

AUGUST 2025

THE EVANGEL



A SERIES AT THE INTERSECTION OF FAITH AND CULTURE

We all love a good story, and some of our best stories are told through movies. Stories help us look at important truths and learn more about our world and ourselves. In this series, we'll use three recent movies, *Wicked*, *The Wild Robot*, and *Inside Out 2*, to explore truths from our scriptures and our faith.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM | AUGUST 17-31



Rev. Geoff Helton
Lead Pastor

geoff@audubonparkumc.org



First of all, thank you for your financial support of Audubon Park Church!

Our church recently switched to a new giving platform called **Subsplash**. This change will save us money in processing fees and better integrate with our church database, making it easier for us to process and track your giving to the church. Our contract with **Vanco** ended at the end of July.

If you have set up your online giving through Vanco, please visit our website to setup your giving through Subsplash:

audubonparkumc.org/give

FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

On July 7, 2025 the Internal Revenue Service announced a change in policy that allows churches and other faith communities to endorse political candidates in certain circumstances without risking the loss of their tax-exempt status. I want to assure that our church will not endorse any candidate nor will I do so as your pastor.

For one thing, this policy shift is at odds with a law Congress passed more than 70 years ago known as the Johnson Amendment that applies to all charitable nonprofits, whether they are secular or religious. It's yet to be seen how this conflict between policy and law will play out in our legal and judicial systems.

Our faith informs how we should interact with one another as human beings and our faith challenges us to care for those who are vulnerable in our world. Politics is how we in modern society decide how we will live together in society. So, our faith and our politics are connected.

But at Audubon Park Church we will not tell you how to vote or who to vote for. Instead we will speak to and explore what we understand to be values that Jesus instills in his follower and the values of the United Methodist Church. These values should influence the way we act in the world including the way we vote.

I strongly believe that church not a place for endorsing individuals. While there are churches in Spokane that have said, "if you don't know how to vote, come talk to the pastor and he'll help you", Audubon Park Church is not that kind of church. It will not happen here.

I know that we are not of one mind when it comes to political ideas, political parties, politicians or candidates. But we all are committed to growing in our love of God and neighbor. We are united in our belief that God calls us to care for the marginalized, oppressed, and outliers.

I want to assure you that Audubon Park United Methodist Church won't change who we are even if the policies do change.

Thank you for the ways you help us be a church that seeks to welcome all, believes Christ's love is for all, and work together to share Christ's love with the broken places and broken people that exist in the world we live in.

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Geoff*

WE BELIEVE

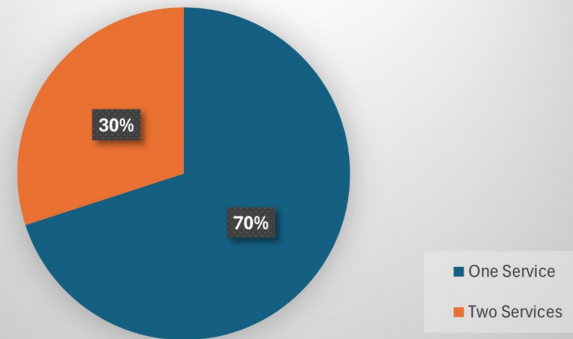
Celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed



1700 years ago, the Roman Emperor Constantine called together 300 bishops to help define what it means to be a Christian and what Christians believe. The result of this council was a statement that came to be known as the Nicene Creed. It shaped the Christian Faith in significant ways and is still recited regularly by Christians all over the world. Join us as we use the creed to explore what Christians believe and why.

A New Sermon Series Beginning September 7.

Congregational Survey Results



We've tabulated all of the responses and analyzed all of the data points we've collected and have come to the conclusion that the majority of those who attend our church want one service at 10AM this fall.

A total of 104 people participated in our survey:

- 32 people indicated a preference for two services.
- 72 people indicated a preference for one service.

So with these results, we'll continue with our one service at 10AM through the fall.

This change is not forever. Depending on shifts in attendance and other factors, we will reevaluate this decision together in the future through another congregational survey.

