

MARCH 2019

# THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## THE CRUCIFIED GOD

Making Sense of the Cross

March 10 - April 21

At the center of Christianity sits the cross of Christ. From the beginning, Christ's followers have celebrated the cross as a symbol of our faith. It holds an honored place in our worship spaces, it is carved into rough tombstones, we wear it around our necks and set it out as a sign of sanctuary. The cross represents what Christians believe, who we hope for and how we approach life.

But if Christ crucified is the heart of the gospel, what does this mean? What does it mean that we are saved by what Jesus does on the cross? Christians have always believed that something significant and saving was accomplished on the cross but the ancient creeds do not ever attempt to say exactly what happens on the Cross, what transpires between Christ and God or between God and us. The creeds do not supply or single out a 'why' to the Cross.

Much like the New Testament itself, the Church has spoken of the atonement (how Christ makes us at-one with God) in a variety of metaphors. Today, however, contemporary Western Christianity has tended to privilege one understanding of the atonement to the exclusion of all the others: Jesus suffered the wrath of God meant for you.

In this series we'll unpack the various ways the Church has understood the work of Christ on the Cross to gain a more holistic understanding of the Cross and regain a sense of the sacred mystery of the Crucifixion.



**Rev. Geoff Helton**  
Lead Pastor

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[fb.com/geoffhelton](https://www.facebook.com/geoffhelton)

# FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

The United Methodist Church has been deeply divided on issues of human sexuality and the acceptance of LGBTQIA persons for decades. In 2016, General Conference, the main legislative body of the church, became locked on these issues and called for a special session of General Conference to specifically examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline (the law and doctrine of the church) concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. As I write this Special Session of General Conference that was held in St. Louis has just ended.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted this afternoon to pass the Traditionalist Plan for its future direction. This plan retains and reinforces prohibitions against same-sex marriage and the ordination of openly LGBTQ persons and it strengthens punitive measures

against clergy who violate the Book of Discipline in these matters. This plan was largely declared unconstitutional by the Church's Judicial Council, yet it passed anyway with only a portion of the issues addressed before it was voted on.

The vote was very close with 56.22% voting for the traditionalist plan, and 43.78% voting in opposition. While approximately 2/3 of the United States delegates voted against this plan, we are a worldwide church with near 43% of the voting delegates coming from outside the United States.

One of the last acts of the General Conference was to ask the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision concerning the constitutionality of what passed. There is a good chance that at least some of it will be declared unconstitutional.

So what does this mean for us here at Audubon Park Church? To be honest, I'm not really sure. Our church has traditionalists, moderates and progressives and we've been living together and doing powerful ministry together for a long time. I don't see that changing - we're too close as a church family and have done too much good work together. The reality is that our Annual Conference has been living the One Church Plan (the plan supported by the majority of UMC bishops) for over 20 years as have our neighboring conferences. We've found ways to do good work together and separately and I don't see that changing either.

Mostly, we'll just keep doing what we've been doing, feeding hungry people, knitting chemo caps, volunteering in the schools, worshipping and growing together. We'll continue to laugh and love and cry with one another. We'll also continue to see Jesus in each person we meet, striving to live up to the welcome statement that appears on our website, in our welcome brochures and in our bulletins every week (if you haven't taken a look at it in awhile, it's on the next page). While there's much that's uncertain about the future of the United Methodist Church, it's comforting to face that uncertain future knowing that our community will continue to love and support one another through whatever comes.

