

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 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
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.*

The Only Constant in Life... is Change!

Brrr! This morning as I drove the short distance to my parents' house to feed the horses at 6:15 am, my car issued a safety warning about roads potentially being icy and the thermostat read 32 degrees. 32 degrees?! What is going on?! Just weeks ago, I was hanging out poolside sipping iced tea and watching kids from Ethan's Scout Troop splash about in 80 degree weather and now I'm watching them shiver as they try and start their camp stoves after a night of camping in our front field! So fleeting are these last days of short sleeves, sandals and sun hats...now I've got to think about getting the fireplace going, pulling my long underwear out of storage, and parking my snow boots by the back door for the foreseeable future! Despite my proneness to preparation, all

in all, I am not looking forward to the sudden change of seasons this year. Maybe it's because I just spent time on our honeymoon in the Caribbean, but I don't even want to think about prepping the snow blower and having to scrape ice off my windshield after evening meetings at the church. Even though the morning temperatures are already bordering on sub-Artic, I find myself resisting the reality that I need to dress more warmly and at least have a hat and gloves on hand if I'm planning to go outside before 9 am. And I'm in total denial about the need to get all my patio furniture into storage before too long. If I had to sum up my attitude in one sentence, it would be this: I don't like change!

Whether it's the changes of the seasons, or changes to my diet (which after a five-day cruise was a requirement!), or a change in my schedule, I generally approach change with a sentiment of resentment (preceded by some significant feet dragging, loud complaining to anyone who will listen, and exaggerated sighing, (Cont. on pg. 2)



(Cont. from pg. 1) of course). Like many, change makes me feel anxious, uncomfortable, unprepared, and out of my element. If I had my druthers, every day would be 78 degrees with a light breeze, my schedule would be exactly the same as the day before, and my "to do" list would be as predictable as Sunday coming once a week!

And yet, deep down I know that change is both an inevitable and divinely dictated part of our lives that is best weathered with an open and trusting heart rather than resistance and resentment. It's hard not to think about the well-known passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 as I lament the changing of the seasons:

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance...*

Though Qoheleth, the author of Ecclesiastes says it so well, there are many places where scripture teaches us that God is always pushing for change in order to move us into a life-giving future. The prophet Jeremiah (29:11) declares the word of the Lord who says: *For surely I know the plans I have for you...plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* Through the prophet Isaiah (43:19) God proclaimed this message: *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.* And from the apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 5:17) we receive these encouraging words: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

As the seasons change from summer to fall, and as we've spent the last few weeks reflecting on our last 85 years of ministry considering all the building projects, ministry initiatives, and experiments with worship (you know, *change*) that previous pastors and church members courageously carried out during their seasons of service, I've been asking God during my personal prayer time to help me know what's next for us. What "new things" does God hope to spring forth amongst us in the coming months and years? What way in the "wilderness" is God making in our present times? What new "rivers" of hope might flow in Spokane Valley through the ministry of our church? What change is God pushing for and how can we open our eyes to see it clearly? I confess that I ask these questions with some trepidation but also with growing excitement – a feeling that I have come to call "anxious exhilaration" which, coincidentally, is also the name for how I feel when waiting to ride a roller coaster as I did on my honeymoon!

I will confess that I don't have any clear answers to share just yet, but there are some ideas floating about that the Spirit has been revealing to me and members of our congregation. Ideas like renovating our gym to serve as a community event center for conferences, fundraising banquets, and celebrations. I've heard dreams of expanding our youth and Sunday School programs and visions of a mid-week service of contemplation and prayer. Outside invitations have arrived that ask us to consider supporting refugee families in new ways and to join a sister UM church for volunteer service in global mission settings. Trusting that God is speaking to all of us, I wonder

what new things of God has the Spirit shared with you in your times of prayer or in holy conversations with a friend in the faith? What ideas

