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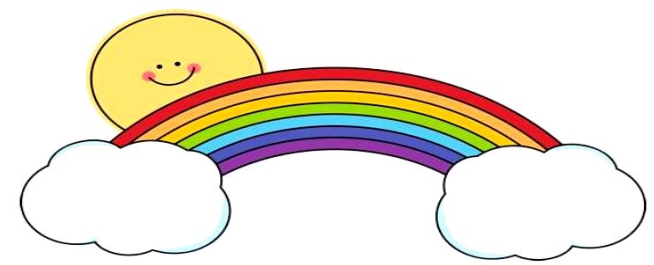
# CONNECTIONS

## March 2023

**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



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

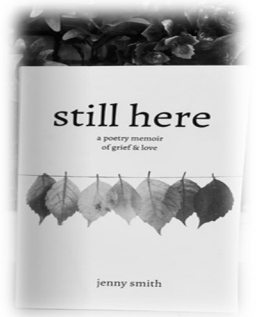
Sunday 12 March 3:00-4:30 pm  
45 Degrees Brewery  
10421 E. Sprague Ave  
Spokane Valley, WA

*"Raise your glass and Raise your Voice!"*

Your very finest Irish attire suggested  
This is a no host event for all 21 and over.

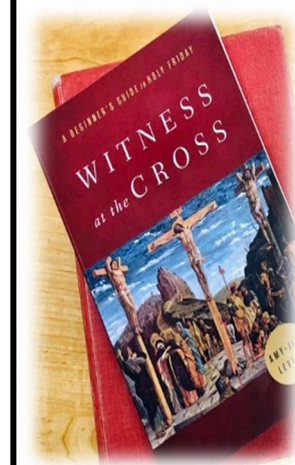
## Still Here: A Conversation on the Grief We Carry

Each of us walk with grief, whether it be the loss of a loved one, an identity, a relationship change, aging, or life after the pandemic, among others. We know it's tempting to push forward, hoping the grief will fade with time. But what if gently holding our grief invites healing we didn't trust was possible? What if learning how to walk with grief creates room for new perspectives on our present moment? All are invited to spend time with UMC pastor, Rev. Jenny Smith, author of *"Still Here: A Poetry Memoir of Grief & Love,"* as she reflects on the nature of grief through her poetry.



*This open to the public event will be held March 16th at 6:30pm at Creator's Table, our UMC church plant in the West Central Neighborhood (1832 W. Dean Ave. Spokane, WA 99210). Following Rev. Smith's time of reflection, Rev. Katy Shedlock, pastor at Creator's Table will lead participants in creating their own poetry as a means to process and heal through the grieving experience. For more information, please contact Pastor Alissa.*

## All-Church Lenten Study



Everyone is encouraged to join 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 through March 5th. Go deeper with the study and join one of our small groups or attend Adult Sunday School after worship! More information about Holy Week will be provided in upcoming worship bulletins in the Sunday News and in the April newsletter.

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

**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.*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It's a pretty common thing to be watching the news and have the reporter interview an "eyewitness" to gain details about something that has occurred to someone else. Usually it's a car accident, a medical emergency, or an act of violence that they observed and are now being asked to share what they saw, what they heard, and what they did in response. Eyewitnesses are often able to provide vital information to help first responders and law enforcement piece together the details of who and what caused the incident with an aim toward restoring justice and peace. When we read the Gospel accounts of the death of Jesus, they are essentially doing the same thing—serving as reporters who have collected the stories of those who were there on that fateful day from the chief priests who condemned him, to the soldiers who crucified him, to Simon of Cyrene who carried his cross. Like modern day reporting, each Gospel writer tells the story a little differently depending on which eyewitness accounts they collected, yet altogether, they provide a richer picture of what transpired on that first Good Friday.

As we embark on our journey through the season of Lent at Spokane Valley UMC, our Lenten series based on *Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday* by Amy-Jill Levine, will invite each of us to transport ourselves back two thousand plus years to the events of that dark Friday in Passover and serve as eyewitnesses to the death of Jesus. Rather than just read the story all at once on Palm/Passion Sunday or in Holy Week, we will spend all seven weeks at the foot of the cross observing Jesus' last hours alongside the primary eyewitnesses who were there that day.

From the scoffing priests to the doomed thieves, from the dutiful soldiers to the devastated "beloved disciple", from the faithful women to Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, we will join the crowds of people gathered that day and open our eyes, ears, and hearts to experience the crucifixion of Christ as it happened. Through scripture, study, worship, and spiritual disciplines, we will open our eyes to see, as they did, the agony of Christ, the sky turning black, and the tears upon the faces of those who loved him.