*Grace & Peace*  
*-Pastor Geoff*



# AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WELCOME STATEMENT

*We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, straight, filthy rich, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to crying newborns, those who are skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.*

*You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up, just got out of jail, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, more Methodist than Wesley, or haven't been in church since little Joey's baptism.*

*We welcome soccer moms, Seahawk dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted.*

*We welcome you if you're having problems, if you're down in the dumps, or in need of a prayer. Whether you had church shoved down your throat as a kid, or if you don't like "organized religion".*

*We've been there too.*

*We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We welcome those who laughed and those who gasped at this welcome. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts. ... and you!*

*(Adapted from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community)*



LISTEN TO SERMONS  
**ONLINE**

[www.audubonparkumc.org/worship/sermons](http://www.audubonparkumc.org/worship/sermons)



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

9:00 AM

AUDUBON PARK PARLOR

COME FOR THE FOOD - STAY FOR THE FELLOWSHIP



## SUNDAY, MAY 5 - NOON

If you are new to Audubon Park Church, please join us for lunch with our pastors. We'll have pizza and talk about who we are. We'll share a little bit about what our church believes, our mission and vision and you'll learn about all of the exciting ministries and programs that help us love God, one another and our neighbor. You'll discover what it means to be a member of our church and be invited into membership (childcare available).



**AUDUBON PARK CHURCH**

**Monday, March 25, 2019 | 7:00PM**

The CORE Leadership Team Meeting will be held in the Parlor. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Want to know what happened at the meeting? Copies of the CLT Meeting minutes are available through the church office.



## Rev. Dale Cockrum

Associate Pastor of  
Congregational Care

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

## Something About Snow

Reflections by Dale Cockrum

There's something about snow. We haven't had much of it this winter, but it's falling now, right outside my window—big, thick flakes, covering everything with a coat of clean, white color, a newly whitewashed world. From having almost no snow, we have well over a foot now in Spokane, and I love it, though probably by the time you read this, spring will be in the air. I don't really believe it snowed in Bethlehem the night Jesus was born (does it ever snow in Bethlehem?) but snow says "Christmas" to me, and it makes for a great winter in our four seasons.

Snow can be a terrible nuisance for people who are in a hurry. The roads become nearly impassable, made worse by maniacs who don't seem to notice or care. But if you're not in a hurry, snow is an opportunity. I see children down the street who must have that perspective: they're turning it into a snowman in their front yard, probably the first the three-year-old has ever seen.

I remember snow from a child's point of view: the wonder of a world changed, snow angels carved in the thick snow in my back yard, and a crazy game of fox and geese with my dad and younger brother. Sometimes, like today, snow would cause the authorities to cancel school. It didn't happen often in Wenatchee. JoAnna remembers the vice-principal of Pioneer Junior High telling her that the only way they'd cancel school in Wenatchee was if the snow was so deep you had to ski to school and climb down the air vents when you got there. They hardly ever canceled school in Wenatchee, and I can see now that when they did it must have been a pain for parents, but us kids never saw it that way.

Our first year in Reardan, the snow came early and never left. We didn't gripe. JoAnna and I bought cross-country skis and traversed the low hills out our back yard, discovering a new entertainment in snow.

Sunday, the snow was a pain. I know some folk weren't able to come to church because of it, and they missed a great sermon on the devil by Pastor Geoff (you can listen to it online: <http://audubonparkumc.org/worship/sermons>). Today, the snow is a delight. It's the same stuff; only my perspective is different.

Perhaps snow is another opportunity to discover Paul's secret of life: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.... I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

*Shalom,  
- Pastor Dale*



# DAYS of GIVING

The church celebrates the season of lent beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 6) for the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. During Lent many Christians commit to fasting, or giving up certain luxuries in order to remember the sacrifice of Jesus' journey into the desert for 40 days.

This year, our church is taking things a step further, instead of simply abstaining from certain things we're going to give to those in need through a campaign we're calling "40 Days of Giving." Each day of the 40 days of lent we'll identify some item that you can donate to support ministries of our church that helps those in need in our community.

Many of these items can be purchased for \$1 or less at a dollar store or Grocery Outlet.