(Cont. on pg. 3)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10/01 Darlene Dale | 10/14 Morgen Cheney |
| 10/02 Rikki Sallstrom | 10/16 Ayako (Rose) Tanaka |
| 10/03 Linda Hooten | 10/18 Jim Picken |
| Ethan Amestoy | Jon Schaffer |
| 10/03 John Reynen | 10/20 Myrna Blaylock |
| 10/07 Marilyn Wixom | 10/25 Peggy Self |
| 10/10 Kay Fischer | 10/28 Chris Reiber |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/06 Roy & Linda Hooten**
- 10/16 Jerry & Barbara Bartak**
- 10/19 Lynn & Jeannie Salyers**



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join us for this month's 55+ Luncheon on Thursday, October 31st at 12 pm in

the Fellowship Hall for a special presentation by World Relief. We will be serving Baked potato soup and tuna salad sandwiches. We hope to see you there!



Invites you to join us in celebrating our

85TH ANNIVERSARY

Singing Sunday Celebration
October 6th, 2024
9:00 AM Traditional Service
Reception Following

115 N. Raymond Rd, Spokane Valley | 509.924.7262 | spokanvalleychurch.org

Ann & Wes Holmquist would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, cards, and well wishes sent following Ann's knee replacement surgery. Your encouragement means so much. Thank you all. Ann and Wes



(Cont. from pg. 2) are bubbling up and what possible plans might be waiting to be spoken aloud? Who is God inviting us to serve as we continue the legacy of 85 years of ministry in Spokane Valley? If such things *are* percolating in your mind or weighing on your heart, I humbly ask you to share them with me or our Lay Leader, Zack Reiber. The Spirit speaking through the people and sharing the ideas God has in mind is how seasons of change and growth and transformation begin so that seems like a good place to start!

Despite my aforementioned personal challenges with change, allow me to declare that I'm committed to sticking with all the change that I know is coming our way at some point in the future. I know God has a new dream for us that will capitalize on those previously realized by the faithful members of our church who served during the last 85 years. Our present challenge and invitation is simply to be open to the possibilities and not let our fears of future change blind us from ever seeing them. So as the days get cooler and the leaves turn their colors, let's push past the anxiety and discomfort that will naturally arise as we boldly trust God to guide us through what is just beginning to emerge at Spokane Valley UMC. May we embrace the Scripture truth that for everything there IS a season and that OUR season of new things is coming!

Peace - Pastor Alissa

OCTOBER WORSHIP PREVIEW

October 6 – *While We Wait...85th Anniversary Series - Singing Sunday Service – "Bringing in the Sheaves" – A Celebration of Holy Harvest with Communion*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND A SPECIAL COFFEE CHAT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FEATURING THE MUSIC OF TOM PLETSCHER...AND CAKE!



October 13 – NEW SERIES: *Walking with Jesus* – Mark 10:17-31
"Camels and Needles" – Pastor Alissa preaching

October 20 – *Walking with Jesus* – Mark 10:35-45
"Not to Be Served" – Pastor Alissa preaching
Ministry that Matters Moment (MCO), New Members, & Volunteer Recognition

October 27 – *Walking with Jesus* – Mark 10:46-52
"Let Me See" – Pastor Alissa preaching

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School & Nursery

As we are back in full swing for the school year, with the kids we have some fun upcoming events for the month of October!

Youth Group

We will be starting youth group back up on **October 20th** following service from 10:30-noon each Sunday. This will be led by our Sunday School teacher Jackie.

Other Information

I will be out of office **October 6th through the 13th** for my Wedding!

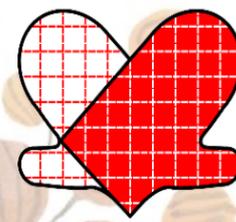
Samantha Wallace





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

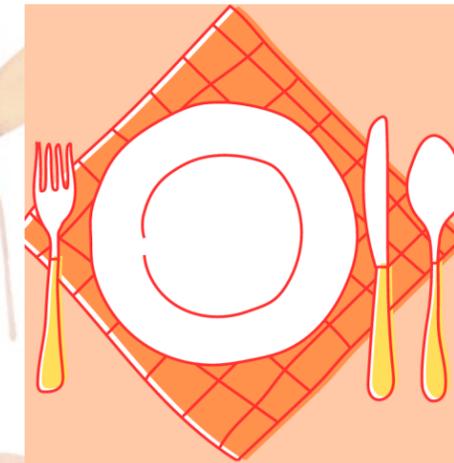
serving one another in love
GALATIANS 5:13

