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

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

**Pastor**  
Rev. Alissa Amestoy  
**Interim Director of Music**  
Betsy Pletscher  
**Director of Hospitality**  
Margie Manfred  
**Technical Ministry Co-Coordinators**  
Lexi Shay & Logan Tiedt  
**Coordinator of Ministries with Young People**  
Jackie Florian  
**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  
april 2025



**APRIL WORSHIP PREVIEW**

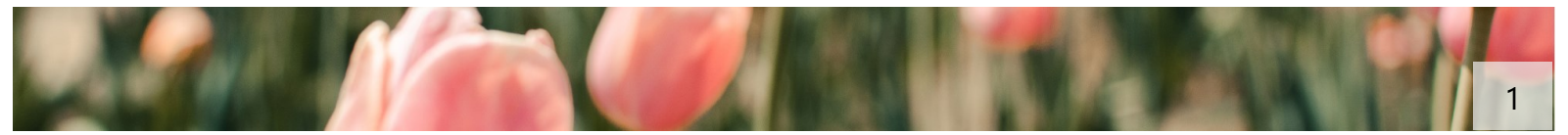
**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Lent 5 – *With All Your Heart Series: "Making a New Thing"***  
Isaiah 43:16-21 and Philippians 3:4b-14 (Celebration of the Great Thanksgiving)

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm/Passion Sunday – *With All Your Heart Series: "Preparing"***  
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, and Luke 19:28-40

**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Sanctuary – Good Friday Service**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, and Luke 19:28-40

**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday – *With All Your Heart Series: "Believing"***  
Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, and John 20:1-18 (Celebration of the Great Thanksgiving)

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Easter**  
**NEW SERIES! Meet the Goodpeople: John Wesley's Seven Ways to Share Faith "Stay Close to the Power"** - John 20:19-29 (New Members Liturgy)



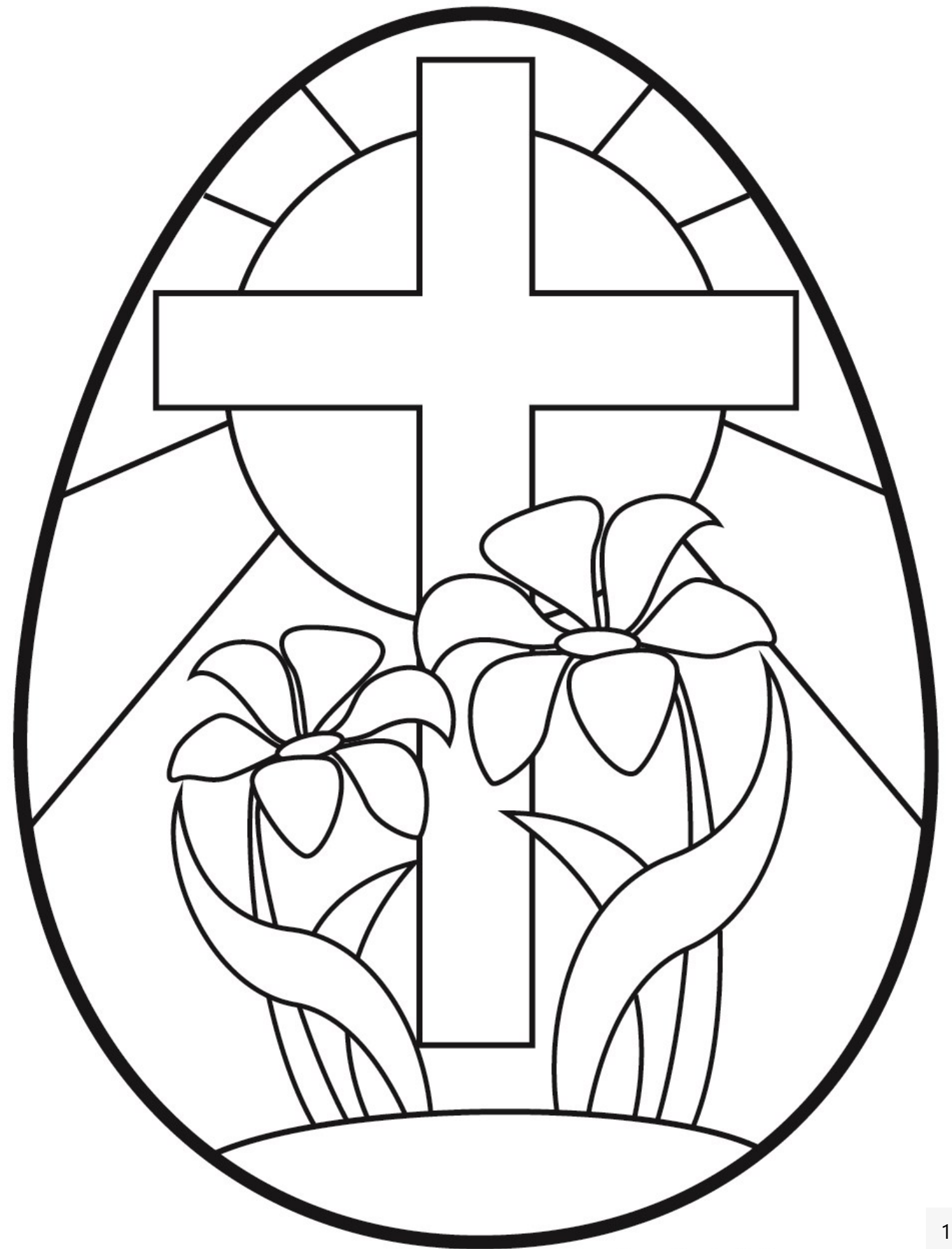
## We're Hiring!

