



Return Service Requested

**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

Church Secretary: Mackenzie
Draper

Technical Ministry Co-
Coordinators: Lexi Shay &
Logan Tiedt

Children's Ministries:
Samantha Wallace

Nursery Care: Cassandra
Strickland

Sunday School Teacher:
Jackie Florian

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

july 2024

2024 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Report

by Zack Reiber, Lay Leader, and Pastor Alissa

We had the opportunity to travel to Central United Protestant Church in Richland, WA to represent Spokane Valley UMC at the 2024 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference held June 13-16. This was Zack's first time and Pastor Alissa lost count years ago, but it's been more than 20! In case this is your first time encountering information about Annual Conference, the UMC Book of Discipline defines *"the purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God."* While much of our connectional work happens throughout the course of the calendar year, this important once a year meeting of laity and clergy from all the churches and extension ministries in the PNWAC helps us to remember where we've been, reorient ourselves to each other, and set a course moving into the future together - all to the glory of God! Below is a day by day accounting of our experience and the highlights we'd like to share!

Day One

Annual Conference this year brought a lot of affirmations and changes following the actions of the 2024 General Conference. We began our time of holy conferencing by joining in worship with Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth offering a powerful sermon introducing the Annual Conference theme of "BEing Well." The message focused on the Scripture from the Gospel of John 4:4-17 (Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well) and he encouraged us to consider **(Cont. on page 2)**



**BEing
WELL**  **2024**
Pacific Northwest
Annual Conference

(Cont. from pg. 1) how we can “be well” and take care of ourselves as leaders and a community, so as to better serve those around us, by drawing from the deep well of God that gives us living water.

During the Laity Session on the first day, Zack joined with the other lay members to vote for a new conference lay leader. There were three candidates presented to replace Nancy Tam Davis after her 8-year term. It was decided that Falisha Hola, a young adult from the First Tongan UMC of Seattle, shall be the next lay leader of the PNWUMC. We are all very excited for the work ahead as she brings another unique perspective to the incredible work that Nancy has been accomplishing!

Day Two

During the second day, there were reports from the *Commission on Ethnic Ministries*, the *Board of Congregational Development and Church Vitality* (this included an excellent video on the Congregational Equity Cohort that we, along with Ali Norris, are part of), and the *Church Properties Task Force*. These three reports were focused on the revitalization of the church and spaces. After the morning plenary, there was an opportunity to join in a worship celebration of those who are retiring and to witness to the traditional passing of the “Elijah/Elisha” mantle from a retiring elder to one of the elder candidates who would be ordained on Saturday.

In the afternoon, there was a video sharing the work of the Hispanic/Latinx Ministries, and reports from General Conference delegation about the actions of the GC. This includes the removal of harmful language restricting the ordained ministry of LGBTQIA+ candidates and the giving of sacramental authority to deacons. The move towards regionalization was also discussed and how it will require each of the AC’s in the UMC to vote to affirm it in order to modify the church constitution. A *Creation Care* update was also offered with information on how they will be providing a variety of supporting information about grants and programs for churches to better care for our Earth. Additionally, Petition #11, *Environmental Stewardship from the Ground Up*, and Petition #12, *Creating an Environmental Commission*, were passed following a recommendation of concurrence by the pre-conference Focus Sessions. Day Two ended with the approval and prayer for Lapwai, Nezperce, and First Korean of Seattle UMCs to faithfully conclude their ministries.

Day Three

Day Three’s plenary began with a point of personal privilege by lay member, Joey Lopez, who felt that there should be more holy conferencing in the annual conference sessions. With the shift to a hybrid model, some of the traditional forms of conferencing have been lost while great access has been created, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth affirmed that they would take what Joey said to heart. Next in the schedule was the Ministry Fair (tabling event) and the Central United Protestant Church’s Children’s Fun Run in which participants ran while others threw color chalk on them. Bishop Cedrick joined in and ended up being a living rainbow by the end! (see picture to the left).

The day concluded with our final plenary in which we entertained Petition #13 concerning establishing healthy working standards for clergy (including **(Cont. on pg. 3)**



Financial Update:

Mid-year giving statements will be printed by request only. If you want a mid-year giving statement, please give your name and address in Desiree’s box and indicate whether you want it mailed or if you would rather pick it up. Statements will be printed in July.

A note of thanks...

Dear family,
I want to thank you all for your support, prayers, and encouragement as I embark on this journey towards Ordination as a Deacon. I am thankful for each and every one of you and am honored to help serve as your Lay Leader, and eventually as Deacon in this congregation!
With love and blessings,
Zack Reiber

If you have a request for a song for hymn sing, contact Wes at Wesleyross@protonmail.com

Congratulations, Mahan Memorial Scholarship Recipients!

- Kiyah Young-Wilson
- Stephanie Turner-Wilson
- Kyndal Gebhart
- Aubriana Henderson
- Michelle Bos
- Zackery Reiber
- Klara Diesler



We’re so excited to see what the 2024-2025 academic year has in store for you!

Special August Worship Preview!

