

**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
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

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.*

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Spokane, WA



CONNECTIONS

July 2023



Instant Church Directory™

Announcing SVUMC's New Online Directory!

Available on your smart device (phone, tablet or computer).

Download the free "Instant Church Directory" app
or visit <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com>

It's EASY TO USE and SECURE – here's how:

If your email address is in the directory, you can access the directory through the app or the website. Download the app or visit the site, enter your email address and choose a password. Confirm your email and then re-enter both in the app or site and you're in!

Printed copies will always be available at the Connect Desk.

Digital versions are available by request –
email the church secretary to receive a digital copy and the passcode.

For questions or assistance, visit the Connect Center after worship on July 16
or email the church office: secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org

Hallelujah! The Chapel Has Been Painted!

If all went smoothly, by the time you receive this newsletter, the Chapel should have a fresh coat of paint! Using funds generously donated to the *Vision Fund* and raised by the United Methodist Men's Easter breakfast, the Chapel has been painted to match the rest of our facility. We give thanks to River City Painting for their excellent service and to our Trustees and Finance Teams whose leadership helped accomplish this much needed project!

DISCIPLE

BECOMING
DISCIPLES
THROUGH
BIBLE
STUDY

Study Manual
Second Edition

Disciple 6 Bible Study has something to share!

Through Disciple Bible Study, Disciple 6 has grown in their knowledge of and love of God and the Bible. They want to share this with you through facilitating Disciple 1 Bible Study. They are taking turns to lead this study while still continuing with their Disciple 6 lessons. Accept their gift of leadership and sign up at the Connect Desk during the month of July. The cost of the book is \$44.

Scholarships are available.

Disciple Bible Study

September 13, 2023 - June 12, 2024

Wednesday Evenings 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Room 115

DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible. In preparation for each week participants will need to be in independent study. Each member of the group needs a study manual and a Bible.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



**Go and Do
LIKEWISE**



**Pacific
Northwest**
2023 Annual
Conference Sessions

Our main article this month is a collaboration effort of Shirley Porter (SVUMC Lay Leader & Elected Lay Delegate), Bruce Butler (Equalization Lay Delegate), and Pastor Alissa Amestoy (Clergy Member). All three had an opportunity to participate in the 2023 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference held at the University of Puget Sound and Mason UMC in Tacoma, WA June 13-14. Shirley joined virtually from home while Bruce and Pastor Alissa attended in person. The overall theme for this year's Annual Conference was "Go and Do Likewise" and was based on Luke 10:30-37, Jesus' parable of the Samaritan on the road to Jericho.

Below are their shared reflections on worship, legislation, and other highlights.

Conference Worship



All of the worship services and devotional moments focused on the Luke 10:30-37 scripture and the conference theme of "Go and Do Likewise". Our newly installed episcopal leader, Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth's preached the opening worship sermon which was part of a large four-part sermon series built on the acronym "MILE". With previously preached sermons at his installation and the Alaska and Oregon-Idaho Annual Conferences emphasizing "Ministry that Matters", "Itineration and Location", his opening worship sermon focused on "Lay Ministry Enhancement" in which he challenged us using a mirror/window metaphor. When we look in the mirror, we see all that is familiar and what is *behind* us in the past, but we, as individuals and churches need to look out the window to the future and see where the need is around us

then go out the door and serve as the Samaritan in the story did. Closing worship wrapped up the series with a powerful message about the "Elimination of Racism". The Bishop asserted that this work "[i]s critical for our own sake. Being neighbor to one other and spreading love. Give our energy to ministry. We have work to do."

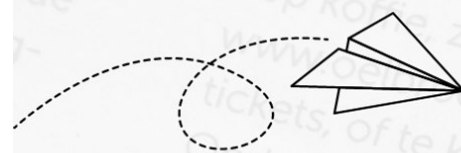
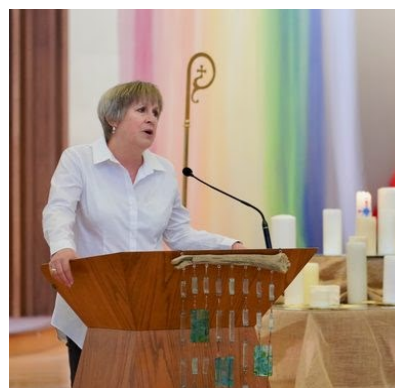
Our own Sue Magrath preached the sermon at the Memorial Service on Wednesday evening at Mason UMC, and, we have to note that this was no small thing - this is one of the few times that a lay person has been invited to preach at Annual Conference and signals our Bishop's commitment to "lay ministry enhancement"! Sue offered a beautiful message to the families of clergy and significant lay members of the conference who have passed away since COVID.



