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**SPOKANE VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

115 NORTH RAYMOND
ROAD
SPOKANE VALLEY WA 99206

Sundays
Traditional Service 9 am
Sunday School & Nursery
9am

Staff:

Reverend: Alissa Amestoy
Piano & Organist: Betsy Pletscher
Director of Music: Luke Henderson
Director of Hospitality: Margie Manfred
Technical Ministry Co-
Coordinators: Lexi Shay & Logan Tiedt
Children's Ministries: Samantha Wallace
Nursery Care: Cassandra Strickland
Sunday School Teacher: Jackie Florian
Church Secretary: Mackenzie Draper

Volunteer Staff:
Lay Leader: Zack Reiber



Check out our
website!



Scan our new QR
code for easy
giving!

Church Office:
509-924-7262
Office Hours:
Mon-Fri
10 am - 2 pm

Church website: www.spokanevalleychurch.org
Church email: 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
august 2024

Pastor Alissa's Message - Advent in August!

If you read my August Worship Preview in last month's newsletter *or* you joined us for worship on June 20th, then you know that on August 11th, we will be starting a new worship series that's going to be both totally different from our usual summer worship...but also VERY familiar!

As I have previously mentioned, our church has been asked to host the first of three worship design trainings to be held over the next year for smaller or lay-led UM churches in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. The "Small bites, BIG FLAVOR: Skillsets and Mindsets for M-M-Good Worship (No Matter the Size)" worship planning retreats are designed to teach laity and clergy alike how to create dynamic, engaging, and multi-sensory worship for all seasons of the year whether it be Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, or Ordinary Time. These workshops will be taught by Dr. Marcia McFee, renowned United Methodist author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher, and artist, as well as the creator of *Worship Design Studio*, an online resource for worship design.



During my last semester at Claremont School of Theology I had the opportunity to take a class from Marcia. Though she only taught at CST for one semester, boy, did she have an impact on my ministry! I will never forget our first day of class as she led us all outside to join together in a drum circle and singing songs of the Christian tradition, ancient and new, as a way to remind us that we are part of a chain of holy people linked through the eons by our calling to lead people in the worship of God. Her way of teaching was so inspiring, so engaging, so *embodied*, I looked forward to it week after week and learned SO, SO much from her. When I continued into ministry, both on college campuses and in the local churches, it was my lessons from Marcia (Cont. on pg. 2)

(Cont. from pg. 1) that inspired my own approach to worship creation whether it be “rich traditional” (as I call our form of worship) or something more modern. So, if you’re ever wondering where I get these crazy ideas from experiential Stations of the Cross or having us all eat a peppermint in the middle of the sermon moment as we ask each other “do you taste what I taste?”, now you know!!

Truly, one of my favorite aspects of ministry is worship creation! I really enjoy sourcing from other creative types or designing my own worship series with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, crafting or seeking out liturgy to give us words for our worship, and collaborating with our lay musicians and leadership to offer it Sunday after Sunday. I especially like getting to learn more about scripture as I research and prepare my sermon message. But what I really LOVE is when all the various elements come together (by the power of the Holy Spirit, of course!) to offer a worship experience that touches on all the senses, connects us to God, and provides us all a variety of ways in which to engage the spiritual focus for the day so we leave worship full of love, hope, peace, and joy! The truth is, some of us learn through listening, others through visuals, and still others through song and dance. If we take seriously the call to create worship that helps God’s people grow closer to God’s presence, then we need to keep that in mind as we plan our services!

