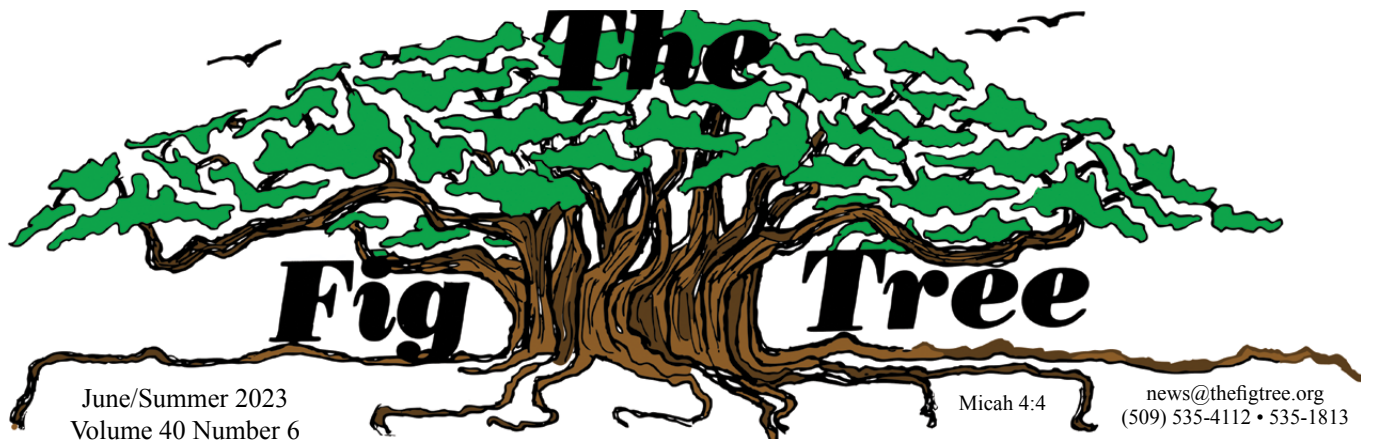


40TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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- Quilter gives Hutton graduates a quilt - p. 16

CALENDAR ON PAGE 15
FEATURES 80+ EVENTS



Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at www.thefigtree.org • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

Camps energize, inspire all ages

By Mary Stamp

The June/Summer issue is The Fig Tree's annual camp issue, exploring how the region's faith communities use time in nature and intensive community experiences to strengthen faith commitments.

Camp Cross celebrates its 100th year of operations since Bishop Herman Page bought property at Loff's Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene in 1923 for a summer school and a retreat and training center for clergy and lay persons in what was then the Missionary District of Spokane.

He sold the property to his successor, Bishop Edward Cross, who sold it to the district (diocese) for \$1. It continued the focus on clergy renewal until Bishop Russell Hubbard changed the mission to be a summer camp for youth and adults and named it Camp Cross for Bishop Cross.

A capital campaign in the 1980s brought upgrades in the 1990s, improving meeting spaces and cabins for year-round use. The camp, however, is used from May to September because the pipes are not winterized, the access road is poor and people go by boat to the main camp.

Sara Gunter, canon for youth



Spending extensive time outdoors, campers experience the wonders of creation.

Photo courtesy of Camp Cross

and family ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane and director of Camp Cross, said a 100th anniversary celebration June 30 to July 2 will include time for people to share stories, play games, sing songs and worship. By mid-May, 50 were registered and she expects up to 85.

"We Are Branches on God's Vine Rooted in Jesus" is the 2023 theme for all the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane's programs and camps, said Sara.

"We focus on the Gospel, stories of Jesus' miracles and parables, leading people through Good Friday to the Resurrection," she said, adding that they are also using the Examen, a prayer practice attributed to St. Ignatius, inviting people to pray regularly through the day.

At camp, as they start a day, they will pray about what they look forward to or dread. They pray during the day and then reflect on the day and how they saw God and loved their neighbors.

"The goal is to recognize God and Jesus in their daily lives," said Sara, aware how much time most kids spend in screen time.

"We ask campers not to bring phones. If they do, they are to

Continued on page 5

Pastor reflects on how his disability gives congregation vision for stability

In August, Chris Snow will celebrate 10 years as the settled pastor of North Hill Christian Church in Spokane, where he is the longest-serving pastor after a series of short-term pastors and a period of instability.

He has brought a ministry that uplifts inclusion, an outgrowth of his experiences from having been born deaf in both ears because of Treacher Collins Syndrome, a genetic condition affecting craniofacial structure.

His father, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) pastor in the Ozarks of Missouri and Bea-

verton, Ore., had a mild case. Chris has a moderate case and his daughter, Ruth, has a severe case.

Chris had thought it would be impossible for him to be a minister because being deaf can affect speech.

However, by learning sign language, wearing hearing aids and reading lips—helpful in loud gatherings—he developed speech at a young age. He spent years in speech therapy, adjusting his speech to be clear. A special education preschool prepared him to attend public school.

At a young age, he had surgery to replace a bone in his inner right ear, so he could hear before starting school. Later surgery on his left ear did not work.

Because he began school after the Americans with Disabilities Act passed, he was placed in regular schools, but teachers were just learning about students with disabilities. Although deaf, he was treated as if he had a learning disability and had an individualized education plan (IEP). In the ninth grade, he did not like wearing a hearing aid, stopped wearing it in school and dropped the IEP.

Bullying affected his self-esteem, until his family moved from Lebanon to Springfield in his sophomore year.

