

Return Service Requested

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
Piano & Organist
Betsy Pletscher
Director of Music
Luke Henderson
Director of Hospitality
Margie Manfred
Technical Ministry
Co-Coordinator
Lexi Shay & Logan Tiedt
Children's Ministries
Samantha Wallace
Nursery Care
Cassandra Strickland
Sunday School Teacher
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
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

january 2025

Holy Pub Event

Join us January 5th at 45 Degrees Brewhouse
for our fourth Holy Pub Event!

We'll celebrate a Twelfth Night experience from
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm with a Christmas singalong and
lots of good food. Bring a friend and have a blast!

For those 21 and over only.

45 Degree Brewhouse
10421 E. Sprague Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206



The Heart of Spokane Valley

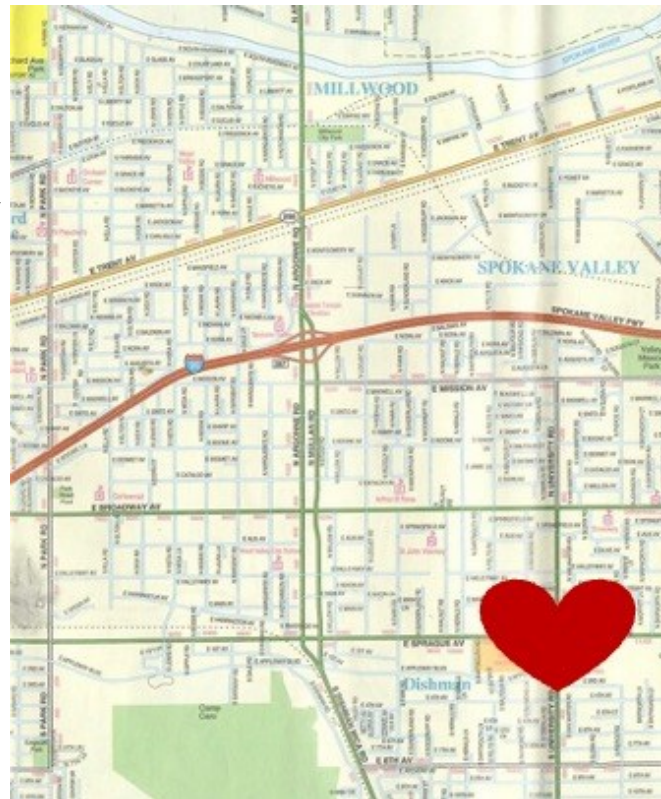
Ever since I first came to Spokane Valley UMC back in 2022, and especially after seeing the completion of the new Spokane Valley Public Library and the renovations still in progress at Balfour Park, God has been working on something with me. It took me awhile to discern what it is, and it's still a work in progress, but during my personal prayer time and in my daily conversations with God as I've commuted to church over the past two+ years, I kept hearing the same thing over and over: *The heart of Spokane Valley*.

For a long time, I wasn't sure what this short phrase was meant to convey to me. Was God asking me what's at the heart of Spokane Valley UMC? Or did God want me to help us discover what's at the core of who we are and what we are called to do? Was it about who we're invited to love with open hearts? Or was this about that new library and updated park outside our back doors? Maybe God wasn't asking a question at all but making a statement that our church is called to *be* the heart of Spokane Valley, WA. It's taken more prayer and more discernment, but I've started to have a stronger sense of the why of what God is saying...and I believe it's about ALL those things.

One thing I've observed in my years of ministry and in my partnerships with many churches including ours, is that we can often get a little too *broad* in our ministry scope and caught up in the idea that every church has to be everything to everyone and offer every sort of program, ministry, and worship style to be considered "successful". I know from conversations with laity and clergy alike that we carry a bit of corporate guilt, and perhaps shame, about what we don't do or don't have compared to other churches. We think we have to do it all and when we inevitably fall short, we're quite hard on ourselves and think we're failing God and compromising the mission Jesus gave to his disciples.

This is understandable and something I've had to reckon with myself over the years. But whenever I get myself spun up thinking that what we (or I) do isn't enough and that we'll never be successful until we have ALL THE PROGRAMS!!!!...I am reminded that scripture has something to say about this. Though Paul was speaking of individual members of the Body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12, I think his wisdom on spiritual gifts applies to churches as well. We aren't meant to be everything to everyone nor should we get caught up in lamenting that we don't have the capacity to do everything for everyone. Just as individual people are drawn together in the Body of Christ and given a variety of gifts and callings by the Holy Spirit to accomplish our mission, so, too, do I believe that individual *churches* are drawn together through our connection in Christ and given a variety of gifts and callings by the Holy Spirit to accomplish *our* mission.

