

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**  
Jen 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-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.*

**The Ministry of Mentoring  
by Pastor Alissa**

Many, many years ago, as I was just starting the process toward ordination, one of my mentors shared a piece of wisdom about discipleship that has stuck with me: *"Every disciple should be a disciple of another disciple while also discipling another disciple into a life discipleship."* That's a bit of a tongue twister but the basic message is that every follower of Jesus should both *have* an experienced mentor to guide them in their faith walk and *be* a mentor guiding someone else in their faith walk.

Over the years I've had more mentors than I can count. Some held ministry roles that naturally brought them into a mentoring relationship with me – youth leaders, local church pastors, and district level leaders, for example. Others were assigned to me as part of the candidacy and ordination process while others were ones I sought out during certain seasons my ministry. Each of them has helped me grow as a disciple and as a pastor who disciples others. The full list is WAY too long to share here but I do want to lift up Rev. Kathy Neary who was my campus minister at WSU and the one who encouraged me to pursue ordained ministry. She recently passed away after a long and faithful life of service where she mentored many other pastors, laity, and congregations. Her legacy will surely continue!

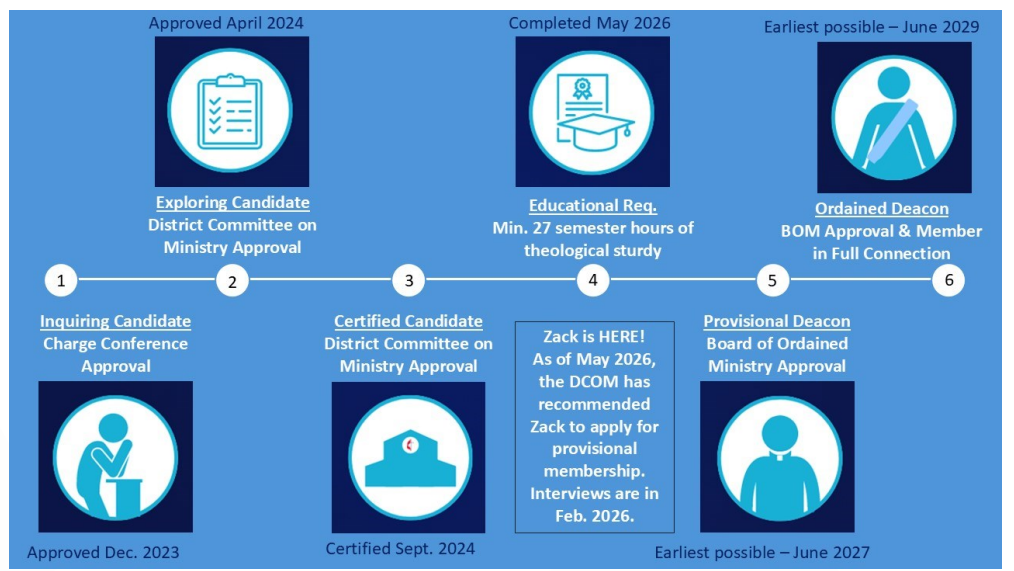
Once I began my professional ministry, I took seriously that wisdom about the two sides of discipleship and I found a great deal of joy as I committed myself to helping people see and activate their spiritual gifts whether it was through peer ministry, local church leadership, or one of the various professional ministry tracks in the UMC. As I did so, I found myself being further disciplined by those I guided as I experienced growth in the practice of mentoring and my own ability to self-reflect on my ministry. Though the number that I have mentored is far less than those who have mentored me, I have been blessed to guide dozens of student leaders, three seminary interns, and now a candidate for ordination as a Deacon (Zack Reiber) *and* a candidate for Certified Lay Ministry (Dr. Shawna Beese)!

Two years ago, in June of 2024, I wrote an article explaining what the Order of Deacons is all about but we have a number of new folks who have joined the UMC since then so allow me to give a brief summary. Like the Order of Elders (of which I am a part), Deacons are clergy leaders who are called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a Bishop to a lifetime ministry. Together we share a calling to **Word** (preaching & teaching) and **Service** (to God, Christ's church, and the world). But where Elders are uniquely called to the Sacraments (communion & baptism) and Order (providing leadership at all levels of the church), Deacons are uniquely called to ministries of **Compassion** and **Justice** and exemplify Christian discipleship by serving as a bridge between the church and society. Like elders, Deacons can teach, preach, officiate weddings & memorials, and offer pastoral care within congregations and since the 2024 General Conference, they have sacramental authority within their appointment setting. Outside the walls of the church, Deacons share the Good News in Word and in their advocacy for the poor, neglected, and discouraged.

