



Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 69
Spokane, WA

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
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

may 2024

While there's a lot to look forward to in May, we're especially excited for the first Sunday in June! Four of our youth will have the chance to confirm their commitment to following the way of Christ. Tyler, Gabe, Morgen, and Ethan will reach the pinnacle of their eight-month Confirmation journey. Join us in praying for these young men and for ourselves as we continue to lift them up as the Body of Christ!



SVUMC Mahan Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is available to students attending school for an undergraduate or graduate degree during the 2024-2025 academic year. Applicant must be a member or an active constituent of SVUMC.

Scholarships will be for a minimum amount of \$800.

Please call the church (509-924-7262) to request an application. Completed applications must be received in the church office by May 5th, 2024.





From the Pastor's Desk

June 2nd is going to be an exciting day in the life of the church at Spokane Valley UMC! In addition to celebrating the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ on a day we call *Pentecost*, we will also be *potentially* celebrating the baptism and/or confirmation of faith of members of our youth group. I say *potentially* because our four confirmands, Ethan Amestoy, Morgen Cheney, Gabe Erickson, and Tyler Meckel, will make their decision on Sunday, May 19th during our last Confirmation Class. As with all matters of faith, these four young men will be encouraged to discern this decision for themselves with the Spirit's guidance.



Like many United Methodists, a few of our youth were baptized as infants so their parents spoke their baptismal vows for them and promised to raise them in the church. Now that they are mature enough to answer those questions for themselves, should they choose to do so, they will "confirm" the faith that their parents chose for them and take upon themselves the commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. At their confirmation, they will be given the opportunity to publicly speak the baptismal vows spoken at their baptisms and take the vows themselves. A few of our youth, however, have yet to

be baptized, and so, if they choose to confirm the Christian faith in which they have been raised, they will be baptized on Pentecost Sunday using the same confirmation liturgy as their peers and they will all join together at the font to offer a public confession of their belief in Christ and commitment to follow his Way.

In preparation for that day, these four young men have dedicated their Sunday mornings for the past eight months to learn about the Bible, Christian beliefs, who Jesus was, and what it means to be a disciple. They've also studied the history, polity and theology of the United Methodist Church and what makes us unique in the world of Christendom. Each week, they have met with Samantha Wallace, our Coordinator of Children's Ministry, and myself, along with other adult members of our congregation in an effort to learn everything there is to learn about the church! Well...maybe not *everything*, but enough to let them know that there is A LOT to be learned - more than can be covered in eight months, that's for sure!

Using a curriculum called "Re:form" we've spent each week watching some fun, animated, and positively RIDICULOUS videos and exploring common faith questions through discussion, activities, and prayer. To give you an idea of some of the more than 30 questions (!!) they've explored, here's a small sample:

Who wrote the Bible, God or humans?
Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?

As the Finance team has worked through the first three months of 2024, we have witnessed God's grace serving our church through the bountiful gifts given to support our Mission and Ministry. As I sat down to write this, all I could think was how blessed our church is and how God is providing for all our needs through the generous gifts from our congregation. His presence in our congregation can be witnessed in so many ways each day as we work to help meet the spiritual needs of our congregation and physical needs in our community.

Here are a few numbers to share as it relates to our budget for the first quarter of 2024:

Projected Revenue and /or Expense needed to meet the Budget Year-to-Date	\$97,348.00
Actual Revenue Given YTD	\$111,456.00
Actual Expenses Towards Annual Budget YTD	\$100,960.00
General Fund Balance on 1-1-2024	\$82,186.00
General Fund Balance on 3-31-2024	\$92,682.00

In addition, the church received a large legacy gift that has been designated for the General Fund to help continue our Mission and Ministry and will help our congregation as we look to the future and to what God's wishes are for us meeting the needs that are around us.

As shared in previous years, giving is generally higher in the first quarter as we have members that complete their annual gift in one payment during the month of January. Expenses are also higher in the first nine months of the year as we prioritize paying our Annual Conference Apportionment for the year. Thus, we expect the above numbers to move closer to being balanced out as we move through the next quarter.

In closing, the Finance Team would like to say "thank you" to all who continue to support our church through your gifts of prayers, presence, service, and witness, as well as the ongoing financial support. *May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.* (Numbers 6:24-26.)

God's Blessings Always,
Jim Droppers, Chair,
on behalf of The Finance Team.

SVUMC invites you, your family, and your neighbors to Family Game Day on May 19th from 11:30am-3:00pm! Plan on bringing a main dish, salad, or drinks—dessert will be provided. We'll have cornhole, ping pong, and card games, and we invite you to bring your favorite games, too! For any questions, call Sharon Maxey at 509-953-1756.



SAVE THE DATES!

July 10-13, 2024

The Western Jurisdictional Conference of the UMC is coming to Spokane and Spokane Valley UMC.

We will be seeking volunteers to help us host this event at The Centennial Hotel and our Church.

Visit the WJ website for more info and stay tuned for more details!





NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Note of Thanks...
"I'm so grateful to be part of the Spokane Valley United Methodist Church family. Your prayers and outpouring of love during my recent total knee replacement surgery and ongoing rehab have been greatly appreciated. Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits, and food deliveries. A special thank-you to my Monday small group and Wednesday Disciple group for your tender kindness. Love and joy,
Margie

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Newsletter

Sunday School & Nursery

There is a new change to program. Instead of it being Kids zone, it will now be called "KICKstart" which stands for Kids In Christ's Kingdom. This will symbolize that all children coming through the program are apart of God's love and his kingdom together. In the coming weeks we will begin to see the new logo and style around with new signs and information sheets. We are all excited about this and we think that it is a positive step in rebuilding the program.

