

Return Service Requested



connections

august 2026

"Lessons in Leadership"

by Pastor Alissa

As we head into the long, hot days of August, we're going to continue our year-long exploration of the third part of our church's mission statement by which we are called to transform the greater community by the grace of God. For seven months, we have approached our annual theme of "Transformed by Grace, by Grace Transforming" from a variety of different angles. Most recently our Lay Leader, Zack Reiber, and Dr. Shawna Beese, candidate for Certified Lay Ministry, have encouraged us to consider how the various callings God places on our individual lives and the diverse ways in which the Holy Spirit pours out gifts to collectively equip us for these callings is part of God's design for how the world will be transformed into the kin-dom of God. Now that we've spent a month learning to listen for God's call and taking steps to uncover our spiritual gifts, we're going to spend the next month building on the "Called and Equipped" series with one that focuses on the natural next step of calling: leadership.



Leadership in the church takes a variety of forms. Some leadership roles are required by our denomination and defined by the United Methodist Book of Discipline (aka our Rule Book). If you serve on the Trustees, Staff/Parish Relations, Church Council, and a whole host of other "official" committees of the church, the Book of Discipline (BOD), sets clear guidelines for the various leadership roles for each committee, what their task is as a team, and who should comprise its membership. Other leadership roles are unique to our congregation and reflect the various program priorities that we have identified as essential to us living out our mission. If you serve on the Mission & Service Team, for example, you're a leader serving on one of our programmatic teams. Further still, some leadership rolls are paid positions and require certain education, training, and skills. As your pastor, I am in a professional leadership role along with the rest of our staff who have leadership of one or another areas of our church's executive (Cont. on pg. 2)



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

Accompanist

Zachary Bjurstrom

Director of Hospitality

Margie Manfred

Technical Ministry Co- Coordinators

Lexi Shay & Logan Tiedt

Coordinator of Ministries with Young People

Jennifer Price

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 - Fri 8am - 12pm

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.*

(Cont. from pg. 1) ministry such as Youth, Music, and Hospitality Ministry.

ALL these forms of leadership are designed to work together to further the mission of the church...but if you’ve been in a leadership role for any period of time, you’ve probably figured out that being a leader isn’t always easy and no amount of preparation can make you ready for all the things you’ll have to navigate as you lead others. Like most vocations and callings, leadership requires practice and learning various lessons in order to lead well. Our new worship series is going to help us explore four of the most crucial lessons any leader in the church needs to learn if they are to lead effectively and work well with other leaders in the Body of Christ. Using Hebrew Scriptures from Exodus and Jesus’ teachings in the Gospel of Matthew, we’ll look at leadership lessons that involve learning about how to engage power, move toward acceptance, navigate conflict, and being guided by grace.

The first worship service in this series will explore the complex theme of power by highlighting unconventional biblical leaders (spoiler alert: the Hebrew midwives in Egypt) who bravely used their influence to defy oppression and champion truth. Recognizing that power itself is simply a tool, the service will challenge us to examine how we wield our own influence and confess where we fall short. Through focused prayers, hymns, and storytelling, we will come together to seek the wisdom and humility to use our power faithfully for God's purposes. On the second Sunday in August, we will shift our focus to overcoming our natural resistance to God's call, drawing parallels between Moses, a very reluctant biblical leader, and our own modern hesitations. The service will provide a space to honestly acknowledge our reluctance to lead or serve and help us actively move from resistance to acceptance. Ultimately, it encourages us to lean on God and our faith community to boldly fulfill our shared mission together.

We'll then turn to conflict – everyone’s favorite! (NOT!) Together we will address the uncomfortable but unavoidable reality of conflict when working with other people and look to Jesus' clear roadmap for faithful reconciliation as found in Matthew 18. Rather than airing grievances, we will use this time to practice empathy, praying for those with whom we experience friction and recognizing them as fellow image-bearers of God with whom we have been called into ministry partnership. Ultimately, we will be reminded that we do not navigate these difficult challenges alone – we can find our refuge and strength together in God's protective presence. Lastly, we will conclude our series on leadership by considering the transformative power of leading with grace and the ongoing work of reconciliation. We will explore how true grace isn't about avoiding conflict or being overly permissive but rather acting as a conduit for God's abundant forgiveness while maintaining healthy boundaries. Through communal reflection, confession, and specific rituals of reconciliation, the service will provide a safe space to lament our hurts, extend forgiveness, and discern our next right steps together.