"I functioned without a hearing aid. Teachers had no idea I had a disability unless I asked to be seated close to the front so I could hear better," Chris said. "Teachers treated me as other students, so I excelled in studies. Bullying ended because I was six feet tall and muscular from

Continued on page 4

Research for directory reveals demographic info

In his research to update listings in the 2023-24 Resource Directory, Malcolm Haworth, directory editor, has observed some demographic trends. There are fewer congregations, which reduces access to food and other services.

"In the last four years, I have seen a reduction of about eight pages in the Congregations section," he said. "That includes both church closures and consolidation of data. For example, The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints decided to list only stakes, not branches."

While many report about mainline churches closing, he has also found that many fundamentalist churches are among those closing and consolidating. In addition, he noted more African priests serving area Catholic churches.

"Because of federal cuts to food and meal programs in recent years, there is one less page of Spokane County food banks and meal programs. Some close, along with other outreach programs, when churches hosting them close," Malcolm added.

Other areas where he has seen cuts are in rental assistance, foster care and adoptions, domestic violence crisis lines, domestic violence shelters, health care services and in-home care and retirement communities.

Some cuts in health care are the result of worker burnout. Some social service cuts are from grant and resources cuts.

"We have also made some changes, such as designing the Seniors section with larger type and setting it two columns wide to improve readability," Malcolm said. "In addition, we have reorganized some content, placing it in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math section, which includes foundations, research organizations, science jobs, kids robotics and more."

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WCC leaders challenge Russians, Ukrainians

On May 17 in Moscow, a World Council of Churches (WCC) delegation with general secretary Jerry Pillay, director for International Affairs Peter Prove, and program executive for Ecumenical Relations Vasile-Octavian Mihoc met with His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church.

On May 18, a WCC leadership delegation that visited Ukraine the preceding week received confirmation from both the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine of their willingness to engage in dialogue processes.

“Consolidation and unity in Ukrainian society, especially among the majority Christian Orthodox believers, is a necessity,” said Jerry. “We visited Moscow to discuss engagement by the Russian Orthodox Church in dialogue on the war, its consequences and divisions in the Orthodox family. I am grateful for Patriarch Kirill’s commitment to explore this.”

From the meeting, he identified four reasons for the WCC visit: 1) to end the war, 2) to work for the unity of the Orthodox family, 3) to discuss the role of churches in peacebuilding internally among Christians and externally to address war and violence, and 4) to propose an initial roundtable dialogue.

Patriarch Kirill reaffirmed the unique role of the WCC as a convener and platform for dialogue among churches on difficult, divisive issues. He shared his experiences and appreciation of the WCC’s past work, especially in peacebuilding after the Cold War. He emphasized concern about attacks against Christians around the world and expressed thanks for the WCC’s role in promoting religious freedom. He addressed the disunity in the Orthodox family and stressed the need for believers to seek peace.

Jerry recognized the challenges efforts for dialogue must overcome. “Perspectives on the conflict, its causes and the path towards a just peace remain polarized, but this only underlines the importance of efforts to create safe spaces for dialogue, and for the WCC this must start with attempts to bridge the intra-Orthodox divide that mirrors the geopolitical confrontation,” he said. “The WCC’s purpose and calling is to be an instrument of dialogue among the churches on the issues that divide us. Churches must struggle together to answer that calling.”

WCC supports Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

The World Council of Churches joined other global and regional groups in delivering to the United Nations an interfaith statement in support of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. A large majority of states at the UN’s Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons meetings are in favor of negotiating some form of regulatory instrument on autonomous weapons.

The statement was formed from efforts since February 2023, and before, when members of the Stop Killer Robots coalition met in Costa Rica to consider the impact of digital dehumanization, a process in which humans are reduced to data points, leading to decisions that negatively impact humans.

“Digital dehumanization is fundamentally repulsive to all people who share a belief in the inalienable dignity of the human person and the inestimable worth of human life,” it says.

Church leaders in Jerusalem call for peace

In a recent statement, the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem called churches to strive for a just and lasting peace for the Holy Land. It urges everyone to work together to build a better and more humane future for all: “Peace can only be achieved when there is fairness and respect for human rights and international law. We believe justice and peace are the keys to stability and prosperity in the region, and we declare our readiness to work with all concerned parties to achieve these noble goals.”

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

The Fig Tree marks a year of growth

The Fig Tree Board Annual Meeting will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., Thursday, June 1, in person at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., and online on Zoom.

The board will receive reports from staff and leaders giving an overview of the organization’s accomplishments and challenges during the year.

Those achievements include for the first time earning more than \$200,000 and qualifying to

file a 990 tax form rather than a 990-EZ, noted editor Mary Stamp, pointing out that funding from all sources is increasing with added time of Marijke Fakasiieiki, the development and editorial associate.

A subcommittee of the board presented and adopted a three-point strategic plan, geared to The Fig Tree’s unique size and operation—focusing on building collaborative relationships for common work, building revenue

and resources, and building external partnerships and community relations, especially through a proposed networking initiative and interfaith dialogue.

“After celebrating the 50th year of the Resource Directory, we begin our journey to celebrate the 40th anniversary of founding The Fig Tree in May 1984,” Mary said. “We invite the community to join us on the way.”

For information, call 535-4112 or email mary@thefigtree.org.

NAMI has new location with more space

NAMI Spokane, which empowers people affected by mental illness through advocacy, awareness, education and support, has re-located its office to 152 S. Jefferson St., Ste 100.

They will host an Open House from 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 21, at that location.

Their new building will help them host support groups and programming.

Community members with questions about their services or needing help to navigate the mental health system can visit from 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, or from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fridays.

