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Spokane Valley United Methodist Church is here to invite
you to love others, and transform the greater community
with God.



CONNEC

January 2



Inland Distri

Do you like to sing with
listening to beautiful choral music?
If you answered “yes” to either
March 24, on your calendar
District will come together at
Holy Week with the cantata ‘
Martin. Mary Jane Shervais f
cantata as churches come toget

Our Director of Music, Luke Henderson, and members of our Tradition
You do not have to be a member of our choir to participate! Rehears
of the district will be held on Saturdays 10am-Noon at Spokane Va

January 13th
February 10th
March 9th & 23rd

If you are interested in singing, please connect with Pastor Alissa or
to have their own copies of music. You can find them online or yo
extra copies are available through our choir. Please contact Sheila M
Mary Jane Shervais: mjshervais@gmail.com if you have qu



THANK YOU to everyone who joined
2nd Annual Holy Pub!

A great time was had by all! There was the best fellowship and
beverages. A special thank you to Maestro Luke Henderson and
also Norm Cweik for our holiday design on the glasses. W

As we turn our calendars to another blessed year of
some VERY exciting news!!!! **We're getting a pastoral intern!!!!** Right
new year, I received an email from Rev. Damian Carruthers, pastor at
Allegheny UMC would be interested in hosting a theology student from Germany
(unpaid) internship in pastoral ministry. I sent an email back saying,
"leaving for Egypt tomorrow so I will get back to you in November!" Once
with **Klara Diesler** (see photo), a young adult theology student from
We had a lovely Zoom conversation in which Klara shared with me what
brings, and in which I shared about my philosophy of ministry and the gifts
an offer. At the end, we both agreed that there was much we could offer
on February 2 to join us for six-weeks of ministry! **Please save the date
February 4, where we will install her as our pastoral intern and celebrate**

an internship with you in February/March.
in my 3rd semester to become a pastor. I live
little sister who I love more than anything. My
om is a [Methodist] pastor. From my
justice and standing up for others.
ate about questions around justice, poverty,
y. And because these topics often lead to
s between Christians, I am fascinated by the
ut God. How does it work that all Christians
em at their core, even though we understand
es me marvel at this God who is so incredibly
all in so many different ways.
cult questions, I like to meet up with friends to
laxed chat. In my free time, I also like to read
rite book) and enjoy the silence of nature



~Klara

She is seeking to learn from us what it's like to be a pastor. While she will learn about the practice of pastoral ministry (ex. administration, pastoral care, worship, etc.) through our conversations with me about pastoring a church, she will also be seeking to learn from us. I've assured her that we are a VERY lay-led church and that clergy and laity work together. At the end, I encourage you to do for her as you did for me when I first arrived: join her in our small groups, schedule a time to grab coffee or a meal to share in conversation about faith, and encourage her to participate in the service and outreach activities. When she is here, Klara will be offering her gifts in worship leadership and will be teaching. She is also planning to offer a short-term study or reflection group and help her grow her teaching ministry skills as well!

Klara's English is VERY good, and she will operate in our language throughout her ministry practice to learn a few key words of a new friend's language to help her get started! So, to help you prepare to welcome Klara well, I've come up with a list of things you can practice for the next month!

Sunday Scho

A large, shiny gold foil balloon spelling out "HAPPY NEW YEAR" in three rows against a dark background. The balloons are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with "HAPPY" on the top row, "NEW" on the middle row, and "YEAR" on the bottom row. The balloons are highly reflective, showing bright highlights and shadows. The background is a solid, dark color, making the gold balloons stand out prominently.

Youth group Is I
confirmation cla
Interested In be
confirmation yo
front desk to sit
youth are learni

Samantha.marie00@outlook.c

ND ANNOUNCEMENTS

uth To Share Their Culture in the Inland District - February 10

Inland District is hosting a cultural evening in February led by "Sharing Our Prayers," a group of Native youth from the non-profit Yakama youth organization, *Mending Wings*. The event will be held at Covenant UMC (15515 Gleneden, Spokane, WA 99208) on Saturday, February 10th beginning around 5:30 pm. Learn more about the Mending Wings Organization at <https://mendingwings.net>.

churches in the Greater Spokane and North Idaho area will have the opportunity as we work toward eliminating racism, the "E" of our mission. This invitation is open to church and community members. To attend - RSVP with her if you're planning to attend: mestoy@gmail.com or 509-879-2278.

Senior Lunch Bunch!

Starting at 11:45 a.m. and ordering at noon. Sign up January 10th. Reservations and cancellations are a must.



Our finance team. We are looking forward to another Blessed year at Covenant with continued support for the Mission and Ministry of our church. Making a difference in the community around us through your financial support. It's never fun to talk about, but also a necessity for the church to be visible externally, so we have an impact on our community based on the vision of our plan to keep the congregation informed throughout the year as we work together to meet the goals set in our annual budget. Based on requested needs from the various committee's and their plan's for these commitments completed this next year. The completed budget for 2024 is \$32,433.00 per month. Your gifts towards meeting our goals are appreciated. Let's come together to do God's work in worship each week and in the community to help our community. As shared in James 2:20 faith without works is dead. Your shared financial support we will continue the work God has started in 2024. God's Blessings always for the support of all, and Gerry Bafus Co-Chairs Finance Committee.

