

SPOKANE VALLEY
 UNITED METHODIST
 CHURCH
 115 NORTH RAYMOND RD
 SPOKANE VALLEY, WA
 99206

Sunday 9am
Traditional Service
Sunday School & Nursery

Pastor

Rev. Alissa Amestoy
Director of Music
 Betsy Pletscher
Director of Hospitality
 Margie Manfred
Technical Ministry
Co-Coordinator
 Lexi Shay & Logan Tiedt
Coordinator of
Ministries with
Young People
 Jen Price

Assoc. Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Jacqueline Florian
Nursery Caregiver
 Chris Nilles

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 november 2025

Treasure

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount comes very soon after Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee and right after he calls his first disciples. The word about his ministry of "healing and curing disease and every sickness" spread quickly and crowds started to gather in his wake. Matthew tells us that when Jesus saw the crowds, he took his new-to-following-him



A Stewardship Program on Faith and Money

disciples up the mountain and began to teach them while the crowds listened. Jesus covered all kinds of topics – who is blessed in the kingdom of heaven (hint: those poor in spirit, mourning, hungering for justice, and so forth), how they are the salt of the earth and light of world, and how his teachings aren't meant to abolish the law but *alter* it so that true righteousness is the outcome. He also spent quite a bit of time in that sermon on how to practice *piety* or in plain speak, devotion to God. While there's the expected emphasis on the best way to practice prayer to stay in right relationship with God, there's also a strong emphasis on the best way to practice *finances* to stay in right relationship with God. Recognizing that many things competed for our attention and relentlessly tempted us to put our reliance on them vs. God, Jesus counseled his disciples "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven....For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" (Matt 6:19-21). We often assume that it works the other way - that our treasure will follow our hearts, but Jesus suggested something altogether different. He said that where our treasure goes, whether it be our time, money, and/or energy, our hearts will follow. It's no wonder, then, that many of us feel a sense of tension between the practices of our faith and our financial practices. We want to invest our lives in our relationship with God, our family, and our church community...yet our hearts too often, without us even realizing it, feel drawn to focus on our debts, our bills, our jobs, our other financial obligations. The end result is we feel no closer to God or to our purpose as followers of Christ; instead we feel guilty, conflicted, and resigned.

(Cont. on pg. 2)

(Cont. from pg. 1) God desires so much more for us than to be struggling under the burden our financial realities bring. Jesus, out of love for those God’s loves (US!) cared about our hearts, so he talked about our treasure *differently* than the way the rest of the world was talking about. And what Jesus had to say was liberating, transformative, and inspiring! As we enter into our annual stewardship season during the month of November, we’re going to explore what Jesus said and about money and why it’s less about how much we have but how we orient ourselves to it through the perspective of our relationship with God. The aim is for us to wrestle with that tension of what we *want* to be investing in and what we actually *are* investing in – because at our core, each of desires to experience the power found in making God our treasure.

This is why our Financial Resources Support Team has chosen *Treasure*, a worship series developed and implemented by Rev. James Armstrong at Providence United Methodist Church in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee for our Fall Stewardship Series. At the time, Providence was a new church start with a two-year-old congregation who had reached many who had previously felt disconnected from God and the church. Their leadership realized that if they wanted to help people experience transformation in their lives, they would need to be like Jesus! To nurture the *hearts* of God’s people and help them see what they truly treasure meant they would have to talk about their finances. As a growing church, they had many financial needs and big dreams but sensed that a traditional stewardship campaign would not be the most effective way to help new followers understand the role tithing has in the life of the church. It seemed that if they based their appeals on the need to fund programming, or even out of duty to the church, they would not connect with the hearts of their members.

It occurred to them that the answer could be found in the words of Jesus as spoken during the Sermon on the Mount where, as I noted above, Jesus provided a beautiful and non-shaming way to talk with people about their finances and the invitation to give back to God. Rev. Armstrong’s church began by asking themselves two key questions: *What do you want to be investing your life in?* and *What are you investing your life in?* They found that the answers to these two questions were very different. Clearly, their hearts were following their earthly treasure, no matter how much they wished they were following their heavenly intentions. As they considered changing where they were investing their treasure, both individually and as a church family, they found that their hearts were filled with excitement and a growing sense of contentment. Not only that, but their church experienced an amazing season of growth! A number of people made life-changing decisions about their treasure that had transformative effects on the way they lived and the way they gave. Giving increased significantly and continued to go up following the campaign. More than that, lives were changed. Young families made decisions to tithe who had never heard that term before. Retirees gained a different view of their investments and the impact they could have on the world for God’s kingdom.

Rather than keep this faithful way of engaging finances to themselves, they wanted to share it and I’m glad they did because everything they experienced is what our Financial Resources Support Team prays for our congregation. We want everyone who comes to our church to have an encounter with Jesus and to receive his life-changing and powerful ancient words about how to be in relationship with God by identifying and prioritizing what the Heart of Hearts truly desires for us. As we spend time this season discussing and praying about our treasure, our hope is that we will see hearts that are stretched, conflicted, and empty find their true home in God! You can learn more about what we’ll be exploring in the Worship Preview section of this newsletter. Please also keep an eye peeled for the 2026 Stewardship Letter, Giving Guide, and Pledge Form – it will be mailed out and made available at the Connect Desk beginning Nov. 2.