“In our new location, we will be able to house our programs and support groups in one location. We hope our community will learn where we are

and know we are here to help support them on their mental health journey,” said Chauntelle Lieske, executive director.

NAMI Spokane has been serving people with mental health conditions and their families in Eastern Washington since 1980.

For information, call, 838-5515, email office@namispokane.org or visit namispokane.org.

Make a Splash teaches children to swim

“Make a Splash in a Kid’s Life” raises awareness about drowning risk in the region. With more than 70 bodies of water and 12 aquatics facilities in the Spokane area, the Spokane Parks Foundation (SPF) seeks to remove financial barriers so children can learn to swim and enjoy their summer safely.

“Drowning is a leading cause of death for children under 14, but it is preventable. According

to USA Swimming, 79 percent of children in low-income households have little to no swimming ability. Lessons can decrease the risk of drowning by 88 percent,” said Yvonne Trudeau, executive director for SPF.

Its Make a Splash program increases access to swim lessons, drowning prevention and water safety swim clinics.

It also provides free swimsuits for children in need. Appropriate

swim attire is required for entry to local pools.

In summer 2023, they will host the first adaptive water safety clinic for children with a visual impairment.

Through donations, SPF funds free open swim opportunities and neighborhood pool parties each year.

For information, call 280-1664 or email yvonne@spokaneparksfoundation.org.

Church aids local efforts to feed people

Each week, the shelves and refrigerators at NewbyGinnings in Post Falls are often empty or close to empty, said Chris Ford, volunteer coordinator.

At the Post Falls Food Bank, more than 500 new clients signed up last year, said Jeff Eastwood, warehouse manager. Each day 100 families come.

Chris and Jeff appreciate a May 16 donation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that included a dozen pallets of shelf stable goods for NewbyGinnings and a dozen

pallets of dairy products for the Post Falls Food Bank.

“It will give us the ability to plan long-term to address the food insecurity of families in our area,” said Chris.

Jeff said the fresh dairy products were not close to expiration, “a rare and tremendous blessing.”

Latter-day Saints Charities sponsors similar projects in 160 countries to relieve food insecurity, improve access to clean water and sanitation equipment, eliminate disease with immunization, respond to emergencies, support refugees and provide wheelchairs and eye care, said Jennifer Hicks, communications director of the Greater Spokane Region.

“Donations from members

through the church’s Humanitarian Fund are key to its effectiveness and reach,” she said.

Its support of the food bank will also help a backpack program that provides weekend food for kids in need in more than 1,300 families each month. It also supports organizations like Ronald McDonald House and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mike’s Market is the food bank of NewbyGinnings that received the donation. Theresa Hart started NewbyGinnings in 2013 to honor her son, Nicholas Newby, who died while serving in Iraq.

For information, call 270-4950 (Jennifer), 208-995-5799 (Jeff) or email newbyginnings4417@gmail.com.

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Global Neighborhood Thrift holds block party

Global Neighborhood Thrift will hold a Block Party from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at Brick West Brewing Co., 1318 W. 1st Ave. Geared toward all-ages, this family-friendly event will feature food from Feast World Kitchen, live music, games and community.

In its thrift and vintage store, Global Neighborhood offers pathways to employment for neighbors who have come to the Inland Northwest as refugees.

For information, globalneighborhood.kindful.com.

Harmony Woods offers ‘taste’ of programs

Harmony Woods Retreat Center will hold “Taste of Harmony Woods” from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, June 10 at 11407 S Keeney Rd. in Spokane. They will share some of their multiple offerings, including art and yoga for children, spiritual speakers and meditation, Tai Chi and yoga for adults, batik painting, song circle and live music, Dances of Universal Peace, Intro to Christian Mystics, silent auction, raffles and local vendors.

For information, email harmonywoodsretreat@gmail.com.

World Refugee Day welcomes new citizens

World Refugee Day will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 17, at Nevada Park to celebrate the courage, determination and strength of people who fled persecution and violence in their homelands. Feast World Kitchen will provide food. There will be cultural songs and dances by performers from around the world, a citizenship ceremony and speakers. There will also be a Community Agency Resource Fair.

For information, contact kathryng@ricspokane.org.

St. David’s plans Celtic Summer Solstice service

St. David’s Episcopal Church celebrates the Summer Solstice in a Celtic Service with ritual, music and Eucharist from 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 21, at 7315 N. Wall St. Celtic harpist, Ellicia Jones, will perform and Kimmy Meinecke, vicar of St. David’s, will preside. The church has a Celtic Service at 11 a.m. every Sunday.

For information, call 466-3100 or email office@stdavidsspokane.comcastbiz.net.

Kootenai Task Force speakers give perspective

The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (KCT-FHR) June Luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 22, at the Best Western Coeur d’Alene Inn at 506 W. Appleway in Coeur d’Alene. Presenters will speak on “The Rise and Fall of the Aryan Nations: Are Extremist Groups on the Rise Again in the United States?”

Norman Gissel, the KCTFHR’s attorney for many years and the attorney for victims Victoria and Jason Keenan, will tell the story of the Aryan Nations and the civil case that ended their activities in Northern Idaho.

Rhodes scholar and Washington State University (WSU) political science professor Cornell Clayton will place today’s extremism in historical perspective, explaining its relative dangers through American history. He is executive director of the WSU Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service. In April and May, he was a senior Fulbright specialist at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, lecturing on human rights.

For information and to pre-register, call 208-765-3932.

