

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 & Leadership:

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

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

june 2024

Zach Reiber's Process Toward Ordination As A Deacon

By Pastor Alissa

Last summer after hearing our current lay leader, Zach Reiber, share about his work with unaccompanied refugee minors during one of our "Ministry that Matters" moments, I went home to work in my yard. As I was pulling weeds in the sunshine reflecting on worship and especially how inspiring Zack's message was, I heard the Holy Spirit clearly speak to me saying, "Zack should be a Deacon!" Not knowing Zack well but knowing that he had JUST completed a Masters in Servant Leadership from Gonzaga and that ordination as a Deacon would require more master's level theological study, I wasn't sure about approaching him with what the Holy Spirit had put on my heart. But after a few weeks of the Spirit nagging at me, I happened to sit by Zack during Coffee Chat and worked up the courage to ask him if he had ever considered going into the ministry. I was surprised (and delighted!) to hear him say he had indeed felt called to the ministry for many years but that his calling did not match mine as a pastor. Rather than feeling called to leading a congregation, Zack shared that he was called to the work of justice and compassion and to serve as a bridge between the church and the world. In response, I asked him "Have you thought about being a deacon?" to which Zack replied, "I've never heard of that - what do deacons do?" As soon as I described the calling of a deacon, Zack's face lit up and he said, "THAT's exactly what I'm called to do!" (Lesson learned, once again - you should NEVER doubt the Holy Spirit!)

I imagine, like Zack, that many of you either hadn't heard of the Order of Deacons or didn't know much about it prior to our announcing his candidacy for ordination as a Deacon. Allow me to change that! (Continued on page 2)



Pastor Alissa & Zack Reiber leading Cayde Gebhart's baptism together.



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Like my own Order of Elders, Deacons are clergy leaders who are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a Bishop to a lifetime ministry. Together we share a calling to **Word** (preaching & teaching) and **Service** (to God, Christ’s church, and the world). But where Elders are uniquely called to the Sacraments (communion & baptism) and Order (providing leadership at all levels of the church), Deacons are uniquely called to ministries of **Compassion** and **Justice** and exemplify Christian discipleship by serving (as Zack suggested) as a bridge between the church and society. Like Elders, Deacons can teach, preach, officiate weddings & memorials, and offer pastoral care within congregations as well as assist Elders in administering the sacraments (though the 2024 General Conference voted to give Deacons sacramental authority within their appointment setting starting Jan. 1, 2025 so that will change soon!) Outside the walls of the church, Deacons share the Good News in word and in their advocacy for the poor, neglected and discouraged.

