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

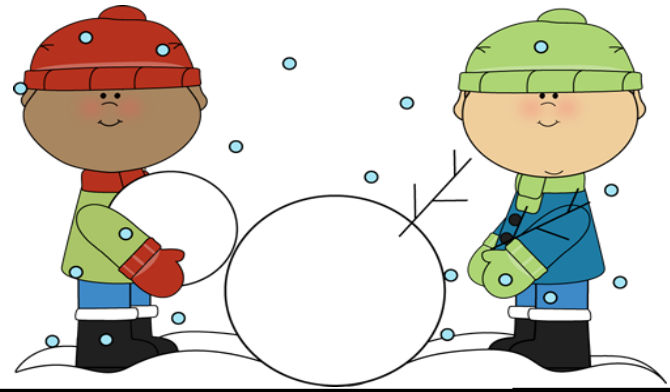
Sundays
Traditional Service 9 a.m.
Sunday School 9a.m

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



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

January 2023

We are in need of more Ushers & Greeters!
If you would be interested in serving on Sundays please stop by the Connect Desk or contact Gary Holmes (509) 924-4959



Twinlow Camp Young Adult (18-35ish) Retreat - Feb. 12-20th
Adulthood is hard! Give work, school, and all those other responsibilities a break and relax at Twinlow over the President's Day Weekend. This long weekend is here for you to find a place to rest, worship, make a new friend, and of course, play in the snow!
The cost is \$100 per person and scholarships are available through Pastor Alissa.

To register or learn more about the retreat, visit their website: <https://twinlow.org/events/young-adult-retreat/>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I'll be honest...I'm not much of a New Year's resolution kind of person. I've given it a try a few times in the past but I'm like the vast majority of people who resolve to do (or not do) something starting January 1st who by January 15th have utterly failed to follow through or have abandoned the effort altogether! If you're the type that *does* make a New Year's resolution and *does* follow through, well done! I am in awe of your commitment and ability to hold yourself accountable!

Despite my lack of a personal observance of New Year's resolutions, I have made a practice of *professionally* resolving to do something in the coming year with the congregations I serve. The associate pastor I worked with at Cheney UMC, Rev. Pat Sleeth, is the one who introduced me to this modification of the traditional process. When he first joined me on staff in 2016, he proposed starting off each new year with a

"The Mission of Spokane Valley UMC Series"

Renewing our commitment to our Church Mission statement -

We are here to invite people to follow Jesus, love God, and transform the greater community through the grace of God.

January 8th Epiphany Sunday - "Inviting people to follow Jesus" (Matthew 2:1-12)

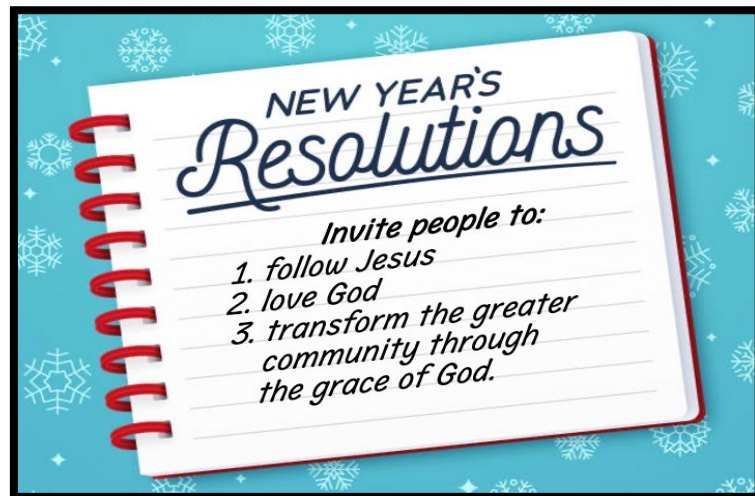
As we reflect on how the Three Wise Men were called to follow a star to find their way to Jesus, we will consider our calling to invite people to follow Jesus to find the way of discipleship!

January 15th Baptism of the Lord Sunday - "Inviting people to love God" (Matthew 3:13-17)

At his baptism, Jesus was named "beloved" of God and received the gift of the Holy Spirit which sent him forth to proclaim the Good News of God's love for all. As we remember our baptism and our belovedness, we will refresh our commitment to receive and share God's love with others!

January 22nd Mission & Outreach Sunday - "Inviting people to transform the greater community through the grace of God" (Matthew 4:12-23)

As soon as Jesus began his ministry, he invited others to join him, calling the original 12 disciples and commissioning them to the work of transforming the world into the kingdom of God. That mission remains vital today!



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

Youth Ministires



This month we have been grateful for the participation of volunteers in our church-wide Advent study. Our youth have been enjoying fellowship and learning from the volunteers after Sunday service.

If you are interested in coming to speak the youth group, please sign up on the sheet outside of my office. Thank you again to all of the volunteers for their time and dedication to engaging with our youth! For the month of January, there will be no youth Jan 1st and Jan 8th.

