

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 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
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.*

By now it probably doesn't surprise you that I tend to be a "work ahead" kind of person! Which is why I trust you'll understand that this newsletter article is being written on January 24 because I need to get it done ahead of being gone January 27-30 for the BOM interviews and February 4-24 for Morocco! I don't know what will happen in the world between now and March 1 and, more to the point of this article, March 5 when we will begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. I suspect, as we've seen over the past four weeks, that fear, polarization, and political chaos will likely continue to dominate our 24-hr news cycle and that there will be ever more challenges to the Christian, and particularly, *United Methodist*, way of being in the world. It will be hard to not react to what is happening with fear, anger, sadness, and disappointment and the question on everyone's mind has and likely will be "what do we do with all this?" What do we do when we are divided politically and socially with others? What do we do when our unity as a church, a community, and a nation is threatened? What do we do when hearts are breaking to see so much unloving rhetoric filling the airways? And perhaps most pressing for us, what *are* we going to do as members of Spokane Valley UMC?

Not to be flip, but in all honestly, I, as your pastor, believe we're going to keep on doing what we do at Spokane Valley UMC. We're a church blessed to be filled with all kinds of people who fall all along the spectrum of belief, politics, income, age, sexuality, and so forth. Despite our differences, we've found a way to love each other and come together to worship God and do vital ministry in the name of Christ in our community and beyond. The world may continue to struggle with how to accomplish this on a global stage, but down here on the ground in Spokane Valley, WA, we've figured out how to live with each other (Cont. on pg. 2)



(Cont. from pg. 1) and how to love each other despite any differences that threaten to divide others elsewhere. We believe this is possible because our love for each other in this church is not dictated by any federal or state law but by Jesus' teaching to *"Love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."* (Luke 10:27)

As I see it, all we do at Spokane Valley UMC we do out of love: from feeding hungry people through Meals on Wheels and the St. Anne's Community Meal, to offering a safe place for women and children to heal from trauma through our partnership with the Naomi Community, to worshipping together, to studying the Bible, to gathering for Fellowship and more! And we're able to do this loving work because we know that God first loved us. Despite our human frailty and failings, God so loved us that he sent his Son to live among us, to teach and heal us, and ultimately to die for us that we might have eternal life! Through Christ, we know that nothing can divide us from the love of God and when we allow that love to dwell within us, nothing can divide us from each other.

While I have no idea what the next five weeks will bring as I write this article at the end of January, given what 2025 has handed to us so far, I can speculate that by the time Lent rolls around, we'll be in need of messages that remind of us who we belong to, what we were created to be, and how we're called to love one another through all seasons of mission and ministry no matter what is happening in the world. Which is why, after discerning "The Heart of Spokane Valley" as our overall theme for the year, I have selected a Lent series for us called "With All Your Heart" that focuses on the steps we take in our personal walk of faith as we journey with Christ toward the cross. No matter when our faith walks began, they all started with God's call to "return to me", to turn back to God and seek right relationship with the Holy. We will start our Lenten journey by exploring this on Ash Wednesday and Lent 1. After opening our hearts to God, and before we can fully open ourselves to the call to follow Christ, we must first go through the process of personal repentance (Lent 2 and 3), reconciliation with God and one another (Lent 4 and 5), and preparation to publicly proclaim our belief in the risen Christ (Palm/Passion and Easter). With all that is swirling about us in the world, returning to God "with all our hearts", repenting of our sin and reconciling with God and one another, as well as telling the Good News of the resurrection, seems to me like the right response for right now.

If that response feels right for you, too, I invite you to join us for a season of "inner heart work" in order that we might reconnect with the love of God and reconnect with each other as we seek to find and become the heart of Spokane Valley. The journey starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, with a service at 6pm and continues until Easter on April 20th (see more details in the Lenten Worship Preview). As we embark on this journey in the midst of the swirling uncertainty of politics, I also invite you to pray. Pray for each other, pray for our church, pray for our nation, pray for all the world. Pray for the unity that Jesus so desired for us and pray that we are return to God with all our hearts. Amen.