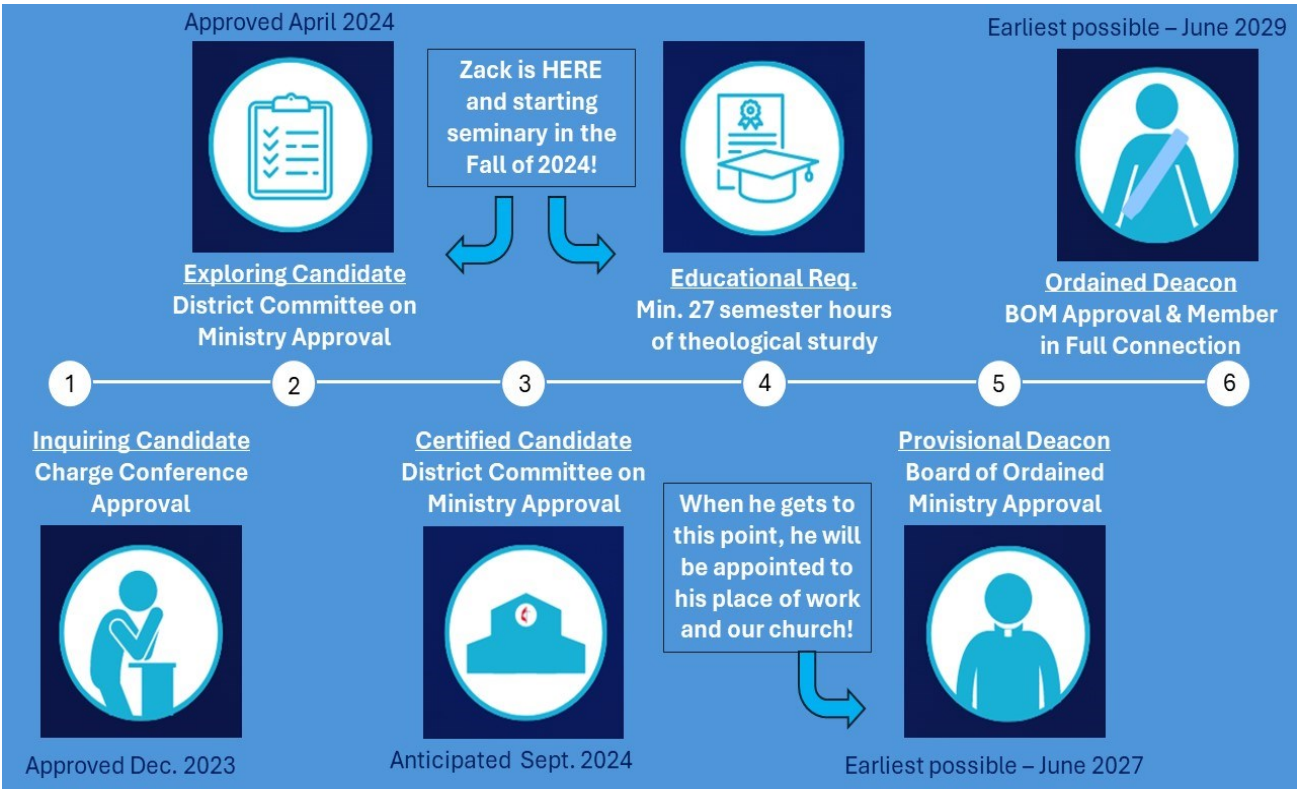
One key difference between Elders and Deacons has to do with our appointment by the Bishop’s Cabinet. As an Elder, I have one full-time appointment to a local church though I can also be appointed to an extension ministry beyond the church. Because of their “bridging” work, Deacons have *two* appointments - a primary one and a secondary one. One of their appointments must be to a church and, depending on their type of ministry, it might be the secondary (part-time) appointment. In Zack’s case, when he gets to the point in his ordination process where he’s available for an appointment (Provisional Deacon), we anticipate that his primary appointment will be to his place of employment out in the world (currently *Basic Needs Navigator* at SFCC) with his secondary appointment being to Spokane Valley UMC.

This brings me to the process toward ordination as a Deacon that Zack has entered into. Allow me to say this from the start - it is a LONG (6-20 year) process of affirmation, confirmation, and formation of his **fire** (calling), **fruits** (spiritual giftedness), **fruitfulness** (potential to make disciples), and **fitness**

(suitability) for ministry as a deacon. Each stage of the process, which moves from the local church (calling) to the district (calling and fruits) to the Board of Ordained Ministry (fruitfulness and fitness), works together to confirm that all four aspects are present before recommending

him for ordination and life-long service as an ordained Deacon. I’ve included a graphic above to help you visualize the process and understand both where Zack is on it *and* what is ahead! He’s already completed the *Inquiring Candidate* step of working with me (his pastor) and our SPRC to discern and affirm his sense of call and he was approved by all of you at our 2023 Charge Conference. He has had both an informal and formal introductory interview with the District Committee on Ministry (DCOM) and is now officially

(Continued on page 3)



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GET INVOLVED WITH GOTR!

MISSION

We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.

COACH

Coaches are the heart of our program! Each season, two or more volunteer coaches inspire and guide a team through our tried-and-true curriculum. If you're ready to directly make an impact, then this role is for you.

RUNNING BUDDY

Running Buddies are personal cheerleaders for a GOTR girl who is completing her very FIRST 5K race!

As a Running Buddy, you have the opportunity to positively encourage, pace, and mentor your girl through the 5k.

5K VOLUNTEER

Our end of season 5K provides a tangible sense of accomplishment to participants with many opportunities to get involved!

