

**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](http://www.spokanevalleychurch.org)  
Church E-mail:  
[secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org](mailto:secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org)



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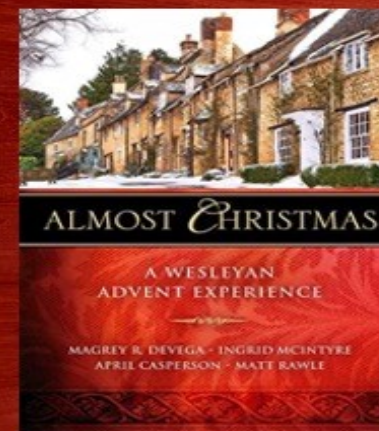
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# CONNECTIONS

## November 2022

### ALL-CHURCH ADVENT SERIES PREVIEW



Advent begins November 27th, and everyone is encouraged to join in our All-Church Advent Study! The "Almost Christmas" book and Daily Devotional will both be available for a suggested donation. To go deeper with the study, join one of our small groups or attend Adult Sunday School after worship! More information will be provided in upcoming worship bulletins in the the Sunday News section and in the December newsletter.

### Charge Conference

#### 2022 Charge Conference Information

Our 2022 SVUMC Charge Conference will go a little differently this year...with DS Daniel Miranda continuing to preside over two districts, he has requested a more stream-lined and time efficient process this year. To that end, our Charge Conference will take place over Zoom on December 8<sup>th</sup> and only the elected leaders from our Church Council (including at-large members) and the Coordinating Council will attend. We will be joined by the pastor and leadership of Community UMC in Coeur d'Alene and time will be set aside for sharing stories from our ministry settings and dreaming about what God has next for our churches. We will also conduct the "business" of Charge Conference:

adopting our 2023 Proposed Budget, Nominations Slate, and Pastoral Support Worksheet, as well as answering the annual accountability questions. Our SPRC will meet with DS Daniel on Zoom right before the Charge Conference to reflect on Pastors Alissa's ministry among us.

A pre-conference handbook containing all the proposed materials will be published and provided to the congregation two weeks before Charge Conference. An opportunity for Q&A regarding the Charge Conference materials will be offered during Coffee Chat on December 4th. If you have questions regarding the Charge Conference process for 2022,

*please contact Pastor Alissa: [alissaamestoy@gmail.com](mailto:alissaamestoy@gmail.com) or 509-879-2278.*



**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

Over the summer, we spent 12 weeks learning from a number of Old Testament prophets who were commissioned by God to the challenging work of being stewards of God's Word and thus sent forth with the task of keeping God's people in line with that Word. Through metaphor-filled messages, images of impending gloom and doom, and (thankfully) a few beautiful visions of what God's love for is like, we experienced how the prophets' faithfulness to deliver God's Word often put them on the margins of society but also ultimately helped the people of God draw closer to the heart of God. The stories of how our ancestors in Israel navigated the challenges of life and faith with the help of the prophets both encouraged us in our faithfulness and emboldened us to stay close to God's calling in our lives.

As we head into a season of considering how we will be faithful stewards of our resources, we're now going to turn to another group of inspiring ancestors in the faith: the saints! Many churches set aside time in the Fall for their traditional stewardship campaign as the timing provides for ample preparation of the year of mission and ministry to come. When you know what you have to work with, you're better able to anticipate what you can accomplish for the building up of the kingdom of God! A few months ago, when I looked at the calendar to begin planning that important work, I noticed that the first Sunday of my proposed Stewardship series fell on October 30 just two days before the church would traditionally celebrate All Saints Sunday. This confluence led me to think about a stewardship series I had done in the past several years ago in which the lives of some ancient and modern saints were used to inspire the people of God to see stewardship in a new way: *Exploring Stewardship with the Saints*, a Fall worship series offered by the General Board of Discipleship!

What's fun about this twist on the usual stewardship sermon series is that it avoids the pitfalls of sounding like any of the other pleas for cash we hear in our daily lives – whether from a political campaign, a local charity, or a family member who is perpetually short on funds. Rather than focus on the same conversations around money that we've all heard before (in church or anywhere else), this series invites us to tell some stories that we likely haven't heard before - stories drawn from the lives of Christians stretching back from the twentieth to the first centuries of the church. These exemplars of the faith did not think in terms of obligatory "gifts and service," dedicating some portion of their income to the offering plate.

## Children's Ministries



Children's Sunday school has been busy with new lessons and activities for the fall. There are a few exciting dates coming up for the children. On November 13th two of our Sunday School kids will be receiving their Bibles at the end of service. It will be a special day for both of them. On November 20th we will be having our second Bible Bucks Sunday.

The nursery has been going great with our new Caregiver Cassandra. She has been a big help during service with them playing games, reading stories, and listening to music.

If there is anyone who is interested in helping in Sunday school or nursery feel free to reach out to Samantha for more information.

## Youth Ministires



We have changed the time the for the youth on Sunday they will be joining for 9:00 am worship followed by Sunday School and Youth Group. We hope to accommodate more schedules this way. I will be gone the week of Thanksgiving. If you have any questions please feel free to email me.

James Gilreath  
Jgilreath@lawschoolgonzaga.edu



## A Thank you from Naomi:

*"We are so grateful to the volunteers that help maintain our Broadway homes.*

*This summer, a team from Spokane Valley United Methodist came every week to mow, water, and trim! It brings us so much joy to have a beautiful, maintained space to work, play and heal."*

**Thank you Thursday Crew!** 

## Grieving through the Holidays



A new support group, Grieving through the Holidays, will be offered Thursdays December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. It will be held 10:00am to 11:30am in the Fire Place Room.