Spring is upon us! The robins have started to reappear, the days are getting longer, and I'm starting to see small buds appear on my flowering bushes. With the change of the seasons this year also comes a season of changes for us at Spokane Valley UMC – staff changes, that is! We've had quite a few shifts take place as of late, so I'd like to use my newsletter article this month to bring everyone up to speed! I'd also like to say up front a huge **THANK YOU** to our Staff/Parish Relations Team and our SPRC Chair, Joyce Johnson! They have had their work cut out for them and there's more to do but they continue to faithfully share their gifts of leadership, discernment, and wisdom (not to mention time!) as we've navigated a somewhat unexpected and priority workload. In each paragraph below, I will offer a summary of where we are in the process of filling each staff position but if you have any lingering questions or comments, please reach out to me or Joyce Johnson. Let's jump in!

If you've been with us for the last few months then you know that back in February, Luke Henderson announced that the time had come for him to faithfully conclude his ministry as our **Director of Music**. We expressed our gratitude to him and blessed him forth during the Mardi Gras-themed *Singing Sunday Celebration Service* on March 2. The following day, Betsy Pletscher, our staff accompanist, graciously stepped in to serve as our interim Director of Music and has been capably leading our Traditional Choir, working collaboratively with me to choose the hymns for our Lenten season of worship, and preparing to play all the music for each service. She assured us back in February when we discussed this shift in her responsibilities that she could serve through the Spring which gave us some much needed breathing room to conduct the search for a new Director of Music. At this point, our SPRC has begun identifying the people who will serve on the search committee for this staff position, and we are assembling a team with a mix of SPRC members, choir members, and staff who will ultimately work closely with the person selected. We anticipate that the team will begin to meet in early April to review and update the current job description, set a salary scale, and begin advertising for the position. It may be ambitious, but we hope to begin interviewing mid-May and have someone in place this summer!

Next up is the **Coordinator of Ministries with Children** position! As many of you know, Samantha (Wallace) Anglin served in that role starting in June 2022 and while working with us, she spent much of those years working toward a *Master of Science in Mental Health & Wellness* with an emphasis in *Family Dynamics*. She graduated in May of 2024 and, following a busy summer preparing for her and Easton's wedding in October, began the search for a job in her career field. I was filled with pride when Sam shared with me at the end of January the exciting news that she had been hired by Frontier Behavior Health as a full-time intake clinician! But I also knew that with this news came the reality that her time of service as our Coordinator of Ministries with Children had to come to an end. We celebrated her ministry among us in worship on March 9 and blessed her forth as she embarks on this new way of serving God's people!

