom the Holy Spirit accomplished some significant progress in the pursuit of God's "long game".

On my first Sunday with you, we'll kick off the series with my favorite Bible passage and Bible character – Lydia of Thyatira (Acts 16:6-15). Through her story, we'll consider how the Holy Spirit plays a long game in our lives to open our hearts and prepare us to hear God's calling on our lives so we can be a part of the longer game at play! The following week we'll learn about Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40) to see how the Spirit works to put us in the right place at the right time to accomplish some major long-term goals for the Kingdom of God.



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.

Thank you for helping us support our national mission institutions and our international partners through our Gifts to Mission

National mission institutions

National mission institutions are community centers, colleges and residences providing vital services in vulnerable communities—empowering women, caring for children, supporting seniors, educating youth, providing housing for domestic violence survivors, and offering residences for special needs children and youth.

National mission institutions also advocate for the women, children, youth and families in the communities they serve. United Women in Faith assists these nearly 90 organizations across the United States through grants, technical support, and member involvement.

One of our national mission institutions Alaska Child & Family, Anchorage Alaska

Providing trauma-informed, mission based care to children, youth and their families through home, school and community based programs, therapeutic foster care and residential treatment.

International partners

United Women in Faith supports international partners that are enhancing the capacities of local and regional women leaders and supporting economic development programs for women and youth.

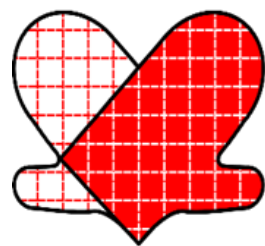
We provide academic scholarships and support Regional Missionaries—personnel serving in their home regions with church, ecumenical and grassroots partners

in educational and empowerment programs for women and youth. Our international work empowers women and youth to find local solutions and make positive, measurable change in their communities.

One of our international partners

Milijuli Samaj Kathmandu Nepal. COVID-19 relief and prevention with a focus on counseling for women. Economic development opportunities including making and selling reusable face masks and sanitary pads as well as vegetable gardening and animal husbandry.

Trauma counseling for domestic violence and sexual abuse.



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 12th Annual

“School Shoes for Kids”

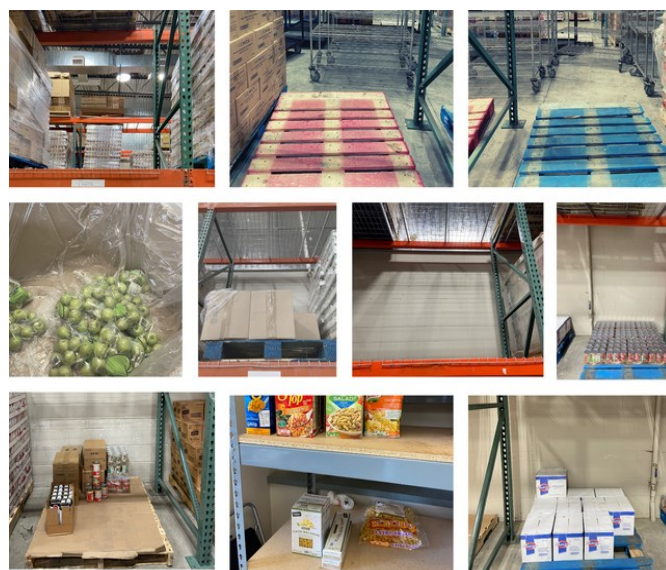
We will be collecting kids NEW tennis shoes, sizes 1-3 and children’s socks

This event held every year helps families prepare for back to school by providing children ages K-8th grade with a new pair of shoes and socks.

On **Sundays July 3, 10 & 17**
bring children’s school shoes sizes 1-3 and socks to the Connect Desk.



From Spokane Valley Partners



“The shelves have never been this bare.”

Rapidly increasing grocery prices are driving many food-insecure families to turn to food banks. The pain of inflation has reached Spokane Valley Partners as well. We are serving 36% more individuals at this time over last year and we have less food on our shelves to do it. Average wholesale food prices jumped 18% and with food drives dwindling and grocery store rescue diminished we need our faithful donor base now more than ever.

In response to this request Spokane Valley Mission and Service Team will be holding a food drive!

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 Pop top canned soup, Pop top canned fruit, Pop top canned beans and chili, Pop top Canned meat (spam, tuna, etc.)

We’ll then take a look at the apostle Paul’s conversion experience to ponder how God both gets our attention in the short-term and sets us on the right path for his long-term purposes (Acts 9:1-22). We’ll wrap it all up with Aquila and Pricilla (Acts 18:1-4, 18-19, 24-28), a Biblical power-couple whose partnership with the Spirit shows us how we can amplify the Spirit’s work when we see ourselves as part of the long game!

Praise God that the wait is nearly over and that in a few short weeks, we will be celebrating our new ministry partnership together! I thank God for the opportunity to serve Spokane Valley UMC, and as you’ll learn on my first Sunday with you...the Spirit’s been playing a bit of a long game with us, too!

With a heart full of gratitude and anticipation,

Pastor Alissa

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” - Jude 1:20-21 (NRSVA)

Happy Birthday



07/02 Laura Gottberg

Pat Palanuk

07/03 Karen Goyins

07/07 Pearl Hansen

07/08 Laura Gardner

Gary Holmes

07/09 Richard Dawe

07/13 Heather Reynen

07/15 Barbara Burnside

07/16 Asher Cheney

07/23 Josephine Killingsworth

07/24 Jerry Miller

07/25 Lori Douglas

07/28 Dennis Forster

07/29 Brandon Meckel

07/30 Roberta Headley

07/31 Joan Kelly

Happy Anniversary



07/05 Ed& Joan Kelly
07/20 Jenni & Aveek Majumdar
07/29 Brian & Georgiann Cheney



Thank you! dear SVUMC congregation for the beautiful retirement party you threw on June 2nd, and for the many cards, notes, and gifts we received. Over the top, truly! Lump in throat. We feel so loved and blessed by your thoughts and affirmations of our 12 years together.

We are settling in very well to our new address – please note it below. I'm just not sure yet where to put my dad's 1982 Vespa Scooter. Let's agree to bump into each other in a grocery store sometime.

Twill be fun!

"I thank my God for every remembrance of you." (Phil 1.3)

Joyfully,

Mike and Missy Graef
4407 S Madelia St
Spokane, WA 99223



Children's Ministries



In Sunday school the children have been going through the series of living for God. Each week they have learned about working hard, showing love, using kind words, and choosing what is right. Each craft has been matched with the lessons that have been planned out. Going into July Sunday school will be continuing the series of living for God with choosing to obey, praising God, and learning to Pray. Coming up towards the ending of the summer will be bible buck Sunday which will be announced at church at a later date.

Nursery is in the process of finding a new caregiver, there have been many great applicants to go through.

If you are feeling called to help with Sunday school or Nursery we are looking for some volunteers to come in and help aid in each child's journey in their faith. If you have any questions about this feel free to talk with Samantha Wallace who is the Coordinator of Children's Ministry.

Youth Ministires



In Sunday School we are currently going through the Gospels, discussing various events before the crucifixion and resurrection. Last week our lesson was from Luke 21:1-4, about the Widow's Offering.

