

**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

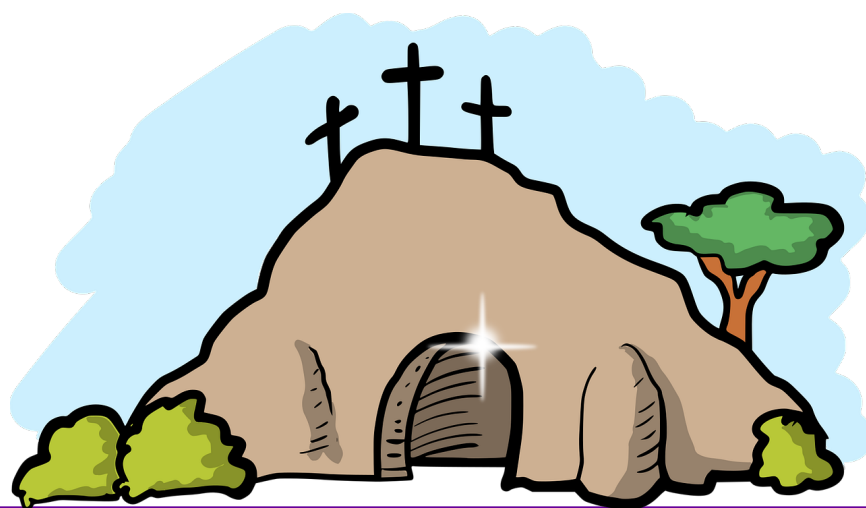
Staff:
Congregation: Ministers of the Church
Alissa Amestoy: Reverend
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Luke Henderson: Director of Music
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Amanda Johnson: Church Secretary
Lexi Shay: Interim Technical Ministry
Samantha Wallace- Ministries with
Young People
Cassandra Strickland: Nursery Care
Jackie Florian: Sunday School Teacher

Volunteer Staff Position:
Zack Reiber: Lay Leader

Church Office: (509) 924-7262
Office Hours
Monday-Friday
11am to 4pm

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.*

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



CONNECTIONS

March 2024



song of the shadows

A Palm Sunday Cantata

by Joseph Martin

Inland District United Methodist Mass Choir | Directed by Mary Jane Shervais
Sunday, March 24, 2024 | 3:00pm - Fellowship; 4:00pm - Worship and Cantata
Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N Raymond Rd, Spokane Valley WA



It's a
St. Patrick's Day Sunday.
Join us Sunday morning
in your finest
Irish attire.



*No one should have
to get pinched!*

From The Pastor's Desk

By this point in the season of Lent, I imagine you've had an opportunity in one way or another to experience the music of Joseph Martin's cantata, *Song of the Shadows*, which has inspired our Lenten Worship Series. Perhaps you were able to join us on Ash Wednesday as we listened to a recording of the theme song which invites us to "come to the shadows....and remember the life.... [and] death of the Lord". Maybe you were able to join us for Lent 1 as our choir sang *On the Road to Jerusalem* and we reflected on how quickly joyful cries of "Hosanna" turned to murderous demands of "Crucify him!" or on Lent 2 as Pastor Klara helped us explore the "Shadow of Betrayal" and we asked ourselves the same question the disciples did in the song *Lord, is it I?* It's possible you're in one of our small groups and have been going deeper with both the music of the cantata and the devotional *Shadows, Darkness, and Dawn*. However you've experienced it, I hope that you're beginning to discover as I have what a compelling beautiful, yet hauntingly powerful piece of music *Song of the Shadows* is and how well it serves to slowly guide us through the season of Lent.

