WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

MAY 21—JUNE 25

WWW.AUDUBONPARKUMC.ORG
"I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together."

I first learned this song in Sunday School as a child. It’s a hymn written in 1972. The first verse of the song goes like this:

“The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.”

This is the idea we’re trying to convey in our current sermon series called, “We Are The Church Together.” We often think of the church as a building but the reality is that while a building can be a powerful tool for ministry, a house for our congregation, and a symbol to our community of God’s presence in our midst, the building is still only a tool. I once heard a preacher tell his congregation, “when the building burns down, and the preacher leaves town, what you have left is the church.”

I love how Paul says it in I Corinthians 3:16. To the church at Corinth that had no building, but lived in a town that had dozens of temples dedicated to pagan gods, Paul wrote: “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?” He said people meet God through the community, through you. The love you show for each other, the way you care for and welcome each other, the way you treat each other and pray for each other and encourage one another—is an essential part of being the church.

The Greek word translated “church” in the New Testament is EKKLESIA. It was formed from two Greek words, EK and KALEO. EK means “from out of,” and KALEO is the word behind our English word “call.” Ekklesia was a secular term for an assembly of people called out from their homes to meet together for some purpose bigger than themselves—a shared purpose.

We are not just a group who come together to “get something out of church.” That’s a consumer model of Christianity that sees the primary purpose of the church as to get a bit of encouragement and inspiration. Yes, you should get that at church. But the church is more than that. It’s not a social club, it is a community of Christ’s people seeking to become like Christ, to follow him, and together to do his work in the world. That means that part of the mission for those who are becoming deeply committed Christians when they show up for weekend worship is to look around and see how they can bless others, encourage others, minister to others. Sometimes we forget that.

It is my hope that this series will help us remember who we are as the church. I hope you’ll join us for worship this month as we explore being the church together.

Grace & Peace
-Pastor Geoff

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Rev. Geoff Helton
Lead Pastor
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Summer Worship Team

Practice Begins
Wednesday June 28

Our usual song leaders for 9:00am worship are taking a break for the summer. So, we thought it might be fun to invite others to help lead songs for the summer!

Join us on Wednesday Nights at 7pm beginning on June 28th if you’d like to help lead worship. We welcome singers, along with those who play guitar, bass, drums and other instruments.
Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

Our youth group usually meets at the church on Sundays from 6-7:30pm. Contact Drew Homchick for more info: drew@audubonparkumc.org

Bowling at Lilac Lanes
Sunday, June 4th | 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Our youth group will meet in the APUMC parking lot and carpool over to Lilac Lanes for a fun evening of bowling and fellowship.

BBQ at The Homchicks
Saturday, June 10th | 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Parents and youth come join us at Drew, Heather, Brady, & our dog Buddy’s house for a BBQ and games as we celebrate a fun year of youth group!

Thank you to all of the parents, helpers, staff, confirmation mentors, men’s group, quilter’s group, and the congregation as a whole for always joyously supporting our youth! All of your encouragement and support for our youth group is truly amazing and we appreciate all that you do to support our young people!

Confirmation

Congratulations to all of the members of our youth group who were confirmed on Sunday, May 21st. This is a huge step forward and we appreciate all of your hard work and decision to become members of our church. You are an asset to our church family and we welcome you!

Ashlyn Dodson, Braden Dodson, Lexi Dykman, Evelyn Patel, and Nicholas Strobeck were confirmed and became members of our church. Ashlyn, Braden, and Lexi were also baptized as a part of the service. Congratulate them and welcome them the next time you see one of them!

Sunny with a chance of Baby Sprinkles

Join us in celebrating the Homchick’s new addition

Host: Erica Baty 503-330-1913
Where: Audubon Park United Methodist Church
3908 North Driscoll Boulevard Spokane, WA 99205
When: Sunday, June 11 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Jesus Was Always on Vacation

Well, that’s an overstatement. Jesus accomplished amazing things during his three years of public ministry. By the accounts of those who were there, he ran a bustling medical practice, catered his own creative meals, led a busy social life that included leading citizens and outcasts, and taught seekers and disciples on a regular basis. Despite the absence of mass media, he reached and effectively ministered to large crowds. And by the end of his ministry, he had laid the foundation by which all the world might be reconnected with God. And yet, he seldom seemed frazzled. What was his secret?

