

Return Service Requested

SPOKANE VALLEY  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
115 NORTH RAYMOND RD  
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA  
99206

**Sunday 9am  
Traditional Service  
Sunday School & Nursery**

**Pastor**  
Rev. Alissa Amestoy  
**Director of Music**  
Betsy Pletscher  
**Director of Hospitality**  
Margie Manfred  
**Technical Ministry  
Co-Coordinators**  
Lexi Shay & Logan Tiedt  
**Coordinator of  
Ministries with  
Young People**  
Jen Price  
**Nursery Caregiver**  
Chris Nilles  
**Church Secretary**  
Mackenzie Draper  
**Lay Leader**  
Zack Reiber



Check out  
our website!



Scan our new QR  
code for easy  
online giving!

Church Office: 509-924-7262  
Office Hours:  
Mon-Thurs 8 am - 11:30 am  
Friday 8 am - 2 pm

Church website: [www.spokanevalleychurch.org](http://www.spokanevalleychurch.org)  
Church email: [secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org](mailto: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.*



connections  
may 2026

**See All the People  
Pastor Alissa**

By now, most of you are likely familiar with Dr. Shawna Beese, who, in addition to being a registered nurse and holding a Ph.D. in population health *and* serves as the Mayor of Millwood, is pursuing certification as a United Methodist Lay Speaker and has now preached a couple times in worship. A few months ago, she excitedly shared with me some curriculum she had discovered as part of her Lay Speaker coursework as it had all kinds of information about how to reinvigorate discipleship systems in the local church. Turns out, I was familiar with it as I had used the worship resources back in 2019 while I was serving Cheney UMC *and* used it to help boost our discipleship opportunities!

The curriculum is called *See All The People* and it's part of a much larger initiative by the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship who, back in 2016, launched a campaign by the same name aimed toward helping churches expand their reach into their communities through the strengthening of their disciple-making systems. Unfortunately, the worship resources were very specific to the season of Epiphany using lectionary passages for Year C which wouldn't really work for us who are currently in the season of Eastertide in Year A.

Not to be deterred, Shawna and I talked about how we might modify the series to fit our needs and we looked at the lectionary passages for the Sundays in May to see if it might shed some light on what people we're called to see as part of our mission to transform the greater community by God's grace. Knowing that Shawna would be preaching for me on Mother's Day as I might miss worship for a horse show (see my special note about my competition season on pg. 2,) we started with the lectionary passages for May 10. Among the options was Acts 17:22-31 which tells of Paul's address to the people of Athens. He starts by noting that as he walked around the city, he observed all their "objects of worship" including one "to an unknown god" and it caused him to conclude that they were a *spiritual* people but not adherents to a true *religion*. That got Shawna and I on a roll! Both of us have heard people remark in our community that they are "spiritual but not religious" which is usually code for "I believe in a higher power...and I feel a draw toward it...but I don't really know what to do about it." Easy peasy, we had a theme for May 10 and a people we are called to see!

That left me with four other Sundays to figure out. As I reflected on the *See All the People* materials and my own experience in the practice of ministry over 20+ years, I wrote down some of the types of people that I have encountered within and outside the church that I don't think we've always "seen" nor known how to reach. The first group that came to mind is the unchurched – people who have not grown up as a Christian and don't have any previous experience going to church. Given that more and more adults claim "none" as their religious preference when asked, there (Cont. on pg. 2)



(Cont. from pg. 1) are more and more kids being raised without church experience. When they reach adulthood and God's prevenient grace starts getting noticeable, they often don't know where to start and all too often when they do work up the courage to come to church, the awkward experience of being one of the only people in the room who *doesn't* know what to do can be enough to discourage them from returning. That led me to wonder how we can come see them and, better yet, view our worship experience through their eyes?

On the opposite end of the spectrum are folks who *have* been churched but who have been wounded by a church whether through harsh legalistic policies, acts of abuse from leadership, or exclusion for one reason or another (ex. gender identity/sexual orientation). What is someone to do when the very community that is meant to make you experience the sense of belonging that comes with being a part of the Body of Christ actually does you harm by kicking you out or abusing you? How do people find a new safe space to grow their faith and follow the path of Christ? Better question is how can *we* be a safe space for them to heal *and* learn how to be a disciple?

As I looked at the Acts 2 passage we traditionally read on Pentecost, and knowing we will be confirming several of our youth and welcoming new members, I was drawn to explore the people who are often "amazed and astonished" by what some Christians are willing to do for others. I can't tell you how many times I've had someone express surprise that Christians are actually handing out food to the hungry, helping pay for back rent to keep people in their homes, or advocating for neighborliness without asking for anything in return. We *clearly* have a PR problem...but I digress. When we encounter people who *are* intrigued by what we're doing in the name of Christ, how do we take the next step to invite them to join us?

The last group I was drawn to see are the truly *unseen* – the people in our community who for one reason or another have found themselves living on the fringes of society and unnoticed by the rest of us. Whether they are homeless, fleeing violence, wrestling with drug addiction, or suffering from mental illness, there are many in our community that we have learned to walk past without seeing in order to spare *our* comfort level. And yet, we're disciples of Jesus, who in his earthly ministry, *saw* the unseen and sought them out. So how can we develop the courage to see them and offer a ministry of recognition and acceptance?

