

NOVEMBER 2023

# THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



God is gracefully generous, and we – children of God, created in the image of God – are born to be gracefully generous, too. Not because we “should,” but because graceful generosity is a beautiful delight – and because it’s who we really are!

Join us in worship beginning **November 5** as we consider three scriptural stories, each of which reveals one of God’s tried and true ways of putting grace into action: Creation, the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.



**Rev. Geoff Helton**  
Lead Pastor

[geoff@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:geoff@audubonparkumc.org)  
[fb.com/geoffhelton](https://fb.com/geoffhelton)

# FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

This November we'll all be invited to consider our giving to the church. Our stewardship series this year is called "Grace in Action" and while one of our goals for the series is to guide us in thinking about our commitment to support the church and its ministries, a successful giving campaign doesn't just raise needed funds – it's also a golden opportunity to invest in our values, connect with each other, and most important of all, live into becoming the people God is calling us to be.

You'll soon receive a stewardship letter from me, a giving guide and a pledge card for 2024. Thank you for all the ways you support our church and its ministries! This includes your financial giving but we know you also support the church with your prayers, your time, your talents, and by inviting your family and friends to join us for worship and other activities.

At the end of the month stewardship season will transition to the season of Advent. Advent is a word that means "coming" or "visit." In the Christian season of Advent, we prepare for the "advent" of Christ's birth. The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas and this year we're going to focus on the first Christmas Songs. Music and song is one of the things that best help us get into the Christmas spirit. We're going to look at four ancient songs, the first "Christmas songs" to learn more about what Christmas is really about. We'll have more info on our advent and Christmas activities out to you soon!

*Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Geoff*



An Advent Worship Series  
Beginning November 26



There are four songs in the gospel of Luke that are sung in response to the news that a Messiah will be born. They each have become famous in their own ways and have their own special titles in church history. They are the songs of Mary, Zachariah, Simeon, and the angels. They are also known by their opening Latin words: Magnificat, Benedictus, Nunc Dimittis, and Gloria.

These songs are unique in the gospel text, because they're surrounded by prose. They are meant to interrupt our reading, and they call us to pay attention. This Advent, we'll explore each of these songs, both in remembrance of Christ's birth and in anticipation of his return. We'll ask ourselves: what do each of these songs have to teach us and how can we learn to sing them ourselves?





**A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made our 2nd annual Trunk-Or-Treat an amazing success!!**

We had about 200 people come through, saw some great costumes, and handed out TONS of candy and prizes — and we couldn't have done it without YOU!





# Audubon Park Food Bank

It's time for turkey. We are happy to announce that we are again participating in **Tom's Turkey Drive!** This is a **FREE** turkey dinner for Spokanites put on by KREM 2 News, and we will be a distribution site again this year. Ask your neighbors/friends/family to donate: \$20 provides a Thanksgiving meal for a family of four!

If you have neighbors that need help that don't normally come to the food bank have them contact us and we'll see what we can do for you.

Also, I'd like to let everyone know that I work with the best team around. We had some challenges this last month and met them admirably. Thank you everyone who works at the Food Bank — you are the best.

*Sincerely,  
Karen Peacock*

## AUDUBON PARK YOUTH

### **Video Game Night**

**Sunday, November 5th | 6pm - 7:30pm**

Bring some of your favorite video games as we hook up the Nintendo Switch & compete in a variety of classic video games.

### **Youth All-Nighter!**

**Saturday, November 11th | 6pm - Sunday AM**

Enjoy a night full of fun, games, food, and surprises! Please make sure to bring a pillow, sleeping bag, toothbrush, deodorant, and a change of clothes. See you on Saturday!

### **"Parents' Night Out" Fundraiser**

**Saturday, November 18th | 2pm - 5pm**

Have some Christmas shopping you need to get done? Need a nap? A little extra time to finish a project? Or some extra time together? We got you covered. Drop off your kiddos at the church & our Youth Group will take care of the rest. We will have a movie, games, & snacks. Suggested donations are \$15/child or \$25/family. The funds will go toward Twinlow Winter Camperships. Thank you so much for all of your support! :)

### **Soccer Night**

**Sunday, November 26th | 6pm - 7:30pm**

We will meet downstairs in the church and play a variety of soccer games. Please make sure to bring your running shoes and a water bottle.

## YOUNG(ish) ADULTS

*A fellowship group for those in their 20's, 30's, & 40's*

### **De Leon's**

**Sunday, November 5th | 12:30pm**

After church we'll head over to De Leon's Mexican Restaurant (off N. Division & Hawthorne) for some good food and conversation!

### **Games, Games, Games!**

**TBA | TBA**

Come join us for a variety of games. Please bring your favorite boardgames, card games, trivia, etc. as we enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, fun, and of course — games!

For more info on Youth Group or Youngish Adult events, contact Drew Homchick: [drew@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:drew@audubonparkumc.org)

**NOVEMBER 2023**





# FALL GROW CLASS II

## *Tell Her Story* Book Study with Pastor Geoff

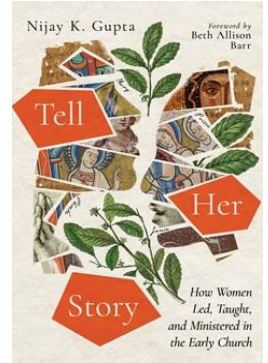
**Wednesdays | Noon – 1pm**

(5 weeks beginning November 1, In-Person & Online)

Women were there. For centuries, discussions of early Christianity have focused on male leaders in the church. But there is ample evidence right in the New Testament that women were actively involved in ministry, at the frontier of the gospel mission, and as respected leaders.