I believe the source of his amazing creativity and productivity was in his time away. Jesus withdrew regularly from the crowds with their pressing expectations and needs in order to pray, to center his life in the Life of His heavenly Father. In the great prayer chapter of John 17, he demonstrates the importance of taking care of our inner life. He prays first for himself before he prays for his disciples. I wish someone had pointed out the meaning of this text to me earlier in my life. Jesus knew what we need to spend time focusing on: we cannot give to others what we ourselves do not have. And if we are leaders, our inner life cannot help but leak out into the lives of those we lead, forming the ethos of our organizations. Whatever lurks in the hearts of leaders will sooner or later permeate the groups we lead, for good or for ill. If we are frazzled, so will the groups we lead be frazzled.

If you find yourself too often looking as though you’ve just stuck your finger in a light socket, if you are frazzled, dazed and worn out, if you feel close to burn out, ask yourself, “What would Jesus do?” I figure if the Creator of the universe needed a Sabbath break, and if Christ himself regularly took times out, maybe, just maybe, so do I.

So this summer, if you work, take a vacation. This summer, if you are retired and are as busy as most of the retired people I know, it’s even more important to take time away. Make space in your schedule for quality time with your family every day you can, even if only for an hour, and make that time count. Don’t neglect the worship part of Sabbath, and wherever you are on Sundays, find a church to feed your soul. And every once in a long while, take a personal retreat, as Jesus did, to reflect and seek God’s presence and guidance for the next stage of your life. I believe the more we follow Christ’s example in this area, the more time we will have to spend effectively on things that matter to the Kingdom and to God. And I believe that as we take time away, we come back to our work with freshness rather than frazzle, and people will see the difference in the character of our lives. People prefer to be in the presence of joy and purpose rather than frazzle. Where, this summer, will you be renewed?

Shalom
-Pastor Dale
Thank You to Led Harder for the wonderful pictures of our church family.
Laura Velonza is a Spokane native and lives with her husband of 21 years, Vince, and their three daughters; Elizabeth-May (18), Emily-Ann (16), and Eden-Marie (12) in North Spokane.

For the past year and a half, she’s been working part-time at Fowler UMC as their Administrative Assistant. A Job she prayed about finding and loves. She will continue at Fowler UMC 12 hours a week and will be at Audubon Park UMC 28 hours a week. She knows that working between two churches will have some challenges but she’s enthusiastic about the opportunity.

When she’s not working, Laura enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, and their many “pets”. Among her favorites are her 4 chickens and the family dogs, Leo- a very energetic 1-year-old, Old English Sheep Dog/Lab mix, and Mochi- a 9-year-old, sleepy Shih Tzu.

While Laura is relatively new to the Methodist Church, (she and her husband grew up Catholic and for the past 20+ years have been very active members of Life Center and North Church.) she is excited to be a part of the Audubon Park Community and feels the best part of her job is the people she meets and the ability to grow deeper in her faith daily.

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For I was a Stranger: Biblical Stories of Refuge

Written and Performed by Katy Shedlock

Sunday, June 4th at 7:00pm at Audubon Park Church

Katy Shedlock (our new associate pastor) presents a series of 4 monologues from Scripture exploring aspects of the refugee experience, ancient and modern, in a benefit performance for World Relief.
A new ministry of Audubon Park Church.

**Coming Fall 2017!**

We’ll share more details about this exciting new program of our church as they become available.

**DISTRICT CHOIR FESTIVAL**

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!” And so we did! On Sunday, April 30th, several choirs from around the Spokane area gathered together at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church to enjoy worship and fellowship and some wonderful music. Each choir presented an anthem that was a favorite of theirs. Then all the choirs joined their voices together for one final song.

The mass choir was lead this year by Tracy Partridge, who directs the choir at Spokane Valley UMC. She chose a beautiful and uplifting anthem called “Yet Will I Sing” by Alissa Bair. What a pleasure and privilege to get to sing in a large choir like that!

Our Audubon Park Chancel Choir were strong in numbers (17) and voices at the festival. We sang one of our songs from Easter Sunday – “Risen Indeed”. It was well received by the audience and so fun to sing! Following the festival, we gathered at the Red Robin for a relaxing dinner and more fellowship. You should have seen us all squeezed into one little section of the restaurant. Our server was amazing and there was plenty of love and laughter to spread around. Thank you to those members of the congregation who came out to offer us support. Thanks also to Charlene for her fabulous accompaniment and to all of our faithful choir members who give of their time and talent to serve God at APUMC.
**June 2017**

