

**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

Return Service Requested

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



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.*



CONNECTIONS

September 2022

Join us Sunday the 11th for Grandparents Day!



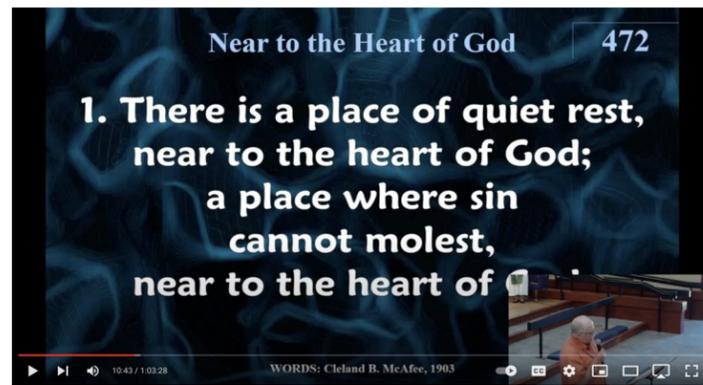
Deuteronomy 32:7 *"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you."*



Pastor Alissa & J'adorra (left) with Stacy & Jules

Pastor Alissa & J'adorra are headed to Regionals!

As you've probably figured out, when I'm not pastoring, I'm horsing around - literally! In the pursuit of my goals in the discipline of dressage, my eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, *J'adorra*, and I competed at First Level at four local horse shows this summer in the hopes of qualifying for the regional competition this Fall. To qualify, we needed to get a minimum of two scores of 62% or higher from two different judges. After securing our first score at the May show, we got our second one in July and are so excited to be traveling to Auburn, WA in September to compete at the United States Dressage Federation Region 6 Championships! My sister, Stacy Meredith, and her gelding, *My Jules Verne* (Jules, for short) also qualified and will be competing as well! To fully focus on this opportunity, I will be taking a week-long vacation Sept. 12-18 and I am grateful to Rev. Brenda Tudor who will fill the pulpit on Sept. 18th. If you'd like to follow our journey to Regionals (and see photos of our regular equestrian adventures like the one included here from the May show), "like" our Facebook page: *Riverland Equestrians*. Prayers are welcome as we undertake this BIG step in our development as a competition pair. Thank you in advance for cheering us on! - Reverend Alissa



New Upgrades to our Livestream Service!

A few weeks ago, Nate Dunigan, our Technical Ministries Coordinator, presented a proposal to the S/PR requesting funds to upgrade our livestream worship capabilities. With a well-crafted packet of information, Nate laid out the professional short-comings of our current system and named possible solutions. He reminded us of how SVUMC had initially transitioned to online worship in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and, while we thought it might be temporary, the reality is that livestreaming is here to stay. In his introduction, Nate noted that “When we got into the livestream game it was a desperate time...the church was in a bind for retaining a congregation in a time when the church and the congregation needed each other the most. At that time, some of the less professional aspects of our livestream could be overlooked.” But now, acknowledging that many in our congregation are not yet comfortable gathering in crowds or enjoy the virtual format, it’s time “we start taking our livestream more seriously.”

Nate named several problems with the previous set up that result in a less than professional experience for those worshiping with us online: 1) There isn’t video input of the content sent to the projectors which means folks at home only see what’s on the screens by pointing a camera at it which makes it an image of image; 2) We only have one camera so we can’t change camera angles or zoom in/out cleanly meaning the online perspective is often a bit chaotic and dizzying; and 3) It requires a dedicated person to run the livestream while someone else does the camera and slides.

To address these issues, Nate proposed that we acquire two more cameras as well as a video switcher and remote. The cameras, mounted to the left and right of the chancel above eye level, are able to be programmed to follow cues (meaning the person being videoed could, for example, shake their right hand, and it would automatically zoom in on them), can recognize the speaker and track them as they move about, and provides additional camera shots for a variety of perspectives. The video switcher, which looks a bit like a mini-tablet allows the operator to seamlessly switch between cameras and allows for the livestream audience to have direct viewing of the content going to the screens (rather than seeing the screen through the camera). This means that what those in the sanctuary experience *doesn’t* have to dictate what those at home see; rather, we can make their at home viewing experience



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.

United Women in Faith believe love in action can change the world.

United Women in Faith is a powerful, fearless organization driven by God’s love and united in sisterhood.