Starting August 11, we will be starting a new worship series that’s going to be both *different* from our usual summer worship...but also VERY familiar! Our church has been asked to host one of three trainings for smaller lay-led UM churches in the Pacific Northwest to learn how to create dynamic, engaging, and multi-sensory worship from Marcia McFee, renowned United Methodist author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher and artist. The training we are hosting will be designed to help these churches create a dynamic *Advent & Christmas* experience for their churches this year. To help them visualize how they can transform their sacred space, we’ve been asked to transform ours into the manger at the inn where the Mary and Joseph birthed their holy child...in August! Rather than waste fun decorations, we are fully embracing the invitation to help empower other churches *and* taking advantage of this opportunity 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!* Stay tuned for more details in the August newsletter! ~ Pastor Alissa



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Girls on the Run will utilize space at SVUMC this month to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Stay tuned to join the girls for a 5K run in September!





SPOKANE VALLEY UMC'S UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PRESENTS WOMEN SPEAK SUNDAY

Special service with guest speaker
Rhondalei Gabuat
 9am Sunday July 14, 2024

While at Annual Conference, Zack Reiber, our Lay Leader, and I accepted the “Gold Badge for Accessibility” on behalf of our congregation! Please join me in thanking Shirley Porter and Pastor Mike Graef as well as all those who have helped to make our church facility a welcoming and accessible place for all!
 -Pastor Alissa



Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This certificate is awarded to
SPOKANE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

For achieving Gold Level status on the Accessibility Audit for United Methodist Churches, and for continuing to remove barriers of architecture, communication, and attitudes so that people with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of worship, leadership, ministry, and mission.



Signature of Bishop or Designee

Theresa R. Miller



Signature of Conference Disability Ministries Committee Chairperson

6/14/2024

Date

6/14/2024

Date



July Worship Preview

July 7 – *Open Your Heart Series* 2 Corinthians 12:2-20 - “In Weakness and In Strength” - Pastor Alissa preaching

July 14 - *United Women in Faith Sunday* & Hymnsing
 Scripture TBD - Rhondalei Gabuat (Executive Assistant to Bishop Cedrick) preaching

July 21 - *Worship with Rejoicing Series* - A series on how and why we worship!
 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and 7:1-14a - “The People Gather” - Pastor Alissa preaching

July 28 - *Worship with Rejoicing Series*
 2 Samuel 11:1-15 and 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 - “The People Pray” - Pastor Alissa preaching

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

(Cont. from pg. 2) those in extension ministries) by redefining a standard work week at 30-35hrs (not including memorials, conference responsibilities, and crisis pastoral care). The motion passed with unanimous support. Petition #14, which pertained to edits in the conference’s rules, was sent back to the Rules Committee for additional review.

Special guest, Dr. Glenn Paraso from Mary Johnston Hospital in the Philippines, came and discussed the deepening partnership between the Philippines and the Greater Northwest Area. This included passing a resolution with the Filipino people that advocated contacting our representatives to urge against U.S. tax dollars being used to fund worsening human rights and a humanitarian crisis in the Philippines.

Bruce Galvin, Conference Benefits Officer, and Kristina Gonzalez, Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality, were also honored for the amazing work that they both have done and the legacy that they leave and encourage as they prepare for retirement in the next year.

Day Four

The final morning of Annual Conference was filled with the *Service of Commissioning and Ordination* in which elder and deacon candidates are blessed and sent forth into ministry. It was a moving and tearful celebration of life commitment and a joyful expression of the future of the UMC. The church is beginning a season of welcome for LGBTQ+ siblings and service not only welcomed new pastors and deacons into ministry but was also a defining moment heralding a commitment to begin anew. Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz, the executive director of the Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry for the UMC, delivered a personal, genuine message of hope for the church using the week-long theme of “Be Well.”

All in all, we had a really wonderful experience at AC reconnecting with established friends and making many more! Thank you for receiving our report and for allowing us to represent our church!

Peace-
 Zack and Pastor Alissa



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.*

Did you know that the Spokane Valley United Women in Faith has a reading program? The program encourages readers to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers excellent opportunities to deepen your spirituality and broaden your understanding of our mission work! Subject areas include Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Leadership Development and Education for Mission and Spiritual Growth. This program is designed to help interested individuals:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings - their needs, interests, and concerns
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today
- Grow in understanding of scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life

- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission

If this strikes your interest, there are lots of books in room 201 upstairs next to the chapel, all available to anyone attending SVUMC! There is a book sign out and return form but no limit to how long you may keep the books. If you have any questions, contact Linda Hansen by phone or email!

Happy reading!



This event held every year helps families prepare for back to school by providing children with a new pair of shoes and socks. On **Sundays July 7, 14, 21 and 28**, bring shoes and socks to the Connect Desk.

**August Window Work at the
Connect Desk:**
**Naomi Toilet Paper and Paper Towel
Drive**
**Our 3rd and last collection for the
year!**

Let's make it a big One.



***"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

**July Window Work
At the Connect Desk**

**Mission Community Outreach Center
14th Annual
"School Shoes for Kids"**

Collecting kids NEW Athletic Shoes and
Socks,
sizes Toddler 8—Adult 12



**Thank you for supporting the
Mission and Service Brunch
for Zack Reiber!**

**\$1,221 was raised for Books,
Supplies and Travel.**

**If you were not able to attend
but would like to support this
fund, you can still do so.**

**Just note on your gift that it is
for Zack's Education Supplies.**