SPRC acknowledged that we needed to move quickly to fill this position *and* that our growing Sunday School and Youth program required a new system of organization to accommodate this amazing growth so the second week of March, Joyce Johnson and I met with Jackie Florian, who had been teaching Sunday School the past year and leading Youth Group since last Fall, to learn more about the needs of the two age groups and what her dreams were for the children and youth of our church. What came of that conversation was two-fold: (1) The SPRC redesigned the position and renamed it **Coordinator of Ministries with Young People** to reflect that it would encompass coordinated oversight for the Nursery, Sunday School classes, Youth Group, and perhaps, in time, a ministry for young adult and college-aged people. This new position has MANY responsibilities, so we added a new one that directs the staff member to work with me and our congregation to create a Ministry Team for Ministries with Young People to support this ministry area. (2) The SPRC offered the position to Jackie Florian, and she enthusiastically accepted! Jackie is close to completing a Master of Social Work from EWU and is able to commit 20-25 hours per week to this role with the longer weeks including our bi-weekly Youth Group gathering. Her official start date was March 25 and we began worship on March 23 with the kids and youth present that day joining me in a prayer and a laying on of hands to bless her into this new ministry adventure!



# APRIL WORD SEARCH

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

April Fool's  
Hike  
Literature  
Photo  
Hope  
Peanut Butter

Rainbow  
Librarian  
Palm Sunday  
Gardening  
Picnic  
Daisy

Dandelion  
Healthy  
Baking  
Birds  
Education  
Golf

Tax Day  
Haiku  
Easter  
Rabbit  
Pineapple  
Earth Day

Which brings me to the third area: **Sunday School Teacher!** Praise be to God for the growth we're seeing among our children and families! We've had several new families with both elementary and middle school aged kids start attending church so much so that the time has come for us to add a second Sunday School class! While Miss Jackie (as the kids call her) will continue to teach the Elementary-aged class on Sunday mornings, we are seeking someone to teach a class for Middle Schoolers (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade). Given their age range and spiritual development phase, it is our (SPRC, Jackie, and my) determination that this class should offer Confirmation curriculum on a three-year rotational basis to help prepare these disciples for confirmation on Pentecost in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. As of the last week of March, we've begun putting together a search team for this position with representatives from SPRC, Miss Jackie, and a member of our congregation who has a child in this age range. As with the Director of Music search team, this team will revise and update the Sunday School Teacher Job Description to reflect the unique needs of our middle school-aged kids and then begin the search! Our hope would be to have someone in the role within the next two months. If you or someone you know has a gift for teaching and would find fulfillment in teaching Confirmation curriculum to a bunch of lovely junior high kids, please let me or Joyce Johnson know!

Last, but certainly not least is our **Nursery Caregiver** position. Due to unexpected family circumstances, Cassandra Stickland, who has served as our Nursery Caregiver since September of 2022, resigned effective March 18. We had hoped to be able to express our gratitude to her in worship, but the situation made it difficult for her to come on a Sunday, so the SPRC sent her a card and a gift on behalf of the congregation to thank her for her ministry among us. She provided excellent care to our youngest disciples and was grateful for the opportunity to serve with us. As with the previous two open positions, the SPRC is in the process of putting together a search team to revise and update the job description, post the open position, and begin interviewing candidates. This is a vital ministry for our growing church family, so we hope to fill the position as soon as possible. If you or someone you know is available for two hours on Sunday mornings and loves ministering to infants and young children, please contact me or Joyce Johnson.

Whew! That's a lot of change! I am deeply grateful to Joyce Johnson for her leadership and guidance of our Staff/Parish Relations Committee and oh so thankful to our team for all they have done and continue to do to fill these open positions. Please join me in thanking our team and praying for our process. God is doing a new thing among us and that is worthy of our praise! If you have any questions/comments, interest in a position, or a recommendation of someone we could invite to apply, please contact me or Joyce Johnson: jimgroup@msn.com.

Peace-  
Pastor Alissa

## HOLY WEEK AT SVUMC

### PRAYER VIGIL

Thursday, April 17 - Sign up at the Connect Desk

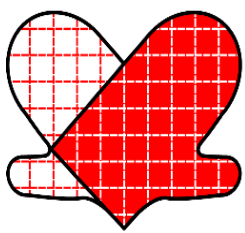
### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 18 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

### EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE

Sunday, April 20 at 9am online and in person

*Easter Egg Hunt for kids after worship!*



# 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

Thank you to all who brought toiletry products for Mission Community Outreach Center! Your donation and support of MCOC is truly appreciated.