With summer just around the corner we have been working on developing a theme for the summer. In place of Vacation Bible school we will be doing a summer series which will have new activities, crafts, and fun lesson plans. If anyone is interested in helping with that that summer we encourage you to reach out.



Samantha Wallace

Email: Samantha.marieoo@outlook.com

Phone: (509) 703-8746

Senior Lunch Bunch

There will be NO Senior Lunch Bunch this month due to conflicting schedules. Check back here next month!



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

Why should I follow Jesus; can't I just say I believe in him?
Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?
If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions?
Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me?
What the heck is prevenient grace and do I have to learn geometry to be a Methodist?

Each of these questions were designed to give these guys (and the brave mentors who signed up to join us!) the chance to explore an area of faith while being free to ask even more questions of their own. The ultimate goal of confirmation isn't to teach our young people the stock answers to age-old questions of faith but to help them develop a habit of asking questions and turning to God and the church to find ways of exploring them. With that in mind, our curriculum was chosen because it not only helped to create a space to wrestle with some of the tough issues of faith, but it also ultimately helped teach that part of a life of faith *is* asking questions and prayerfully wrestling with God for the answers. If you had an opportunity to be one of our mentors, then you know we went down some pretty interesting theological rabbit holes a time or two!



Caption for photo: Some of the "colorful" characters from the *Re:form Confirmation Curriculum*

During our service on June 2nd (which you won't want to miss!), you'll *potentially* be invited to commit yourself to supporting these young disciples as they embark on a lifelong journey with Christ, and you'll have the chance to renew your own vows of membership as a part of the confirmation and/or baptism ceremony. Until then, please join me in praying for Ethan, Morgen, Gabe, and Tyler as they conclude their confirmation journey and enter into a time of faithful discernment. May God's Spirit of wisdom be upon them!

Peace-
Pastor Alissa



May Worship Preview

May 5—Sixth Sunday of Easter - How Shall We Love Series

1 John 4:7 - "We Bear Fruit" - Pastor Alissa preaching & Communion

May 12—Seventh Sunday of Easter - How Shall We Love Series

1 John 5:1-6 - "We Love One Another" - Pastor Alissa preaching & Hymnsing

May 19—Eighth Sunday of Easter - How Shall We Love Series

1 John 5:9-13 "We Share Christ" - Pastor Alissa preaching

May 28—Ninth Sunday of Easter - Ascension Sunday
Acts 1:1-11 - Pastor Alissa preaching & Ministry that Matters Moment

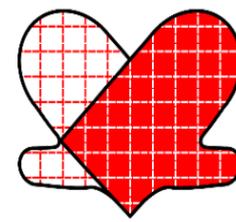
June 2—Pentecost Sunday - Confirmation & Baptism Celebration

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



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



All Women of the Church are Invited to the Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Spring General Meeting

**June 1st
11:30 am—1:30 pm**

**Program Following Lunch
“Building Bridges Across Differences”
Presented by Pastor Alissa, Zack Reiber, and Ali Norris**

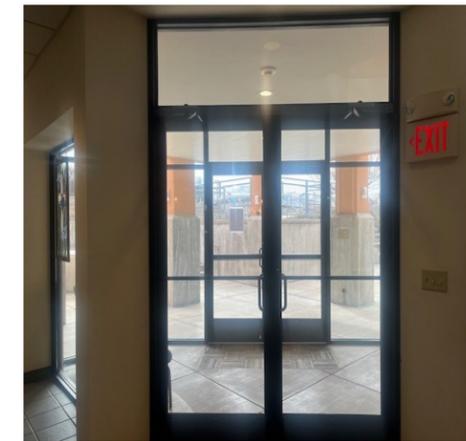
**Make your reservation before May 28th
by calling the Church at 509-924-7262
Cost: Donation**

Thank you

For supporting our Covenant Relationship with Missionary Katherine Parker with April 14th's **Cinnamon Roll Sale.** \$645 was raised!



Mission Community Outreach Center's **Toiletry Drive** was a huge success! (Picture of donations is as of April 14th)



Window Work At the Connect Desk in May

Quarterly Paper Drive for Naomi
at the Connect Desk
May 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th



Broadway Elementary School Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on June 6th

The Mission and Service Team is hosting the Broadway Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast again at our church from 8 am – 10 am on June 6th.

A buffet breakfast of cinnamon rolls, scrambled eggs, sausage, and juice will be served. We will need help in welcoming the volunteers and staff of Broadway to our church and in serving breakfast. As always, help will be needed with the clean up. **You will be able to sign up to help on Sundays May 19th, 26th, and June 2nd at the Connect Desk.**



Faith Talks

Faith Talks is a monthly conversation with members of United Women in Faith hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer. Each podcast is presented on zoom and lasts approximately 1 hour. Each month explores current topics from experts in the field of study. I started watching these podcasts during the Covid shutdown. At this time there are 86 episodes available to listen to. Once the webcast is over there is a taped recording of the episode. This is usually available within the following week. To find these recorded podcasts go to the United Women in Faith website. Go to the menu and under Resources click on Podcasts and Webinars. To subscribe to the live podcast go to <https://uwfaith.org/login/>. There are many resources under this link and all are helpful. I find it very interesting to watch and see all the different topics that are presented.

Linda Hansen, Social Action Coordinator



Circle Spotlight—Rachel Circle

Here they are making 40 sandwiches for the families at Ronald McDonald House on April 11th, What a wonderful opportunity to share God's love through **this hands on project!** Ask any of these ladies what they enjoyed about this project. They will be more than happy to share.



55+ Luncheon and Program

May 30th, Thursday, at Noon in the Gym
Lunch: Tomato Soup and Chicken Salad Sandwich
Program: “Spokane Valley Heritage Museum”