## AUDUBON PARK UMC FOOD

Wednesday, March 6	1 lbs pkg of spaghetti
Thursday, March 7	1 can of beans
Friday, March 8	1 can of fruit
Saturday, March 9	1 can of soup

## TUESDAY BREAKFAST

Monday, March 11	1 box of 1 gallon ziplock bags
Tuesday, March 12	1 roll of paper towels
Wednesday, March 13	1 pkg of paper napkins
Thursday, March 14	1 pkg of sugar packets
Friday, March 15	1 pkg of 12-cup coffee filters
Saturday, March 16	1 pkg of Italian-style breadcrumbs

## AUDUBON PARK UMC FOOD BANK

Monday, March 18	1 can tomato sauce
Tuesday, March 19	1 bottle of ketchup
Wednesday, March 20	1 meal in a box
Thursday, March 21	1 box of cereal
Friday, March 22	1 can of tuna
Saturday, March 23	1 can of vegetables

## AUDUBON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monday, March 25	1 box of tissues
Tuesday, March 26	1 pkg of indiv. portioned snacks
Wednesday, March 27	1 box of crayons
Thursday, March 28	1 small flashlight
Friday, March 29	1 box of granola bars
Saturday, March 30	1 pkg art supplies (crayons, pencils or watercolors, etc)

## BARE NECESSITIES

Monday, April 1	1 bottle of liquid hand soap
Tuesday, April 2	1 pkg of men's/women's razors
Wednesday, April 3	1 container of Clorox wipes
Thursday, April 4	1 box of tissues
Friday, April 5	1 toothbrush (adult or child)
Saturday, April 6	1 tube of toothpaste

## TWINLOW CAMP

Monday, April 8	1 pkg pf pipe cleaners
Tuesday, April 9	1 pkg of glue sticks
Wednesday, April 10	1 pair of scissors
Thursday, April 11	1 pkg of tape
Friday, April 12	1 pkg of popside sticks
Saturday, April 13	1 pkg of pom pom balls

## SHALOM MINISTRIES

Monday, April 15	1 pkg of brown sugar
Tuesday, April 16	1 pkg of white sugar
Wednesday, April 17	1 bottle of ketchup
Thursday, April 18	1 bottle of syrup
Friday, April 19	1 container granulated garlic
Saturday, April 20	1 jar of jam or jelly

## \$40 IN 40 DAYS

Don't have time to find and purchase all of these items? Consider donating \$1 for each day of lent. We'll make sure the funds that are donated are divided among each of these ministries and agencies.



# † 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](mailto:drew@audubonparkumc.org)

## Jedi Alliance Arcade

Sunday, March 3rd | 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Come join us as we travel over to the Jedi Alliance Arcade for a night of unlimited classic video games.

## Youth Dinner & Auction Prep

Saturday, March 9th | 5:00pm - 8:00pm

We will meet downstairs in the youth room and prepare for our Annual Youth Dinner & Auction.

## Youth All Nighter

Saturday, March 16th - 17th | 6:00pm - 9:00pm

If you like fun, games, food, movies, and surprises, you will not want to miss our biannual youth all nighter! This would be a great opportunity to bring a friend! :)



Our youth group went out into the cold and collected food for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" and donated the food to our church food bank. We collected over 100 lbs of food!!!

# † 20|30

Are you in your twenties or thirties (maybe early forties)? Join us for fellowship and fun with other young(ish) adults from the church!

Email Pastor Geoff for more info:  
[geoff@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:geoff@audubonparkumc.org)

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Bowling at Lilac Lanes | 3-5pm

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Dinner at the Homchick's | 5:30pm

## SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Brunch at the Baty's | 12:30-3pm

## Youth Mission Trip

### Spaghetti Dinner & Auction



Sunday, March 10, 5-7pm

Ticket+ = \$10/person (\$20/Family)



## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 6, 12:15pm

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection and repentance that culminates with Holy Week and Easter. Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession including the invitation to participate by receiving ashes on your forehead.

We'll also be taking ashes to our homebound members again this year. Let us know if there's someone that needs to be added to our list.

