

**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
Britny Grovom- Sunday School teacher
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
Church E-mail:
secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org

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.
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Spokane, WA

Return Service Requested



CONNECTIONS

September 2023



Last Wishes Form Revised

It is time to renew your info into our newly revised last wishes form.

There will be copies available at the Ministry Fair, Church website and Church office.



Confirmation begins Sept. 10!

All Middle and High School Youth are encouraged to come to the Youth Room Sundays 10:45am-12pm for confirmation!

We are in dire need of Adult Mentors to sign up to join the class for one week at a time – please (please!) sign up at the Connect Desk and help disciple our youth!

Calling all Seniors! We are planning to go to lunch on Sunday, October 1st, 12:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk. Reservations are a must so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. We plan to go to lunch the first Sunday of each month. For questions, please call Nancy Ashworth, (509) 993-9074.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Pastor Alissa on Renewal Leave in October

The 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (§350.3) recognizes that clergy serving local churches need a time of refreshment which goes beyond the annual requirements for continuing education and spiritual growth. Occasionally we clergy-types need a time of *renewal*, where we take a respite from the normal exercise of pastoral ministry, so that we can continue to strive to be the best leader we're called to be. §350.2 states, "A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program shall include professional formation leaves at least one week each year and *may include at least one month during one year of every quadrennium.*"

This past July I began my 19th year of full-time ministry and my 12th year under appointment as clergy; in all that time, I have only taken one week's leave at a time. I absolutely delight in my vocation, and I praise God that I have been called to serve as a pastor in the United Methodist Church, and specifically, at Spokane Valley. I also delight in the gift of rest and renewal that God intends for all servants of the church. Because I am committed to "persevering in the race" (Hebrews 12:1-3), and desire to serve with continued excellence and faithfulness, I have elected to exercise my opportunity to go on renewal leave for the entire month of October. Renewal looks different for every pastor - it can be a season of discovery or refocusing, a time of refreshing, heart, mind, and spirit, or a space to do some essential pruning to bear fruit in other areas of our lives. For myself, my renewal leave will include an adventure of Biblical proportions! While my leave will last the whole month of October, from Oct. 13-30 I will be traveling with my mother to the land of the Exodus: Egypt! I am very excited to visit one of my "bucket list" countries and to explore the land that provided the backdrop for some of the oldest stories of our faith - Moses and the Israelites, Joseph and the famine, and the holy family's flight from persecution. Stay tuned for there will surely be a sermon series that arise out of my experience!



I am deeply grateful to the Staff/Parish Relations Committee who have supported me over the past year and who have affirmed my choice to go on a month-long renewal. I am also VERY grateful to Sue Magrath who will serve as our part-time Interim Pastor while I am away. With the support of our staff, she will lead you all in worship, attend to the administrative matters of the church, and provide pastoral care and leadership as needed. During worship on Oct. 1, I will place the mantle of my ministry in her care and embark on my time of leave, committed to return with renewed energy for continued ministry and, most certainty, stories to tell of my journey to Egypt! If you have any questions regarding my renewal leave, please contact me (alissaamestoy@gmail.com or 509-879-2278).

Peace - Pastor Alissa

Worship Plan for September

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| Sept. 3 | The Path of the Disciple: Searching for the Face of God
Message - "What Are You Seeking?" (Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28)
Pastor Alissa preaching and Communion |
| Sept. 10 | The Path of the Disciple: Searching for the Face of God
Message - "Is it fair?" (Genesis 45:1-15)
Pastor Alissa preaching and John Nilsen offering Special Music |
| Sept. 17 | Laity Sunday & Ministry Fair after Service
Message & Scripture TBD
Bruce Butler preaching and Mission Moment: <i>Shalom Ministries</i> |

Children & Youth

MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Group



The Youth just got back from a trip to Silverwood. There will be youth group on Sundays following church until 11:30 until the start of confirmation class. If you have any Interest In coming In to those classes and seeing what the youth are learning be sure to sign up.

Sunday School

Sunday school has been busy. VBS has moved to sunday school. The kids have been going through all of the lessons and activities that have been planned.

Going into the fall we are looking for volunteers who are willing to sit In and help with Sunday school and Nursery. If you are Interested be sure to come find any of us and we will get you signed up.



Other Information

If you would like to help out with Sunday school come find me after services on Sundays.

Samantha Wallace

Email: Samantha.marie00@outlook.com

Adult Education Opportunities:

Have you considered joining a Bible Study Group? Fall is a great time to consider being part of one of the classes. It is an opportunity to meet in fellowship, worship and study with others. Also, it deepens one’s understanding of God’s Word and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The following classes are welcoming new members:

Adult Sunday School on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room

For more information please contact Linda Hansen: (208) 620-0158

2 Small Group Ministry classes on Thursdays in Fireplace Room.

- ...1:00 p.m. Contact Lois Cwiek: 509-924-9592
- ...3:00 p.m. Contact Marlene McCoy: 509-999-7240

Discipleship One on Wednesdays at 6:00p.m.

For more information please contact Madelyn Bafus: (509)869-8213

Stop by the Adult Education table at the Ministry Fair and view what the various groups are studying and speak to the leaders.