Back in June of 2024, I shared the *process* toward ordination as a Deacon that Zack has entered into. Allow me to restate that it is a LONG (6-20 year) season of affirmation, confirmation, and formation of his **fire** (sense of calling), **fruits** (spiritual giftedness for ministry), **fruitfulness** (potential to make disciples & readiness to serve), and **fitness** (suitability) for ministry as a deacon. Each stage of the (Continued pg 2)

(Cont. from pg. 1) process, which moves from the local church (calling) to the district (calling and fruits) to the Board of Ordained Ministry (fruitfulness and fitness), works together to confirm that all four aspects are present before recommending him for ordination and life-long service as an ordained Deacon. I've once again included the graphic I created in 2024 to help you visualize the process and understand both where Zack is on it *and* what is ahead!

Having become a *Certified Candidate* over a year ago and having completed the required educational requirements in May when he graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary with a Master of Theological Studies, Zack went before the Inland District Committee on Ministry a few weeks ago and has been officially recommended to the Provisional Interview Team of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM)! This means that he will turn in another round of paperwork and required submissions this coming Fall and in February of 2027, he will be interviewed to determine if he's ready for commissioning as a *Provisional Deacon*. If the BOM Interview Team sees readiness in Zack, he will be recommended at Annual Conference in June of 2027. If they believe he still has some formational work to do to be ready for commissioning, he will receive a "not yet" and be given some recommended reading and areas of further development to focus on in preparation for the next round of interviews in 2028. Throughout this process, he will be supported by several mentors, including myself and members of our congregation, as well as your prayers!



To learn more about *Shawna's* process toward Certified Lay Ministry and what this form of lay ministry is all about, I encourage you to read her article in this newsletter. I'm delighted to serve as her mentor through this process and grateful to all who are serving on her Mutual Ministry Team! I'm also grateful to our whole congregation who have generously supported both Zack and Shawna as they have explored their sense of call and taken the first steps to practicing ministry among us! As we have discipled them, they are discipling us!

**What is a Certified Lay Minister?  
Dr. Shawna Beese**

Peace-  
Pastor Alissa



Friends, I am looking forward to July and offering the worship series *Called and Equipped* in partnership with Zack Reiber! This month, Pastor Alissa asked me to share a little about my journey toward being considered for appointment as a Certified Lay Minister (CLM). A CLM is a UMC Lay Servant: *...who is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergyperson. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent (¶ 268. Certified Lay Minister, Book of Discipline 2020/24)*

What does a CLM do? I'm learning from my fellow classmates that CLMs serve as pastors of small congregation churches, community ministry leaders, district lay servant leaders, and associates of larger churches as program leads.

Pastor Alissa, my mentoring clergy, meets with me weekly to discuss everything from clarifying my theological understanding to explaining the UMC governance structure. In addition to working with Pastor Alissa, a Mutual Ministry Team (MMT) composed of leaders from our church and the district ensures that I am equipped for future appointment and affirms my call. At the end of the summer, when my classes are complete, my meetings with Pastor Alissa and my MMT will continue for the next year, though at a reduced frequency as I enter a process with the District Committee of Ordained Ministries (DCOM).

I don't know yet how this journey will end, but I am so grateful to have you, my church family, as I travel this path! John Wesley's words, "the world is my parish," have resonated deeply with me this year. I'm on fire right now, exploring practical church theology and sharing the message of transforming grace!

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/2 Craig Partridge
- 6/3 Carmen Schaffer
- 6/7 Renee Norris  
Robin Gregory
- 6/8 Carol Lingow
- 6/10 Susan Henderson
- 6/11 Carola Joyal  
Megan Wallace
- 6/12 Lucas Price
- 6/16 James Rogers
- 6/17 Edward Kelly
- 6/18 Lois Simpson
- 6/21 Bruce Butler
- 6/23 Ron Pope
- 6/25 Jennifer Price  
Megan Herdrich



# WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Mondays:**  
10:00 am Walkers (gym)  
2:00 pm Nancy Larson's Group (Reading Room)
- Wednesdays:**  
9:30 am Disciple 3 Group (115)  
10:00 am Walkers (gym)
- Thursdays:**  
9:00 am Thursday Crew  
1:00 pm Lois' Group
- Saturdays:**  
10:00 am Choir Practice

# ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/3 Michael Myers & Nancy Croskrey
- 6/8 Bill & Caryl Kaelin
- 6/10 Jim & Karen Droppers  
Alan & Glenda Lovchik
- 6/14 Mick & Pat Palanuck
- 6/15 Michael & Jodi Mackin  
Richard & Dianne Simpson
- 6/16 Evan & Alyssa Arnold
- 6/23 Carl & Anna Jenkins
- 6/29 Jerry & Shannon Miller



# SPECIAL EVENTS:

- 6/1 11:00 am Quilters (125)
- 6/2 10:00 am SPR Meeting (FPR)
- 6/4 8:15 am Broadway Teacher Appreciation Breakfast (gym)
- 6/7 9:00 am Lifelong Learners/Graduation Sunday (Sanctuary)
- 6/8 10:00 am Prayer Shawl (FPR)  
6:30 pm Trustees Meeting (FPR)
- 6/9 9:00 am Huddle (213)
- 6/11 10:00 am Esther & Rachel Circle (Off-site)
- 6/14 10:00 am "Walking in Grace" Coffee Chat Devotional (115)
- 6/15 11:00 am Quilters (125)
- 6/16 10:00 am Touched by Cancer (FPR)  
2:30 pm Finance (FPR)
- 6/19 Juneteenth - office closed
- 6/22 10:00 am Prayer Shawl (FPR)
- 6/23 - Annual Conference
- 6/25



First, I want to thank the congregation for their flexibility. Confirmation Sunday is being moved to June 7. We will be hosting a Confirmand dinner Friday, June 5. Please reach out to me if you would like to help prepare, serve or clean up. Our youth will also be going bowling and planning our Silverwood trip for the summer. Additionally, Twinlow Summer Camp is fast approaching! For all the details on day vs overnight camp, please go to their website. Camp scholarships are available; please contact me for more information. As we look to the close of another school year rapidly approaching, it is not lost on me that that I have nearly completed my first year as Coordinator for the Ministry of Young People. I want to take a moment and express my sincere gratitude for the encouragement as well as grace I have received during my time of discovery and growth thus far. I look forward to seeing what our hard work, and more importantly, the Holy Spirit has in store for us as we continue to attempt to carry out their loving plan.

-Jen Price, Coordinator of Ministries for Young People

Covenant UMC is inviting local United Methodist congregations and members to join them in marching in the Spokane Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13 at Riverfront Park! They will also have a booth in the Pride Festival and welcome volunteers to help hand out information and SWAG ("stuff we all get" - stickers, pens, etc.). Pastor Alissa plans to participate in the parade. If you'd like to join her or would like to help with the booth, please contact her: [alissaamestoy@gmail.com](mailto:alissaamestoy@gmail.com) or 509-879-2278.



Dear SVUM Family,  
I don't have the words to express my feelings of thanks and gratitude for the love, prayer, visits, flowers, and gifts you all have shown me these past four months. My heart is overflowing with love for you all. Whatever you think of as BIG thanks - times it by infinity and that's still smaller than what I feel!

In Christian love, Marlene McCoy

## JUNE WORSHIP PREVIEW

### JUNE 7 - LIFELONG LEARNERS SUNDAY

Join us for a special Sunday celebrating lifelong learning! Our young disciples will get their first Bibles, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will matriculate to Middle School, and we will celebrate our High School and College graduates & Mahan Legacy Scholarship awardees! We will also get to witness the Confirmation of several of our youth and receive their faith testimonies during the sermon moment. It is sure to be a day of great joy!

### JUNE 14 - SERVICE OF THE WORD IN MUSIC

Traveling pianist, singer-songwriter, and recording artist, John Nilsen, will join us for worship but rather than just playing "incidental" music (prelude, offertory, etc.), he's going to offer an alternative sermon moment called *The Word in Music* based on Psalm 150.

### JUNE 21 - FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY

Sue Magrath preaching on "The Poetry of the Psalms". Though Psalm 130 will our primary scripture, Sue will be engaging several psalms during the sermon moment.

### JUNE 28 - UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH SUNDAY

Deb Avery, President of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference United Women of Faith, will be our guest preacher. Her sermon is called "Why We Do What We Do" and will be based on Matthew 25:31-40 (CEB). All are encouraged to attend!