But here’s the thing - not all churches have the resources we do or even a pastoral leader with the time and talent to plan dynamic worship week after week, which is where hosting the “Small Bites” workshop comes in! As I shared in my sermon “In Need and In Abundance” a few weeks ago, I believe that we at Spokane Valley UMC have an abundance of worship blessings including but not limited to: gifted musicians, eloquent liturgists, and an updated, accessible, and BEAUTIFUL sanctuary! Meanwhile, other churches, who may have an abundance in another area of ministry, find themselves in need regarding worship inspiration. This series of workshops with Marcia aims to help with that! The particular training that we are hosting August 16-18 will be designed to help these churches plan to offer a dynamic Advent & Christmas experience for their churches and communities this coming December. It intends to help them visualize how they can transform their sacred space so the visuals have an impact, how to engage established members *and* welcome new people, as well as curate an experience where all can deepen their connection with God through worship. To help Marcia help them, we’ve been asked to not only offer our facility for the training and provide snacks on Saturday, but to transform our church into the manger at the inn where Mary and Joseph birthed their holy child so folks have a visual of what’s possible!

Because I love all things Marcia McFee and feel strongly called to help build up struggling faith communities, I’ve invited you all to join me in fully embracing this invitation to help empower other UM churches *and* take advantage of this opportunity to help us deepen our own relationship with God by offering a special summer celebration of the Advent & Christmas season here at SVUMC using the same worship series provided with the training: *The Inn: Housing the Holy!* As a bonus, Marcia and workshop participants will worship with us on August 18th! Need more convincing? Allow me to share some additional teasers:

- Ever feel like you don’t get to sing your favorite Christmas hymns outside of Advent? Then you’ll be thrilled to learn that the Second Sunday Hymnsing will be all Advent and Christmas themed! Send Wes Holmquist your requests now: wesleyross@protonmail.com.
- Are you a snowbird and often miss out on celebrating this sacred

(Cont. on pg. 3)



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/06 Howard Lloyd

08/21 Leanne Pope

08/08 Terry Blue

Sherrri Robinson

Vern Johnson

08/25 CJ Amestoy

08/15 Norma Trefry

08/27 Paul Norris

08/19 Jim Droppers

08/28 Chrishone Wilson

Mary Alice Jones

08/29 Bill Wixom

08/20 Toby Pfeifer

08/30 Jeannie Salyers

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/03 Bill & Marilyn Wixom

08/09 Tim & Susan Henderson

Vern & Ruth Johnson

Stephen Ross & Sherrri Robinson

08/13 James & Georgette Rogers



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pastor Alissa & C.J. will be on vacation Aug. 22 – Sept. 1 enjoying a Caribbean cruise and the Orlando, FL theme parks!



For pastoral care assistance, please contact the Church Office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY

UPSTAIRS DURING SERVICE

YOUTH GROUP

NO ACTIVITIES TILL FALL

Prayer Shawl & Lap Blanket Ministry



United Women in Faith

Prayer Shawl Ministry has been renamed to Prayer Shawl & Lap Blanket Ministry. We not only have available prayer shawls, but we also have lap blankets. If you know of someone who would like to receive one of these gifts, please stop by the Connect Desk. The Prayer Shawl & Lap Blanket Ministry team is now giving lap blankets and prayer shawls quarterly to Sunshine Health Facilities as our ministry is growing!

Advent in August

The Inn: Housing the Holy Summer Worship Series



Baruch 5:1-5 and Philippians 1:3-11 - "A Place at the Table" - Pastor Alissa preaching
August 25 - *The Inn: Housing the Holy (Joy)* - Isaiah 12:2-6 and Luke 3:7-18 "How Much Is Enough" - Zack Reiber preaching
September 1 - *The Inn: Housing the Holy (Love)* & Communion with Rev. Sheila Miranda - Micah 5:2-5 and Luke 1:46-55 - "A Room With A View" - Sue Magrath, preaching

SAVE THE DATE for a Special Summer Christmas Celebration on September 8th!