- Pastor Alissa



MARCH WORD SEARCH

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

Iditarod
Writing
Basketball
Ticket
Blossoms
Pickleball

Ash Wednesday
Spring
Flapjacks
Daylight Savings
Flowers
Moon

Butterfly
Ides
Cleaning
Laughter
Equinox
Neighbor

Frog
Poetry
Baseball
Mardi Gras
St. Patrick
Jazz

Lenten Worship Series Preview: "With All Your Heart"



Sunday, March 2nd – Sunday Singing Celebration Service led by Luke Henderson

As we prepare for the contemplative season of Lent, we'll spend a Sunday praising God with our own "Fat Sunday" style of worship service! Feel free to dress in green, gold, and purple and don your Mardi Gras beads if you have them then get ready to sing and celebrate communion!

Wednesday, March 5th at 6pm in the Sanctuary – Ash Wednesday – "Return to Me"

Imposition of ashes and reflection on Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10.

Sunday, March 9th – Lent 1 - "God's Generous Heart"

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Romans 10:8b-13 (Please note Daylight Savings Time begins!)

Sunday, March 16th – Lent 2 – "Imitating"

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 and Philippians 3:17-4:1 (Ministry that Matters Moment: Twinlow Camp)

Sunday, March 23rd – Lent 3 – "Repenting"

Isaiah 55:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Sunday, March 30th – Lent 4 – "Coming Together"

Joshua 5:9-12 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sunday, April 6th – Lent 5 – "Making a New Thing"

Isaiah 43:16-21 and Philippians 3:4b-14 (Celebration of the Great Thanksgiving)

Sunday, April 13th – Palm/Passion Sunday – "Preparing"

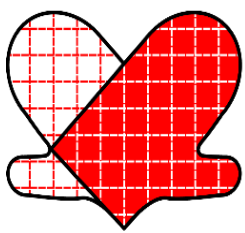
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, and Luke 19:28-40

Friday, April 18th at 7pm in the Sanctuary – Good Friday

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, and Luke 19:28-40

Sunday, April 20th – Easter Sunday – "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)



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*

I remember...
you're... ahhh Jim,
Joe, Peter, Mike, David
no...it's Gary!

I really need
A NAME TAG!



Join us for
our "Let's
Get To Know
Each Other"
Campaign
the second
and third
weeks in
March!

It's the
chance to
get the
name tag
you always
wanted!

Thank
you ❤️



THANK YOU
FOR THE
DONATIONS OF
FOOD FOR
PARTNERS
INLAND
NORTHWEST. SEE
NEXT MONTH'S
CONNECTIONS
TO SEE HOW
MANY POUNDS
OF FOOD WE
COLLECTED!



Thank you for supporting
the Cinnamon Roll sale for
our covenant relationship
with missionary Katherine
Parker on Feb. 23! We
raised \$562 for her
continued work!



We calculated the results of January's
Naomi Paper Drive: we gathered 100 paper
towel rolls and 448 rolls of toilet paper.
According to Costco prices (with tax),
SVUMC gathered \$508.56 of paper goods!
Thank you all for your generosity!

At the Connect Desk in March

Mission Community Outreach Center Toiletry Drive
March 2, 9, 16, and 23

Items needed:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash
- Razors
- Laundry Detergent
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Wash
- Baby Lotion



MCOOC recommends we purchase
items from the Dollar Store. The
cost is low and the products are
good.

Coming April 1st
Broadway
Teacher's
Soup & Salad
Luncheon!

If you would like
to help by
bringing a pot
of soup, a salad,
or cookies, sign
up at the
Connect Desk
March 9, 16,
and 22.

**Remember to pick up your giving
statements at the Connect Desk if you
haven't already!**

If you need yours mailed, please contact the church office.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

We invite you to join us for
ASH WEDNESDAY
March 5, 2025
6:00 PM
"RETURN TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART"

KICKSTART MINISTRY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2025

- Sunday School
- Nursery
- Youth Group

In all three areas of KICKstart children's ministry we have added some many wonderful new kiddos to help grow our programs. We are excited about the growth that we have had since the holidays and look forward to more growth.