Read through this lens, it seems to me that each church has a unique calling to fulfill as part of the greater mission and the people who make up (Cont. on pg. 3)



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2	Peter Imathiu	1/21	Dennis Gottberg
1/7	Barbara Bartak	1/22	Lynn Salyers
	Mackenzie Draper		Marta Prow
1/13	Carol Anderson	1/24	Michelle Bos
1/14	Jennie Tinsley		Nancy Croskrey
1/19	Thomas Lang	1/30	Pauli Erickson

There are no January anniversaries!

Pastor Alissa is headed to Morocco Feb. 3 – 24 for vacation and renewal!

Sue Magrath will be leading worship, providing pastoral care,
and working with our leadership during this time.



JANUARY WORD SEARCH

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

Blanket
Snowflake
Icicle
Cozy
Sunset
Toboggan

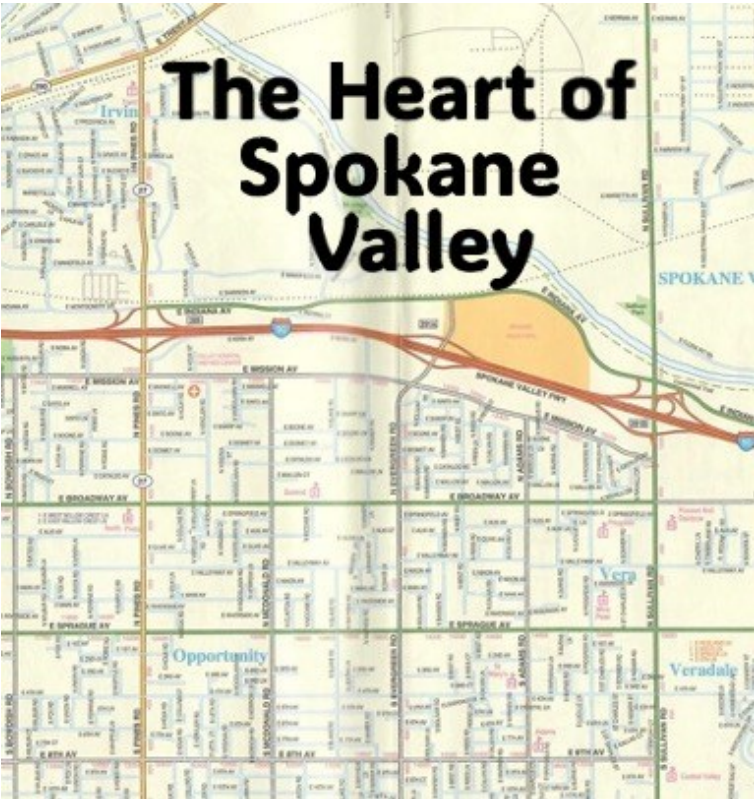
Ice skating
Skiing
Candlelight
Hot chocolate
Snowboard
Snowball fight

Fireplace
Frosty
Scarf
Hibernation
Sweater
Marshmallows

Wintry
Frozen
New Year
Mittens
Eggnog
Blizzard

that church are given the spiritual gifts needed for *that* part of the mission. So, what we really should be focusing on, is what is *ours* to do. Using the mission statement we already have, we need to ask ourselves, what is the *specific* way or ways we're called to carry it out trusting that other churches, both UMC and non-UMC, have their unique parts to focus on – all of which work together to bring forth the ultimate vision God has for our community, our nation, and our world.

You'd have to confirm this with God, but I think the reason the Holy One has been putting it on my heart to consider "the heart of Spokane Valley" is that God wants us to get clear on what's at the core of who we are at Spokane Valley UMC and what we are called to do in *this* season of mission and ministry. I believe God wants us to discover and activate the unique and perhaps unrealized spiritual giftings we have received as a whole faith community as well as uncover the specific calling and missional mandate that we have been given as a church at this time. In other words, I think God is calling



us to get to the heart of things at Spokane Valley UMC and identify what matters most to us and how we can amplify that in all we do...AND I also think God is asking us to consider how we, given our unique geographical location, can be a part of building a "heart" for Spokane Valley proper.

One of things about the city in which we are located is that it doesn't actually have a "heart". I don't mean that our community is devoid of compassion, love, and goodwill toward each other. Rather, due to it originally just being an extension of the urban sprawl of Spokane, there's no center of town, no "cute part" as I like to say. You can't say "let's meet up in downtown Spokane Valley" nor can you walk up and down the "main drag" (unless, of course, your aim is to walk over 20miles in a day!) There's simply no true geographical heart of our town...yet. Having City Hall, a new library, and a renovated park all conveniently located in the same spot, I think a heart of Spokane Valley is starting to coalesce and it just so happens to be right outside our back door!