## Children's Ministries



There are a lot of fun things coming up this spring for the Children's Ministry. On March 19<sup>th</sup> following the service there will be camp registration, make sure to be there to register your children for summer camp. On March 26<sup>th</sup> is Bible Buck Sunday during coffee chat upstairs.

In Sunday school the kids have been going through the seven days of creation with Miss Britny. If you would like to be upstairs and see first-hand all of the fun they are having be sure to sign up for a day. The sign-up sheet is on the board right outside of the sanctuary.

If you have any questions, be sure to reach out to me.

### ***Coordinator of Children's Ministries***

Samantha Wallace

Samanthe.Marie00@outlook.com

## Youth Ministries



If anyone is interested in joining our Youth for discussion during our Sunday School time (about 10 to 15 minutes after the conclusion of main service) please sign up with the sheet outside my office! Just a friendly reminder that I am not leaving, I am moving to a volunteer at the end of May so I can study for the bar exam.

So no need for any goodbyes! I will still be here.

### ***Coordinator of Youth Ministries***

James Gilreath (Gil)

Jgilreath@lawschool.gonzaga.edu

## **Fred Myers Rewards**

Do you shop at Fred Meyer? Do you use a rewards card? Do you have access to or own a computer? Do you like freebies? **Do you want to help the Senior High youth go on a mission trip** – at no cost to you?

If your answers are yes, yes, yes, yes, and yes, then this message is for you.

If you use a Fred Meyers reward card, you are now able to link it to your favorite non-profit - SVUMC, of course! Whenever you use your rewards card when shopping at Freddy's, you will help SVUMC earn a donation from Fred Meyer; the Finance Committee has voted that all such funds will go towards the Mission trip. If you don't have a rewards card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store. Yes – *you still get all the rewards you would normally get (including price off on your gas) – this program is in addition to those rewards.*

We urge you to go to [fredmeyer.com/community-rewards](http://fredmeyer.com/community-rewards). Here you can read about the program, and you can sign up. The non-profit organization (NPO) code for SVMC is 81474. It only takes a couple of minutes, and it will help our youth. Please give them your support.

For more information or if you need help, contact Susan Ingalls 926-0684.

## **From Mary Jane Waters:**

*"Thank you for your prayers, cards and thoughtfulness as I navigate the loss of my husband. The overwhelming outpouring of love has provided me with a sense of peace."*



## **We are looking for Volunteers!**

Nancy Larson is looking for volunteers to bake cookies for Memorial Services, if this is something you would be interested in please contact her at (509) 928-4899 or [nlarvinski@yahoo.com](mailto:nlarvinski@yahoo.com)

On behalf of the whole Finance Committee, we want to give the congregation a big THANK YOU for their amazing financial support! Once again, due to your faithful giving, we were able to meet all our financial goals and obligations for 2022. Your financial generosity has made it possible for the church to carry out our ministry and has made a difference in the life of our church and helped us fulfill our commitment to the greater community around us.

We are well into 2023 and we thought it would be important to share some of the goals that were set for this year and share our commitment to keep you all informed of our progress throughout this year. The budget that was approved this year has a projected expense of \$387,094.00. While this is slightly more than we received in pledge card estimates, based on the history of previous budgets, we felt confident that we could meet the goals set by the various committees that serve the church.

In January our income was less than our budgeted need; we needed \$32,258.00 and the actual was \$27,435.00. However, expenses were less than budgeted and we spent only \$30,720.00. It's important to note that these differences in income and expenses are similar to differences in past years at this point in the year and we have faith that these numbers will move closer to budget by June.

As we reflect on our faith-based budget, it brings to mind a few verses from Proverbs 11:24-25: *"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."* The riches of this church are many in no small part due to all who have been and are a part of financial supporting our ministry. May we continue to be a richer community through our ongoing support in 2023.

God's Blessings always,

Jerry Bafus & Jim Droppers, Finance Committee Co-Chairs

(For more information on the budget or to ask questions, please contact Jim Droppers: [jdropper22@gmail.com](mailto:jdropper22@gmail.com))

We will open our ears to hear the taunts of the Centurions, the screams of the mob, the weeping of the women, and the threats of the priests. We will taste on our tongues the dust of the road to Golgotha and the vinegar-soaked rag that quenched Jesus' thirst and our noses will be filled with the mingling scents of sweat, blood, and a gathering storm.