Youth Group started up in the new year, they will be meeting EVERY OTHER WEEK beginning in March. They are currently working on some new activities that they hope to share with you all in the coming months.

With the help of Jackie stepping up as our youth lead we have been able to hold youth gathers in and out of the church.

We are looking for volunteers who want to sit in for Sundays School and Youth Group on occasion. If you are interested please send us an email so we can get you on our sheet.

A Message from Samantha

- I have accepted a job as a Mental Health Clinician
- My last Sunday in this roll will be March 30th

509-703-8746 | Samantha.Marieoo@Outlook.com



Make sure to wear a bit 'o green especially Monday, March 17!
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Please join the United Women in Faith for an afternoon of fellowship and discussion of the book *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare on Sunday, April 6 in the Fireplace Room at 1 PM. Feel free to attend even if you haven't read the book. We will have a snack / hors d'oeuvres potluck for this event. Open to anyone who might enjoy the discussion!

Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Dining In and Takeout Annual Easter Dinner
April 12 (Saturday) from 4:00-5:30 pm

Dining in from 4:00—5:00 pm and Take out from 4:30—5:30 pm
Ham, Creamy Potato Casserole, Carrots, Cole Slaw and Roll
Easter Cake for Dessert

Adults - \$15
Children (6 – 12 years) - \$7
Children 5 and under - Free

The April Newsletter will have full information on ordering either Dinning In or Take Out Meals

Spokane Valley UWF Circle Meetings

Together, we welcome new women into our sisterhood. It's an exciting time to be part of United Women in Faith! Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we are working to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. We show up. We take action. We get it done. Come and join us, and check out one of our circles.

Esther Circle will meet March 11, 12:30 PM to carpool to Christ Kitchen.
Contact Nancy Ashworth, 509-993-9074.

Rachel Circle will meet March 9, 10 AM to carpool to Ronald McDonald House.
Contact Susan Henderson, 509-924-5192.

Sarah Circle will meet March 27, 5:30 pm to carpool to Queen of Sheba.
Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet March 10 & 24, 10:00 AM in the Fireplace Room.
Contact Jodi Mackin, 509-922-4074.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/6	Jerry Larson	3/19	Gary Straub
3/7	Otto Vegele	3/23	Kay Hurlbut
3/8	Orva Phillips	3/25	Brandon Stultz
3/10	Ann Holmquist	3/26	Raymundo Henderson
3/12	Stephanie Mackin	3/27	Sharon Schuh
3/13	Georgiann Cheney	3/28	Michael Cheney
3/14	Betsy Pletscher	3/29	Zack Reiber
3/17	Alissa Amestoy Jakk Dixon Patricio Carpinteyro		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/2	Joe & Susan Ingalls
3/18	Otto Vegele & Nancy Moore
3/30	Jerry & Pat Bishop
3/31	Jon & Carmen Schaffer



MARCH

Special Events:

- 3/03** 11:00 am Daughters of Dorcas
- 3/04** 10:00 am SPR Meeting
- 3/05** 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 3/06** 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR.
- 3/09** 10:00 am Rachel Circle
- 3/10** 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth Room
6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
- 3/11** 9:00 am Hospitality Huddle
12:30 pm Esther Circle
- 3/17** 11:00 am Daughters of Dorcas
- 3/18** 10:00 am Touched by Cancer
2:30 pm Finance Meeting
6:00 pm Coordinating Council
- 3/20** 10:00 am Marlene Goup FPR
- 3/24** 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth Room
- 3/25** 9:00 am Hospitality Huddle
- 3/27** 10:00 Marlene Group FPR
5:30 pm Sarah Circle
- 3/31** 11:00 am Daughters of Dorcas

Weekly Events:

- Monday**
9:30 am Shirley Small Group Rm 115
3:30 pm Nancy Larson Small Group
Rm 115
- Wednesday**
10:00 am Walkers
- 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 and
Nursery
10:00 am Coffee Chat