Thank you to all who brought soup, salad, rolls, and cookies for the Broadway Teachers' Luncheon on April 1! We do this luncheon to say thank you for their dedication in teaching the children in our church neighborhood. These children are blessed by the outstanding staff at Broadway Elementary School!

### Mission & Service Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday April 20 following the service

Menu:

Egg dish | Sausage Links | Cinnamon Roll  
Bananas | Orange Juice

Breakfast is free, and donations are accepted. All proceeds go toward our commitment of \$3,000 for our Covenant Relationship with Missionary Katherine Parker in Nepal. At the present time we are halfway to our goal!

### Special Events:

- 4/1 10:00 am SPRC FPR
- 4/3 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR
- 4/7 11:00 Daughters of Dorcas Quilting  
6:30 pm Sarah Circle FPR
- 4/8 9:00 am Hospitality Huddle  
12:30 pm Esther Circle 115
- 4/10 11:00 am Rachel Circle FPR
- 4/14 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth  
6:30 pm Trustees
- 4/15 10:00 am Touched by Cancer FPR  
2:30 pm Finance Meeting
- 4/17 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR
- 4/21 11:00 am Daughters of Dorcas
- 4/22 9:00 am Hospitality Huddle
- 4/24 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR
- 4/28 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth

### Weekly Events:

- Monday**  
9:30 am Shirley Small Group Rm 115  
10:00 am Walkers  
3:30 pm Nancy Larson Small Group Rm 115
- Wednesday**  
10:00 am Walkers  
6:00 pm Disciple 2
- Thursday**  
9:00 am Thursday Crew  
1:00 pm Lois Small Group FPR
- Saturday**  
10:00 am Choir Practice
- Sunday**  
9:00 am Traditional Service  
9:00 am Children's Sunday School & Nursery  
10:00 am Coffee Chat

At the Connect Desk in April, we are collecting cleaning products for the Basic Needs Program at the Community College! Please bring Dollar Store cleaning products: dish soap, dish cloths, oven cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, Comet, Windex, steel wool pads, bath cleaner, bleach, Pine Glo, disinfectant spray & wipes, carpet cleaner, mops, and buckets.

\*Dollar Store items are good quality and cheaper price!



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Rowena Harr	4/6 Mike Lambert	4/15 Michael Mackin
4/2 Ali Norris	4/7 Dommie Oswald	4/19 Allen Shay
Tom Pletscher	Erin Gregory	4/23 Karlene Brown
4/3 Pat Porter	4/11 Gerald Bafus	4/30 Dannie Hawley
Judy Fox	4/13 Barbara Soran	Tyler Meckel
4/4 Loraine White	4/14 Lexi Shay	
	Raelynn Gebhart	

# APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/9 Tom & Pat Porter



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**

**UWF CIRCLE MEETINGS**

TOGETHER, WE WELCOME NEW WOMEN INTO OUR SISTERHOOD. COME AND JOIN US. CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR CIRCLES!

ESTHER CIRCLE  
12:30PM APRIL 8 IN ROOM 115  
CONTACT NANCY ASHWORTH (509-993-9074)

RACHEL CIRCLE  
11AM APRIL 10 IN THE FPR  
CONTACT SUSAN HENDERSON (509-924-5192)

SARAH CIRCLE  
6:30PM APRIL 7 IN THE FPR  
CONTACT ROBIN GREGORY (509-443-5953)

**SVUWF Annual Dine In & Takeout Easter Dinner**

Dining in from 4-5pm  
Takeout from 4:30-5:30pm

**Ham | Carrots | Cole Slaw | Roll Creamy Potato Casserole Easter Cake for dessert**

Adults - \$15  
Children (6-12) - \$7 | Children (5 & under) - Free

Preorder by calling Madelyn (509-869-8213) beginning Sunday April 6-Friday April 11 between 9am-1pm. For takeout meals, have your check (made out to SVUWF) or cash ready in a sealed envelope with your name & number of meals to be picked up. Takeout pick up will be by the double gym doors. We will collect your money and return with your meal(s). For dine in we will collect your money at the door. We will not be collecting money prior to the event.

Spokane Valley UWF wish to thank the Thursday Crew for their help throughout the year. We appreciate all they do to help us! We invite them to lunch on April 24 in Room 115 to say thank you!

