

**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  
Samantha Wallace- Ministries with Young People  
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](http://www.spokanevalleychurch.org)  
Church E-mail:  
[secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org](mailto: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

## November 2023



**Confirmation meets Sundays 10:45am-12pm in the Youth Room!**

All Middle and High School Youth are encouraged to come!

**We are in need of Adult Mentors to sign up to join the class for one week at a time during November. Please sign up at the Connect Desk and help disciple our youth!**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for October Feast.  
We had lots of good food and fellowship.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our:

***Holy Pub Sing-a-Long***

***December 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm-3:30 pm***  
***45 Degree Brewhouse***  
***10421 E. Sprague***





## From The Pastor's Desk

November is here and that means two things for United Methodist pastors and congregations: Charge Conference and Stewardship season is upon us!

Though *technically* our Charge Conference isn't scheduled until December 3 following worship, the work of *preparing* for it will take place throughout this month. Way back in August, our District Superintendent, Daniel Miranda sent out the email that contains all the information and Charge Conference forms that we are expected to submit – things like our Nominations Report, Pastoral Support Worksheet (i.e., by salary package), and documentation of my continuing education over the past year. In addition to all these *usual* requirements, there was also one *significant* change the past, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, who has oversight for all of our paid employees, was asked to fill out a *Pastor Effectiveness Form* in which they ranked me in various areas of my ministry, named areas of strength, and recommended areas for growth. This year, in place of this form, a new one was provided – one that assesses both mine and *your* engagement in the four areas of Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth's vision which he is casting for the pastors and churches of our Pacific Northwest Annual Conference (PNWAC) and the Greater Northwest Area (GNS).

Back when Bishop Cedrick (as he prefers to be called) was installed in May of this year, he kicked off a five-part series based on Jesus' parable of the Samaritan in Luke 10 called "Go and Do Likewise". In that installation sermon, the Bishop, inspired by the parable, introduced a vision with four areas of focus for our shared ministry in the PNWAC and GNW: **Ministry that Matters, Itineracy and Location, Lay Leadership Engagement, and Eliminating Racism.** Together these four areas have come to be known as "The Bishop's M.I.L.E." As he traveled to the three Annual Conference sessions of the Greater Northwest Area (Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and PNW), he offered a sermon focused on each of these areas, wrapping it all up with the final message on eliminating racism for the GNW closing worship that concluded the AC season.

After learning that our Charge Conference work would include the M.I.L.E. Assessment and reading the explanatory remarks that said it is "*designed to open a wider dialogue with key leaders in your church as you consider Bishop Cedrick's M.I.L.E. vision for our Conference and area*" and that we are being asked "*to invite into this assessment a small but diverse group of leaders who represent the full expression of your ministry today and into the future*", I had a thought – why limit the sharing of the Bishop's vision to *just* the leadership of our church? What if our **WHOLE** church had the opportunity to witness to the vision God has given to our new episcopal leader? What might be possible if **EVERYBODY** got on board with the Bishop's compelling vision?

Children & Youth

# MINISTRY NEWS

## Sunday School



For a while we are having Jodi Mackin in Sunday school with the kids. We are still looking for someone to take over the Sunday school teacher position. For more information please come talk to me.



### Other Information

Sunday school will be opening back up the bible buck store on November 19th

## Youth Group

The youth have begun their journey through Confirmation which is going until May. For now youth group is held after church till 10:45.

If you are interested in sitting in on confirmation please reach out to myself or Pastor Alissa.

**Samantha Wallace**

Email: [Samantha.marie00@outlook.com](mailto:Samantha.marie00@outlook.com)



# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MINISTRY FAIR

Thanks to a large number of volunteers a successful Ministry Fair was held to inform the congregation of all the opportunities available to serve. The Fellowship Hall was a sea of colors and brightly decorated tables to inform participants of what is happening at SVUMC.

Passport books were stamped as people stopped to chat at each table.

Many visited all 16 tables and a drawing was held for a Panera Gift card won by Norm Cwiek. Anyone turning in their passport books received a reusable water bottle. The voting for best decorated table went to the Mission Service Team.

I would like to thank all those who took the time to put up their displays, the Thursday crew for setting up the Fellowship Hall, Amanda Johnson and Margie Manfred for their help plus updating each Team's information sheets. Stop at the Connect Desk wall and check out the various ways to serve and become active.

Shirley Porter, Lay Leader

## The Senior Lunch Bunch will get together at Darcy's Sunday, November 12.

We will gather at 11:45 a.m. and order at 12 noon. We will be in the front room with the windows facing Sprague. Sign up to attend October 29th and November 5th in the Welcome Center.