As we continue to be a church who values the gifts for leadership that everyone in our congregation possesses, and as we continue to work together to bring forth God’s vision for our community and our world, I pray you’ll join us for worship as we learn some vital lessons in leadership!

Peace-
Pastor Alissa

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Marie Chapman

8/6 Howard Lloyd

8/8 Terry Blue

Vern Johnson

8/13 Roy Hooten

8/15 Norma Trefry

8/19 Jim Droppers

Mary Alice Jones

8/21 Leanne Pope

8/25 CJ Amestoy

8/27 Ed Ducar

Paul Norris

8/30 Jeannie Salyers

ANNIVERSARIES

8/9 Tim & Susan Henderson

Vern & Ruth Johnson

8/13 James & Georgette Rogers

8/15 Ed & Raeann Ducar

SPECIAL EVENTS

8/4 10:00 am SPR Meeting (FPR)

8/6 9:00 am Thursday Crew

8/10 10:00 am Prayer Shawl & Lap Blanket Ministry (123)

6:30 pm Trustees Meeting (FPR)

8/11 9:00 am Huddle (213)

8/13 9:00 am Thursday Crew

8/18 11:00 am Touched by Cancer Picnic in the Park (TBA)

2:30 pm Finance (FPR)

8/20 9:00 am Thursday Crew

8/24 10:00 am Prayer Shawl & Lap Blanket Ministry (123)

8/25 9:00 am Huddle (213)

8/27 9:00 am Thursday Crew

AUGUST WORD SEARCH

K	X	B	J	P	H	L	A	D	C	V	L	S	Q	B	N	Y	S
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S	A	N	D	V	K	M	R	A	Y	R	R	E	B	P	S	A	R

Mahjong

Onion Ring

Lighthouse

Stars

Pie

Pickleball

Zucchini

Mochi

Raspberry

S’more

Relax

National Park

Fajita

Spumoni

Tooth Fairy

Sand

Banana Split

Pool

Peach

Roller Coaster

Bow Tie

Lemonade

Play

Camp

7

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear friends, please find below Rev. Geoff Helton's introductory letter (edited for space) as one of our new superintendents. To read the letter in full, you can visit the QR code.



From right to left: Rev. Geoff Helton, Rev. Cody Natland, and Rev. Hubert Rigor.

Dear friends in the Inland and Seven Rivers Districts,

I write to introduce myself as I join the Superintendency Team for the Inland and Seven Rivers Districts, effective July 1st. If you're receiving this letter, I'm currently assigned to be your primary superintendent, and I'm grateful for the chance to walk alongside you in this season of ministry.

In this new superintendency model, you'll actually have three superintendents. I'll be serving in a team alongside Rev. Hubert Rigor and Rev. Cody Natland. While I'll be your primary contact, there will be times when you'll work with Hubert or Cody either



because I'm not available or because they have expertise that would be helpful in whatever situation you need help with.

In this new model, I'll continue as the Lead Pastor of Audubon Park United Methodist Church, and I'll be worshipping and preaching there most Sunday mornings. I ask for your patience as we live into this new model of superintendency. I'm sure there will be some issues to work out and some adjustments to make.

I'm honored to begin this work with you and look forward to the connections we'll build together.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Geoff Helton

Believers Within the Larger Communities by Dr. Shawna Beese

As the final month of summer rolls in, I am looking forward to hearing and learning from Pastor Alissa's return to the pulpit and her upcoming series. We are truly blessed as a congregation to receive her messages!

