

SEPTEMBER 2025

THE EVANGEL



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.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM | SEPT 7TH - OCT 19TH



Rev. Geoff Helton

FROM THE LEAD

There's so much info in this month's newsletter I have to keep my note short. I hope you'll check out all the fun things happening at our church this fall and join in where you can!

I'm especially excited to welcome our new office Admin, Karissa. She's been with us for a couple of weeks and she already fits in so well!

Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 7th for Kickoff Sunday and the Blessing of the Backpacks as we celebrate the start of a new program year!

Grace & Peace,



“Dining with Dignity”

Many of you are familiar with and participate in our church's vital food ministries. The food bank and Tuesday breakfasts are key parts of the ministry work of our church. We also support Shalom Ministries in their work feeding and assisting Spokane's downtowncitizens in need,

Shalom Ministries was established in 1994 as a ministry of Central United Methodist Church in downtown Spokane. Though that church is now closed Shalom continues with the support of many churches, including Audubon Park.

Shalom provides hot nutritious meals to downtown Spokane's poor and houseless, serving 6 breakfasts and 2 dinners each week. We also partner with 10 other agencies to offer pathways to physical and mental health services, addiction support and housing placement. To learn more about Shalom Ministries go to shalommeal.org.

As the need has grown in our community Shalom's budget requirements have increased as well. We anticipate we will serve 80,000 meals in 2025. These growing needs have made the success of our major fundraising event, the annual Dining With Dignity Gala, more crucial than ever.

The Gala will be October 18, 2025. There will be a catered meal and both live and silent auctions. Offering auction item donations or financial sponsorship is one way to help. To purchase tickets go contact Kathy Barrick at 509-979-5573 or go to <https://fundraiser.support/ShalomMeals>.





FALL GROW CLASSES

At Audubon Park Church, we're committed to helping one another grow as disciples. You are welcome to join our classes and small groups no matter where you are in your faith journey. You don't have to be a member of our church to participate in a Grow Class, so consider inviting a neighbor or friend to join you. We offer a variety of classes and small groups to meet you where you are and provide a community in which you can learn and grow.

Check out these opportunities to learn and grow with us this fall!

You can find full descriptions and a signup form at audubonparkumc.org/grow/adults



Floral Sketchbook Grow Class with Lisa Lishner

Thursdays at 10:00 AM beginning September 11 (at the Church)

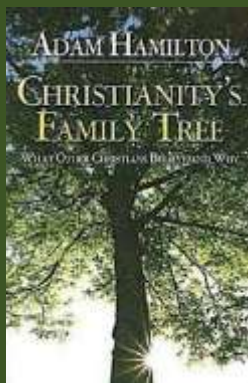
Who doesn't love colorful flowers? Lisa will teach you to paint a variety of fun floral projects through step-by-step acrylic brush strokes, collage, and even finger-painting! No experience needed. You can do this! *All supplies will be provided for \$15. You'll receive a sketchbook, set of acrylic paints, brushes, fine liner pens, and patterns.*



The Gospel of John with Pastor Geoff

Tuesdays at 6:30 PM beginning September 9 (Zoom & at the Church)

The Gospel of John includes unique stories about Jesus not found in the other gospels and a unique perspective about the life and teachings of Jesus. Join us as we dive deep into John's Gospel to learn more about Jesus and grow in our faith. *Books are recommended but not required. Books are \$16 through the church (order by Sept 5).*



Christianity's Family Tree with Pastor Geoff

Wednesdays, Noon-1 PM beginning September 10 (Zoom & at the Church)

The Christian faith is a lot like a large extended family and each Christian denomination has valuable perspectives and practices to offer the wider Christian family. Using a book by Adam Hamilton alongside other resources we'll explore some of the larger Christian traditions to see what we can learn from each tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith. *Books are recommended but not required. They are \$12 through the church (order by Sept 5).*

AUDUBON PARK YOUTH GROUP

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

For more info on youth activities, please email our Youth Director Drew Homchick: drew@audubonparkumc.org.

YOUTH GROUP:

POOL PARTY AT THE WAGNERS'

Sunday, September 7th | 2pm - 5pm

Parents, siblings, and youth are invited to the Wagner's House for a pool party. Please bring a swimsuit, towel, and a snack to share.

PARENTS VS YOUTH KICKBALL

Sunday, September 14th | 6pm - 7:30pm

Come and join us for a battle of the ages as our youth take on their larger than life parents in an epic kickball match at Audubon Park.

SPLIT GROUP SKATING/MINI GOLF

Sunday, September 21st | 6pm - 8pm

Sr. High Youth (9th-12th grade) will meet at Wonderland for mini golf.

Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grade) will meet at Pattison's North for roller skating.

LAVA MONSTER & FLY UP

Sunday, September 28th | 6pm - 7:30pm

We will meet at the church and then walk over to Audubon Park for Lava Monster and Fly up. Please bring a water bottle.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Our Youth Sunday School program (6th grade - 12th grade) meets every Sunday from 10-11am beginning on September 7.