## Grieving through the Holidays Support Group will meet Tuesday mornings,

November 28th to December 19th, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room 115. If you are feeling a little blue with any kind of loss with the holidays approaching, this group is for you! Sign up in the Welcome Center October 29th, November 5th, and November 26th. Questions, please call Nancy Ashworth, (509)993-9074.



Thank you Spokane Valley United Methodist Church for the use of the building for the Women's Walk with Christ. It was an amazing unforgettable weekend.

Thank you friends and family for the beautiful cards and letters of encouragement and love.

- Barbara Soran

If you have a request for a song for hymn sing, contact Wes at [Wesleyross@protonmail.com](mailto:Wesleyross@protonmail.com)

for our Conference and area" and that we are being asked "to invite into this assessment a small but diverse group of leaders who represent the full expression of your ministry today and into the future", I had a thought - why limit the sharing of the Bishop's vision to just the leadership of our church? What if our WHOLE church had the opportunity to witness to the vision God has given to our new episcopal leader? What might be possible if EVERYBODY got on board with the Bishop's compelling vision?

And with that...an idea was born! Given that all four areas touch on aspects of our discipleship and ministry over which we have been given stewardship, what if we combined our Charge Conference work around The Bishop's M.I.L.E. with our traditional November Stewardship campaign? I pitched this idea to our Lay Leader and our Finance Team Chairs as well as the leadership of our church and they agreed - The Bishop's M.I.L.E. is so compelling it warrants sharing it with everybody and it hits on areas of traditional stewardship and combining them is an excellent idea!

So that's the plan - over the next four weeks, starting November 5, Bishop Cedrick is going to share his M.I.L.E. sermons from on his "Go and Do Likewise" series for our season of Stewardship! Now, before you get excited that the Bishop is going to be preaching in our church in person for the month of November, allow me to clarify - the Bishop will be preaching virtually during our worship services this month (cue —disappointment!) We will be using recorded videos of the sermons he originally preached this past June so as a bonus we will get to see the faces of our

faith friends throughout the GNW! Despite the video format these four sermons will take, trust me when I say he is a DYNAMIC and engaging preacher - so much so it comes through clearly on screen!

As you stay tuned to join in what promises to be some inspiring Sundays of worship, I invite you to also stay tuned for your annual Stewardship mailing which should be arriving soon, and as you will see, if designed to further engage us in the four areas of The Bishop's M.I.L.E. as we look to how we will offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in 2024. I also encourage you to SAVE THE DATE for our 2023 Charge Conference gathering on December 5th following worship! May this month's exploration inspire us to "Go and Do Likewise" as we walk the road to Samaria and travel The Bishop's M.I.L.E. together! - Pastor Alissa

Go and Do  
LIKEWISE

Fall Stewardship  
Series exploring  
The Bishop's  
M.I.L.E.







**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 supporting  
Broadway Elementary School “Trunk or Treat”  
By bringing bags of wrapped candy and  
decorating your car trunk and handing out candy.  
Everyone had a wonderful time!!!

**At the Connect Desk in November**

**Sundays, October 29 and November 5 and 12**

**Broadway Teachers Luncheon served on November 16**  
Sign up to bring soups, salads and cookies  
for a staff lunch served at Broadway Elementary



**Sundays November 19, 26 and December 3**  
**Broadway Ornament Night—December 8 from 5:30-7:30 pm**  
Sign up to bring cookies and help at this event



**Mission Community Outreach Center**  
**“Children’s Christmas Joy” - December 9**  
Collecting NEW Boys and Girl’s jeans and tops (sizes 10 and 12)



**Mission Community Outreach Center Benefit Breakfast on December 13**  
Sign up to help serve this breakfast

**55 Plus Luncheon and Program**  
December 7, Thursday, at Noon in the Gym  
Hot Turkey Sandwich  
Program:  
Pastor Alissa’s Renewal Leave in Egypt

**Cinnamon Roll Sale**  
Sunday November 12  
Benefiting an exciting new mission project

**Spokane Valley United Women in Faith  
Dining In and Takeout Annual Harvest Dinner**

**November 4<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

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

Turkey & Dressing Mashed Potatoes & 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 29th through Friday November 3rd between 9 am and 1 pm.



Come and join us for

**Spokane Valley United Women in Faith General Meeting**  
**Saturday December 2nd Noon — 2:00 pm**  
**Darcy’s Restaurant**

**Lunch is a buffet of Lasagna and Chicken Fettucine**  
**Cost—\$24.00**

Following lunch  
Acceptance of 2024 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 by November 22

All Women of the Church are invited to attend and can make their reservation  
by calling Madelyn at 509-869-8213 by November 22