In the three to four months preparing for the July series, I learned so much from my study of Ephesians and other Pauline Letters as I explored God's plan for new communities aligned with God's Kingdom, as well as the call to ministry. I am now moving on to the study of the so-called Catholic Letters (because of their universal message), specifically James, 1 Peter, and John's Epistles, to develop my next project, titled *Community Praxis*. Part of the journey of a ministry candidate is discovering our unique 'preacher's voice.' I am finding I am deeply interested in the application and practice of community theology. Since my next project, *Community Praxis*, is in the earliest stages of development, I don't know yet what will emerge. Pastor Alissa has generously provided me with a space in the monthly newsletter to share my insights and growth as the project develops.

Already, from reading, reflecting, and writing about the book of James, I am being drawn to the idea that individual focus begins to fade once justification has taken place, and that a new, eternal-community perspective emerges and amplifies along the path toward sanctification. There are dimensions of Christ's love that we can only experience together as communities (Ephesians 3:18). Aspects of our spiritual maturing can only be achieved through community participation (James 1:27, 2:8-13, 4:1-10, 5:16). In his book, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer states that as Christians, "We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ." (p.21)

My study of Ephesians and other Pauline Letters taught me so much about church practices as a 'community of believers.' I now am looking forward to what James, 1 Peter, and the Epistles of John will clarify on how to foster discipleship among 'believers within a (larger) community.' As someone who navigates and facilitates community growth in mostly secular settings, I am thrilled to explore ways to nurture believers' discipleship within non-religious communities.

- Dr. Shawna Beese, Candidate for Certified Lay Ministry

AUGUST WORSHIP PREVIEW

NEW SERIES: LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP



As we continue our year-long focus on the third part of our mission statement, Transformed by Grace, by Grace Transforming, we'll learn valuable leadership lessons from both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

AUGUST 2 – "LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: POWER"

Pastor Alissa preaching on Exodus 1:8-2:10, the story of the Hebrew midwives who used the power they possessed to defy Pharaoh's efforts to oppress the people.

Service includes a celebration of the Great Thanksgiving. Liturgist – Peggy Self.

AUGUST 9 – "LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: ACCEPTANCE"

Pastor Alissa preaching on God calling Moses in Exodus 3:1-15 and the process it took for him to accept that God was not going to be deterred! Liturgist – Joyce Johnson

AUGUST 16 – "LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: CONFLICT"

Pastor Alissa preaching on Matthew 18:15-20 in which Jesus teaches his disciples how to deal with conflict in the church (spoiler alert: it's not by avoiding it!).

Ministry that Matters Moment from Broadway Elementary. Liturgist – Ann Conklin

AUGUST 23 – "LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: GRACE"

Pastor Alissa preaching on Matthew 18:21-35 where we learn there are no limits to the work of forgiving one another and embracing forbearance for each other.

Liturgist – C.J. Amestoy

AUGUST 30 – TO BE DETERMINED...

The details of this Sunday are still in process – stay tuned for more information!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AT 9AM AS WE CONTINUE OUR MISSION TO TRANSFORM THE GREATER COMMUNITY BY THE GRACE OF GOD!



KIDS' KORN E R

It's hard to believe that we will be starting school once again in just a few weeks! Thank you to the youth and their families who were able to join us for bowling in July. It is always great to get out of the building and get to know each other better while having fun!

We are starting our "Senses of Summer" study in Sunday School that will look at the various things created "in the beginning" with a unique sensory experience each week.

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we will have a "back to school blessing" as well as a planning meeting soon. More details to follow!

- Jen Price, Coordinator of Ministries for Young People





*"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

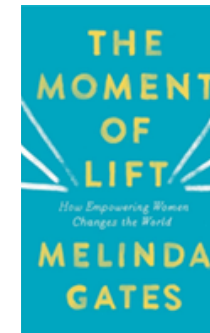


United
Women
in Faith

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.