When we understand the world in which Jesus and his followers lived and what the New Testament actually attests about women in the churches, it becomes clear that women were active participants and trusted leaders all along. They were welcomed by Paul and other apostles, were equipped and trained for ministry leadership, instructed others, traveled long distances, were imprisoned and once in a while became heroes and giants.

**Required Book:** *Tell Her Story: How Women Led, Taught, and Ministered in the Early Church* by Nijay K. Gupta — the church is no longer taking book orders but you can order it from Amazon, Aunties, or wherever you buy books!



## NEW FELLOWSHIP GROUP ALERT:

### PARLOR GAMES!

Do you like playing games? Come join us in the parlor on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 1pm to play games with your friends, laugh, and enjoy a great snack.

## NEEDLEWORK GROUP



**Our needlework group gathers in the Parlor on Wednesdays at 1pm**, and you are invited to join us for a relaxing 2 hours of conversation, along with some knitting if you're so inclined.

And for those keeping track, our donations of chemo hats this year totals at more than 500!

## QUILTERS

**When:** Tuesdays 9am – noon

**Where:** APUMC Room 303 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Who:** Our quilting group is open to ALL who quilt or would like to learn!

**What:** Fellowship, fun and fabric! Working together on your own project or on projects to share in our community!

**Contact:** Pat Dobberstein, 509-326-1736



**Rev. Glenn Kennedy**

Associate Pastor of  
Congregational Care

[glenn@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:glenn@audubonparkumc.org)

## FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR

*Happy November, Friends!  
A few reminders, if I may...*

### Men's Group

This is a coffee and conversation group of retired men that meets every Thursday at 11am. All are welcome and you need not commit to being there every week. Come as you are able...please know that you are always welcome. It's a great way to truly come to know one another and share our cares.

### Home Communion

We are hoping to restart our Home Communion ministry! Please reach out to me by phone, or email [office@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:office@audubonparkumc.org) to let us know if you'd like to become a recipient of Holy Communion at your home **OR** if you'd like to be a server.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Glenn*



# STEPHEN MINISTRY

at Audubon Park  United Methodist Church

This month I want to celebrate the service of **Leslie Spitzer**.

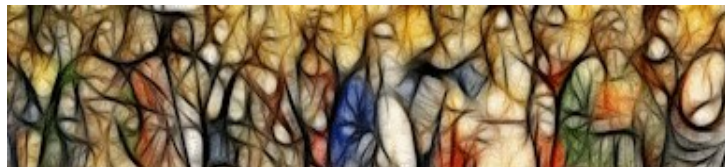
Leslie was commissioned as a Stephen Minister in June of 2017. Leslie faithfully served a care receiver throughout her years of service. She regularly attended supervision meetings and participated in continuing education. After closing out her ministry with her care receiver, Leslie has decided she would like to step away from this ministry. Please join me in thanking Leslie for her dedicated service to this ministry! We will miss her gentle presence at our meetings, but we know God will continue to use Leslie in valuable ways.

We continue to seek members of the congregation who would be willing to serve as a Stephen Minister. No previous experience is needed as you will receive 50 hours of training before you begin your service as a Stephen Minister. The Stephen Ministry organization requires that candidates seeking training to become Stephen Ministers belong to the church where they will serve. Other qualities that a Stephen Minister should possess include trustworthiness, compassion, being faith-filled, and have an ability to listen non-judgmentally.

If you are interested in serving as a Stephen Minister or simply desire more information about the program, please reach out to me or one of the other Stephen Ministers (Pat & Lou Dobberstein, Bob Kem, Cary Andres). I am sure Leslie would be able to answer questions as well. Our pastors can also provide more info.

*Thank You,  
Carol Hendershot*





# All Saints Day

## Sunday, November 5



Historically, the church has confessed a belief in the “communion of the saints,” which includes not only all living believers but also all who have gone before us. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we experience the communion of saints, feasting with believers past, present and future. The author of Hebrews 12 (CEB) reminds us that these saints, a “great cloud of witnesses,” surround us and cheer us on.

On **All Saints’ Day**, United Methodists publicly remember and honor those who have passed away. Celebrated on the first Sunday in November, and many congregations including ours light candles as a way of honoring the impact they have had on us.

Join us in worship at 9am and 10:30am on Sunday, November 5th as we celebrate communion, light candles, and remember the saints.



## November Anniversaries

**21 - Bob & Mary Anne Kem**  
**22 - Glenn & Peri Charbonneau**

Weekly Schedule	
Sunday	
9am	Children's Sunday School Youth Sunday School Worship Service In-Person Worship Service Online
10:30am	Worship Service In-Person
Monday	
9am	Art Group - 1st & 3rd Mondays
11:30am	Bible Study (Melva Lohstroh)
7:30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tuesday	
8:30am	Food Bank, Breakfast, & Daily Bread - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
9am	Quilting Group
10am	Staff Meeting - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
6pm	Cub Scouts
Wednesday	
10am	Overeaters Anonymous
1 pm	Knitters
6:30pm	Boy Scouts
Thursday	
11am	Men's Coffee with Pastor Glenn
1pm	Parlor Games - 1st & 3rd Thursdays
6pm	TAPS Care Group - 1st Thursdays
6pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	
10am	Stephen Ministry - 1st & 3rd Fridays



## November Birthdays

**2 - Matt Enzler**  
**4 - Vicki Mitchell**  
**6 - Ted Schmidt**  
**12 - James Burns**

**13 - Matt Nicol**  
**15 - Drew Homchick**  
**24 - Jim Anderson**  
**28 - Micah Caley**  
**29 - Brenda Banks**

**Address Service Requested**

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**FALL BACK**  
Turn your clocks back one hour