- (Cont. from pg. 2) season with your church family? With Advent in August you don't have to! What a joy to be able to celebrate the birth of Christ as a family in ALL seasons!
- Have you enjoyed learning about Zack Reiber's call to ministry as an ordained deacon and encouraging him as he prepares to attend Wesley Theological Seminary starting in August? Well, guess what? The opportunities to encourage him don't stop there! Zack will preach his **VERY FIRST SERMON** on August 25th right here at SVUMC so be sure to join us that day to cheer him on!! (Rumor has it he's both terrified *and* excited!)
 - Do you love Sue Magrath's preaching? Perfect! Because she's preaching on Sept. 1 with the bonus that Rev. Sheila Miranda will be joining her in presiding over communion while I'm on vacation!
 Hopefully I've made my case and you're growing as excited as I am to not only celebrate Advent in August but to also offer of our abundance to help our fellow siblings in Christ in their time of worship need! And if you happen to have some summer-weight Christmas clothing, hats, jewelry, etc. you are encouraged to wear it and bring the festive holiday spirit!

Peace ~ Pastor Alissa

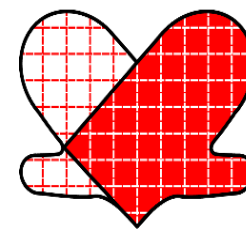
August Worship Preview

August 4 - *Worship with Rejoicing Series* & Communion - 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14, and 8: 22-30 - "The People Go Forth" - Pastor Alissa preaching
August 11 - *The Inn: Housing the Holy (Hope)* & Advent-themed Hymnsing Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Psalm 24:4-5 - "Making Room" - Pastor Alissa preaching
August 18 - *The Inn: Housing the Holy (Peace)* with Marcia McFee, Series Creator -



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.



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***

Save the date! The Inland Missional District’s Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, September 21, 2024 at Audubon Park UMC.

This year, our topic will focus on food insecurity in the Inland Northwest and how we can help organizations who provide for families in our area. Mark your calendars so you don’t miss this interactive annual meeting which will allow us share our faith, food, and fellowship as United Women in Faith! We will be doing some “hands on” activities and will also get to engage in a question & answer (Q & A) with our special guest speakers. Watch out for the next UWF newsletter for registration information and a list of items you will be able to donate to a local food bank.

From Melissa Jaquette, Inland Missional District UWF Vice President

Our Vision:

Turning Faith, Hope, and Love into Action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Our Mission:

UWF 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.

We encourage you to explore the many opportunities for making a difference. Through our partnership with Faith Action Network, Legislative Advocacy Events, our ongoing work addressing our Charter for Racial Justice, and our focus on justice issues such as breaking the school-to-prison pipeline, maternal health, food insecurity, climate care, and more, we continue to be challenged to ask the “hard questions” and take action individually, locally, and globally.

Thank you ❤️



SVUMC got a shoutout from our community partner NAOMI in a recent newsletter: “Spokane Valley United Methodist Church has

been a valued partner with NAOMI for over 8 years. They not only support us financially and with paper product drives, but they graciously provide meeting space and volunteers to cook dinners for our group learning nights. They also volunteer with childcare services so our mothers can focus on their healing journey. We are grateful for their grace and generosity in serving NAOMI’s mission!



*Pictured above: NAOMI’s pantry last month.
Pictured below: NAOMI’s pantry this month. Let’s help them restock with needed supplies!*

In January and May 2024, Mission & Service held a Paper Drive for NAOMI at the Connect Desk. This August will be our final paper drive for the year - help us make it the biggest yet! The women of NAOMI are so grateful for your generosity. Thank you for looking out the window and helping NAOMI’s



community of women!



MCOC’s 14th Annual School Shoes for Kids

Our goal was to collect 100 pairs of shoes for school aged children in July. With the collection

on Sunday, July 28, and any other financial donations we hope to make this goal. Thank you to all who donated to this mission and service project! The September newsletter will have the final results.

Deb Avery, Pacific Northwest UWF President, shared the Mission Giving Award 2023 Certificate received by the National Organization of United Women in Faith. This certificate was issued because of the generosity of giving by women throughout our conference; in 2023, we provided 163% of our pledged giving for mission and ministry with women, children, and youth. We original pledged \$50,000 and were able to submit \$81,617! This assures that our legacy of mission will continue into the future. Your creative fundraising along with individual pledged giving is making a difference. Even though we continue to navigate our “new normal” we continue to be faithful stewards in order to be open to areas of ministry to which we are being called.

