

Return Service Requested

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-Coordinators**  
Lexi Shay & Logan Tiedt  
**Coordinator of**  
**Ministries with**  
**Young People**  
Jackie 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](http://www.spokanevalleychurch.org)  
Church email: [secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org](mailto: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 2025

**A Little Bit of This... And a Little Bit of That**  
**By Pastor Alissa**

I find myself in an unfamiliar situation as I sit down to write this newsletter...I have nothing really to write about! Usually I dedicate my article to unveiling some new program we're doing, perhaps highlighting a special series for worship, or, as I did in April, offering transparency and clarity to the current state of our various staff searches. But this month, there's not much "big" stuff happening to report on. June looks to be (for the first time in a while) pretty easy going! That being said, there are a few "this and that" sort of things going on so if you will indulge me, I'm going to use this article space to share a bunch of smaller things rather than one BIG thing happening at the church! If you have any questions about what is noted below, please contact me: [alissaamestoy@gmail.com](mailto:alissaamestoy@gmail.com).

Peace – Pastor Alissa

**June Worship Preview**

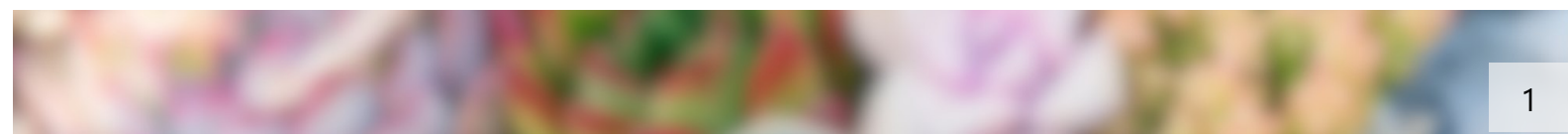
**June 1 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – “Get Everyone in the Game”**  
Acts 1:6-14 – Pastor Alissa preaching & Volunteer Recognition

**June 8 – Pentecost Sunday – “Go Global”**  
Acts 2:1-21 – Pastor Alissa preaching & Communion

**June 15 – Trinity Sunday – “Wisdom Calls...”**  
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 – Pastor Alissa preaching & Father's Day recognition

**June 22 – Student Sunday – “All Children of God”**  
Galatians 3:23-29 – Pastor Alissa preaching and there will be LOTS happening! On this Sunday we will celebrate our two graduates, Jackie Florian (Master of Social Work from EWU) and Quynh Parlane (Master of Arts in Teaching, Music from Seattle Pacific University), award our 2025 Mahan Scholarship recipients, present Bibles to nearly all our children and youth, and, last (but not least!), bless those that are matriculating into Middle School and/or beginning their Confirmation journey!

**June 29 – United Women in Faith Women Speak Sunday**  
Led by the women of our UWF unit, this service welcomes Kathy Johnson, the Spiritual Growth Coordinator of the Inland Missional District UWF, as guest preacher. (Cont. on pg. 2)





Marshallese Congregation Worshipping in the Chapel

If you’re not familiar with the Marshall Islands, they are a chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls located between Hawaii and the Philippines in the central Pacific Ocean. Spokane and Spokane Valley are home to more than 5000 Marshallese who speak their native language by the same name. A few months ago we were contacted by a pastor who serves a Marshallese congregation here in Spokane Valley. He was seeking a place for his congregation to worship God and share Christian fellowship. They came and toured our facility and immediately fell in love with our historic 1939 Chapel. The congregation comprises around 35 adults, youth, and children and they will be using our Chapel for worship on Sunday afternoons at 3pm. We are very excited to welcome them and plan to explore opportunities for cultural exchange and faith sharing in the future!

Season of Change for NAOMI Community

For many years our church has supported the NAOMI Community, a local non-profit that offers women and children who have experienced trauma a safe space to be seen, supported, and restored through Christ-centered care. Starting last November, we opened our church to host their community meal and we delighted in the opportunity to expand our partnership. However, they are currently in a season of transition, prayerfully discerning what the future holds following a decision to align their hiring practices more closely with their Christ-centered care, which included all staff affirming Christian values. As a result, several key staff members chose to step away from their roles. At this time, they are not offering services and are not accepting donations. I invite you to hold their leadership, staff, and most especially, the women and children who were served by them, in your prayers. Due to this change, we are unable to donate the paper products we collected for them in May. These will be redirected to both the Basic Needs Program at SFCC that Zack Reiber operates and the Mission Community Outreach Center directed by Ali Norris. Thank you for your understanding.

Update on Staff Searches

If you were in worship on Sunday, May 18, then you know we celebrated that Betsy Pletscher has been named our Director of Music! After many years as our Staff Accompanist and several months as interim Director of Music, our SPRC Search Team and the Traditional Choir all unanimously agreed she was who the Spirit was calling to serve among us in this role! We will now shift to searching for a new Staff Accompanist!

We also welcomed Christopher Nilles to the staff as our new Nursery Caregiver! He and his wife, Heather, along with their two lovely children, Alex (X-Man) and Aurora, joined our church last summer and he has been serving as substitute during our search process. He found great joy in the work and ultimately chose to apply!

We are still “in process” with our second Sunday School teacher but have finalized the format for that position and our bi-weekly Confirmation class. Starting July 6, Middle and High Schoolers will both have the opportunity to participate in the class *and* attend Youth Group on a bi-weekly rotating basis. We feel this schedule gives us the opportunity to provide faith formation and Christian fellowship for this age group each week after worship!