**Thursday, 6/1**
- Stephen Ministry Supervision 3:00 p.m.
- Strength for the Journey Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, 6/4**
- Christian Ed Classes 9:00 a.m.
- Praise worship 9:00 a.m.
- Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Class 10:30 a.m.
- Stephen Ministry Class 1:30 p.m.
- Youth group 6:00 p.m.
- “For I Was A Stranger” 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, 6/5**
- Art Class (Conference Room) 9:00 a.m.
- Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 a.m.
- Brownie Group 5:00 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry Class 5:30 p.m.
- AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 6/6**
- Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30am-10:00 a.m.
- Quilters 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, 6/7**
- Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 a.m.
- Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 a.m.
- Grief Support Group 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Steps to Life 6:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Practice and Year End BBQ 7:00 p.m.
- AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, 6/10**
- Men’s Breakfast (Parlor) 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, 6/11 – Celebration Sunday**
- Christian Ed Classes 9:00 a.m.
- Praise worship 9:00 a.m.
- Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Class 10:30 a.m.
- Heather and Drew Homchick Sprinkle 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- Youth group 6:00 p.m.

**Monday, 6/12**
- Art Class (Conference Room) 9:00 a.m.
- Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 a.m.
- Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.
- Stephen’s ministry 5:30 p.m.
- AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 6/13**
- Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30am-10:00 a.m.
- Audubon Park Food Bank 9:30 a.m.
- Quilters 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, 6/14**
- Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 a.m.
- Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 a.m.
- Grief Support Group 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Steps to Life 6:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m.
- AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, 6/15**
- Stephen Ministry Supervision 3:00 p.m.

**Saturday, 6/17**
- Free Community Meal 12:00-2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, 6/18 Father’s Day**
- Christian Ed Classes 9:00 a.m.
- Praise worship 9:00 a.m.
- Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Class 10:30 a.m.
- Youth group 6:00 p.m.

**Monday, 6/19**
- Art Class (Conference Room) 9:00 a.m.
- Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 a.m.
- Brownie Group 5:00 p.m.
- AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 6/20**
- Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- Quilters 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, 6/21**
- Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 a.m.
- Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 a.m.
- Grief Support Group 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Steps to Life 6:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m.
- AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, 6/25 – Stephens Ministry Commissioning**
- Christian Ed Classes 9:00 a.m.
- Praise worship 9:00 a.m.
- Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Class 10:30 a.m.
- Youth group 6:00 p.m.
Monday, 6/26
Art Class (Conference Room) 9:00 a.m.
Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 a.m.
Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 6/27
Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30am-10:00 a.m.
Audubon Park Food Bank 9:30 a.m.
Quilters 9:30 a.m.
Clergy Group (parlor) 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 6/28
Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 a.m.
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 a.m.
Grief Support Group 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Steps to Life 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, 6/29
Stephen Ministry Supervision 3:00 p.m.
AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**June Birthdays**

June 5  Shirley Moore  
June 6  Pat Clark  
June 7  Connie Mutton  
June 9  Claudia Biggs, Sherry Detlaff, Janet Rhodes  
June 12  Cecil Loveland  
June 13  Dorinda Young  
June 16  Perri Charbonneau,  
June 23  Marilyn Hallett  
June 26  Kay Nanson  
June 27  Melva Lohstroh, Corinne Reitmeier  
June 29  Nicholas Strobeck

**June Anniversaries**

June 6  David & Brenda Banks  
June 13  Chuck & Anna Mae Luther  
June 22  Steve & Laurie Whitford  
June 24  Ron & Nancy Brooks  
June 25  Galen & Glenda Buterbaugh

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**Congregational Notes**

- **IN SYMPATHY**
  
  Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of Art Bauer. A memorial service was held Saturday, May 20th.

- **WORDS OF THANKS**

  I just want to thank you for the pledge that you made on my behalf to Avista. It helped a lot and I sure do appreciate it.

  Peace and Wellness, A Love Fund Recipient

  To Friends of Audubon Park UMC:

  There are no words to express my thanks to all of you for the beautiful retirement reception and the gorgeous necklace I received from you! I’ve been truly blessed to have worked along side of you for almost 30 years! Thank you for “doing life together”: sharing joys and sorrows and knowing God is guiding us all.

  A humble thank you to all of you and may God continue to bless the people of Audubon Park UMC!

  With much love, Jan Oman Cooper

  I wanted to thank the Audubon Park congregation for making me and my family feel so welcome. I know what a fantastic job Jan did as the office Manager and I hope to continue her legacy of excellence.

  Blessings, Laura Velonza

  Thank you for the time and energy spent in training the new Contramans. It was a very special bonding time they had with Geoff, Drew and their church family. Our 2 grandchildren grew immensely during that time in their Christian faith.

  Thank you so much! Les & Margie Harder