As we continue our year-long exploration into the third part of our mission statement, I believe the *See All the People* series will help answer all these questions and encourages us to open our eyes to see with whom we are called to share the transformative grace of God. To learn more about the scriptures that will guide us and other worship info, please check out the May Worship Preview in this newsletter!

Peace-  
Pastor Alissa

**Pastor Alissa & J'adorra are returning to the show ring!**

After taking last year off from competing in the discipline of dressage, we are excited to return to the show ring to compete at Second Level with J'adorra! What this means is that Pastor Alissa may or may not be in worship on May 10 and June 21 as our shows are on Saturday and Sundays. We say may or may not because we don't find out until a day or two before what our exact ride times are – if we ride late enough in the day that she can come to church, she will! If not, don't worry, she has already arranged for someone to lead worship and preach! Our goal is to get one qualifying score (65% or above) at each of these shows so that we can compete at Regionals in October. Stay tuned for updates! If you'd like to learn more about dressage visit [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org) (United States Dressage Federation). Wish us luck! – Pastor Alissa & J'adorra



**BIRTHDAYS WEEKLY EVENTS:**

- 5/1 Marilyn Clements  
Mary Jane Waters
- 5/2 Sharon Maxey
- 5/4 Riley Price  
Theresa Meckel
- 5/5 Betty Norris
- 5/6 Wes Holmquist
- 5/7 Glenda Lovchik
- 5/10 Chandra Reiber  
Samantha Anglin
- 5/12 Tom Warga
- 5/16 Karen Droppers
- 5/18 Cameron Shay
- 5/20 Brent Gregory  
Cliff Maxey
- 5/21 Carl Jenkins  
Claudia Michael
- 5/22 Betsy Mott
- 5/24 Taylor Gebhart
- 5/28 Alex Reiber
- 5/29 Kyndal Gebhart  
Margaret Natividad
- 5/30 Russell Worthington

- Mondays:**  
9:30 am Shirley's Group (115)  
10:00 am Walkers (gym)  
2:00 pm Nancy Larson's Group (Reading Room)
- Wednesdays:**  
9:30 am Disciple 3 Group (115)  
10:00 am Walkers (gym)
- Thursdays:**  
9:00 am Thursday Crew  
1:00 pm Lois' Group
- Saturdays:**  
10:00 am Choir Practice

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5/1 David & Dommie Oswald
- 5/8 Rob & Rachel Peck
- 5/26 Luke & Raymundo Henderson
- 5/30 John & Stephanie Mackin



**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- 5/4 11:00 am Quilters (125)
- 5/5 10:00 am SPR Meeting (FPR)
- 5/9 2:00 pm Tyler Meckel Eagle Scout Court of Honor (Sanctuary)
- 5/10 10:00 am "Muffins for Moms" Coffee Chat
- 5/11 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (FPR)  
6:30 pm Trustees Meeting (FPR)
- 5/12 9:00 am Huddle (213)
- 5/16 1:00 pm Lowell Brocklehurst Celebration of Life (Sanctuary)
- 5/18 11:00 am Quilters (125)
- 5/19 11:00 am Touched by Cancer (115)  
2:30 pm Finance Meeting (FPR)  
6:00 pm Coordinating Council (FPR)
- 5/25 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (FPR)
- 5/26 9:00 am Huddle (213)
- 5/30 11:30 am UWF Lilac Luncheon (Gym)
- 5/31 10:00 am Cinnamon Roll Sale Coffee Chat

# KIDS' KORNER

First, I would like to say thank you for the donations of candy and stickers for our Sunday School Easter egg hunt, and thank you as well to those who helped prepare the eggs. A special thank you to our youth for hiding 300 eggs and being such helpful friends to those in Sunday School kids as well as our visitors. On May 3rd our youth group will be enjoying some much needed fellowship and fun through bowling. Parents, please look for all the details in the church bulletin as well as the calendar that will be provided Sunday April 26th. I am pleased to share that on May 24th, Pentecost Sunday, we will be confirming several of our Youth. In preparation for this momentous occasion, we will have a dinner for our Confirmands prior to the big day so that we can begin the study of the tenets of Methodism as well as have an opportunity for them to contemplate and create their statement of faith and intent to become members of SVUMC. If you would like an opportunity to assist in any way during this evening, please reach out for more details.  
- Jen Price, Coordinator of Ministries for Young People

## Mahan Legacy Scholarship 2026-2027 Academic Year

SVUMC's Mahan Legacy Scholarship is available to students attending school for an undergraduate or graduate degree during the 2026-2027 academic year. Applicant must be a member or an active constituent of SVUMC. Scholarships will be for a minimum amount of \$800. Please call the church (509-924-7262) to request an application. Completed applications must be received in the church office by May 4, 2026. For any questions, please talk to Gerry Bafus.