With a focus on women children, and youth, they act for justice and transform communities. Their actions have always spoken as loud as their words. Acts of love. Acts of faith. Acts of change.

For more than 150 years, their members have been showing up and getting things done. Together they are making the world a better place: locally, globally, fearlessly.

At their heart, and in their soul, they are a faith-driven organization. Their beliefs bring them together. Their spirituality pushes them to do more. They live their faith and connect to something bigger.

Acting boldly, showing up and making a difference begins with all of us. Most of all it begins with you. Ready to put your talents, energy, and ideas to work? Visit one of our circles this month and find opportunities to act boldly for social justice, work locally to support our community, and connect broadly to live your faith and enrich your life.

Esther Circle will meet September 13th in the Fireplace Room at 12:00 pm.
Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

Rachel Circle will meet September 8th in the Fireplace Room at Noon.
Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

Rebekah Circle will meet September 20th in Room 115 at 11:00 am.
Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

Sarah Circle will meet October 3rd in the Fireplace Room at 6:30 pm.
No meeting in September. Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

Prayer Shawl Ministry is now meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 10—12 pm in the Fireplace Room. September dates are the 10th and 24th.
Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-979-0310

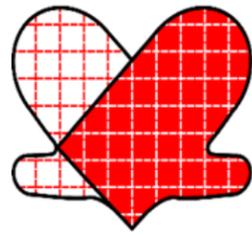
2022 Inland Missional District United Women in Faith Annual Meeting
“Open My Eyes That I May See”

September 17, 2022
8:30 am—9:00 pm Registration
9:00—9:30 Coffee and Snacks
9:30—Meeting Begins

Cost—\$20 which includes lunch

Guest Speaker—Rev. Sheila Miranda,
Assistant for Connectional Ministries, Inland and Seven Rivers Missional District
“Opening Our Eyes to God’s Word and Our Hearts to the World Around Us”

Registration forms at the Connect Desk



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 Tom and Pat Porter for serving meals at Crosswalk

Tom and Pat are retiring from serving at Crosswalk. Tom began by helping Gil Fischer on the first Wednesday of the month serving the Crosswalk dinner. When Gil retired from serving at Crosswalk Tom took over for him. Pat joined Tom and together they served every other month. During Covid we could not physically serve but did continue by delivering the meal. In June Mission and Service started preparing a dinner for The Young Adult Shelter along with meal prepared for Crosswalk. Besides Tom and Pat serving every other month, Steve and Eleanor Hasner serve the other 6 months. Marie Chapman prepares the meal each month. For dessert Bonnie Powell and Pat Porter bake cakes and Marilyn Clements and Eleanor Hasner bake cookies. Mission and Service is looking for others who might be interested in helping. If you would like more information or are interested in helping contact Madelyn at 509-869-8213.

Thank you to all who supported at the Connect Desk Spokane Valley Partners Food Drive and Cinnamon Roll Sale sponsorship of Emany at Jamaa Letu Orphanage

Watch for results in the October Connection



**Paper Drive Collection of
Paper Towels and Toilet Paper for Naomi
September 4, 11 and 18
at the Connect Desk**



We will be supporting Broadway Elementary School “Trunk or Treat” on Friday, October 28th. To help support this event please bring bags of **wrapped** candy on Sundays October 2nd, 9th and 16th to the Connect Desk. You can also sign up to be part of this event by decorating your car trunk and handing out candy. There will be more details when you sign up at the Connect Desk. This is a fun event and we all enjoy seeing the children in their costumes.

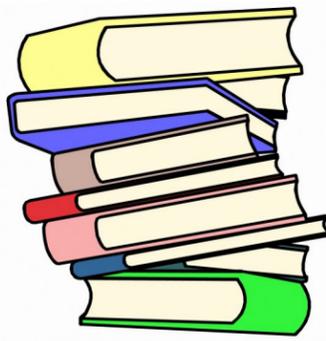
**55 Plus Luncheon and Program
September 29th, Thursday, at Noon in the Fellowship Hall
Program: Pastor Alissa Amestoy
Lunch: Baked Potato Soup and Pulled Pork Sandwich**

catered to their virtual platform while causing no disruption or changes to the in-person experience. Additionally, it allows for PiP or “Picture in Picture” which means, for example, the folks viewing from home can see the song leader *while* also seeing the lyrics to the hymns! The photo included with this article gives you an idea of how this works – you can see Wes Holmquist leading the Hymn sing *and* see the lyrics!

