

MAY 2025

# THE EVANGEL

THE **LAST**  
THE **LOST**  
THE **LEAST**



A Sermon Series beginning May 4 on God's love for those at the margins in the Gospel of Luke.





**Rev. Geoff Helton**

Lead Pastor

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



This summer along with the shift to one service at 10 AM, we plan to celebrate communion every week during worship. Weekly communion was a practice of our church prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and we're excited to bring it back!

We're hoping to organize a team of 4-6 people who would be willing to pick up the bread and grape juice for communion and prepare it for worship.

If you'd be interested in joining our communion team, contact the church office or email pastor Geoff: [geoff@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:geoff@audubonparkumc.org)

# FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

Easter was beautiful and a wonderful celebration of the light and life Christ brings. I want to again thank everyone who contributed to make our Easter meaningful and joyful. I'm excited to see what May will bring.

Here's what we've got planned:

- We've got some new Grow Classes beginning this month (there's still time to sign up for the Bible Study on the book of Hebrews!). We'll also begin a new sermon series on Jesus' love and concern for the poor and marginalized based on the Gospel of Luke.
- We're also preparing for Celebration Sunday on June 1! We'll give thanks to God for a great year of ministry. We'll celebrate our confirmation class and welcome some of our youth as members our our congregation. A few of them may even get baptized! We'll have a BBQ to celebrate and our youth will host BINGO to help raise some additional funds for their mission trip.
- Beginning on June 1st, we'll shift our worship schedule to one service at 10 AM. Our church voted to make this shift last year for the first time and it was well received. During the summer, our worship attendance dips as folks go on vacation and do more traveling, so moving to one service helps our sanctuary feel nice and full. It's also nice to worship together as one church and see folks in worship who usually attend a different service.
- The last week of Sunday School will be May 25th. Beginning June 1st, kids are invited to join us for worship! We'll have a children's message in church and will have coloring pages and other activities for them to do while in service.

I also want to share the news of some transitions in leadership at our church:

- Karen Peacock who has served as been serving as our Food Bank Director has decided that time has come for her to step down. The church's Core Leadership Team confirmed Demaris Siconolfi as our new Food Bank Director. She was nominated by the volunteers of the food banks.
- Debra Kraus has been serving as our church's Financial Secretary, tracking our tithes, offerings, gifts, and payments to the church. She has also shared that it is time for her to transition out of this role. The Core Leadership Team has elected Sandi Nicol to serve as our new Financial Secretary.

On Celebration Sunday (June 1) we'll give thanks for the faithful service of Karen Peacock and Debra Kraus and commission our new Food Bank Director and Financial Secretary.

*Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Geoff*

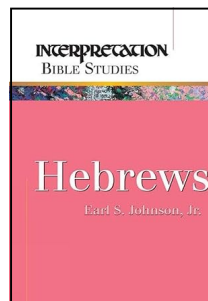


Thank you to everyone who contributed items or funds to this year's 40 Days of Giving campaign! We had great participation and are so grateful for your support of these great ministries and organizations: Audubon Park Food Bank, Tuesday Breakfast, Bare Necessities, Twinlow Camp, Audubon Elementary School, and Shalom Ministries

# NEW **SPRING** GROW CLASSES

## HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY w/Pastor Geoff

The book of Hebrews is a sermon from the early Christian church that addresses a real, urgent, and still relevant problem: how to keep the faith in the midst of a difficult and tumultuous world. Hebrews points us to the giants of the faith found in the Hebrew Bible and ultimately Jesus as examples for how to live faithfully despite hardships.



**A five-week class  
beginning May 7  
Wednesdays at Noon**

Meets in-person at the church  
& on ZOOM

OPTIONAL BOOK: *Hebrews (Interpretation Bible Study)* by Earl S. Johnson Jr. (Book orders through the church are closed, but you can purchase your own book through any major bookseller).



Located in Rathdrum, Idaho, Twinlow Camp is a sacred place where generations of young people have found community and connection with God. They offer a variety of summer camps for children and youth grades 1-12.

For more info on Twinlow Camp talk to Pastor Geoff or go to: [www.twinlow.org](http://www.twinlow.org)!