So, here's what all this tells me – it tells me that I have *some* clarity about what God is *asking* of us, but I *know* I don't know exactly what the *answer* is which means more discernment and listening and prayer and intentional openness to the Spirit is necessary...and it means that I need your help! I want to know what God is speaking to your heart about the heart of Spokane Valley and what answers God is placing on your heart to help us figure out how to get to the heart of who we are and what we're called to do and how we can be part of creating a heart for our city both in terms of geography but also in terms of shared community values. To this end, I'd like to establish "The Heart of Spokane Valley" as a year-long overarching theme to be explored through worship, study, conversation, and contemplation (Cont. on pg. 4)

(Cont. from pg. 3) both as individuals and as the Body of Christ. I don't have this totally planned out for the whole year (I did say it was a work in progress from the get-go)...but I do have the workings of a plan all the way through to Easter which is a pretty good start! We're going to begin right after Epiphany with a January worship series focused on the "love others" part of our mission statement. All churches are called to love others but the question I'm seeking to answer is how are we at Spokane Valley UMC *specifically* called to do that in this current season of ministry and mission? Using scripture as our guide, we'll explore three ways all churches are called to love others *and* how we are meant do that in a way unique to us! I'm hoping this will open hearts, spark conversation, and afford of greater clarity on what God is asking us to do next. You can see the specifics in the January Worship Preview found in this newsletter.

What do you think? Are you willing to open your heart to God's invitation to explore the heart of Spokane Valley in 2025? Do you want to be a part of getting clear on what's at the core of who we are and what we're called to do? Do you want our church to be a part of building the heart of our whole community! With all my heart, I hope you do!

Happy New Year!
- Pastor Alissa

January Worship Series Preview: "On a Mission to Love Others"

Kicking off our year-long theme, "The Heart of Spokane Valley", this series will be a three-week exploration of the part of our mission statement where we are called to "invite people...to love others."

Jan. 12th - Baptism of the Lord – "Extending God's Belonging"

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus and remember our own, we will deepen our sense of call to love others by extending God's belonging through the Body of Christ. (Isaiah 43:1-7 & Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

Jan. 19th – "Extending God's Goodness"

As we receive the song of the psalmist praising God for steadfast love *and* explore Jesus' first miracle (water into wine), we will learn how to love others by extending the goodness of God. (Psalm 36:5-10 & John 2:-11)

Jan. 26th – "Extending God's Justice"

As we sit at Jesus' feet while he teaches in the temple, we will seek to fulfill what he was sent to do by extending God's justice through word and deed until all declare the glory of God. (Psalm 19 & Luke 4:14-21)



Special Events:

- 01/05** 2:00 pm Holy Pub event
- 01/06** 9:30 am Shirley group
11:00 am Daughters of Dorcas
- 01/07** 10:00 am SPR FPR
- 01/09** 11:00 am Rachel Circle
6:00 pm Sarah Circle
- 01/13** 9:30 am Shirley group
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth Room
6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
- 01/14** 9:00 am Hospitality Huddle
- 01/16** 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR
10:00 am Shirley group
- 01/20** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(Office Closed)
- 01/21** 10:00 am Touched by Cancer
2:30 pm Finance Meeting
6:00 pm Coordinating Council
- 01/26** Hot Chocolate Coffee Chat
- 01/27** 9:30 am Shirley group
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth Room
- 01/28** 9:00 am Hospitality Huddle
- 01/30** 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR



Weekly Events:

- Monday**
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
- Sunday**
9:00 am Traditional Service
9:00 am Children's Sunday School and
Nursery
10:00 am Coffee Chat



*"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*

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who baked cookies and volunteered at Broadway Elementary School's Ornament Night! Thank you also to everyone who donated to MCOC's "Children's Christmas Joy" campaign - we received 83 new pairs of jeans and 57 new tops for kids! Finally, thank you to everyone to provided \$10 gas cards for Family Promise of Spokane. You are all so appreciated!

At
THE CONNECT DESK
In January



NAOMI
PAPER
DRIVE

This quarter we will again be collecting paper towels and toilet paper. Bring your donations to the Connect Desk January 5, 12, 19, and 26!

WASHINGTON
LEGISLATIVE
CONFERENCE

SAT JANUARY 25 | 9 AM - 3 PM

This conference will be held at our church and is an opportunity to fundraise for Mission & Service. All money raised at this event will help support our financial commitment for our covenant relationship with missionary Katherine Parker in Nepal. Sign up today to help set up tables and rooms, prepare food and cookies, greet in the parking lot and hallways, serve lunch, and help clean up after lunch. Questions? See the Connect Desk!

Dear Friends,

One of our M.I.L.E. priorities is Lay Ministry Enhancement. To that end, Lay Servant Ministries' Directors and Coordinators within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area are working cooperatively to offer more classes within our area. Nine classes will be offered on Zoom during the first part of 2025. The list of classes, instructors, dates, and times are listed below. PNW and OR-ID each have their own registration processes so please follow the directions of the Conference hosting the class.