May your heart be full of love for the treasure that is God’s presence in your life-

NOVEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

11/ Theresa & Brandon Meckel
7 Chris & Chandra Reiber

11/21 Art & Roberta Headley

BIRTHDAYS

11/4 Bob Prow
11/5 Tim Henderson
11/8 Caryl Kaelin
11/10 Margaret Chesley
Tracey Partridge

11/11 Susan Lehman
11/18 Barbara Schuller
11/24 Don Fox
11/25 Art Headley
Clark Shay
11/29 Bonnie Powell

Special Events:

11/4 10:00 am SPRC
11/5 6:00 pm Zumba
11/10 6:30 pm Trustees
11/11 9:00 am Huddle
11/18 10:00 am Touched by Cancer
11/19 2:30 pm Finance Meeting
6:00 pm Coordinating Council
11/25 9:00 am Huddle

Weekly Events:

Monday
9:30 am Shirley’s Small Group
10:00 am Walkers
Wednesday
9:30 am Disciple 3
10:00 am Walkers
Thursday
9:00 am Thursday Crew
10:00 am Marlene’s Small Group
1:00 pm Lois’ Small Group
Saturday
10:00 am Choir Practice

7



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS





SAVE THE DATE!

2025 Church/Charge Conference

Sunday, Nov. 30

Save the Date! Please join us after Coffee Chat at 11am in the Fellowship Center for our 2025 Charge Conference Meeting. Church Council members required to attend but open to all!



Pastor Alissa will be on vacation in Paris

Nov. 10-18

Please contact the Office for Pastoral Care needs.

November-December is the last issue of The Upper Room that will be available. In December we will start selling new books, *Walking in Grace*, that will last the entire year of 2026.

NOVEMBER WORD SEARCH

- Dia De Los Muertos
- Ballet
- Turkey
- Basketball
- Nachos
- Book
- Saxophone
- Tooth Fairy
- Museum
- Cranberry
- Writing
- Baklava
- Sock
- Monopoly
- Stuffing
- Fudge
- Mittens
- Freckles
- Pie
- Thanksgiving
- Grateful
- Crafts
- Service
- Rain

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November Worship Preview – *Treasure Stewardship Series*

As part of this series we will be mailing out and making available our 2026 Stewardship Letter, Giving Guide, and Pledge Form. Please be sure to review it and fill it out!

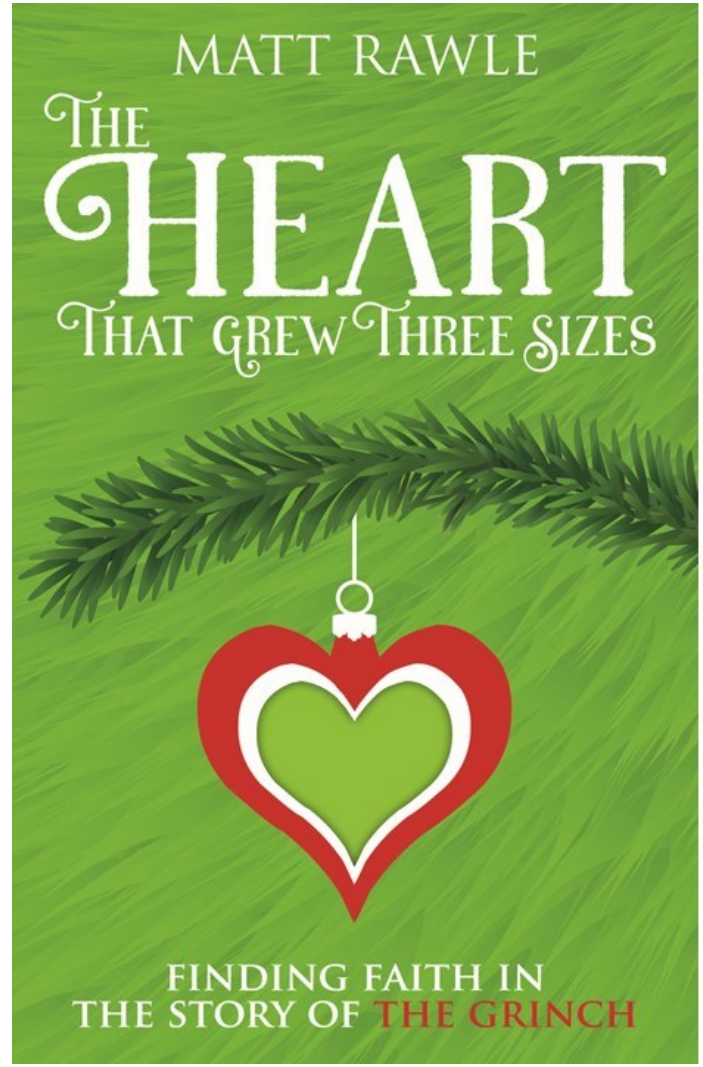
November 2 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost – Communion & All Saints Remembrance
“Where Is Your Treasure?” - Pastor Alissa preaching on Matthew 6:19-21