Mujeres in Action expands to build Casa MiA

Through a new capital campaign, Mujeres in Action (MiA) is expanding services beyond crisis intervention, legal and medical advocacy, housing navigation and a 24/7 bilingual helpline. Based on a study with Empire Health Foundation and Community Frameworks, MiA plans trauma-informed and culturally appropriate supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

At a cost of \$4.2 million, Casa MiA would fill a gap in the Spokane community by removing barriers many immigrant-survivors face when searching for safe housing.

Through fundraising efforts, such as “Sequins and Velvet” on Friday, Sept. 15, “Casa MiA is a step for the Latinx community to claim space by living in a community that sees us and welcomes us without minimizing us,” said Hannel Sanchez, founder and executive director of MiA. “This project will bring hope to survivors by showing them that it is possible to be in a community that embraces who they are and lifts them up.”

For information, call 599-5527, email atrusty@miaspokane.org or visit miaspokane.org.

Unity in Community will be August 12

The 29th Annual Unity in the Community from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Riverfront Park Clocktower features multicultural entertainment, a Youth Fair, Career and Education Fair, Health Fair, Early Learning Fair and General Vendors.

Families can watch performances, wander among the different booths and have lunch. Last year there were more than 150 vendors and the event drew more than 10,000 people.

A variety of cultural groups will perform on the stage, volunteering their talent singing,

dancing, reading and more.

Unity in the Community is designed to expand diversity and cultural awareness as a resource to improve lives for everyone in the Inland Northwest with community education that fosters equity and inclusion.

The Cultural Village gives children who complete “passports” a bag with back-to-school supplies. Organizers are planning to distribute 1,200 bags of school supplies.

Aug. 4 is the deadline for donating school supplies. Supplies may be delivered to Bethel African Methodist Episcopal

Church, 645 S. Richard Allen Ct.

The event relies on volunteers, to help with setup and preparations from 1:30 to 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 11. On Saturday, volunteers help at the information booth, assist other volunteers in the Youth Area, Cultural Village and Stage Area, and tear-down and clean-up after the event.

Unity in the Community began in 1994 to showcase Spokane’s diversity and bring the community together in respect, trust and collaboration.

Event co-chairs are Mareesa Henderson and April Anderson. For information, nwunity.org.

Meggan Manlove is new ELCA bishop

On April 29, the Northwest Intermountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Assembly in Pasco elected Meggan Manlove to serve a six-year term as bishop.

Since 2010, Meggan has been the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Nampa, Idaho.

She follows Kristen Kuempel, current bishop, who was elected in 2017 and has served one term as bishop. The Assembly gave a standing ovation to Bishop Kristen in gratitude for her service in that office.

Meggan begins on July 1 and will be installed Oct. 7 at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., in 1998, and a master of divinity from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 2002. In addition, she earned a doctor of ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2021.

From 2004 to 2010, she served as pastor of Soldier Lutheran Church in Soldier, Iowa.

With their theme “Bega Kwa Bega” (shoulder to shoulder),

assembly participants celebrated their ministries in partnership with the Lutheran Diocese of Ulanga Kilombero and their ministries throughout the synod. An offering of \$6,424 received during opening and closing wor-

ship was split between the Wells Endowment for Campus Ministry, Lutheran Disaster Response and Ulanga Kilombero Diocese Girls’ Scholarships at Tumaini School.

For information, call 838-9871 or visit nwimsynod.org.



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Music, especially drums, plays healing role as sound vibrates in bodies

Continued from page 1 running cross country.”

Music was always part of his family's life, so Chris began playing percussion in the school band. The drum vibrations “resonate in my body so I can feel as well as hear the music,” he said.

Chris still plays drums—hand drums, an Irish style drum, an African djembe drum and Latin conga drums—as well as tambourines and shakers. He uses them with hymns in worship to increase depth, he said, adding that his daughter finds shaking shakers and dancing to be ways she can participate in worship.

During high school, his involvement leading ecumenical youth retreats confirmed his call to ministry as he discovered he loved sharing his story and hearing the stories of peers.

After high school, he majored in religion and philosophy and minored in political science at Culver Stockton College, a Disciples of Christ school at Canto, Mo. There, he helped in the chaplain's office and was fraternity chaplain. Summers, he worked at Camp MO-Val, a United Church of Christ (UCC) camp in Union, Mo.

Chris continues to be active in the regional Disciples camp ministries.

Graduating in December 2005, he lived with his parents in Beaverton, Ore., before entering Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., in the fall of 2006. In seminary, he was an intern at a children's home, worked summers at the camp and was student minister at Webster Groves Christian Church.

After earning a master of divinity in 2009, he spent a year working in Beaverton and in June 2010 began as youth coordinator at First Christian in Salem, where he met and married his wife, Jennifer, in 2012.

Chris began at North Hill Christian Church in Spokane on Aug. 19, 2013, focusing on listening to what the church needed to do to gain stability.

He encourages the congregation to be inclusive, to live up to the words, “All are welcome,” on the church's T-shirt. While they refer to LGBTQ being welcome, he doesn't want the words to be a false flag, because the church has not done an open and affirming process.

Although he is straight, Chris joins other clergy in Spokane's Interfaith Pride worship and walking in the Pride Parade.

Other expressions of inclusion include women elders serving communion.

He is aware that the building,



Chris Snow incorporates drums and shakers in worship.

built in 1911 and remodeled in 1956, is not accessible for those with mobility issues.

Part of the church's life and commitment to inclusion is the participation of Chris and Jenn's daughter, Ruth, 5, who has a small jaw, no nose and restricted airways. She has a tracheostomy to breathe and a G-tube for feeding.

With no outer ears, she has a bone anchored hearing aid, which transmits sounds through vibrations against her skull. She is blind in her left eye and has astigmatism in her right eye.