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As I have stated before, the UMW library is for everyone. Using the honor system, you will find something for adults, youth, and children. Here are three that I've read and recommend.

## **NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY- *When did Everybody Else Get So Old?***

A good-humored and hope-filled look at the transitions of middle age. Exploring the physical, spiritual, and emotional changes unique to the middle years.

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT- *Eleanor- A Spiritual Biography***

More than fifty years after her death, Eleanor Roosevelt is remembered as a formidable First Lady and tireless social activist. Often overlooked, however, is her deep and inclusive spirituality. Her personal faith was focused on Jesus and fueled her commitment to civil rights, women's rights, and the rights of all people marginalized in American society.

## **CHILDREN - NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY- *No One Else Like You (an excellent book for children)***

There are more than seven billion people in the world, all represented in this book. We come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colors. Some of us are happy, and some are grumpy. Some of us live in tall towers in the city, while others live in cottages in the field. Some like to read, and some like to sing. And, yet, even with so many people in the world there is no one quite like you!

I hope you will check out the new books soon. There are many you will enjoy.

Blessings,

Ann Fritz – Inland Missional District



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## IN MEMORIAM: BEN BOSWELL

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It is with sadness that we share the news that Ben Boswell passed away on February 23, 2019.

Ben and his wife Claudia have been active members of our church since they moved to Spokane from Joseph, Oregon, in the summer of 2014, singing in the choir and active in many ways. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 9, in Joseph, where he will be laid to rest.

The family will be hosting an Open House here in Spokane on Sunday, March 3, at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Candy and David Casteal, where Claudia is now living, at 7318 W Rutter Parkway in north Spokane.

You are invited to attend the Open House any time between noon and 4pm on Sunday afternoon.



**Who:** This FREE CLASS is for adults of all ages and estate sizes. Childcare will be available upon request.

**What:** A leader from our local Northwest United Methodist Foundation will come to walk us through the most tax-efficient ways to give, both during and after our lifetimes.

**When:** After 10:30am worship service on Sunday March 17th.

**Where:** Audubon Park United Methodist Church

**Why:** By planning ahead to support our ministry, you can

# March

## **Sunday, 3/3**

Modern Worship 9:00 am  
Traditional Worship 10:30 am  
Creators' Table Liturgy 5pm - 1832 W. Dean  
BellaCristo Practice 6pm

## **Monday, 3/4**

Art Group (C.R.) 9:00 am  
Bible Study Group (Parlor) 11:30 am  
UMW Exec. Meeting (C.R.) 1:00pm  
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

## **Tuesday, 3/5**

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30-10:00 am  
Quilters (Room 303) 9:30 am  
Grow Night (Parlor) dinner at 6:30/class at 7:00 pm

## **Wednesday, 3/6**

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am  
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am  
Stephen Ministry (Parlor) 5:00 pm  
Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm  
Choir Rehearsal (Room 105) 7:00 pm  
AA (Parlor) 7:30 pm

## **Saturday, 3/9 - Men's Breakfast (Parlor) 9am**

## **Sunday, 3/10 - Daylight Savings Begins**

Modern Worship 9:00 am  
Traditional worship 10:30 am  
Audubon Park Youth Auction 5pm  
Creators' Table Liturgy 5pm - 1832 W. Dean

## **Monday, 3/11**

Bible Study Group (Parlor) 11:30  
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

## **Tuesday, 2/12**

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30 - 10:00 am  
Audubon Park Food Bank 9:30 am  
Quilters 9:30 am (Room 303)

## **Wednesday, 3/13**

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am  
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am  
Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm  
Choir Rehearsal (Room 105) 7:00 pm  
AA (Parlor) 7:30 pm

## **Thursday, 3/14**

Finance Meeting 7 pm  
Bell Rehearsal 5:30 pm

## **Sunday, 3/17**

Modern Worship 9:00 am  
Traditional worship 10:30 am  
Bell Rehearsal 10:45 am  
Creators' Table Liturgy 5pm - 1832 W. Dean  
BellaCristo Practice 6pm