CONTACT US:

(920) 474-6875
lindsay.box@girlsontherun.org
www.gotrspokane.org
@girlsontherunspokane

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF SPOKANE COUNTY



Spokane Valley United Methodist Church will be hosting *Girls on the Run of Spokane County* in July! *Girls on the Run* helps instill confidence, character, care, connections, and competence in girls from 3rd to 5th grades.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

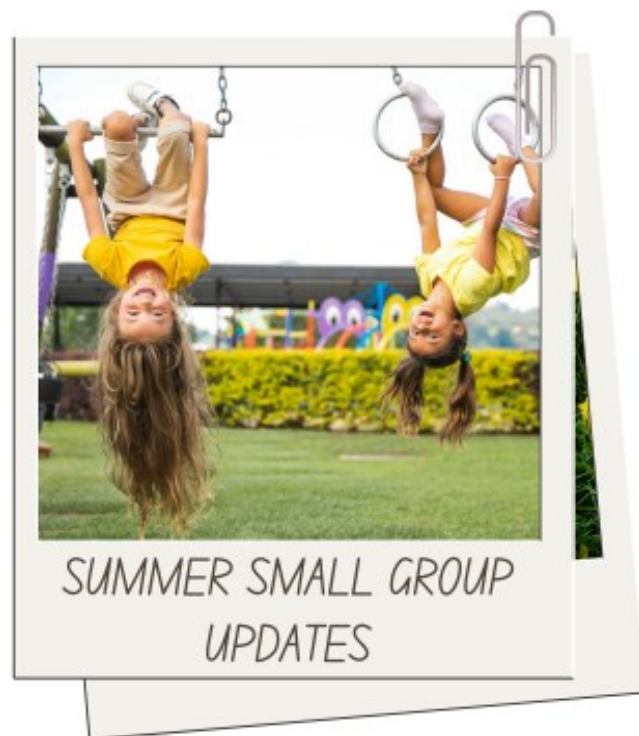
Brian Hoyt to Serve as SVUMC's Designated Safety Officer (DSO)

With gratitude to Jim Droppers for his season of service, we celebrate that Brian Hoyt has graciously stepped up to serve as our DSO! This position is tasked with responding to internal safety concerns, onsite injuries, and violations of our *Safe Sanctuary* policy. He is also leading a team to update our current *Safe Sanctuary* policy and to create a new *Safe Church* policy to address potential security risks and emergency protocols. To learn more about Brian and this work, email him at brian.alan.hoyt@gmail.com.



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.



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

June Worship Preview

June 2 - Pentecost Sunday - *Confirmation & Baptism Celebration*

Acts 2:1-20 - Confirmands & Pastor Alissa leading the service & serving Communion.

June 9 - Graduation Sunday - *Graduate Recognition & Blessing*

Hebrews 1:1-9 - "The Map of Our Faith" - Pastor Alissa preaching (No Hymnsing)

June 16 - Father's Day - *Praising God Through Music Sunday*

Psalms 95:1-7a - A Hymnsing Service with a "Ministry that Matters" Moment

June 23 - New Series: Open Your Heart

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 - "In Sorrow and Rejoicing" - Pastor Alissa preaching

June 30 - Open Your Heart Series

2 Corinthians 8:78-15 - "In Need and In Abundance" - Pastor Alissa preaching

July 7 - Open Your Heart Series

2 Corinthians 12:2-20 - "In Weakness and In Strength" - Pastor Alissa preaching



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an *Exploring Candidate*. As we shared in worship on May 26, Zack has been accepted to Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. for their online Master of Theological Studies and has been awarded *The Bishop's Award* (full-tuition scholarship) and *The Birch Grant* (\$4000 to travel to Greece)! This Fall he will interview with the DCOM to become a *Certified Candidate* at which point he will start working toward being recommended to the Provisional Interview Team where the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) will determine if he's ready for commissioning as a *Provisional Deacon*. Once commissioned, Zack will receive his two appointments and will spend a minimum of two years under the care of the Full Membership Interview Team until they determine he is prepared for full ordination.

While this summary can only offer you the general outline of Zack's process, if you'd like to learn more, you can set a time to meet with me (not only have I been through this myself but I serve on DCOM and BOM so I am VERY familiar with the process), or you can do a web search for "Steps to Becoming a UMC Ordained Deacon" and choose the Resource UMC option. There you'll find an informative video and lots more details!

Friends, I hope you share my pride and excitement about Zack's candidacy for ordination as a Deacon and will join with me in prayerfully lifting him up and supporting him as he navigates this process. The Spirit has clearly called him to the work of a Deacon and I praise God for lifting him up from among our congregation!

Peace-
Pastor Alissa



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.