“She is bright, fearless and can do many things others do,” Chris said. “Ruth understands and communicates with sign language and a tablet.”

For her first three years, Joya provided occupational and physical therapy, working with her virtually and one-to-one during COVID. Ruth goes to preschool at Linwood Elementary.

Chris and Jenn knew before she was born of her cranial and facial anatomy, so she was born in Seattle where there were specialists.

“The church responded with grace, granting me not only family leave for six weeks after her birth, but also time to drive to Seattle each week to be with her,” said Chris, who now works from home after 3 p.m. each day. Jenn works with Goodwill's Housing and Essential Needs program.

Ruth, who qualifies for 16 hours a day, seven days a week of in-home nursing care, requires trained supervision at all times.

She comes to worship and church events. Members respect her and other immune-compromised members by not coming to

church if they are ill. Her suction machine makes noise, but members are used to it, Chris said.

“She looks different, but she is part of the congregation,” he said.

Chris described the church's ministries.

- North Hill was an original Family Promise of Spokane host church, but with volunteers aging, they stepped back before COVID.

- The church welcomes Attitude Adjustment, an independent recovery program, to use the building twice a day seven days a week.

- Weekdays the church parking lot is a distribution site where Meals on Wheels volunteers pick up food they deliver to seniors.

- First Ukrainian Baptist Church has used the building for nearly five years, two days a week for Sunday worship, choir and Bible study. Their average attendance is 30 to 50 people.

“Groups use our building and facilities for a low fee to cover maintenance and utilities,” Chris said.

- North Hill outreach also includes supplying hygiene items for the Salish School of Spokane and providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for several Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) families.

- North Hill Christian Church has 20 to 30 attending the 10:30 a.m. worship in person. Since COVID, others have been able to join on Facebook.

“Some who work on Sundays watch online. In managing our Facebook page, I see that some people from around the world follow us,” he said. “Since COVID, we realize we need to invest to

make worship and other services available online so we keep connected with people. We need to meet the changing needs, not just of those who can gather in person, but also of those who can't come.”

Chris talks with other clergy about ways to involve people online. Recently, he offered a seven-part online series inviting reflection on “church-inflicted traumas” and discerning ways to bring healing. The topics were fear-driven theology, destiny or bust, money and finances, spiritual gifts and warfare, sin watching, mental health abuse and purity culture.

“Despite a decline in income in the past year, the church can continue because of legacy gifts,” he said.

“Since August 2022, we have

been discerning who God is calling us to be, what measures are required, who we are as people of faith and whom we are called to serve,” he said.

Chris appreciates that the church, aware of clergy burnout issues, urges him to pursue creative outlets in woodworking, pottery and bicycling to care for himself so he can be a better minister with them.

For information, call 326-5400 or email pastor@nhchristian.org.

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Summer Camping Section

Leadership transition brings fresh ideas and energy to N-Sid-Sen

Pam Peterson started April 1 as managing director of N-Sid-Sen, the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ (PNC-UCC) Camp and Retreat Center on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Her predecessor, Mark Boyd, moved in December to be managing director of the PNC-UCC's Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center in Port Orchard. He was at N-Sid-Sen for 10 years.

During the search, volunteers stayed at the camp, there was a three-month interim, and Mark assisted from Pilgrim Firs.

With recruitment of campers, staff and volunteer leaders still underway in June, Pam is focusing on calling pastors to introduce herself and find people to help.

N-Sid-Sen's church-related summer camps for kids, intermediate, middle school, high school and families keep the camp busy from July 2 to Aug. 5. There is a new "You and Me" camp for first to fifth graders with an adult.

Pam described N-Sid-Sen as "a gathering point of community, for community and with community."

She observed that while COVID cut down the numbers who came to camps after 2020, those who did come experienced an opportunity to build deep connections with each other.

While N-Sid-Sen, like Pilgrim Firs, rents space year-round to square dancing, quilting and fly-fishing groups and is the site for



Team games build relationships and community at N-Sid-Sen.

Photo by Leah Bilinski Atkinson

the East Side Fire District boat-house and emergency response boats, Pam said N-Sid-Sen is the primary site for the UCC-related summer camps for children, youth and families.

Volunteer camp directors from churches across the conference in Washington and North Idaho are preparing programs on the theme that is on the 2023 camp T-shirts, "Transforming Faith through Relationships." The graphic on the T-shirts is a monarch butterfly with milkweed in the background. There are plans to plant milkweed this summer to help attract monarch butterflies.

"It symbolizes the transitions our conference is experiencing," Pam said. "We will come to

camp as a place to hear stories and commit to walk with each other in our time of transition."

"The summer church camp sessions are designed with intention to offer life-shaping experiences and support the work of our churches," said Leah Atkinson Bilinski, senior pastor of Fauntleroy UCC in Seattle and member of the Outdoor Ministry Committee for the PNC-UCC.

"Our focus is inviting more churches and church kids back to camp," Pam said.

Campers who bring a new-to-N-Sid-Sen friend have \$100 taken off their fee. Their friend has \$100 taken off, too—\$50 for partial weeks. There are camp scholarships, and transportation

is available from Bellevue for those from Western Washington.

"I met many people at the PNC-UCC Annual Meeting in Bellingham, and I look forward further to building relationships with churches and promoting our role as a church camp," she said.

To build their excitement about the camp, Pam also wants pastors to use the camp's small apartment for individual clergy retreats.

"Church camp is about building relationships in a place where campers can connect to God and nature," said Pam, who earned a doctorate of ministry at Hartford International University on worship in the wilderness.