She honored the passing of those saints over the past years and marked several other shared moments of grief since our last gathering, challenging us to make space for processing that grief in community.

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination was also held at Mason UMC on Thursday morning with Bishop Mary Ann Swenson (ret.) preaching. Two candidates were commissioned as provisional Elders: Evangeline Rand and Ashley Skinner-Creek (recommended in 2022). Rev. Mary Stanton-Nurse (recommended in 2022) was ordained as Deacon and the

following pastor were ordained as Elders: Revs. Yvonne Agduyeng, Murray Crookes (Alaska), Drew Frisbie, April Hall, Danielle Estelle-Ramsay, Laura Sweat-Holmes, and Dirk Wooten.



Children & Youth

MINISTRY NEWS

Youth group



The youth Father's day breakfast was a huge success. All the donations from that Is going towards camperships to send kids to camp.

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.



Other Information

I will be out of the office from **July 8th through the 16th**

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

Sunday School

The Children have been having a blast learning new stories.

This summer we will be having **Vacation Bible School**, but It will look a little different this year. Instead of a week long we will be doing three workshops through the summer. This Is a great opportunity to come In following church service and learn a little bit more.

If there Is any **Interest In volunteering** please send and email or come find me after church. We would love and appreciate your help.

Samantha Wallace

Email: Samantha.marie00@outlook.com

The Church is hosting an outside Work Day July 15 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Church Pool Party & Potluck at Pastor Alissa's House Sunday, July 23 at 4pm

- Hotdogs & hamburgers (plus the fixings), and cold drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- If you'd like to swim, please bring your suit and a towel.
- Covered seating and tables will be provided in the airplane hangar with umbrellas in the yard.
- Portable toilets (including an ADA option) will be available.

3513 W. Smythe Rd. Spokane, WA 99224

From I-90, take 195S to the Cheney-Spokane Rd. exit. Stay on Cheney-Spokane Rd. past the Memorial Gardens Cemetery then turn left on Sherman Rd. Stay on Sherman Rd. past Washington Rd. Smythe Rd. is the next right turn. We are four houses down on the left past the airstrip. Parking is available in the field with drop-offs by the hangar available.

**Questions or directions, call or text Pastor Alissa:
509-879-2278.**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



WORKSHOPS

11AM - 1PM

Worship,
Stories,
Games, Crafts,
and more...

DATES

JULY 23RD

AUG. 6TH

AUG. 20TH

REGISTRATION

KINDERGARDEN - 5TH GRADE

[HTTPS://VBSMATE.COM/EVENTS/SVUMC/28054](https://vbsmate.com/events/svumc/28054)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:
SAMANTHA.MARIE00@OUTLOOK.COM**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR VBS

Register for the dates through the summer

11am - 1pm

July 23rd Aug. 6th Aug. 20th

Email: Samantha.marie00@outlook.com

Legislative Process

17 petitions were presented and passed this year. The majority of the petitions were in regard to the budget for 2024 including continued support for Advance Specials such as the camping and retreat ministries provided by Twinlow. The final budget came to about 4% less than 2023. Two petitions came from churches requesting closure: Pe Ell UMC, which began serving their community in 1895, and East Wenatchee Trinity UMC. Memberships were transferred to local United Methodist churches in their area. One petition that passed with amendments encourages local churches to increase the energy efficiency of their church buildings and parsonages by 50% by 2040. There was also a petition that called for support of the *Philippines Human Rights Act* and urging our congressional leaders in Washington State and Idaho to support it.