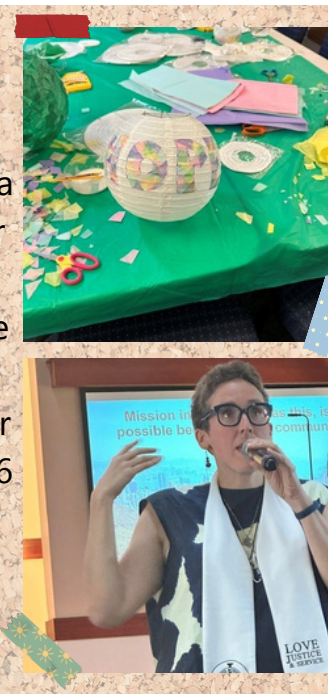
Broadway PTO is hosting Back to School Night on August 24! Join us from 4:30-5:30 PM to help volunteer. Sign-up sheets will be at the Connect Desk. It's always fun to help and watch the students and their families have a blast as they prepare for school!



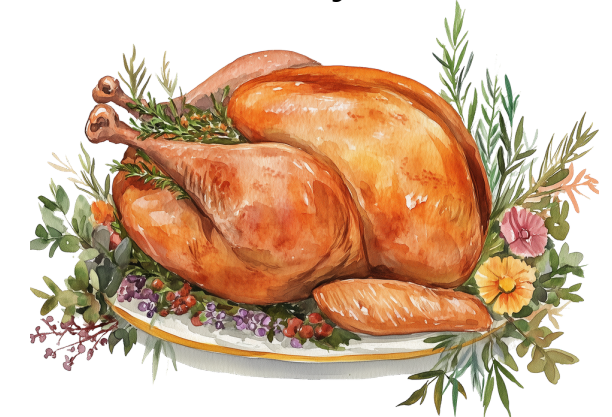
Mark your calendar and remember to join us on Sunday, October 11 at 1 PM in the Fireplace Room to discuss Melinda Gates' *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*. The book focuses on women around the world who are doing the difficult work of creating more egalitarian societies wherever they are. For any questions about Book Club, please see Madelyn Bafus.



Thank you to those who helped with and attended the evening with Joy Prim on July 16th! We spent time in prayer, read the stories of Migrant Workers in Hong Kong, made lanterns, saw beautiful handmade cards by the migrant workers (and bought a few), danced in the chapel with Joy, watched a video, ate dinner (rice, veggies, and chicken), and heard from Joy about her ministry with Migrant Workers in Hong Kong. What a joyful time we had but also time to hear about the struggle of being a Migrant Worker and the need that is so great for so many of our sisters and brothers around the world. A freewill offering of \$686 was taken to support Joy's advance at Global Ministries. On Sunday the 19th, we had a Cinnamon Roll sale to support Joy's ministry, called Mission for Migrant Workers. We were able to raise \$610 for MMW!



Too early to think turkey? We don't think so! Save the date for this year's Annual Dine-In & Takeout Harvest Dinner on Saturday, November 14!



BROADWAY ELEMENTARY This month at the Connect Desk, we'll be partnering with Broadway Elementary School to collect donations of baby wipes and Kleenex for the kids going back to school!

Shalom MINISTRIES In September, we'll again be collecting supplies for Shalom Ministries. You can bring coffee (ground or whole bean), juice boxes, sugar (brown or white), honey, bottled water, and hydration packets.

Throughout July, we collected new athletic shoes and socks for MCOC's annual School Shoes for Kids Drive!

We were able to gather 133 pairs of shoes and 213 pairs of socks for kids from pre-school all the way through 12th grade. If you'd like to volunteer to help give out shoes and socks to the kids and families who need them, you can talk to Ali Norris or visit www.4mission.org.



Exciting invite for all women (bring a friend!)
United Women in Faith Inland Missional District Gathering
Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 9:30am-3:30pm

at Simpson United Methodist Church in Pullman, WA (carpooling available)
Enjoy a Soul Care Mini-Retreat and special guest - Missionary Katherine Parker!



Experience fellowship and renewal! Join our local Inland District board members Madelyn Bafus, Robin Gregory, Nan Zorn, Susan Henderson, Linda Hansen, and Roberta Headley, as well as many others, as we carpool to this fun event. After a brief business meeting with recognitions, elections, and greetings from Katherine Parker, we will enjoy lunch together and then begin our afternoon Mini-Soul Care Retreat. You'll leave refreshed and renewed in mind and body. Registration forms can be found at the Connect Desk.