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

## JUNE WORD SEARCH

- Ice Tea
- Aquarium
- Fish
- Dare
- Bicycle
- Applesauce
- Donut
- Hike
- Ocean
- Rhubarb
- Father's Day
- Pigeon
- Cat
- Accordion
- Cucumber
- Waterfall
- Sew
- Root Beer
- Rose
- Juneteenth
- Solstice
- Sea Shell
- Pride
- Meteor

T	U	N	O	D	S	Z	J	P	W	N	S	D	Q	H	K	B	M
V	X	K	S	C	A	H	Y	K	A	E	T	E	C	I	N	A	E
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*Love Boldly*  
*Serve Joyfully*  
*Lead Courageously*

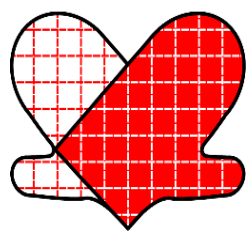
PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 2026

We are delighted to host the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference June 23-25th! As we prepare for this large event, where United Methodist clergy and laity from across the annual conference will convene for a time of worship, holy conferencing, and fellowship, there's some important information to share with you all: The church will be closed for normal SVUMC operations Monday, June 22 to Thursday, June 25. The office will be open during our normal hours that week so you can call if you have questions, need assistance, or have a pastoral care emergency.

Due to required security measures, only registered attendees or volunteers with credentials provided by the Annual Conference may be on the church premises during this time so please refrain from coming to the church without calling the office and obtaining permission.

If you'd like to volunteer with set up on Sunday and Monday, or serve during the conference as a door greeter, hallway attendant, or one of the various hospitality roles necessary to ensure everyone has a safe, comfortable, and accessible experience in our facility, please contact Margie Manfred: [margie.manfred@outlook.com](mailto:margie.manfred@outlook.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Alissa: [alissaamestoy@gmail.com](mailto:alissaamestoy@gmail.com) or 509-879-2278. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and patience as we host this yearly event!



# 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



Thank you to everyone who contributed toilet paper and paper towels to Maddie's Place throughout the month of May! Maddie's Place is a non-profit recovery nursery caring for babies with prenatal substance exposure. They help keep parents and babies together, using nurturing, low-intervention care that leads to better outcomes, lower costs, and stronger bonds.



Mission & Service will be taking a rest for the month of June! Our next collection will be in July for MCOC's 16th Annual School Shoes for Kids drive. Last year, hundreds of kids were able to get new pairs of shoes and socks before school started up. We're excited to help students from pre-school to 12th grade start the school year off on the right foot - with a new pair of shoes and socks!



Thank you to everyone who supported the May 31 cinnamon roll sale! We'll be able to share how much was raised for Bite2Go in June. If you missed it, don't worry! There will be another cinnamon roll sale on June 28th, benefitting Joy Prim's missionary work with migrant workers in Hong Kong.



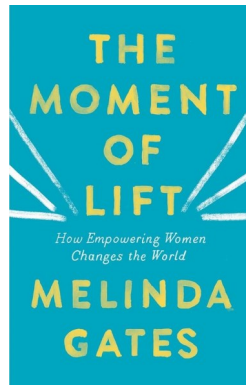
This past week, Roberta Headley, Madelyn Bafus and I attended UWF National Assembly in Indianapolis, IN with 3000+ of our United Women in Faith sisters. The theme was "Dream It, Believe It, Do It." We enjoyed fantastic workshops, inspirational speakers, fabulous music, worship and communion-all while raising over \$300,000 for mission work here and across the world. We listened to women from Africa, the Philippines, South America and elsewhere. We engaged with our governmental leaders to help support racial and climate justice initiatives that actively and disproportionately impact women, children and youth. It was a powerful reminder of how each of our small contributions to UWF mission combine to make a worldwide impact! -Robin Gregory



This year's PNW Mission U is July 10- July 12. Contact Madelyn Bafus for more info!



For the next UWF Book Club, we'll be reading Melinda Gates' *The Moment of Lift*. Stay tuned for the meeting date!



Katherine Parker, missionary to Nepal, will come to SVUMC on Sunday, September 13th and give the sermon. Save the date and make sure to join us to learn about her ministry!

## Joy Prim is coming to SVUMC!

Join us **Thursday, July 16th** here at SVUMC to meet missionary Joy Prim and hear more about her work with migrant workers in Hong Kong. More info to come in June's newsletter!