MISSION U 2024
July 25 - 27, 2024
At Yakima Wesley UMC



Mission U is the annual mission education opportunity for the Pacific Northwest Conference. It will be at Wesley UMC in Yakima, WA, for three days of learning and fellowship. Wesley UMC is the location of choice because of its size, hospitality, and its location; it is centrally located for participants arriving from northern Idaho and across Washington State.

The curriculum for this year's study is entitled "Welcome Home" by Neomi Fletcher, with contributors Parker Roberts and Sandra Williamson. The book is available for purchase through the United Women in Faith website (uwfaith.org). Plan to attend this Spirit-filled gathering with other women of Spokane Valley UMC!

Join Spokane Valley UMC United Women of Faith on Sunday, July 14th for SVUMC UWF Women Speak Sunday!

Members will lead the service, and Rhondalei Gabuat, Executive Assistant to Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth, will preach.



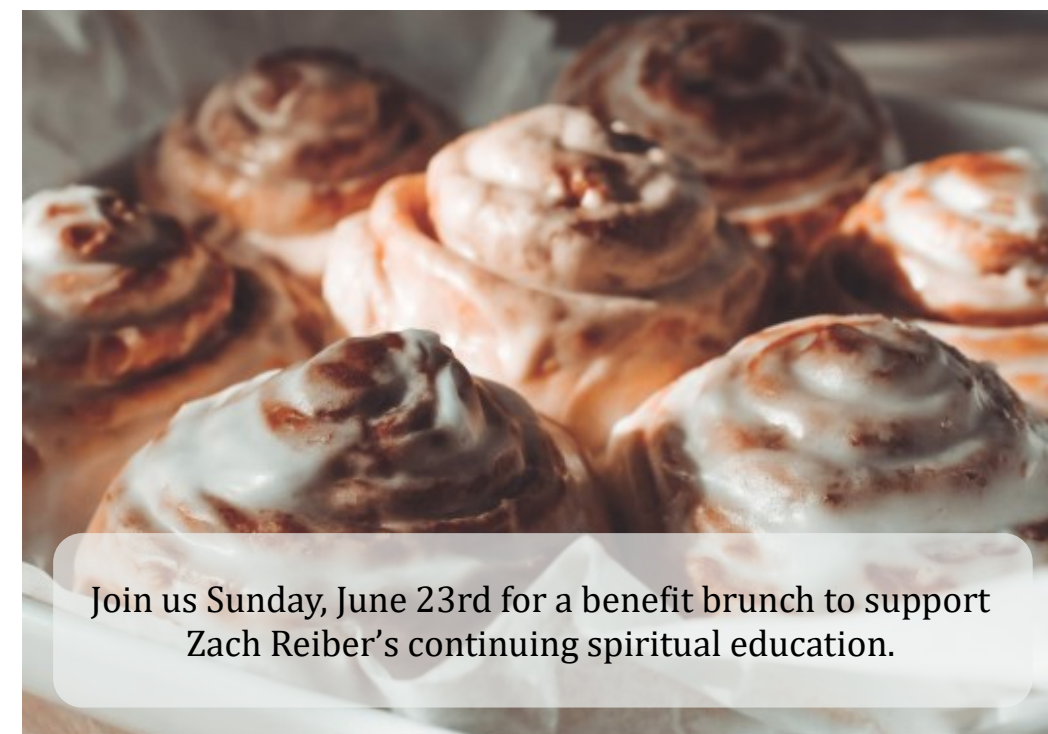
*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."
John Wesley*



Partners INW (Formerly Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank & Family Services) is now holding their annual matching funds drive. Because of this, the \$3,000 we just sent them has turned into \$6,000! \$1,500 of this money came from our budget, and \$1,500 came from individuals and the Mission and Service Special Fund. Thank you all for making this possible!

Thank you also to all who volunteered to help with the Broadway Elementary School Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast!

Window Work at the Connect Desk is closed for the month of June for rest.



Join the Mission and Service Team on Sunday, June 23rd for a special brunch following worship. We will be raising funds for books, supplies, and travel for our Lay Leader, Zach Reiber, as he pursues his education to become a Deacon in the United Methodist Church! Brunch will consist of cinnamon rolls, sausage, egg casserole, and fruit. See the Connect Desk or call the front office (509-924-7262) for details.

Interested in growing your relationship with Christ? See the Connect Desk for more details about Disciple 2 class beginning in September.