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Twinlow Camp Opportunity to Serve

First UMC of Wenatchee is working on a mission/work trip to Twinlow Camp in Rathdrum Idaho (just outside of Couer d'Alene).

We have space for additional volunteers and want to extend the invitation to Spokane Valley UMC. If you are interested in helping out, we would love to have you!

Twinlow has several projects that need attention before the summer camp season and we thought this would be a great way for us to serve in the conference, connect with one another, and grow in our own discipleship.

We plan to go Sunday, May 4th (after church) and have dinner, worship and a time of team building. Then we'll get to work on Monday morning. We'll work each day and finish Thursday (possibly driving back that day, and possibly staying one more day and returning Friday).

Twinlow has Selkirk Lodge with dorm style rooms (queen bed with 1 twin bunk bed) with en suite bathrooms. There are also RV spaces if someone wants to bring a rig.

It is close enough that if someone wanted to come and just work 1 or 2 days of the trip, we can accommodate that, or you can just come for the day, eat lunch, and stay at your home.

We will try and have skilled team leaders who can run point for individual jobs. But you do not need to be skilled to join (inherent to mission trips is that we train folks on the job).

If you have any questions, please let me or Pastor Alissa know. Please feel free to share this information with others you think might be interested.

Peace and grace,  
Pastor Debbie Sperry

[Revdebbie@firstumchurch.org](mailto:Revdebbie@firstumchurch.org)

## 10 WAYS TO CELEBRATE National Poetry Month

**Read a book of poetry.**

Find poetry books at brick-and-mortar stores and Bookshop.org.

Start small: try *Nothing Gold Can Stay* by Robert Frost.

**Memorize a poem.**

**Find a new poem at Poetry Foundation.**

New poems are shared every day by poets around the world.

Use nursery rhymes or tunes to songs you already know.

**Turn a poem into a song.**

**Draw a picture inspired by a poem.**

Be creative - draw outside the lines, mix mediums, and have fun.

Try Poetry Daily, The Poetry Hour, or search for one you like.

**Download a poetry app.**

**Write an acrostic poem with your name.**

Go to Writers.com to find different forms of acrostic poetry.

Go to a café, a park, or invite people over to enjoy poetry together.

**Read poetry with friends.**

**Share a poem on social media.**

Brighten your friends' days by sharing a poem to your timeline.

Most don't expect poetry out & about; the world is your oyster.

**Put a poem in an unexpected place.**

## Youth Events



Mar-May

2025

MAR <b>09</b>	<b>Whats Happening 4 Youth?</b> Update on leaders and what these next months will look like. Youth will end at 11:15/30pm.
MAR <b>23</b>	<b>Presentation and Lunch (take out) Pizza</b> Discussion on what youth will do for Coffee Chat.
APR <b>06</b>	<b>Coffee Chat and Youth</b> Youth will lead coffee chat, raise money towards the youth program and express to the congregation what they are working towards.
APR <b>20</b>	<b>Lilac Lanes: Bowling</b> Details TBD Location: Lilac Lanes
MAY <b>04</b>	<b>No Youth: Jackie is Out</b> No Youth due to Bloomsday.
MAY <b>9&amp;10</b>	<b>Youth Rally - Overnight Event</b> Youth will participate in Youth Rally- Overnight District Youth Event. Kennewick, WA

### Maybe Events?

APR <b>5&amp;6</b>	<b>Intersections Overnight Youth Event</b> What: Overnight Youth Event for Youth Groups in the PNW Conference When: from Saturday, April 5th 2:00PM to Sunday, April 6th 12:30PM Where: Kent United Methodist Church, 11010 SE 248th St. • Kent, WA 98030
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JFLORIANI@EWU.EDU

JACKIE: (509) 934-7934

### TOUCHED BY CANCER

This is a group of women who have or have had cancer, or women who have been caregivers for or are related to those with cancer. We are able to talk freely and confidentially about past or current issues.

We support each other with care & understanding about worries, medical issues, and impact on our lives and others near us. Many of our meetings are fun related, while others deal with specific topics suggested by members.

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month, almost always at 10 am, in the church fireplace room on the second floor. However, meetings are sometimes held elsewhere in a park or restaurant, for instance. Come once in awhile or regularly. For more information, contact Susan Ingalls at 509-926-0684.