The first class to take is the Lay Servant Ministries BASIC COURSE. If you are feeling God's nudge to explore ministry possibilities, this course will help you explore opportunities. After the BASIC COURSE, Discover Your Spiritual Gifts is a good class to help you hone in on your particular gifts for ministry. The Spiritual Gifts class will also be offered twice to meet the need. Also offered, are several Advanced Courses, including three required classes for Lay Speaker certification. Courses typically fill up very quickly, so do not delay registering. Please reach out to me at **smiranda@pnwumc.org** if you have questions about which courses you need or if you have difficulty with the registration process.

Other online Lay Servant Ministries classes, including many for spiritual enrichment, can be accessed at **BeADisciple.com**. Certified Lay Minister (CLM) modules are only offered through BeADisciple at this time. They require that you first become a Certified Lay Servant and be recommended by your pastor, DS, and Conference LSM Director.

To register for Lay Servant Ministry Courses, go to www.pnwumc.org. Use the "Events" pull-down menu.

Course	Instructor	Days	Inclusive Dates	Time (Pacific)	Conf. offered by:
Lay Pastoral Care Giving	Cynthia Abbey	M & W	Jan 6-29	6 -7:30pm	OR-ID
Lay Servant Ministries: Basic Course	Emilie Kroen	T & Th	Jan 7-21	6-8pm	OR-ID
Leading Public Prayer	Rev. Dr. Desi Larson	W	Jan 8 – Feb 5	6:30-8:30	PNW
Discover Your Spiritual Gifts	Jasmine Ray-Symms	T & Th	Jan 30-Feb 13	6-8pm	OR-ID
Justice in Everyday Life (Social Principles 2024)	Marlys McCurdy	M	Feb 3-Mar 3	5-7pm	OR-ID
Called to Preach	Rev. Joanne Coleman Campbell	W	Feb 26, Mar 19 & 26, Apr 2 & 9	6-8pm	PNW
The Basic Course	Rev. Sheila Miranda	T	Mar 11-Apr 8	6:30-8:30pm	PNW
Living Out United Methodist Beliefs (Heritage)	Emilie Kroen	W	Apr 2-30	6-8pm	OR-ID
Discover Your Spiritual Gifts	Rev. Dr. Desi Larson	W	Apr 23-May 21	6:30-8:30	PNW

Click on the conference calendar and scroll down to the date of the first class and click to register. If you have questions or need assistance, contact me at **smiranda@pnwumc.org**.

Spiritual gifts are given to each believer. It is my joy to help you discover the ministry God is calling you to next!

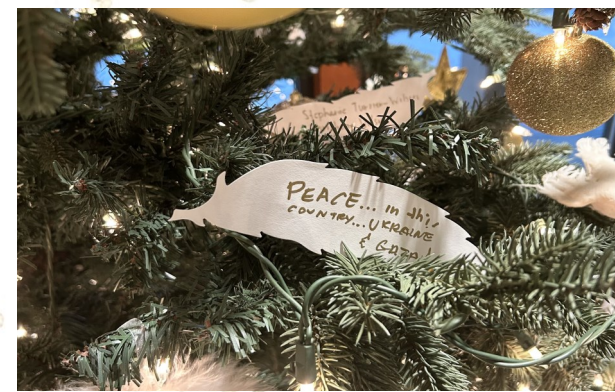
Blessings,
Sheila

Join us for
HOT CHOCOLATE DAY

Marshmallows
and plenty of
toppings provided.
Join us for
a special
Hot Chocolate
Coffee Chat
after the service!



Sunday, January 26 | 10:00 am



**THE ANGELS AMONG US
IN DECEMBER!**

Throughout the month, we took
lots of pictures in and around
the church. Here are a few that
exemplify the Angels Among
Us!



A MESSAGE FROM WES

Heads up everyone, our hymn sing is changing. I am getting a break from doing the hymn sing. Due to some extenuating circumstances I have missed some time from church. Our music director, Luke Henderson, has devised a new hymn sing. Instead of having it the second Sunday of the month, we will be doing an entire service of nothing but hymns, scripture readings, and other music quarterly.

It will be a continuation of the 85th birthday celebration of the church, where pastor Mike came and read some scriptures, and I gave the history of the hymn "Bringing in the Sheaves." What a wonderful service that was.

I thank Mick Palanuk. He had the initial idea of the hymn sing, where we gathered before church and sang during the Christmas holidays. Mick led it then. The congregation liked that so much they wanted to do it every month all year. Margie Manfred asked me to lead a hymn sing once a month. I felt it as a calling and I took the helm. I enjoyed leading the hymn sing for about 6 years (even through covid). Now it's taking on a new look and we're going to do it quarterly, in a full hymn sing service, without a sermon. Luke is taking the helm. Give Luke your support.

Wes Holmquist