YOUTH INTERN:

We're planning to hire a youth intern! Let Drew know you know a college student who would love to connect with students and help with youth activities.

 **Audubon Park**
United Methodist Church

WE'RE HIRING!



Youth Ministry Intern

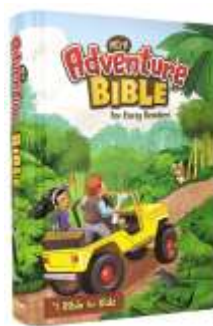
Details at audubonparkumc.org/employment

Email your cover letter and resume to
geoff@audubonparkumc.org

Do you know a college student who'd love work with our youth group kids and help lead youth activities at our church? We're looking for a Youth Ministry Intern to work with our Youth Director to lead Sunday School on Sunday mornings and Youth Group on Sunday afternoon/evenings.

There's more info on our Youth Ministry Intern position on our website: audubonparkumc.org/employment.

3rd (& 4th) Grade Bibles!



We plan to award 3rd Grade Bibles on Sunday, October 6 during our 10am service!

If your child is grade 3-5 and has not yet received a bible from the church, we want to give them one!

Contact Pastor Geoff to make sure your 3rd (or 4th-5th) grader is on the list!

Blessing of the Backpacks



We invite everyone (especially kids) to bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, September 7 for the Blessing of the Backpacks during worship.



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

CHURCH MUSIC GROUPS



Join the Church choir!

Our Chancel Choir sings once a month during the 10:30AM Worship Service and for special worship services like Christmas Eve and Easter. Singers of all abilities are welcome to join us!

Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 6pm beginning September 4 and our first Sunday singing in Church will be September 22.

Contact our Worship Director, Cole Peterson, to learn



Come Ring with Us!

The Church's Bell Choir also plays once a month during both worship services and for special worship services like Christmas Eve and Easter.

Our bell choir will start a little later in the fall this year while our director, Carol Hendershot, goes on a well deserved vacation to celebrate her retirement!

While she's on vacation contact the church office, to learn more: office@audubonpoarkumc.org.



In 1951, members of two local Methodist Churches, St. Paul's and Central, came together to start a new congregation in Northwest Spokane. They began meeting in September of that year at Finch Elementary school.

74 years later, our congregation is still going strong and we continue to share the love of Jesus with one another and with our community in tangible ways. We've seen God do some amazing things and are grateful that in September of 2026 we'll celebrate 75 years of ministry as church!

We want to plan a great celebration of our 75 years of ministry and are looking for members of our church interested in helping to plan the celebration! Right now there are two main ways you can help:

- If you have pictures from the last 75 years, we'd love to have you share them with us so that we can create a slideshow and or book about our church's history. Contact the church office to share them.
- If you're interested in joining our 75th Anniversary Planning team, please reach out to Pastor Geoff: geoff@audubonparkumc.org.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM KARISSA!



Last month our Core Leadership Team hired Karissa Wilkins-Luton as our new Office Administrator! We're so excited to welcome her to our church staff.

Make sure to introduce yourself on Sunday or the next time you're in the church office. You can find her in the office during our office hours: 9am-Noon, Sunday– Thursday.

Here's a quick note from Karissa:

My name is Karissa Wilkins-Luton, and I am so excited to start as Audubon Park's office administrator. I grew up in Vancouver, Washington, but have been calling Spokane home for the past two years. I just graduated this May with my bachelor's degree in Theology from Whitworth. In my free time, I love to write poetry, craft, read, and cook. I can't wait to chat and get to know everyone, so feel free to come say hi!

GIVING STATEMENTS

Later this month, you'll receive a giving statement for your giving so far this year by email (if you need us to print it out for you we can). While we usually wait until the end of the year to do this, we're sending them now due to changes in our giving software.

Earlier this summer we cancelled our contract with our previous giving software vendor, Vanco, and asked everyone to transfer to our new giving software, called Subsplash. We made this change to save the church money in service fees. We know that not everyone who had set up automated giving with Vanco made the transition.

So we're asking you to please take a look at the giving statement you'll receive soon to make sure it reflects your commitment and intention for 2025.

If you're behind in your giving for this year, we encourage you to catch up if you can. But if you're facing financial hardship or otherwise cannot, we very much understand.

We'll send statements out again in January as usual for you to use for your taxes.

Thank you for the many ways you support the ministry of Audubon Park Church, including with your financial gifts. We are so grateful for that you're a part of our church. It takes all of us doing our part to make fruitful ministry happen!

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Financial Secretary, Sandi Nicol, or contact Pastor Geoff: geoff@audubonparkumc.org.

Address Service

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FALL KICKOFF

Kickoff Sunday is September 7! Sunday School start at 9am and kids will join us in worship for communion and the Blessing of the Backpacks.