Annual Conference 2025

This year United Methodist laity and clergy will gather at Bothell UMC (Bothell, WA) June 26-28<sup>th</sup> for our annual time of holy conferencing. Due to his work and school schedule, Zack Reiber, our lay leader, is unable to attend. In his place, our Church Council has elected Margie Manfred, our Director of Hospitality. This will be her very first time to attend and will afford her the opportunity to experience what it’s like ahead of helping our church host it in 2026!

Special Events:

- 6/2 6:30 pm Sarah Circle FPR
- 6/3 10:00 am SPRC FPR
- 6/5 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR
- 6/9 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth  
6:30 pm Trustees
- 6/12 11:00 am Rachel Circle FPR
- 6/19 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR
- 6/17 10:00 am Touched by Cancer FPR  
2:30 pm Finance Meeting
- 6/19 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR
- 6/23 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Youth
- 6/24 9:00 am Hospitality Huddle
- 6/26 10:00 am Marlene Group FPR

Weekly Events:

- Monday  
10:00 am Walkers  
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  
& Nursery  
10:00 am Coffee Chat

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES BIRTHDAYS

6/3	Michael Meyers & Nancy Croskrey	6/2	Craig Partridge	6/21	Bruce Butler
6/8	Bill & Caryl Kaelin	6/3	Carmen Schaffer	6/23	Brent Bos
6/10	Jim & Karen Droppers	6/7	Renee Norris		Ron Pope
	Alan & Glenda Lovchik		Robin Gregory	6/12	Lucas Price
6/14	Mick & Pat Palanuck		Carol Lingow		Nancy Ashworth
6/15	Michael & Jodi Mackin	6/8	Susan Henderson	6/25	Jennifer Price
6/16	Evan & Alyssa Arnol	6/10	Carla Joyal		Megan Herdrich
6/23	Carl & Anna Jenkins	6/11	Megan Wallace	6/29	Stephanie Turner-
6/29	Jerry & Shannon Miller	6/16	James Rogers		Wilson
		6/17	Edward Kelly	6/18	Lois Simpson



# JUNE WORD SEARCH

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

Summer  
Bicycle  
Sprinklers  
Farmer's Market  
Sunset  
Patio

Pickleball  
Concert  
Lake  
Camping  
Father's Day  
Barbeque

Lilacs  
Solstice  
Hot Air Balloon  
Garden  
Starlight  
Laughter

Lemonade  
Birdsong  
Juneteenth  
River  
Bonfire  
Pentecost

## Increased Need for Rent Assistance

Each year, it is our tradition at Spokane Valley UMC to take a special Christmas offering to help extend the peace, hope, love and joy of God to people experiencing hardship in our community. 100% of what is given is placed in my Pastor's Discretionary Fund and I use it when someone calls the church or comes by in need of help with a utility bill, a rent payment, a tank of gas, or food. We have recently seen a marked uptick in the number of people in need of rental assistance to avoid penalties or possible eviction. As such, this fund has been drawn down to less than \$1000 as of May 15. Our Financial Resources Support Team met and discussed the increased need for rent assistance and affirmed prioritizing housing needs over other forms of assistance until the fund is replenished. I offer this as information for all and also as an invitation to those who may want to contribute to this fund to help people in need.



## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join us on Father's Day, June 15th, for a very special guest musician! John Nilson is one of the Pacific Northwest's most successful performance and recording artist, with records far exceeding a million copies. In 2021, John was selected as a Yamaha Piano Artist. As well as solo performances, John is also a member of SWIMFISH and The John Nilson Trio. He is

a native of the PNW and resides in Portland, Oregon.

Celebrate dads on Sunday, June 5th and bring a pie of your choice for a special Pies for Guys Coffee Chat!



June 1 is Volunteer Day! Wear your T-shirts, sweaters, or whatever represents the organization(s) where you volunteer.



Soak up the after-service Coffee Chats through the month of June, because we'll be taking a break for the summer until September!

Interested in hosting a Coffee Chat in the Fall?  
See Margie Manfred.







Thank you 

The Broadway Volunteer Breakfast is on Thursday, June 5th! Sign up at the Connect Desk to help set up tables and chairs, prepare and serve food, and help with cleanup at Broadway Elementary School.



Join us for a delicious Cinnamon Roll Sale during Coffee Chat after service on Sunday, June 1st! All proceeds go to our covenant relationship with missionary Katherine Parker in Nepal.

*"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



MCOC's 15th annual School Shoes for Kids drive is coming up this summer! SVUMC is collecting shoes and socks for students at Stevens Elementary School from ages preschool to 8th grade. New athletic shoes sizes Toddler 8 through Adult 12 will be collected at the Connect Desk through the month of July.



Thank you for collecting paper products through May! We brought in a lot of paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, napkins, and more. These items were distributed to MCOC and the Basic Needs Program at SCC.



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.*

**Esther Circle's summer gathering is Tuesday, July 8. We will meet at 11:30 am at 13525 E Carlisle, Affinity at Mirabeau. RSVP with Nancy Ashworth.**

Sunday, June 29th is United Women in Faith Sunday!



Calling all SVUMC women! United Women in Faith will be hosting a salad and side dish potluck luncheon on **Saturday, June 14th** in the Chapel from 11:30am-1:30pm. We are excited to have Rita Waldref as our guest speaker. Rita recently retired as a charity and social justice coordinator of St. Aloysius Parish and her work focused in 5 areas: social justice, environment, homelessness, immigration, and her church's sister community relations in the Bajo Lempa region of El Salvador. Her work was featured in the Fig Tree newspaper, reporting that she has led annual delegations to the US/Mexico border and believes in her experience that "proximity changes everything." Come hear about her firsthand experiences working with immigrants and learning their stories at the border. We hope to see you there!