Though it is a work of music, it was Joseph Martin's intention that it would serve as much more than just a performance piece. In its design, *Song of the Shadows* is truly meant to be a worship experience offered during Holy Week and particularly as a Tenebrae-style service. Tenebrae means "darkness" in French and is generally observed in the Protestant church by a gradual extinguishing of candles and a single or multiple "strepitus" or "loud noise" taking place in near total darkness near the end of the service. As you can likely already guess, the symbolism is powerful in a Tenebrae service - the slowly extinguishing light serves to show the slow loss of the light of Christ in the world with the final extinguishing of the Christ Candle signaling that our Savior has died. In services I've experienced and/or led, the loud noise can signify either the hammer blows as Jesus was crucified, the rending of the Temple curtain in two, or the sealing of the tomb - all representing the horrific death of the Lord.

To honor the intent of Joseph Martin's cantata and to offer a means for our church and others to experience the death of Christ in a meaningful and faithful way, the performance of the cantata on March 24th by the Inland District Mass Choir will be a time of worship. Acknowledging that the service will end on an emotionally powerful yet somber note, we will offer a time of fellowship at 3pm *before* the start of the service in the Fellowship Center so that we have time to engage in Christian conversation and connection with other United Methodists and friends from across the region. When the service begins at 4pm, there will be seven candles plus the Christ Candle burning bright on the communion table - one will be extinguished at the end of each song, the Christ Candle being the very last. In the midst of the service, we will join together in the Eucharist, partaking of the body and blood of Christ - the first time in *many* years since we've been able to do so as a District. As with our traditional worship services on Sunday, there will be an opportunity to give thanks to God through a freewill offering to support the ongoing work of recovery following the Spokane-area fires in 2023. And, as we often do on Good Friday, the service will end in darkness and silence serving as our humble acknowledgement of the death of our Lord.

Children's Ministry

The Team



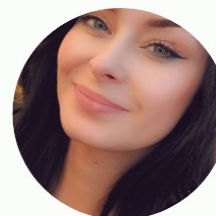
Samantha

Coordinator of
Children's Education



Jackie

Sunday School
Teacher



Cassandra

Nursery Caregiver

Purpose

"To provide a warm and welcoming place where children know they are loved and can learn about God, deepen their faith, and explore the Scriptures"

Activities

Sunday School/ Nursery
Each week we have hands on learning from all kinds of stories in the Bible

Bible Buck Sunday
A few times a year we host Bible buck Sunday where children can pick out prizes from our case to take home

☎ (509) 924-7262

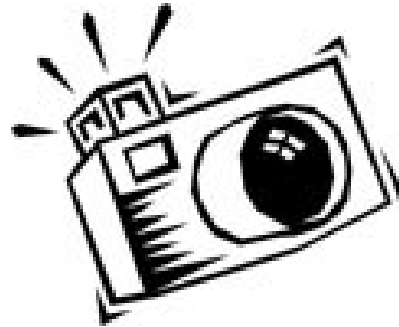
✉ Samantha.marie00@outlook.com

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Mission Moment for the month
of March will be
Volunteers of America Young Adult Shelter

During the month of March, Samantha Wallace will be walking around the church taking pictures so that we can update our website with current photos. Samantha will be taking photos of the congregation, coffee chat, and choir. All those included in the photos will be shown the photos before they are included on the website.



soul shop

*Wednesday, April 17th 8:30am - 4:30pm
at Opportunity Presbyterian Church*

This is a one-day workshop designed to equip faith community leaders to minister to those impacted by suicide. This includes the creation of worship resources, training of congregation members in suicide awareness and basic conversation skills, and how to extend the invitation to those who have been suicidal in the past to share their stories. This workshop engages the question of how to cultivate a soul-safe culture within your congregation. Pastor Alissa will be attending this event. Let her know if you plan to attend as well.

If you have a request for a song for hymn sing,
contact Wes at Wesleyross@protonmail.com

In the midst of the service, we will join together in the Eucharist, partaking of the body and blood of Christ - the first time in *many* years since we've been able to do so as a District. As with our traditional worship services on Sunday, there will be an opportunity to give thanks to God through a freewill offering to support the ongoing work of recovery following the Spokane-area fires in 2023. And, as we often do on Good Friday, the service will end in darkness and silence serving as our humble acknowledgement of the death of our Lord.