Now that this decision has been made, we'll begin planning for Sunday School Classes and other activities connected to Sunday morning worship. More info is coming soon!



FALL GROW CLASSES

At Audubon Park Church, we're committed to helping one another grow as disciples. One of the main ways we do this is through Grow Classes, opportunities to learn and grow in community.

We've got some great Grow Classes in the works for this fall including another great art class with Lisa Lishner, an exercise class with Jeanne Eckenberg, a study on the major denominations of the Christian Faith, and a bible study on the Gospel of John. We'll have more details on these classes to you soon!

AUDUBON PARK YOUTH GROUP

*Events for any 6th-12th graders — regardless of
school or church affiliation!*

There is no Sunday School during the summer, and there are a few youth events, but not weekly Youth Group. For more info on youth activities, please email our Youth Director Drew Homchick at drew@audubonparkumc.org.

Outdoor Games

Sunday, August 24th | 6 - 7:30pm

We will meet outside the church and play a variety of yard games including: badminton, volleyball, cornhole, soccer, and fly up.

Mission Trip Update

We had 6 youth and 2 adults make the drive to Del Norte County, CA to connect with other United Methodist Churches. The youth made a lot of good friendships, worked hard, and had some fun too. The kids learned how to use power tools and worked on homes that needed repairs in the area. They worked on building ramps and rails, painting a house, and worked in a community garden. We are so thankful for our congregation's generosity and for always supporting our youth! Thank you so much!



*We removed invasive species along the beach
as part of a restoration project.*

Audubon Park Food Bank Update

Dear Church Family,

Here at Audubon Park Church we are so grateful that our church is fully committed to Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves, specifically with our Food Bank! A big THANK YOU to our amazing family of volunteers for making this possible.

In order to keep up with the number of clients we serve each Food Bank week, we are in need of several volunteers who are able to help for a couple hours on Mondays to get extra groceries. If you would like to be involved in this essential ministry, please don't hesitate to reach out to the office and they'll connect you with me. Thank you and we are so looking forward to hearing from you!

*Blessings,
Demaris "Dee" Siconolfi
Food Bank Director*



Join us August 16th for an All-Church Event at Avista Stadium for Storybook Princess & Fireworks Night as the Spokane Indians take on the Vancouver Canadians!

Tickets can be purchased using the link below:
<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Audubonpark2>

Staff Vacations and Out-Of-Offices

Pastor Geoff

July 28-August 10

Pastor Glenn

July 27-August 3

Cole

July 11-13 and July 18-23



Thursdays at 1pm in the Parlor

MEN'S COFFEE WITH PASTOR GLENN

*Thursdays at 11am
in the Parlor*

Join us on for a time of fellowship,
connection, and support.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

— SUMMER —

SUNDAY

In-Person & Online Worship (10am)

MONDAY

1st & 3rd: Art Group (9am)

2nd & 4th: Food Ministries Set-Up (8am)

4th: United Women In Faith (1pm)

TUESDAY

2nd & 4th: Food Ministries & Bare Necessities (8:30am)

Quilting Group (9am)

WEDNESDAY

Knitting Group (1pm)

THURSDAY

Men's Coffee (11am)

Women's Fellowship (1pm)

AUGUST

Birthdays

4 - Randy Fink	21 - Alannah Dobberstein
11 - Flo Fiveash	24 - Val Bruck
Hannah Wynn	25 - Kathy Barrick
15 - Daniel Ritz	27 - Glenda Buterbaugh
16 - Ashlyn Dodson	Mary Cayer
17 - Katie Moreau	Wayne Wright
19 - Darrel Douglas	28 - Pauline Smith
Lynda Wright	

Anniversaries

- 4 - Cole & Alisa Peterson
- 8 - Estel & Joanne Harvey
- 9 - Geoff & Meagan Helton
- 14 - Cathy & Randy Fink
- 20 - Bo & Kathie Cummings
- 27 - George & Sherry Detlaff
- 29 - Ken & Marilyn Hallett

 **Audubon Park**
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FALL KICKOFF

Kickoff Sunday is September 7! We'll have info out soon
on Sunday School, Choirs, Grow Classes and more.

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