## **Monday, 3/18**

Art Class (C.R.) 9:00 am  
Bible Study Group (Parlor) 11:30  
UMW - Circle Meeting (Parlor) 1:30 pm  
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

## **Tuesday, 3/19**

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30 - 10:00 am  
Quilters 9:30 am (Room 303)

## **Wednesday, 3/20**

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am  
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am  
Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm  
Stephen Ministry (Parlor) 5:00 pm  
Choir Rehearsal (Room 105) 7pm  
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm

## **Thursday, 3/21 - Bell Rehearsal 5:30 pm**

## **Sunday, 3/24**

Modern Worship 9:00 am  
Traditional Worship 10:30 am  
Creators' Table Liturgy 5pm - 1832 W. Dean  
BellaCristo Practice 6pm

## **Monday, 3/25**

Bible Study Group (Parlor) 11:30  
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm  
CORE Leadership Meeting (Parlor) 7pm

## **Tuesday, 23/26**

Free Breakfast & Produce 8:30-10:00 am  
Audubon Park Food Bank 9:30 am  
Quilters (Room 303) 9:30 am

## **Wednesday, 3/27 - Evangel Newsletter Prep 9:30am**

Overeaters Anonymous (Room 103) 10:00 am  
Needlework Group (Parlor) 10:00 am  
Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm  
Choir Rehearsal (Room 105) 7pm  
AA Meeting (C.R.) 7:30 pm



## March Birthdays

1st - Steve Whitford, Robin Phillipy  
8th - Betty Moos  
11th - Les Harder, Meagan Helton, Della Perlenfein  
13th - Rich Hendershot  
14th - Gerri Cobb, Eleanor Robinson  
15th - Cathy Fink, Janet Olson, Jack Wisor  
17th - Chuck Luther  
18th - Jerry Hood  
19th - Phyllis Rissler  
20th - Jim Dodson  
25th - Rebekah Helton  
28th - Debra Kraus  
29th - Connie Hickman, Bruce Wisor  
30th - Vanessa Maycumber Wright

## March Anniversaries

13th - Les & Margie Harder  
19th - Joe & Ann Fritz, Tom & Debra Kraus  
23rd - Paul & Kathy Cottrell

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## April Birthdays Preview

1st - Jenny Anderson, Ralph Penick  
3rd - Herb Parish  
5th - Jeff Johnson  
7th - Heather Homchick  
8th - Braden Dodson, Sue Wisor  
10th - Karen Peacock  
11th - Galen Buterbaugh  
14th - Connie Sweet

## April Anniversaries Preview

1st - Tony & Lorelee Ross  
14th - Don & Marlene Peters



International Womens' Day is celebrated around the world to lift up the gifts and skills of women and draw attention to their needs and concerns. Join in this celebration of community, music, inspiration and call to action.

Fowler United Methodist Church's  
**INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY CELEBRATION**

**Friday, March 8th 2019 at 5:30pm**  
Doors open at 5:00 pm

**FEATURING: Pastor Marie Mwangi**  
Potluck Dinner to Follow  
Nursery Care Provided

### Please Bring:

- Blankets or Housewares for World Relief resettlement efforts
- A Potluck dish to share

**Fowler United Methodist Church**  
3928 N. Howard St. Spokane WA 99205 509.325-3242



A new worshipping community in the West Central Neighborhood.

**Sundays at 5pm at 1832 W. Dean Ave.**

Go to our Facebook page for more info:  
***fb.com/creatorstable.westcentral***

**THE EVANGEL – VOLUME 65 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2019**

**COMMUNITY  
BREAKFAST**

**AT AUDUBON PARK CHURCH**

**Are you free for a free Breakfast?**

Join us Tuesday Mornings 8:30-10:00am in the church's fellowship hall.  
Free and open to all! Want to help? Contact Lou Dobberstein.