*"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*

Thank
you 

Thank you to everyone who so kindly brought items for Shalom Ministries to use this upcoming fall and winter. We were able to collect a lot of syrup and brown sugar, as well as socks, gloves and hats. We also want to thank you for your generosity during September's Cinnamon Roll sale benefitting the Jamaa Letu orphanage in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). You raised \$700 dollars for the orphanage, surpassing our goal of \$500 by a landslide! We are so grateful to be part of such a generous church body!

SVUMC's Mission & Service Team is pleased to be able to host two benefit lunches for local organizations this autumn! First up is Naomi's benefit luncheon on October 24th. The second is for Mission Community Outreach Center on November 5th. We need volunteers to help serve at these luncheons! Sign up to set tables, prepare lunch, greet folks in the parking lot and hallways, serve, wash dishes, or clean up afterward. You can sign up at the Connect Desk on Sundays through October. Thank you for your support!



Broadway
Teacher's
Luncheon!

Thursday, November 21
12:00 - 1:30 pm

We need volunteers to bring soups, salads, and cookies for a staff lunch served at Broadway Elementary School. Sign up at the Connect Desk October 27th, November 3rd, or November 10th. See you there!

SVUMC is supporting Broadway Elementary School's "Trunk or Treat" on Thursday, October 31st from 5:00-6:00 pm! To help support the event, bring bags of wrapped candy through the month of October to the Connect Desk.

You may also sign up to be part of this event by decorating your car trunk and handing out candy! See the Connect Desk for more details.



Spokane Valley
United Women in Faith Presents
Dining In & Takeout Annual Harvest Dinner

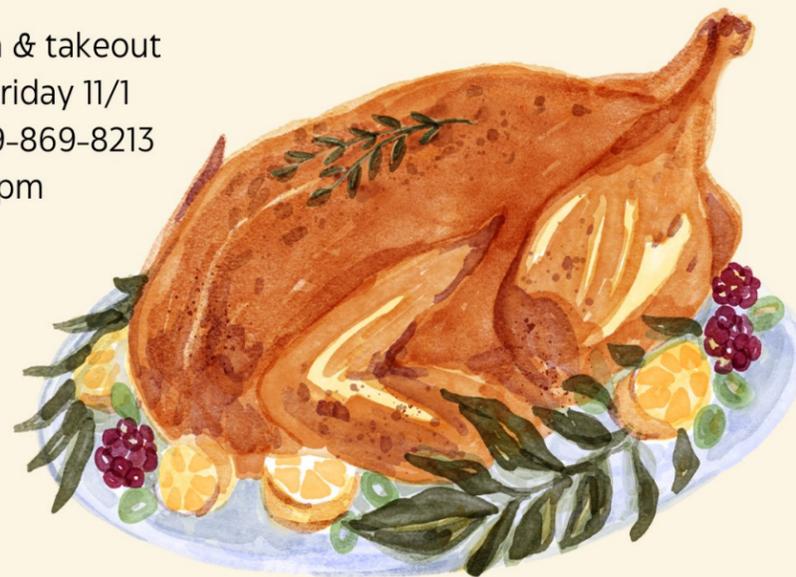


Saturday, November 2nd
Dining in 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Take out 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Adults - \$15
Children (6-12 years) - \$7
Children 5 & under - FREE

Pre-order for both dine-in & takeout begins Sunday 10/27 - Friday 11/1
Call Madelyn Bafus at 509-869-8213 between 9 am - 1 pm

Turkey & Dressing
Mashed potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans with Bacon
Rolls & Butter
Pumpkin Cake



For takeout meals, have check or cash ready in a sealed envelope with your name. Takeout pick up will be at the back of the church by the double gym doors. For dine-in, we will collect your money at the door.