Laity & Clergy Session

While Pastor Alissa headed to the Clergy Session for a time of fellowship (they had completed their business portion a few weeks prior on a Zoom call), Shirley and Bruce attended the Laity Session where Bishop Cedrick talked about his journey into ministry. While a seminary student at Claremont School of Theology, he was assigned to a church in Los Angeles that was on the brink of closing. It had a parsonage which had burnt down, and under his leadership, they rebuilt it into the *Trinity Community House* which included social service agencies and became the center piece of their ministry. When the District Superintendent came the next year, he was greeted by a congregation double in size and the following year tripled because of the center and what it offered! This changed the Bishop's plans to continue on to get his Ph.D. to becoming a professor and instead, he become a pastor and now, thanks be to God, our Bishop!



Other Highlights

We celebrated the retirement of several pastors, Jim Truitt from UMVIM Disaster Response Team, and also Tom Wilson who has served for the past 30 years as the Executive Director of the Faith Foundation. During his time, \$38 million dollars has gone to PNWAC missions. In gratitude to his faithful stewardship, he was presented with the Bishop Award. The Bishop did remark that, at present, he doesn't see the three conferences of the Greater Northwest Area joining as one as he feels each has its own concerns and work to do and that we need "[t]o be true to the best we can be and give our energy to ministry without the threat of mergers." He also talked about housing issues in many of the communities we serve and said that he is recommending "putting on hold" selling off closed church properties and/or remaining assets so that a planning team can consider possible uses to address social needs. The next UMC General Conference will be held in Charlotte, NC April 23 -May 3, 2024, the Western Judicial Conference will be held July 10-13, 2024 here in Spokane Valley at Centerplace Regional Event Center and SVUMC, and the 2024 PNW Annual Conference will be on our side of the mountains June 13-16, 2024 in a city in the Seven Rivers District. Last, but not least, all the appointments for 2023-2024 were read including Pastor Alissa's - she is officially reappointed to Spokane Valley UMC for another year of ministry! Hallelujah!

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Porter, Bruce Butler, and Pastor Alissa

**Pastor Alissa will be out of office from July 3rd to July 7th,
If you have any questions please call the office at (509) 924-7262**





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**

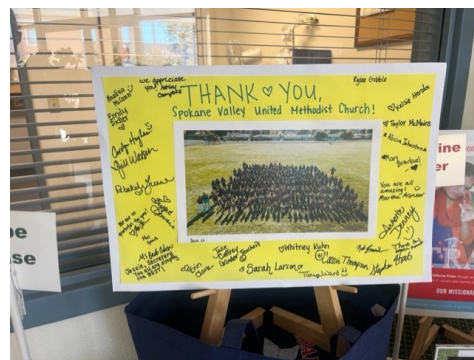


**United
Women
in Faith**

*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.*

May Thank You

Naomi appreciates very much your donations to the quarterly Paper Product Drive
Broadway Elementary School thanks us for our support at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.



At the Connect Desk in July

Mission Community Outreach Center 13th Annual

“School Shoes for Kids”

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 with a new pair of shoes and socks.

On Sundays July 2, 9, 16 and 23

bring children's shoes sizes 1-3 and socks to the Connect Desk.



Katherine Parker, our Missionary to Nepal, Will be preaching on July 9th

Following the service we will be holding a **cinnamon roll sale**
to raise money for a project in Nepal
called EVE—Ending Violence for Equality.
You will not want to miss this Sunday—
hearing from Katherine about her work in Nepal
and having a delicious cinnamon roll!

**Coming in August—Naomi Paper Drive—July 30, August 6 and 13
Cinnamon Roll Sale for Jama Letu Orphanage—August 20**

**Spokane Valley United Women in Faith wish to thank
Pastor Katy Shedlock
for preaching the sermon for United Women in Faith Sunday
Pastor Alissa Amestoy
for supporting us as we lead worship on that Sunday
Our congregation
for worshipping with us, giving us your support
It was a spirit filled Sunday for us!**

We are a faith organization, a sisterhood of women.
We advocate for peace and justice, economic inequality,
education, the rights of children and human rights.
We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy.
We support each other through fellowship and prayer.
We invite you to come and join us.

For further information about United Women in Faith
contact these circle leaders

Esther Circle—Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

Rachel Circle—Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

Rebekah Circle—Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

Sarah Circle- Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