James Gilreath

Youth Coordinator



Flannel Shirt Sunday

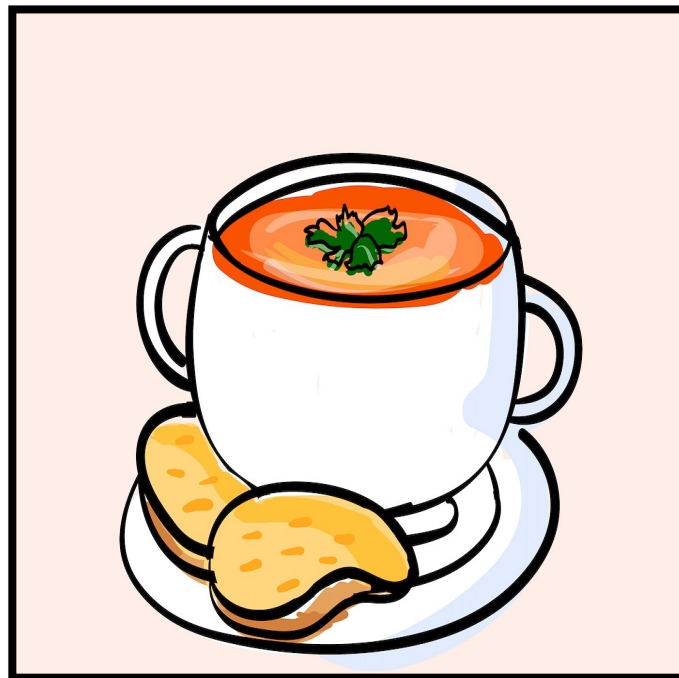
February 19th, 2023
wear your favorite
flannel shirt to church
and be cozy while
worshipping God

55 Plus Luncheon & Program

January 26, Thursday
Noon

Program: Brad Shaffer,
"Hiking the Israel
National Trail"

Lunch: Taco Soup and
Cornbread



CHRISTMAS ADVENT STUDY

What a great Advent Season we had at SVUM Church. The beautiful decorations, lighting the Advent candles, music presented by the choir, worship services lead by Pastor Alissa and the wonderful gifts and support given to community organizations. I hope this finds you with feelings of peace, hope, love and joy.

Involved in the study and devotional books, ALMOST CHRISTMAS were 78 to 80 of you choosing to do the study with the small groups, family groups or by yourself along with worship on Sundays. The main response I heard was, "It was special doing a Bible study that went along with the Sunday worship service." May each of you have come away with an ALTOGETHER CHRISTMAS.

I want to thank all the group leaders, office staff, and Pastor Alissa for their involvement in this "JOYFUL" experience. Then on New Year's Day in church we concluded the Advent study with John Wesley's, SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL. A time to not only offer ourselves to God but know that God is with us to give each of us altogether love. I feel so blessed to be part of this congregation.

Thank You!

Shirley Porter, Lay Leader

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first annual Holy Pub Caroling, it was a huge success with great fellowship! We are already making plans for the next one.

Raise your glass raise your voice!

Hospitality Huddle Team



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

December Thank You

Thank you for your support of Mission Community Outreach Center
“Christmas Joy—We collected 48 pairs of new jeans and 33 tops.
MCOC Benefit Breakfast—They received over \$17,000 from this breakfast

Thank you to all the wonderful cookie bakers who made cookies for Broadway Ornament Night and to the youth and adults who volunteered as helpers for this event.

Thank you to all who bought \$10 gas cards for Family Promise of Spokane
We have collected 52 gas cards

At the Connect Desk in January

Washington Legislative Conference—January 8 and 15

This conference will be held at our church on
January 21st from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

This is a Mission and Service fundraisers that helps support
our financial commitment for our covenant relationship with Katherine Parker.

Sign up to help set tables & rooms, prepare soups,
greet in the parking lot, greet in the hallways, serve lunch and help with clean up.
Also cookie bakers can sign up to make cookies for the dessert for the lunch.

Naomi Paper Drive—January 22, 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.

Bring your donation to the connect desk on these Sundays.

Looking Ahead

Cinnamon Roll Sale supporting our Covenant with Katherine Parker— March 5

We began our Cinnamon Roll Sales on July 17, 2016.

Since that time we have added supporting

Jamaa Letu Orphanage and

The Children at Risk in Honduras.

This will be our 25th Cinnamon Roll Sale.

Come and enjoy a cinnamon roll and help us celebrate

ministry in Nepal, Lubumbashi and Honduras!



**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.

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 not meet in January

They will meet February 14 in the Fireplace Room at 12:00 pm.

Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

Rachel Circle will meet January 12 in the Fireplace Room at Noon.

Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

Rebekah Circle will meet January 17 in Room 115 at 11:00 am.

Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

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

Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet January 9 and 23 in the Fireplace Room at 10:00 am

Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-4074

**United Women in Faith Spiritual Retreat
Celebrating Womanhood**

Join the Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith

As we look at the characteristics of women as thinkers, problem solvers,

caregivers, feisty, strong, loving, made in the image of God.

Rev. Shalom R. Agtarap, pastor and developer serving at

First UMC Tacoma, will lead us

Where: Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center / 16170 Manastash Rd. / Ellensburg

When: April 28-30, 2023

What to Expect: Study, Worship, Music, Relaxation, Crafts, Walks & Massages

Question? Contact Sharon McDaniel / 360-724-3246 / sharongarymcdaniel@gmail.com

Scholarships are available