Our bodies will feel the earth quake as all creation groans, our chests will grow tight with the emotions of the crowd who calls for his death, and our hearts will break as God's heartbreak causes the Temple curtain to be rent in two when all is "finished". At the end of this journey, if we have had the courage to truly witness the passion of Jesus from beginning to end, we will find ourselves transported from the foot of the cross to the entrance of the empty tomb and transformed from eyewitnesses of his death to evangelists of the resurrection emboldened to go forth sharing the Good News that Christ is Risen! It is my pleasure to co-lead our congregation through this holiest of seasons with Sue Magrath who will be preaching three of the Sundays during Lent and serving a worship leader for Ash Wednesday and our Holy Week service. While Sue and her husband, Tom, are somewhat new to Spokane Valley (having moved here in the summer of 2022), she brings a wealth of ministry experience from her work as a mental health counselor and as an active leader in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Together we invite you to join us on a Lenten journey as we witness at the foot of the cross and beyond!

Peace-

Pastor Alissa & Sue Magrath

## **WITNESS at the CROSS**

### **LENT AT SPOKANE VALLEY UMC**

- 2/22 Ash Wednesday – Simon of Cyrene  
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4, and 8-12
- 2/26 Lent 1 – Bystanders and Scoffers  
Mark 15:29-32 & John 19:19-22
- 3/04 Lent 2 – The Other Victims  
Mark 10:35-45 & Luke 23:39-43
- 3/12 Lent 3 – The Soldiers  
Matthew 8:5-13
- 3/19 Lent 4 – The Beloved Disciple  
John 19:25b-27 & 21:20-24
- 3/26 Lent 5 – The Women  
Luke 18:1-3 & 23:27-32
- 4/02 Palm/Passion Sunday  
Readings from all four Gospels
- 4/05 Holy Week Service – Joseph of  
Arimathea & Nicodemus  
Mark 15:42-46 & John 18:38-42
- 4/09 Easter – Mary Magdalene  
John 20:1-18





**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.*

## February Thank You

### **A Note of Thanks from Naomi**

The Naomi Community is incredibly grateful for your congregation's ongoing support. The paper drives are a tremendous blessing for our families! The Naomi Community has grown to 43 women and 56 children. Paper products are some of the most needed items and very helpful for our families. Thank you for your kindness and act of service. We pray that you all will also be blessed. In Grace, Sara Cardwell (Interim ED)



506 rolls of toilet paper and 147 rolls of paper towels were collected. Thank you to John Reynen and the Thursday Crew for delivering the items.

### **Thank you for your support of the Cinnamon Roll Sale**

\$690 was raised towards our Covenant Relationship with Missionary Katherine Parker

## At the Connect Desk in March

### **Spokane Valley Partners Food Drive—March 5 and 12**

#### **“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.)

### **Broadway Teachers**

#### **Soup and Salad Luncheon—March 28th**

If you would like to help,  
by bringing a pot of soup, a salad or cookies,  
Sign up at the Connect Desk  
Sundays—March 26 and April 2



## Coming in April

### **Mission Community Outreach Center Toiletry Drive—April 16-30**

Items Needed: Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Lotion, Deodorant, Bar Soap/Body Wash, Razors, Laundry Detergent, Baby Shampoo, Baby Wash  
All of these items can be purchased at the Dollar Store

## **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**

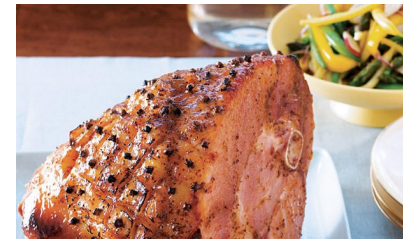
**Adults - \$15 Children (6–12 years) - \$7**

**Children 5 & under - Free**

**Dining in offered: 4-4:30 and 4:30-5**

**Takeout offered: 5-5:30 and 5:30-6**

We will not be collecting money prior to the event.



**Preorder your dining in or take out meals and time** by calling Madelyn at 509-869-8213 beginning Sunday March 26th through Friday March 31st between 9 am and 1 pm.

**For takeout meals** have your check or cash ready in a sealed envelope with your name.

Takeout pick up will be at the back of the church by the double gym doors on Balfour.

Please have your check made out to SVUMW or cash ready in a sealed envelope with your name, amount of money in the envelope and number of meals purchased. We will collect your money and return with your dinners.

**For dining in** we will collect your money at the door

## **Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Circle Meeting Times .**

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

Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

**Rachel Circle** will meet March 9 in the Fireplace Room at 11:00 am.

Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

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

Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

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

Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

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

Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-4074