

OCTOBER 2022

# THE EVANGEL

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THE NEWSLETTER OF  AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





**Rev. Geoff Helton**

Lead Pastor

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# FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

Fall in Spokane is one of my favorite things and our fall season at Audubon Park Church is off to a great start! I have so appreciated the return of our grow classes, Sunday school classes, choirs, and all the things that help us grow in our faith and put our faith into action.

This month's newsletter is full of opportunities to connect with your church, grow in your faith, and serve God and our community. I hope you'll take some time to prayerfully consider what you might need to take the next step in your faith.

If you're new to Audubon Park Church, that might mean joining us for our **Exploring Membership** class early next month. Whether you're new or have been around for awhile, you might consider our **Jonah Grow Class** or serving through one of the ministries of the church like our **Stephen Ministry** program, **Bless Our Schools**, or **Bare Necessities** ministries.

I hope you'll also consider helping us connect with our community by supporting our **Trunk-or-Treat** event. This event will replace our annual Halloween Hullabaloo, at least for this year. Before the pandemic our Hullabaloo was a major event for our church and our community but in this new season we feel the need to make the change to an outside event (better ventilation!) and one that is a little less intense in terms of preparation.

This month we'll wrap up our At the Movies sermon series and begin an new series on the book of Jonah. The more I study the book of Jonah the more depth, meaning and power I find in the story. I'm excited to explore it together.

See you in worship!

*Grace & Peace*  
*-Pastor Geoff*



## Exploring Membership At Audubon Park Church

Our Exploring Membership Class will help you learn more about the United Methodist Church and the process for formally joining Audubon Park Church. Here you'll learn more about who we are, our beliefs, and get to know leaders of our church.

You'll also get to hear the story of our church and discuss what it means to be a member of this local congregation through serving, growing in your faith journey, moving toward generosity and more.

**Sunday, November 12 - Noon—2pm.**

**Lunch will be provided. Childcare is available on request.**

Contact the church office to sign up: 325-4541 or [office@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:office@audubonparkumc.org)

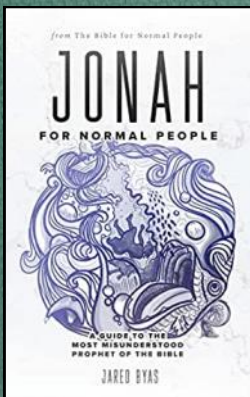




## JONAH SERMON SERIES BEGINS OCTOBER 16

For many of us, the story of Jonah is a familiar one that we've heard since childhood. Yet it's a story that still captures our imagination and teaches us powerful truths about God and humanity.

Through Jonah's story, God shares a strong word of caution for his people. But he also reveals himself as a God of second chances, a God who loves his people relentlessly and is quick to extend mercy. If you need assurance that God loves you despite whatever you've done, if you need assurance that God still cares and will provide for your needs, or if you desire to know God's heart and better understand his priorities, then join us for worship at Audubon Park Church as we explore the prophetic book of Jonah. Together we'll examine the lessons God teaches Jonah and grow in faith as we discuss what these truths mean for us today.



### JONAH GROW CLASS W/PASTOR GEOFF

*Jonah for Normal People* is a brief guide to reading the book of Jonah through Ancient Near Eastern eyes. Contrary to what you may have heard in Sunday school, this book isn't about a disobedient prophet and the big fish sent by God to destroy him. No, Jonah has much bigger theological fish to fry. Through an exploration of Jonah's historical context, themes and language, we'll uncover the great theological questions that underpin Jonah's perilous journey . . . and find that they are still relevant today.

**ZOOM on Wednesdays 10/19-11/9 at 7pm**

**In-Person on Wednesdays 10/19-10/9 at 11am -Church Parlor**

To sign up for either class call the Church office 509-325-4541.