Make a request for a song for hymn sing, contact Wes at Wesleyross@protonmail.com

Welcome!	Willkommen! (<i>vil comb in</i>)
Good Morning!	Guten Morgen! (<i>goo-ten mohr-ghen</i>)
How are you?	Wie geht es dir? (<i>Vee geht as dear</i>)
My name is...	Ich heiße... (<i>ich hi suh...</i>)
Yes, please.	Ja, bitte. (<i>Yah, bit uh</i>)
Thank you.	Danke. (<i>Don kuh</i>)
No.	Nein. (<i>nine</i>)
Informal "Bye!"	Tschüss! (<i>chuisse - rhymes with juice</i>)
Good-bye!	Auf wiedersehen! (<i>ouf vee der sayen</i>)

If you'd someone to practice with, *Ich spreche ein bisschen Deutsch* (I speak a little German) happy to help you gain the confidence to boldly say, "Willkommen, Pastorin!" If you want to learn even more, consider downloading the "Duolingo" app onto your phone or a German course or click this link to take it online: <https://www.duolingo.com>

Last thing, please join me in thanking the Norris Family (Renée, Paul, and Klara) for hosting Klara while she is here! This is a very exciting opportunity for our church. May God bless our short-term partnership and may the gifts of our time in ministry be of the Kingdom far into the future!

Peace,
Pastor Alissa

Worship Preview for January

We begin the new calendar year in the season of Epiphany, a time when we focus on the revelation that Jesus is fully God and fully human, God Incarnate among us. This year, we are using the season between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday to explore becoming the people of God. Notice that we do not say "become" or "became" or "will become." Rather, we are on a constant journey of *becoming* as we travel a path that we share with faithful followers in the Old and New Testaments, guided by the divine Light who forms us individually and communally into the people of God.

January 7	Epiphany Sunday with Communion Message - <i>Becoming Followers of Jesus...</i> (Matthew 2:1-12)
January 14	Becoming the People of God (Baptism of the Lord Sunday) Message - <i>And There Was Morning</i> (Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:1-8)
January 21	Becoming the People of God (Human Relations Sunday) Message - <i>Your Servant is Listening</i> (1 Samuel 3:1-10 & John 1:1-18)
January 28	Becoming the People of God

Joining Hands
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

g cookies and helping at
ntary School Ornament Night
new jeans and 71 new tops at
ildren’s Christmas Joy”
serving breakfast at
h Center Benefit Breakfast
10 gas cards for
e of Spokane



Ali Norris, Executive Director of MCOC
and the MCOC Board.

the Connect Desk in January

egislative Conference—January 7 and 14
at our church on January 27th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
n and Service fundraisers that helps support
t for our covenant relationship with Katherine Parker.
es & rooms, prepare soups_greet in the parking lot,
lunch, help with clean up and bake cookies for the lunch.

ive—January 21, 28 and February 4 and 11
e again collecting paper towels and toilet paper.
ation to the connect desk on these Sundays.

55 Plus Luncheon and Program
January 25, Thursday, at Noon in the Gym
Lunch: Chili and Cornbread
Program: The Diversity of Kenya
Deaconess Ronda Cordill

ur next Cinnamon Roll Sale on Sunday, February 4
ovenant Relationship with Katherine Parker



Spokane Valley United Women in Faith R

2024 List of New Books

There are 96 books to choose from for our 5 categories of Ec
Development, Social Action, Spiritual Growth and N
If you have any request, please let m

Our Strangely Warmed Hearts by Ka
A Leadership Development Book

Bishop Karen Oliveto relates her story to our founder John We
having a moment of their hearts strangely warmed. She has d
lesbian and gay Christians who have felt the call to ministry. T
Church struggle with human sexuality is explored. The issues
God's people understand
scriptures, which are interpreted as a means of grace for some
This book includes first-person narratives of LGBTQ persons f
tion that denies their calls and--in some cases--their presence
the coming out process is deeply spiritual as one grows into a
graced self.

"Our Strangely Warmed Hearts is a breath of fresh air in the s
struggle and intense debate regarding human sexuality. Karen
and serves people with the heart of Christian leadership."--Bis
Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Linda Hansen, Reading Pro

Spokane Valley United Women in Faith

- Esther Circle** will not meet in Jan
They will meet February 13th in Room 115
Contact Nancy Ashworth, 509-993-
- Rachel Circle** will meet January 11th in the Firepla
Contact Susan Henderson, 509-924-
- Rebekah Circle** will meet January 16 in Room
Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-29
- Sarah Circle** will meet January 15th in the Firepla
Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5
- Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet January 8th and 22th in th
Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-40