## MAY WORSHIP PREVIEW

**MAY 3 - SEE ALL THE PEOPLE: THE UNCHURCHED**  
Pastor Alissa preaching on 1 Corinthians 14:22-33 (The Message) and the Celebration of the Great Thanksgiving.

**MAY 10 - SEE ALL THE PEOPLE: THE SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS**  
Dr. Shawna Beese guest preaching on Acts 17:22-31 and a time of recognition of Shawna's status as a Certified Lay Speaker led by Rev. Sheila Miranda.

**MAY 17 - SEE ALL THE PEOPLE: THE WOUNDED AND HEALING**  
Pastor Alissa preaching on Jeremiah 30:12-17 and a Ministry that Matters moment for Bite2Go. All are invited to wear volunteer T-shirts from the organizations they serve & support.

**MAY 24 - SEE ALL THE PEOPLE: THE AMAZED AND ASTONISHED**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY - CONFIRMATION & NEW MEMBERS**  
Pastor Alissa preaching on Acts 2:1-12 and a liturgy for our youth confirming their faith and new members joining the church!

**MAY 31 - SEE ALL THE PEOPLE: THE UNSEEN AMONG US**  
Pastor Alissa preaching on Acts 3:1-10 - The healing at the Beautiful Gate.

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AT 9AM AS WE CONTINUE OUR MISSION TO TRANSFORM THE GREATER COMMUNITY BY THE GRACE OF GOD!**

Join us Sunday, May 10 for a special Mother's Day Coffee Chat! Bring your mom's favorite muffins to share - chocolate, blueberry lemon,



poppyseed - and celebrate the mothers of SVUMC who have made the church what it is today!

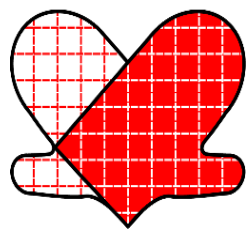
Dig 'em out, dust 'em off! Remember to wear a T-shirt that represents an organization you volunteer for, support, and serve on Sunday, May 17th!



## MAY WORD SEARCH

- Garden
- Tennis
- Salad
- Barbecue
- Nurse
- Cinco de Mayo
- Kentucky Derby
- Teacher
- Duck
- Ascension
- Memorial Day
- Wildflower
- Pentecost
- Coast
- May Day
- Chocolate
- Beltane
- Chicken
- Play
- Mother's Day
- Salsa
- Photo
- Herb
- Butterfly

X	B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E	O	R	J	A	Q	B	V	I	P
H	U	K	G	L	D	N	T	F	W	U	S	L	H	K	S	B	M
M	T	E	D	A	G	V	C	I	N	C	O	D	E	M	A	Y	O
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R	M	E	A	P	E	G	Y	O	I	S	A	L	S	A	R	L	Y
L	V	S	R	D	B	J	I	D	M	E	I	G	O	K	B	E	F
B	T	R	Y	E	Q	S	V	H	E	B	F	Y	K	C	U	D	H
G	S	U	R	K	N	P	W	K	N	R	C	A	D	G	O	Y	P
S	I	N	N	E	T	Z	O	L	F	E	B	D	T	X	M	H	E
Y	O	J	C	D	R	V	J	A	K	N	R	Y	S	I	O	L	C
M	E	S	B	W	F	H	E	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	F	R	U
Y	A	D	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M	I	M	O	L	W	T	A



# 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



# 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



Thank you to everyone who brought cleaning supplies for SFCC's Basic Needs Program in April! SFCC's Basic Needs helps students and community members navigate resources both on and off campus.



All throughout May, we'll gather toilet paper and paper towels for Maddie's Place, a non-profit recovery nursery caring for babies with prenatal substance exposure. Maddie's Place is one of our newest partners in the "Ministry that Matters" series. For any questions, please see Madelyn Bafus.



Thank you everyone for celebrating Easter morning breakfast with us! We were able to raise \$900 together. All proceeds are going to our covenant relationship with Katherine Parker, missionary to Nepal.



**Cinnamon Roll Sale!** Join us Sunday, May 31st after service for a special coffee chat hosted by Mission & Service. Cinnamon rolls will be on sale. All proceeds will go to one of our new Ministry that Matters partners, Bite2Go! You can learn more about Bite2Go's mission and their work in Spokane Valley schools during our next Ministry that Matters moment on Sunday, May 17th.




Join us for our Annual

# Lilac Luncheon

WITH SPEAKERS JAN HARTMAN & DEBBY RYAN

## "Protect Yourself from Fraud, Scams, and Identity Theft"

HOSTED BY

The United Women in Faith

MAY 30TH, 2026 | 11:30AM - 1:30 PM | CHAPEL

POTLUCK SALAD LUNCH; BRING A SALAD TO SHARE

RSVP BY SIGNING UP AT THE CONNECT DESK OR CALLING THE OFFICE (509-924-7262)



## May Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle  
May 4  
6:30 PM  
FPR

Esther Circle  
No meeting  
in May!

Rachel Circle  
May 14  
11:00 AM  
FPR



Rachel Circle went to Ronald McDonald House on April 9th to prepare lunches for the families there. The Rachel Circle ladies go to the Ronald McDonald house once a year. Thank you, ladies!