The 2023 summer camp staff includes two who are coming from Turkey through Camp America. A third person from Turkey was recruited but unable to come because of the impact of earthquakes there.

Pam, who grew up in Chautauqua, N.Y., worked six years in the 1990s revitalizing a Boy Scout camp on Lake Chautauqua and marketing for a YMCA camp also on that lake.

In studies at Hartford Seminary she shifted from being Lutheran to UCC, earning a master of divinity in 2011. After she served a Presbyterian church in the Adirondacks, she was called to serve a UCC church in Red

Lodge, Mont., before coming to N-Sid-Sen.

In the spring, winter and fall, PNC-UCC churches hold retreats at N-Sid-Sen. Churches of other denominations, other faith groups and nonprofits also use it during those months and consider it home, so Mark suggested shifting from calling them "users" to calling them "partners."

"They love our camps as much as we do," said Mark Boyd. "The groups are introduced to the United Church of Christ when they come to the sacred oases we offer."

For information, call 208-689-3489, email director@n-sid-sen.org or visit n-sid-sen.org.

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Camp Cross is celebrating its 100th year

Continued from page 1

leave them in the cabins and spend the day to converse, eat, play, pray and dance," she said.

Sara, who grew up in Stockton, Calif., Alexandria, Va., and Chicago, Ill., studied oral rhetoric and minored in gender studies in college but, along the way, did part-time and full-time youth and camp ministry before coming to work with the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane three years ago.

Like other camps, it has been a hard year recruiting staff, said Sara in late May, noting she had 12 other staff, most of whom are long-time Camp Cross folks.

The first camp was for adult volunteers who came for the Labor of Love work camp to do deep cleaning, fix plumbing and electricity, and set up the canoes and waterfront. The next weekend was a Youth Labor of Love, when young people helped with more

preparations for the summer.

A women's weekend June 16 to 18 is followed by training college-age and young adult staff the week of June 21 and then high schooler leaders training.

The regular camps are Intermediate Camp for fourth to sixth graders overlapping with a three-day Mini Camp for grades two and three July 2 to 7. The next week is an Arts Camp for grades four to nine, followed by another Labor of Love Camp to work on facilities, expand the shop and create a labyrinth.

Mid-High, Senior High, a Men's Weekend and Labor Day Family Camp will complete the eight-week summer season.

Activities at Camp Cross include hiking, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, boating, games, arts and field games.

The camp is also available for family reunions, staff reunions

and use by faith and nonprofit groups. Weekends are full.

"The impact of camps on lives is evident in Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, who came to camp as a child and kept coming, serving on camp staff as she aged out of youth camps," said Sara.

The diocesan budget has a line item supporting the camp, along with contributions from an annual appeal, donors, user groups, camp fees and scholarships.

"The camp is mostly used by Episcopal churches, but many church kids bring friends and neighbors," Sara said, aware that COVID has had an impact on attendance.

"We will always be a smaller operation, but that means our campers get to know each other well," she said.

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Lutherhaven's new director has served with the camp since 1994

On March 1, after a search led by a national search firm, Rebecca Smith was officially hired as executive director of Lutherhaven Ministries, which operates Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Shoshone Mountain Retreat and Ranch on the Coeur d'Alene River and McPherson Meadows on Tepee Creek in Idaho.

Rebecca has served at Lutherhaven since 1994 and had been serving as interim executive director since August 2022, when former executive director Bob Baker retired after 29 years.

"We have a strong team lined up for the summer and are still seeking several more staff members and volunteers to join the summer team, with some positions available through the fall," said Rebecca.

"For the 65 staff members, we seek people with a loving, growing relationship with Jesus Christ, a willingness to work hard and remain flexible, and a joyful spirit for working alongside youth," she said.

Staff arrive on June 14 for two weeks of training. Camps run through mid-August.

"Registrations are on target for an expected 1,500 campers," said Rebecca, "This will be a big year for the Idaho Servant Adventures camp in the Silver Valley, with 750 campers coming from youth groups in churches around the U.S. We have offered this camp for more than 20 years.

"These campers come to re-



Fun times form life-long friendships. Photo by Lutherhaven

pair and transform homes, lives and communities as they paint houses, plant gardens, chop wood, repair fences and do more to be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus," she added.

Registration for Idaho Servant Adventures, family camps, summer camps, day camps and staff applications and information is at lutherhaven.com.

"Through the camps, all ages can make memories, have a blast and grow in faith," Rebecca said.

Camp Lutherhaven, located on the west shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene offers eight weeks of camps in a traditional summer camp setting with waterfront fun, mini golf, archery, devotionals, all-camp games, worship and ropes courses.

Shoshone Creek Retreat and Ranch, located on the edge of the Bitterroot Mountains on the

North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, provides opportunities for youth and families to experience horseback riding, day hikes, fly fishing, huckleberry picking, river floating, worship and campfires.

Twenty miles upriver and off the grid on Tepee Creek is McPherson Homestead, a wilderness retreat with a furnished

off-grid cabin with the amenities of home and solar power.

"Lutherhaven's 2023 summer theme is 'Big Table,' which is about how we all are welcome into God's family and about God's lavish love," said Rebecca.

"For us, Lutherhaven Ministries is about getting people into creation, building community and encountering Jesus," she added. "We are always hopeful that camp experiences will carry over into churches.

"About a quarter to a half of campers connect with churches, but for some it's the only place they will hear about Jesus in today's world," she said. "Parents send kids to learn and grow.

"Our summer theme, Big Table, is the heart of camp, where campers of all ages come just as

they are, and we welcome them to share in the goodness of community and experience God's unconditional love that exists for everyone," she said.