# AUDUBON PARK YOUTH GROUP

*Events for any 6th-12th graders — regardless of*

Unless otherwise noted, we meet Sundays in the Youth Room downstairs during 9am worship for Sunday School, and from 6pm-7:30pm for Youth Group. For more info, please email Drew Homchick at [drew@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:drew@audubonparkumc.org)



## YARD CLEANUP

**Saturday, May 3rd | 12:30pm - 3:30pm**

We will meet at the church and then carpool over to a Olga's house for a yard cleanup. Please bring a water bottle, work gloves, and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

**Mother's Day (5/11) — NO Youth Group**

## SCAVENGER HUNT

**Sunday, May 18th | 6pm - 7:30pm**

Come and join us for a photo scavenger hunt as we travel around Spokane. This will be a fun & silly competition of older vs. younger youth!

**Memorial Day Weekend (5/25) — NO Youth Group**

We are so grateful to have a church that is so supportive of our children and youth. Your generosity means that our young people will get the opportunity to grow in community and grow closer to God through the youth summer mission trip and summer camp for children and youth. Your support of the Dinner & Auction Fundraiser, Easter Breakfast, and the Easter Offering help make these activities happen.

If you know of a child or youth that would like to attend summer camp at Twinlow, have them check out [twinlow.org](http://twinlow.org) and contact Pastor Geoff.

## Confirmation

**May 18, 31 & June 1**

In confirmation, 6th - 12th grade students gather with Pastor Geoff and Drew Homchick, our youth director, to explore faith and ask questions about the Bible, the Apostles' Creed, disciples, Jesus, and hot topics. Here are this month's big questions:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>May 18</b> | <b>FINAL CONFIRMATION CLASS—Sunday, May 18, 4-6pm</b> (before youth group)<br><i>Did the Methodist church really start because of some holier-than-thou teenagers? What the heck is prevenient grace and do I have to learn geometry to be Methodist? If a Methodist sings out of tune, does it mean they're not perfect?</i> |
| <b>May 31</b> | <b>CONFIRMATION DINNER - Saturday, May 31, 6pm-7:30pm</b><br>Families are invited to join us as we have a celebratory dinner to celebrate their completion of confirmation classes followed by a rehearsal for Confirmation Sunday. We are asking parents to please bring a dessert to share. Thanks!                         |
| <b>June 1</b> | <b>CELEBRATION/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY—Sunday, June 1 at 10AM</b><br>In worship we'll celebrate those who've completed confirmation classes, confirm those who chose to join the church, and baptize those who wish to be baptized. It will be a great day!   |





Most of us have at some point felt like a nobody – insignificant, invisible, worthless. The Gospel of Luke is a first-century portrait of Jesus with a particular focus on his ministry with those who were considered outsiders and outcasts because of who they were, or what they had done, or what had happened to them. Join us as we read through the Gospel of Luke together while paying special attention to specific stories that illustrate Jesus' concern for those who were marginalized by society, and as we do, we'll hear his word for our lives today. Join us for "The Last, The Lost, The Least," on Sunday mornings beginning May 4th.

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## CELEBRATION SUNDAY BBQ & BINGO



**JUNE 1 (AFTER OUR FIRST SUMMER  
SERVICE AT 10AM)**

JOIN US FOR **HOTDOGS, SAUSAGES, AND BRATS** AFTER THE  
SERVICE (SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$5 PER PERSON).

THE YOUTH GROUP WILL ALSO HOST A **BINGO FUNDRAISER**  
FOR THEIR MISSION TRIP TO DEL NORTE, CA WITH THE  
SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT. EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE ONE  
FREE BINGO CARD AND ADDITIONAL CARDS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE FOR \$4 PER CARD, OR 3 FOR \$10.



## Rev. Glenn Kennedy

Associate Pastor of  
Congregational Care

Call the church office at  
509-325-4541 or email  
[office@audubonparkumc.org](mailto:office@audubonparkumc.org)  
to connect with Pastor Glenn.

# FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR

## “Easter...Now What?”

Dear Friends,

I love Easter. I always have, even long before I fully understood its meaning. As a child growing up in a farming family and community, Easter always seemed to mark a new beginning. New crops got planted, the pastures were full of newly born calves and colts, and fields and forests turned green again as warmth returned.

Then, as I got more involved with the life of the church and more deeply invested in my spiritual walk with Christ, Easter’s impact took on a whole new meaning. Now, so many years later, I take the occasion of Easter to ask again: “now what?” Christ is risen... “now what?”

