

SPOKANE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 23rd, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost – *Lessons in Leadership Series*

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We invite you to sign in on our attendance pads which will be passed out during the Choir Hymn. (indicates "Please rise in body or spirit")*

Gathering Music

Jeux d'Enfants (Children's Games) nos. 2 & 11
(Georges Bizet)

Zachary Bjurstrom & Betsy Pletscher

Welcome

Pastor Alissa

*Call to Worship

C.J. Amestoy

Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another,
where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome,
and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore.
Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions,
reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places
where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible,
with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

**God, form us today as people of grace,
called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory" – UMH #577

Zachary Bjurstrom

Opening Prayer

Pastor Alissa

Announcements

Special Music

Summer (Paul Reade)

Betsy Pletscher & Zachary Bjurstrom

Back to School Blessings

Pastor Alissa & Jen Price

Follow along with the words onscreen.

*Greeting Time & Gloria Patri

UMH #70

At this time, Elementary-aged kids (1st-5th grade) are invited to meet our Sunday School teachers in the back if they would like to participate in Sunday School.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35 (CEB)

C.J. Amestoy

Message

"Lessons in Leadership: Grace"

Pastor Alissa

*Hymn of Response

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" – UMH #390
(tune: Amazing Grace – UMH #387)

Zachary Bjurstrom

Invitation to the Offering

Pastor Alissa

Offertory

"Your Labor is Not in Vain" (Kimbrough, Zach, & Wardwell) Quynh & Jonathan Parlane

*Doxology

UMH #95

*Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Pastor Alissa

Follow along with the words onscreen.

*Sending Hymn

"Freely, Freely" – UMH #389

*Sending Forth

Pastor Alissa

Sending Forth Music

Grande Valse Brillante opus no. 1 (Frederic Chopin)

Zachary Bjurstrom

STAFF

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SUNDAY NEWS

August 23

9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Children's Sunday School	Room 210
9:00 am	Nursery	Room 202

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

If you'd like to dive deeper into understanding spiritual gifts and learning what it means to be a spiritual leader, you might be the perfect candidate for the Lay Servant Ministries Advanced Course, "Discover Your Spiritual Gifts," led by Dr. Shawna Beese, Certified Lay Speaker. This course will read through *Each One a Minister* by William J. Carter and will meet over Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM beginning September 15. The link to register is on the pnwumc.org website under "Events." If the class is full, you can email Rev. Sheila Miranda at smiranda@pnwumc.org to reserve a spot on the waitlist.

Volunteers needed! Join us at a Back to School Night at Broadway Elementary on August 24 from 4:30-5:30 pm! Sign up sheets are at the Connect Desk!

Disciple class is starting up again on September 9! Sign ups are at the Connect Desk. The study is called "Under the Tree of Life," focusing on The Writings, John, and Revelation. You don't need to have taken any previous Disciple classes to join. For any questions, see Madelyn Bafus.

Affected by the Spokane Wildfires or know someone who is? A PNWUMC Early Response Team may be able to help! If your home or the home of someone you know is covered by red fire retardant or you're looking for treasured personal items and need support, our PNWUMC Early Response Team may be able to help. The team will be in the Spokane area August 28 through 30. Please email Pastor Alissa for the intake form if you're interested in this free service: alissaamestoy@gmail.com. ERTs serve as the hands and feet of Christ. May they walk with you in this time of grief.

The fires in Spokane have decimated entire neighborhoods and displaced thousands over the past few weeks. If you'd like to donate to help UMC disaster response coordinators respond directly to those impacted by the fires, you can find the link to the PNW Conference Disaster Response Fund on our website.

All Spokane County Library District locations are collecting nonperishable food donations throughout August for Second Harvest to benefit the victims of the Spokane fires. You can bring canned or packaged foods to any SCLD library to help!

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.

*Love is the Spirit at Spokane Valley UMC –
we are a weapons-free and drug-free community.
Thank you for abiding by this policy and helping
to make our church a safe space for all.*

THIS WEEK

8/24 Monday

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

8/25 Tuesday

9:00 am Huddle (213)

8/27 Thursday

9:00 am Thursday Crew
11:00 am Susan's
Audiobook Club (201)

8/30 Sunday

9:00 am Traditional Service
Liturgist: Ann Holmquist

Livestream notice:

Our Sunday worship services at Spokane Valley UMC are live-streamed so our homebound members and online community can join us. By sitting on the Chancel or in the front six pews, you acknowledge that you may be filmed and/or photographed. Images and audio may be published on our website, social media, and streaming platforms. For more information, contact Pastor Alissa.

Prayer Requests:

If you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team, fill out one of the cards in the pews and either place it in the plate on the back table or pass it to an usher when they come by during the choir anthem.



SVUMC Giving QR Code