It will be facilitated by Nancy Ashworth. Please email or text Nancy if you plan to attend. (Please call (509) 993-9074 after November 5th.)

## Exciting Holiday Event Coming Soon!

*Holy Pub Carols* 

Please join us at 45 Dregree Brewery 10421 E Sprague Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99206 on December 11th from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm for an afternoon of sing Christmas Carols and your favorite festive beverage. This will be a great time of fellowship and support for the community. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

*Raise your glass and raise your voice!*  
**This is a no host event for anyone 21 and over.**

## Yard Clean Up Day

Join us November 5th at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church at 10:00 am for a yard clean up day!



Instead, they joyfully dedicated their *entire* lives to Christ in full-hearted gratitude and it's my hope that their example will inspire us to do the same!

We'll kick off our four-week *Exploring Stewardship with the Saints* series on October 30 and each Sunday we will explore a different stewardship value using scripture and the life of a saint who exemplified that value to be our guides:



Oct. 30 – James 2:1-9 – *Authority: Mary McLeod Bethune*

This Sunday will include an All-Saints Day Litany with the reading of the names of those in our church family who have passed into sainthood.

Nov. 6 – Luke 19:1-20 – *Generosity: Zacchaeus* (Communion)

Nov. 13 – Acts 11:1-18 – *Necessity: Sarah Crosby* (Hymnsing & Bibles for Kids)

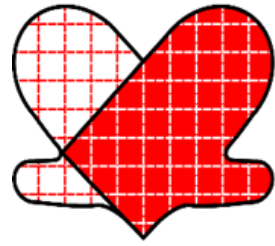
Nov. 20 – Mark 10:17-31 – *Poverty: St. Francis of Assisi*

This Sunday we will consecrate our *Estimate of Giving* forms for 2023, welcome a whole bunch of new members, and celebrate the *Disciple 5 Bible Study* graduates!

To help you prepare for Consecration Sunday on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, I will be sending out a pastoral stewardship letter very soon with a *Giving Guide* and an *Estimate of Giving* form. All together this mailing is designed to provide you with all the information you need to prayerfully discern, as an individual or a family, what you hope to commit to God in the coming year in the form of your "prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness". Like the saints we will learn from, our stewardship season will encourage us to consider how to dedicate our *entire* lives to fulfilling our God-given mission at SVUMC "to invite people: to follow Jesus, love God, and transform the greater community through the grace of God!" Please keep an eye out for my letter in the mail or pick up a copy at worship starting Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is my sincere hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we learn how we can manage our financial resources using the saintly values of authority, generosity, necessity, and poverty!

Peace - Pastor Alissa  
alissaamestoy@gmail.com  
509-879-2278 (call or text)



**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



Thank you for your support of  
Broadway Elementary School “Trunk or Treat”.  
It was a successful event and enjoyed by all the Broadway children.  
Thank you to all who brought candy.  
A big thank you to those  
who decorated their car trunk and handed out candy!

**At the Connect Desk**

**Sundays November 6 and 13**

**Shalom Ministries**— Collecting bottles of pancake syrup,  
men’s socks and gloves, Dollar Store black Beanies,  
hand warmers and small bottles of hand sanitizers.



**Broadway Teachers Luncheon on November 17**

Sign up to bring soups, salads and cookies for a staff lunch served at Broadway Elementary.

**Sundays November 20, 27 and December 4**

Sign up to bring cookies for **Broadway Ornament Night**

Collecting NEW Boys and Girl’s jeans and tops (sizes 10 and 12) for  
“Children’s Christmas Joy” at **Mission Community Outreach Center**



and  
Sign up to help serve MCOOC Benefit Breakfast on December 14



**Sundays, December 4, 11 and 18**

Collecting \$10 gas cards for **Family Promise of Spokane**

**Cinnamon Roll Sale—Sunday November 13th**  
**Benefiting “Children at Risk in Honduras”**  
Enjoy a delicious cinnamon roll and support children at risk!



**55 Plus Luncheon and Program—December 1st at noon**  
**Program—Entertainment from Project Joy      Lunch—Hot Turkey Sandwich**



**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.

Come and join us for

**Spokane Valley United Women in Faith General Meeting**  
**Saturday December 3**  
**11:30 am — 1:00 pm**

Lunch will be served at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center  
**Julie’s Hot Chicken Salad, Barbara’s Fruit Salad and Shirley’s Dessert**



Following lunch  
Acceptance of 2023 Budget  
Presentation of Special Mission Recognition Pin  
Installation of Officers

And Then

**“Christmas Music” with Luke Henderson**

All Spokane Valley United Women in Faith make your reservation  
for this luncheon through your Circle Chair

All Women of the Church are invited to attend and can make their reservation  
by calling Madelyn at 509-869-8213

Suggested donation of \$5



**Dining In and Takeout Annual Harvest Dinner**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) from 4:00-6:00 pm**  
**Dining in from 4:00—5:00 pm**  
**Take out from 5:00—6:00 pm**

Turkey and Dressing—Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Green Beans with Bacon—Cranberries  
Rolls and Butter—Pumpkin Cake

Preorder your dining in or take out meals and time by calling Madelyn at 509-869-8213  
beginning Sunday October 30th through Friday November 4th between 9 am and 1 pm.

Adults - \$15      Children (6 – 12 years) - \$7      Children 5 and under - Free