I remember well the refrain from one of the first Easter hymns I can recall singing, “He Lives”:

*“He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.”*

That’s the true miracle of Easter — Christ living on and on in the hearts of all who embrace him.

Martin Luther was known to refer to Christ followers as “little Christs”...not the mini statues of Jesus we stick in our pockets and purses, but day-to-day flesh-and-blood human types who invite the presence of the risen Christ to walk around in us, doing his work, and sharing his love. And I’ve learned over the years that often we don’t even know when this work is being done, when his presence is being shared through us.

As you might suspect, I have a story: When I was 28-years-old and in my final year of seminary in New Jersey, I received a letter from someone I hadn’t really thought about for years. Seven years prior, when I was beginning my senior year of college at Seattle Pacific University, I had taken a position as Youth Director at a Presbyterian Church in South Seattle. Among the many kids I got to know and work with, there was a 14-year-old young man named Karl. Karl was a part of our Youth Group not by his choice, but rather by his parents’ insistence. Frankly, he was less than a delight to have in our meetings.

Karl was kind of sneaky disruptive, finding lots of ways to express his displeasure at being there. Quite honestly, I didn’t make a special project of



## MEN’S COFFEE

WITH PASTOR GLENN

Thursdays at 11am



## Women's Fellowship

Thursdays at 1pm in the Parlor



reaching Karl, I just kept inviting him to be a part of things. If I was taking a small group miniature golfing on a Saturday, I'd give Karl a call too. If I had a hike planned, or a service project, I'd check in with Karl and make sure he knew about it. And to my surprise, he almost always showed up, even to the things his parents wouldn't have insisted on.

I finished my year at the church, got my degree, and moved on to other things. Then, seven years later, came this letter. Karl was now 21 years old. He had just attended a Christian Student Conference in Texas, and he had done a lot of reflecting on his young life at that conference. In the letter, he thanked me for (I quote) "saving [his] life!"

Karl explained that at the time I'd known him, he was unhappier than anyone knew...so much so that he had even contemplated taking his life. He said that my consistent reaching out to him, including him, being present for him, had been the difference maker in what was otherwise the darkest year of his life.

Honestly, I had little idea that Karl was in such a dark place. He was just a kid who I thought needed a little extra love and attention. I'd not made any heroic gestures Karl's direction — I'd just made sure he felt included and cared about. Then came that letter.

Karl's letter reminds me that Luther was so right — we *are* to be "little Christs" to and for one another. The Easter promise is that Christ wants to live in us and through us in ways that often we don't even realize, to touch and heal. The "now what?" of Easter is to open ourselves to the living of this life that, to quote another hymn, "walks with me, and talks with me and tells me (and others) that we are his own!"

That, as the letter I received over 50 years ago, is the ongoing miracle of Easter.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Glenn*

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY

Children's and Youth Sunday School (9am)  
In-Person Worship (9am & 10:30am), Online (9am)

### MONDAY

1st & 3rd: Art Group (9am)  
2nd & 4th: Food Bank/Breakfast Set-Up (8am)  
4th: United Women In Faith (1pm)

### TUESDAY

2nd & 4th: Food & Household Ministries (8am)  
Quilting Group (9am)

### WEDNESDAY

Knitting Group (1pm)  
Bell Choir (5:30pm)

### THURSDAY

Men's Coffee (11am)  
Women's Fellowship (1pm)  
Choir (6pm)

## MAY Birthdays

4 - Carol Kennedy	16 - Lucia Neilson
5 - Meredith Moreau	18 - Uma Asterino
6 - Joanne Harvey	19 - Cynthia Cree
8 - George Detlaff	20 - Madison Banks
9 - Bo Cummings	21 - Babara Anderson
10 - Kathy Cummings	22 - Don Holm
11 - Dee McClung	23 - Jean Enzler
Charlene Severns	27 - Doug Smith
Laura Velonza	29 - Demaris Siconolfi
12 - Holley Ritz Lawrence	31 - Vanessa Caley
13 - Carolyn Zundel	

## Anniversaries

6 - Beth & Joseph Meersman
19 - Andrew Forsyth & Pamela Ridgway
31 - Dave & Judy Payne

 **Audubon Park**  
**United Methodist Church**  
3908 N. Driscoll Blvd., Spokane, WA 99205  
(509) 325-4541

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**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
BEGINS JUNE 1!**

**ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM!**



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