Thank God and all those who have so lovingly prayed for my health. I am now “cancer free” and have just started radiation. The chemo therapy that was scheduled for October has been cancelled as there is no need for it at this point. Thank you for your cards, calls, and hugs.

Praise God!
Susan Ingalls



Join us for an Evening with
Thirteen Strings from Scandinavia
Folk Music from Sweden & Norway
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Spokane Valley United Methodist Church
115 North Raymond Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA
Free Performance • Free Parking
5PM doors Open
“Meet & Mingle”
6PM Performance
Nordic National Costumes, Sweaters/
T-Shirts welcome!
CDs available.
1 for \$15
2 for \$25
Cash, check, Venmo
Event Questions:
Sonia Bertsch
509-879-2274

Sept. 24 Healing Service & Commissioning of Lay Pastoral Caregivers
Message - “That You May Be Healed” (James 5:13-20)
Pastor Alissa preaching and Litany of Healing

Ministry Fair - September 17th

It’s hard to believe that Fall is upon us! WAY back in July we embarked on a summer-long focus on discipleship through our worship series “The Path of the Disciple” in which we’ve reflecting on *the weight of the call, learning to grow, imagining a new reality, and searching for the face of God*. Now that our journey is almost at end, what do we do now, you might ask. The answer? KEEP GOING! While our summer series has given us a some much need space for deeper exploration into what the path entails and where on it we find ourselves, the greater goal has been to inspire all of us to move from *contemplation to action!* Just as Jesus sent forth his disciples to serve, so, too, are we being invited to take our discipleship “on the road”, if you will, and get involved in the mission and ministry of Christ here at Spokane Valley UMC.

There are A LOT of opportunities to be had at our church...the challenge might be knowing about them or figuring out which one to join. To encourage and equip you (the laity!) for the work of the church, our Lay Leader, Shirley Porter, has organized a **Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Center after worship on September 17th!** Everyone is invited and all who attend will receive a “passport” which will be stamped when you visit a table. Visit them all and you will be entered to win a prize! This is sure to be a fun opportunity to explore all the options available to take you farther on your journey as a disciple of Jesus!

The other thing I want to highlight about September 17th is that the entire worship service (really, the whole day!) will be dedicated, start to finish, to celebrating lay leadership and enhancing lay engagement in the ministry of the whole church. And when I say, “start to finish”, I MEAN “start to finish”! Bruce Butler will be preaching, and nearly* every aspect of the worship service will be led by lay members of our congregation (*Rev. Barbara Caviezel will be here to talk about Shalom Ministry so there will be at least one clergyperson up front!) You will definitely want to be in church on Sept. 17th so mark your calendars and plan to stay after worship to learn more about the ministries of our church and how you can get involved! To give you an idea of the options, check out the image with the pink bubble!



Food & Fun at the Potluck and Pool Party!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Potluck and Pool Party. We had so much good food, swimming and as always a great afternoon of fun Fellowship. If that wasn’t enough some were lucky enough to meet the horses! Stay tuned for more information on the next Potluck!



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 donating to Mission Community Outreach Center
School Shoes for Kids**

Over 18,00 pairs of shoes were given out on August 18 at Stevens Elementary!!!

**Thank you for donating to
Naomi Paper Drive**

And

**Supporting the Cinnamon Roll Sale for
Jama Letu Orphanage
\$466 was raised!!**

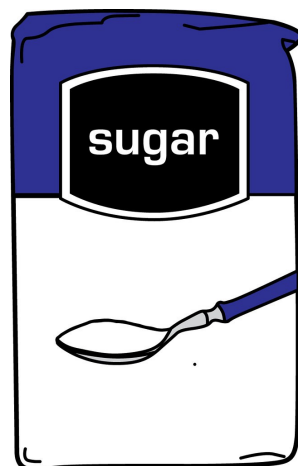


At the Connect Desk in September

Shalom Ministries

September 3, 10, 17 and 24

Bottles of pancake syrup
5 or 10 pound bags of sugar
Socks and Underwear for men and women



Coming October 1, 8 and 15 at the Connect Desk

Collecting Bags of Candy for Trunk or Treat at Broadway Elementary School



**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.*

Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Circle Meeting Times .

Esther Circle will meet September 12 in Room 115 at 12:00 pm.
Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

Rachel Circle will meet September 14 in the Fireplace Room at 11:00 am.
Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

Rebekah Circle will meet September 19 in Room 115 at 11:00 am.
Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930

Sarah Circle will meet October 9 at 6:30 pm on Zoom
Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

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

55 Plus Luncheon and Program

**September 28, Thursday,
Noon in the Fellowship Center**

Program
Feast World Kitchen

Presenter
Maisa Abudayha, Executive Director

Lunch
**Butternut Squash & Apple Soup
Turkey and Swiss Cheese Sandwich
Shirley's Dessert**



Feast World Kitchen is a downtown restaurant (3rd & Cedar) for Spokane's immigrant and former refugee community to share their culture through excellent international cuisine. Feast elevates and empowers immigrants and former refugees as leaders. They use international cuisine as a platform for economic resilience, holistic growth, and culture-sharing. Whenever customers spend "dining out" dollars at Feast, over 90 cents of each dollar goes to the Immigrant family or individual who cooked the day's meal from their home