Rebecca began as summer staff and continued up to her present position, impressed by Lutherhaven Ministries mission and vision to "serve others and serve the world."

In her early years, she attended a Lutheran church in Seattle and came to Lutherhaven to be a camp counselor while studying outdoor recreation at Washington State University. She graduated in 1997.

"I'm one of few people using my major," commented Rebecca, who has served in different roles at the camp over the years."

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Summer Camping Section

For UGM, camps are part of ongoing programs with low-income schools

Union Gospel Mission's nine weeks of free summer camps at the UGM Camp on the Spokane River near Ford, Wash., is part of their year-round commitment to at-risk children ages eight to 11 in low-income neighborhoods and low-income schools, said Ryan Brown, director of youth outreach for Union Gospel Mission (UGM), which has provided homeless services since 1951.

The rest of the year, UGM connects churches with nearby schools for after-school programs led by staff, volunteers and student interns. Its program includes involvement with youth in juvenile detention.

"At camp, we have a capacity of 80 kids and 30 staff," said Rich Fodey, camp administrator.

Churches relating with Stevens, Francis Scott, Garfield, Grant, Trent and Willard Schools are Liferoads Church—which does two camps—South Hill Bible, Faith Bible, Mission



Campers interact during field games. Photo by UGM

Church in Spokane Valley and Spokane First.

"We are looking for two or three more churches," said Ryan.

Partner churches handle registration, recruit children, prepare chapel services, lead arts and crafts, fun and games, and serve as the cabin leaders, program team and work crew, Rich said.

UGM camp staff supervise sports, hiking, swimming, crafts, team building, bike rides, canoeing, tubing, fishing, archery, swimming, low ropes and more.

"Most important is our Gospel focus introducing kids to Jesus," said Ryan, who first encountered UGM in 1992, when his mother gave him a bus ticket from

Southern California. He had been homeless and left his three children who barely knew him.

Ryan had a sister in Spokane but chose to check in at the UGM shelter when he arrived.

"I have a heart for the kids because of my troubled past. I understand what it's like not to have opportunities," he said.

Through UGM he gained stability to win custody of one of his children and later the other two. He began attending church, married and moved to Canby, Ore., where he was the "next-gen"—youth—pastor for 15 years.

"I brought youth from my church to serve at the mission and camp," he said, "so 10 years ago when the position I now have opened up I applied."

Ryan said the camp has a clothing and resource cabin, because often the children who come have no sleeping bag, shoes, swimsuit or camp clothes.

"Some eat just one meal a day

at home," he said, "but at camp they can even have seconds."

"What most moved me was when a 10-year-old boy said that being at camp was the first time he slept in his own bed," he continued. "That shows what a big impact camp has."

Through Ryan, UGM partners with local churches to do outreach to the schools with after-school programs, mentors, inviting and offering resources to the children and families.

"The free camps are supported by hundreds of businesses, ministry partners and individuals who donate \$160 a child. Some sponsor one and some 10 or more. Funds go to a general pool," said Ryan.

Throughout the year, the camp is rented for women's, men's, youth and family retreats, and used for weddings. There are only a few weekends in the summer when it is available. Income from rent also helps kids go to camp.

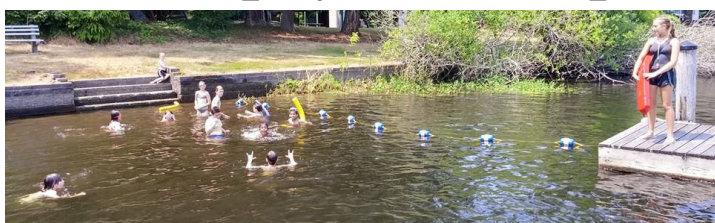
For information, call 532-3838, email ryan.brown@union-gospelmission.org or visit union-gospelmission.org/camp.

Disciples churches, Zephyr sale help campers come

The sale of Zephyr Lodge at Liberty Lake, which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Northwest Region owned from 1946 to 2016, helps provides funds for campers at what is now the Northern Lights Region summer programs at Gwinwood Retreat Center in Lacey, Wash., and at Cane Ridge West Conference and Retreat Center in Lincoln, Mont.

The cost of a week of church camp for elementary groups and for middle and high school students is a maximum \$250, said Chris Snow, former youth and children's ministry coordinator for the region and now on the Outdoor Ministry Team.

"FruitFULL Faith: A Spirit-Filled Life" is the theme for the



Swimming is a favorite camp activity. Photo by Grinwood

2023 Disciples camps July 10 to 15 at both locations and July 17 to 22 at Cane Ridge West.

In addition, there is a "GMPK" Camp for 20 first to third graders with a parent, grandparent or guardian July 7 to 9 at Cane Ridge to introduce young children to camp, and there is an intergenerational camp.

Along with a low-cost, there are camp scholarships provided

by legacy gifts from churches and the sale of Zephyr that support the program.

Gwinwood, on 29 acres on Hicks Lake, has forest trails, canoes, kayaks, a labyrinth, challenge course and screen house.

Cane Ridge West in the Rocky Mountains activities include fishing, hiking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Chris said the region hopes numbers will increase at the camps, which are run by volunteers.

Disciples churches and groups rent the camps for retreats, as well as outside groups. Rent helps cover facilities and staff costs.

"Camp experiences have a tremendous impact on children and youth, helping them discover possibilities and develop visions of what the church can look like and what kind of church they want to help build," said Chris.

For information, call 325-5400 or on Gwinwood, call 360-491-0195, email info@gwinwood.org, or for Cane Ridge, call 406-564-1887 or email contactus@caneridgewest.org.