After receiving Nate’s proposal and spending time in discussion about the merits of the upgrades and the possibilities it offers, the members of S/PR along with representatives from Finance and Trustees (and myself!), enthusiastically and unanimously supported its immediate adoption! The next step was to determine from where we would request the funds. The total to purchase these items and pay for the additional work hours for Nate to install them, came to just over \$2100. Again, after some conversation, a proposal was made to consider requesting the funds come from the Memorials Funds. Traditionally, gifts given in memory of a loved one who has passed into glory are reserved for funding things that enhance the beauty of the church or the worship experience or help grow disciples of Jesus Christ – things like a piece of art, a new communion set, or Bibles for high school graduates. In this new digital age of worship, upgrading our livestream offerings so that the worship experience can be more beautiful *and* accessible for those joining us from home seemed a worthy use of those funds. Gerry Bafus contacted the Memorials Committee to make the request, and like the S/PR, they enthusiastically supported funding the upgrades. Gratitude to those whose gifts in memory of loves ones makes our new and enhanced livestream worship experience possible! This investment will help us offer a more professional online option and support our mission to reach new people and invite them into relationship with God!

Please also join me in thanking Nate Dunigan for not only seeing the need and for taking the initiative to research solutions, but also for presenting the proposal in a professional and easy to understand format. Additional thanks to Nate for his time spent installing the new cameras and video switcher – they were put into use as soon as they arrived on Sunday, August 7th. If you have a moment, check out our YouTube channel to see the new format online! Nate and his team, in partnership with the Worship Team and myself, will continue to work together to explore how to use this new technology to its fullest capacity as we make it our aim to continue offering a virtual worship experience at Spokane Valley UMC that is welcoming, accessible, and dynamic!

Peace-
Pastor Alissa



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Have you considered joining a Bible Study? They provide an opportunity for its members to meet in fellowship, worship and study as one deepens their understanding of God's Word and the teachings of Jesus Christ. The following groups are starting up again this Fall and all but Discipleship 5 have an open chair and welcome new members. For more information contact the group leader listed below or myself.

SMALL GROUPS:

Mondays 9:30 Shirley Porter, 509-924-2830 and 6:30 Nancy Larson, 509-928-4899

Thursdays 1:00 Lois Cwiek, 509-924-9592 and 4:00 Marlene McCoy, 509-999-7240

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the Fireplace room. Linda Hansen, 1-208-620-0158

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES:

Year Five class will be completed in November and begin Year 6 in January.

Also, in January Pastor Alissa will be offering DISCIPLESHIP 1.

To register contact Madelyn Bafus, 509-869-8213.

GRIEF CLASSES: Offered as the need arises.

Contact Nancy Ashworth, 509-993-9074

This fellowship aspect is an essential part of growing the Family of God. You'll find that these groups provide not only Spiritual focus but help us to grow together in our faith.

Shirley Porter, Adult Education Ministry Team Leader

SPorter9298@comcast.net

509-924-2830

Thank you to Cliff Maxey and Michael Myers
for working so hard to get the nametags
ready for everyone that needed one.

A huge thank you to Nancy Larson
for a summer full of beautiful flowers for the alter.



Children's Ministries



The Children in Sunday School are finishing up stories about helpers in the Bible and will be moving to the stories of King David through September. These lessons will start by covering David accepting God's offer to become King of Israel. Our Sunday School teacher Brittany has a lot of great crafts and stories planned that will keep all the children very busy on Sundays. Nursery has had some amazing volunteers in there helping while we are still on the search for someone to fill that open position. If you have any questions about getting involved in the Nursery, feel free to come talk to me. At the end of September from the 27th to October 2nd I will be out of the office for a trip.

Coordinator of Children's Ministries

Samantha Wallace

Samantha.marie00@outlook.com

Youth Ministires



For Sunday School, the Youth will be trying something different. Outside of my door there will be a sign up sheet for anyone that is interested in coming in on a Sunday morning (after the music) and participating in the lesson that we will be going through that day. I intend on limiting this to one volunteer per Sunday School and I will get the passage we will be discussing to you in advance. I think this will be beneficial to both the congregation and our youth as it will be a chance to hear different perspectives as well as a chance to get to know our youth better. Please reach out to me with any questions!

Thanks.

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

James Gilreath (Gil)