# TRUNK OR TREAT

**OCTOBER 30 | 4-6 PM**



**AUDUBON PARK**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**(CORNER OF GARLAND AVE & DRISCOLL BLVD)**



The idea is simple: Church members will bring their cars to our church parking lot (on the corner of Garland Ave & Driscoll Blvd). Then they and (their families or friends) decorate their cars for Halloween, sometimes creating elaborate scenes out of their trunks. Then kids from our community walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy and other prizes the way they would during a normal trick-or-treating outing. We're also planning to offer free hot chocolate and cider!

## **Help us with this community outreach event!**

1. **Bring bags of individually wrapped candy to the church by Sunday October 30.** You can also donate non-candy prizes! If you'd rather, you can donate money for us to use to purchase prizes.
2. **Signup to decorate your trunk and hand out candy at the event.** You can also signup as a group of friends or as a family. Once we know you're planning to host a trunk, start planning how you'll decorate your car!
3. **Invite your friends and family to join us!** Share our Facebook Event or send someone a copy of this flyer. We're excited to connect with our neighborhood and the wider Spokane community!



Bless Our Schools is our ministry and partnership with Audubon Elementary School. Through this ministry we seek to support and encourage student, teacher and staff with the goal of helping students learn and grow!

The Bless Our Schools team is looking for someone who can organize appreciation gifts for Audubon School Staff. It need not be elaborate. For example we delivered some apples and chocolates in September. We want to show teachers and school staff that they matter and that we are thinking of them. Talk with Karen Peacock (509-808-4161) or Laura in the office to learn more.



Bare Necessities provides toiletries and cleaning supplies to members of our community in partnership with our food bank.

Sandi Nicol is looking for help with the Bare Necessities ministry. She needs someone to occasionally man the tables when she cannot be there. She is open twice a month on Tuesdays during the Food Bank, for a couple of hours. If this fits your schedule, please contact the church office and speak with Laura.



## Is God calling you to be a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministry is one child of God, walking beside another child of God who is hurting. It is a church member who has gifts for caregiving and provides emotional and spiritual care for others. Stephen Ministry pairs a person in need to a person who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.

### Small Seeds, Mighty Trees

In 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul write, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." Is it time to add more water to the seeds of faith that have been planted in you? Consider joining our upcoming Stephen Minister training class to grow into a new ministry role.

For more information on Stephen Ministry and/or to sign up for the training, talk to Pastor Geoff, Pastor Glenn, or contact the church office at 509-325-4541.



## Rev. Glenn Kennedy

Associate Pastor of  
Congregational Care  
[glenn@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:glenn@audubonparkumc.org)



### COFFEE WITH PASTOR GLENN Thursdays at 11AM APUMC PARLOR

An Invitation to Men of  
any age who are  
available Thursday  
mornings!

Come visit, catch up,  
pray together, and share  
some moments of  
devotional thought.

Let's connect and  
reconnect for the sake  
of our spirit's growth  
and for the sake of the  
ministry we're called to  
live out in this place.

# FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR

## "Paid in Full"

Dear Friends,

Recently I was given a good reminder of what grace really means. Carol and I had come from a long day. We'd driven to Davenport, where I'd officiated at a funeral and burial services for two family members of Anna Mae Luther, a member of Audubon Park UMC, now living in Texas. On our way home, we decided to use a gift certificate we'd been carrying around for the Olive Garden Restaurant. We hadn't been there long when some dear friends from a former Church I'd served stopped by our table and said "hello." Carol and I ordered and finished our meal, and when we signaled our waiter for our bill, he smiled and said, "this is your lucky day. Your bill has been paid in full!" It didn't take long to figure out who our angels of grace were! When I called them later to thank them, they said, "we just wanted to take the opportunity to say we love you guys, and we miss you, and it was so good to see you again!" Upon reflection, I thought, "one more demonstration of grace. Love, not earned, just freely given, just because!"