I hope that you are able to join us for this powerful Palm Sunday worship experience. Mary Jane Shervais of Cheney UMC will be directing, our own Betsy Pletscher and Luke Henderson will be providing piano and violin accompaniment respectively, and there will be both clergy and lay leadership from several churches in the Inland District as well as choir members representing multiple UMC faith communities including our own. American Sign Language interpretation and assistive listening will be available as well as copies of the lyrics of the songs for those who benefit from printed materials. The service is open to the public and I encourage you to invite family and friends to join in attending - children are welcome. If you have questions about the service, please contact me: alissaamestoy@gmail.com or 509-879-2278.

Peace-
Pastor Alissa

March Worship Preview

March 3 – Lent 3: *The Shadow of Sacrifice* (Communion)

Luke 22:14-30 and songs: *Song of the Shadows & Given for You* - Pastor Alissa preaching

March 10 – Lent 4: *The Shadow of Loneliness*

Matthew 26:30-56 and song: *And It Was Night* - Pastor Alissa preaching

March 17 – Lent 5: *The Shadow of Suffering*

Matthew 27:1-2 & 11-31 and song: *In Pilate's Court the Savior Stands* - Pastor Klara preaching
Celebration of Klara's Ministry and Sending Forth

March 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday: *The Shadow of Death*

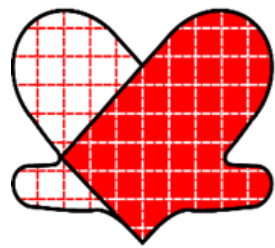
Matthew 27:32-50 and song: *Agnus Dei* - Service of Word and Song
Song of the Shadows Cantata Worship at 4pm

March 29 – Good Friday Service at 7pm: *The Shadow of the Cross*

John 18:1-19:42 and song: *Even the Heavens are Weeping* with readings & reflections

March 31 - Easter Sunday: *The Dawning of Resurrection Life*

John 20:1-18 - Pastor Alissa preaching - Baptism of Cayde Gebhart



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 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.*

*Thank
you* ❤️

For bringing paper towels and toilet paper
to the Connect Desk and a big thank you
to the Thursday Crew for delivering
this wonderful donation to Naomi.

&

Thank you for supporting the Cinnamon Roll Sale!
\$627 was raised towards our Covenant Relationship with
Katherine Parker.



Window Work **At the Connect Desk in March**

Spokane Valley Partners Food Drive March 3 & 10

Collecting: 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 26th

If you would like to help, by bringing a pot of soup, a salad or cookies,
Sign up at the Connect Desk on Sundays—March 10, 17, and 24



55 Plus Luncheon and Program

March 28, Thursday, at Noon in the Gym

Lunch: Chicken Noodle Soup & Egg Salad Sandwich

Program: “Wes Holmquist and His Good Friend Thunder”



Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Dining In and Takeout Annual Easter Dinner March 23 (Saturday) from 4:00-6:00 pm

Dining in from 4:00—5:00 pm and Take out from 5:00—6:00 pm

Ham, Creamy Potato Casserole, Carrots, Cole Slaw and Roll
Easter Cake for Dessert

Adults - \$15

Children (6 – 12 years) - \$7 Children (5 and under) - Free

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 17 through Friday March 22
between 9 am and 1 pm.

For takeout meals

have your check (made out to SVUWF) or cash ready in a sealed envelope
with your name and number of meals purchased on it.
Takeout pick up will be at the back of the church by the double gym doors on Balfour.
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 Meetings

Sarah Circle will meet March 11 in the Fireplace Room at 6:30 pm
Contact Robin Gregory, 858-344-7462

Esther Circle will meet March 12 at 12:30 pm in Room 115
Contact Nancy Ashworth, 509-993-9074

Rachel Circle will meet March 14 in the Fireplace Room at 11:00 am
Contact Susan Henderson, 509-924-5192

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet March 11 and 25 in the Fireplace Room at 10:00 am
Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-4074