November 9 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
“The Problem with Two Masters” - Pastor Alissa preaching Matthew 6:24

November 16th – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
“Giving Your Treasure Back to God” - Sue Magrath preaching on Matthew 6:1-6
(Pastor Alissa will be out of town this Sunday)

November 23rd – 24th Sunday after Pentecost – Consecration Sunday
“Don’t Worry ‘Bout a Thing” - Pastor Alissa preaching on Matthew 6:25-34
Ministry that Matters Moment: Crosswalk & Young Adult Shelter

November 30th – Advent 1 – New Series: The Heart That Grew Three Sizes
“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year?”
Pastor Alissa preaching on Amos 5:18-24, 23-24 and Romans 12:9-21
Based on “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!”, our Advent worship series will help us look at this beloved children’s story through the lens of faith revealing a new understanding of the redemption and salvation offered to all through the birth of Jesus Christ! Join us!



Advent begins November 30!

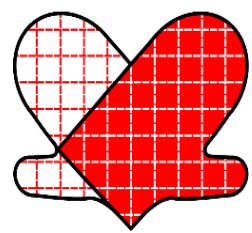
Join us for for an all-church Advent/Christmas study based on “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas”!

Devotional books will be available for a suggested donation of \$10.

A screening of the movie will be offered on Sunday, Dec. 14 for all ages.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 7pm

All are invited!



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



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.

Thank you



MCOC wants to thank everyone who helped with the Threads of Care Luncheon! Your help and hard work is appreciated!



thank you to everyone who brought soups,



salads, & cookies to the Broadway teacher's luncheon!



Thanks to all who brought candy to the Connect Desk in November, and for those who volunteered for Broadway Elementary's Fall Fest!



BROADWAY WINTER CELEBRATION

Cookies & Volunteers Needed!

Sign up at the Connect Desk

12.4.25

Broadway Elementary School

GET READY FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS JOY!

The holiday season will be here quickly. In the month of November we are collecting urgently needed clothing items for kids ages infant-6th grade at the Connect Desk for MCOC's Annual Children's Christmas Joy Event.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Pants, especially sizes 10-12
- Long-sleeve shirts for boys & girls



Coming up at the Connect Desk in December:

We will be collecting \$10 gas cards for Family Promise of Spokanel



CINNAMON ROLL SALE!

Join us Sunday, November 23rd after service for a very special Coffee Chat. Cinnamon rolls will be on sale until supplies run out. All proceeds will benefit Missionary Joy Prim, who works in Hong Kong to support migrant workers with the Mission for Migrant Workers. Joy's work helps her provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to migrant workers in crisis.



Get ready for the annual

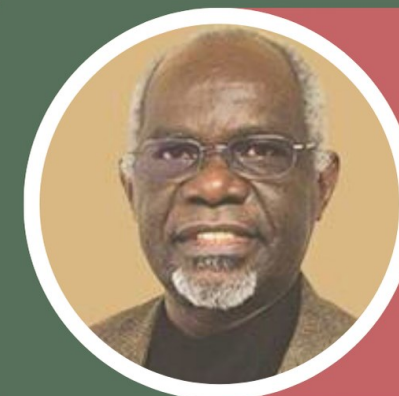
UWF Christmas Gathering!

12.6.25

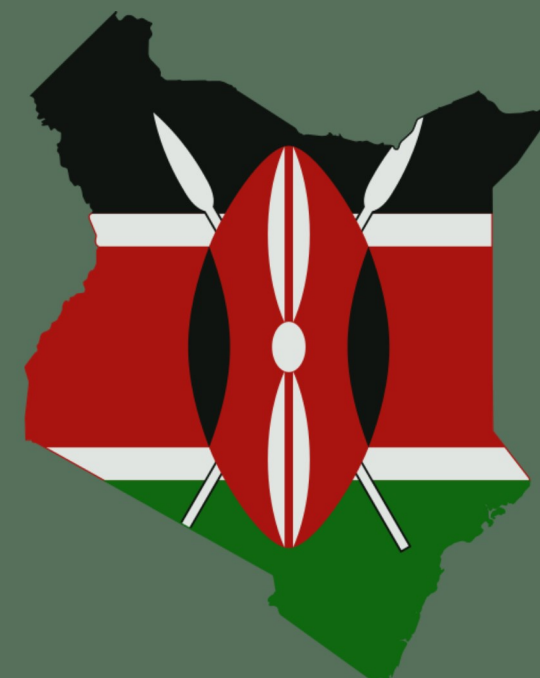
11:30am - 1:30pm

"Christmas Traditions in Kenya"
All women of the church welcome!

RSVP today at the Connect Desk!



Speaker:
Rev. Peter Imathiu



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Annual Take-out & Dine-In Harvest Dinner a smashing success!