These friends didn't calculate or limit or count costs. They didn't know what our bill would be. They just signed their name, promising with that signature that our bill would be "paid in full." That experience again reminded me of one of my very favorite scripture passages...Ephesians 2:8-9:

***"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-not the result of works so that no one may boast."***

Sometimes it's hard for us to grasp such a great truth that is so simply put. We're not loved and accepted (saved) for what we've done but for who we are (God's precious children). We do our best (or our worst!) sometimes to mess up the gift we've been given. We divide ourselves into camps and parties, politically and in our faith communities. We often fail to stop and ponder the simple truth that each one of us is fully received, not because of what we've done or not done, but because of what has been done for us through the 'gift' of Jesus Christ. Because of that gift of grace in Christ Jesus, we are sisters and brothers whether we know it or even whether we like it. It's done, finished, so let's live like people who know and appreciate that our bill has been paid in full.

Amen!? Amen!

*Blessings, Pastor Glenn*



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have any questions about our youth group program please contact Drew Homchick for more info: [drew@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:drew@audubonparkumc.org)

### **Kickball & Wiffle Ball**

**Friday, October 7th -6pm - 7:30pm**

Get ready for some indoor kickball and wiffle ball baseball downstairs at the church. Make sure to bring some good running shoes!

### **Game Night**

**Friday, October 14th -6pm - 7:30pm**

Bring your favorite card games, board games, and trivia for a fun-filled night of classic games.

### **Pumpkin Painting**

**Friday, October 21st -6pm - 7:30pm**

Come join us for a Halloween-themed movie, fellowship, snacks, and fun as we paint and decorate pumpkins for Halloween.

### **Trunk or Treat**

**Sunday, October 30th -2:30pm - 6:00pm**

We will meet in the church parking lot located on Driscoll Blvd. to decorate and set up a Halloween game for our annual Trunk or Treat. Youth will also be assisting with a coco & cider station as well as directing traffic for the event. Wearing Halloween costumes is encouraged, but not required. Thanks!

### **Sunday School Schedule**

Our Youth Sunday School program (grades 6th - 12th) will meet downstairs in the youth room on Sundays from 9am - 10am.

### **Youth Group Schedule**

Our Youth Group program (grades 6th - 12th) will meet on Mondays from 6 - 7:30pm at APUMC, unless otherwise stated.

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday

9am	Children's Sunday School
9am	Youth Sunday School
9am	Worship Service in person
9am	Worship Service online
10:30 am	Worship Service in person

### Monday

9am	Art Group - 1st and 3rd Monday
11:30am	Bible Study (Melva Lohstroh)
7:30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous

### Tuesday

8:30am	Food Bank, Breakfast & Daily Bread - 2nd & 4th Tuesday
9am	Quilting Group
6pm	Cub Scouts

### Wednesday

10am	Overeaters Anonymous
1 pm	Knitters
6:30 pm	Boy Scouts

### Thursday

11am	Men's Meeting with Pastor Glenn
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### Friday

10am	Stephen Ministry - 1st & 3rd Friday
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## October Birthdays

1 - Donna Sampson	18 - Beth Meersman
3 - Betty White	19 - Frank Cramer
5 - Richard Shumaker, Judy Walker	23 - Russ Andres, Dianne Clark
10 - John Olson, John Rissler	26 - Nathan Meersman
12 - Wayne Clark	27 - Billy Wisor
13 - Barbara Burns, Karyl Masters, Aric Caley	29 - Gordon Mero, Tony Ross
14 - Ryan Burns, Darby Fosberg, Delby Rodgers, Bonnie Holm, Linda Shurtleff	30 - Cory Patel

## October Anniversaries

4 - Doug & Pauline Smith
16 - Russ & Cary Andres
18 - Chris & Sandi Nicol, Dan & Karyl Masters
26 - Ted & Angela Schmidt



**Address Service Requested**

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## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**IN-PERSON at 9AM & 10:30AM**

**ONLINE at 9AM**