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Ross Point focus is God, fun, safety, adventure, relationships

Like other camps, Ross Point Camp and Conference Center on the Spokane River at Post Falls, found staffing a challenge the last three years, but has also experienced good turnout of campers and found "God provides," said John Batchelder, executive director of the camp affiliated with the American Baptist Churches of the Northwest.

The camp programs are committed to focusing on God, adventure, safety, fun and relationship building in a setting for engaging, encouraging and equipping campers through "Christ-centered hospitality."

The theme for 2023 youth and family camps is "A Sacrifice of Praise" based on Hebrews 13:13. Those camps are two weeks of the summer led by volunteer directors who organize the pro-



Camp has four-square volleyball.

grams "based on what God puts on their hearts," John said.

He said the camp features are its challenge course, adventure programs and swimming as a complement to its prayer, worship and small group teaching.

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Camp Spalding director says camps are about transforming love

Andy Sonneland, who has been director of Camp Spalding on Davis Lake in North-east Washington for 33 years, recently surveyed 12 mostly denomination-related camps in the region.

He found that larger camps are growing larger, and the smaller ones are struggling, especially as their denominations are declining.

Camp Spalding relies 85 percent on income from usage and 15 percent on donors. In addition, it relies on donors for capital improvements. The camp offers nine weeks of sessions, eight for youth and one for an end-of-season family camp.

Offering many sessions means that at least one may fit a family's plans for the summer. It also means they rely on 39 college-aged staff or graduates for cabin counselors and to staff the waterfront, high ropes, crafts and programs.

Andy found in the survey that many camps rely on volunteers to run two to four church-related camp weeks and on churches, nonprofits and others renting the facilities through the rest of the summer and off-season.

"When I was a kid coming to Camp Spalding, the staff were all volunteers," he said.

"The challenge is to broaden the constituency to include more from the community to come to the camps. This year registration is on pace for another record year. Already both junior high, both high school camps and one elementary camp are sold out," he said.

Previously, he had used billboards and distributed postcards to schools, but realized there is currently not a need to advertise. The best promotion remains word-of-mouth with previous campers bringing friends.

"We try to make sure our website rises to the top in online searches for summer camps in the Spokane area," he said.

About 17 percent of its campers last summer were from churches



Challenge activities build esteem. Photo by Camp Spalding

in the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, its founder, and the rest are from other churches and the community.

"Our constituency continues to expand well beyond its historical connections into the greater community and around the Northwest," he said, "providing Camp Spalding a welcome opportunity for expanded ministry and increased financial stability."

"Jesus' words—'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing'—focus our prayers and our ministry goal for children and youth to come to know Jesus and grow to be disciples," Andy said.

"Discipleship begins with, is shaped by and flows from spending time daily with Jesus. That mission is thriving with a record 1,752 campers in 2022 encountering the life-changing presence of Jesus Christ during their week at Camp Spalding. We had sold-out camps at two-thirds of our sessions, with plans in the works to accommodate more of the over 200 kids on our waiting list," he said.

"Behind those numbers are countless stories of campers experiencing Jesus' transforming love," he said.

Andy added that Camp Spalding found it hard last year recruiting young men for the staff, but no problem recruiting its

staff for 2023. That staff includes administrative staff, health staff, a videographer and three wranglers for the horse program.

Most of the mid-week times in September and May are full, as are most weekends through the year, when the site is used by churches and nonprofits.

Capital improvements include a dining deck with screened seating for up to 60, a first step in expanding capacity, along with replacing a 1950s cabin with a two-story duplex cabin to add 20 beds.

Waterfront projects include a new boathouse, beach pavilion and cascading patio to ease crowding at the beach.

Last summer the camp added a new high ropes course.

The camp will receive a gift of 4.5 acres along Davis Lake and and just purchased an adjacent 0.6 acres, so the camp now owns one side of the lake.

"Camp Spalding is well-positioned for effective ministry

in the years ahead," Andy said.

For information, call 447-4388 or visit campspalding.org.



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Feat. Fresh Soul

Summer Camping Section

Methodist camps back in full operation

Pacific Northwest United Methodist Church (UMC) Conference camps, including Lazy F in Manastash Canyon in the Eastern Cascades, Twinlow on Lower Twin Lake near Rathdrum, Idaho, Ocean Park on the Washington Coast and Indianola on Puget Sound are fully open for summer 2023.

“We are back to doing what we do best without all the restrictions of the past three years,” said Alan Rogstad, executive director camp ministry for the four UMC camps.

“We’re aware of some may have lingering COVID concerns, so we are doing appropriate screening and taking precautions, but that will not limit the camp experience significantly,” he said.

With needing nearly 60 staff for the four camps and recruiting primarily young adults, Alan has found staffing is still a challenge. Recruitment for the summer was at 70 percent as of mid-May.

“Staffing camps and seasonal jobs have been a challenge nationwide in the post-COVID culture,” he pointed out. “There is demand for more pay, given that counselor positions are 24/7. Even high school, college and young adults want time off. We offer most weekends off and in some cases a mid-summer week off when a large group comes to rent one of our camp facilities for their own programming.”

UMC camps run every week from the third week of June through the second week of August, with different camps for different age levels.

In addition, starting during COVID, the camps at Twinlow and Lazy F have offered a full schedule of day camps on site.

Day-camp children come from nearby communities for the day and share the site with the resident camps and specialty camps. Day camps are not offered at Ocean Park Camp, which is farther from town.

“There is a shift in what families are looking for,” Alan said. “Families can enroll kids in day camps any week. It gives kids and families more options.”

For the most part, day campers and sleep-away campers are separate and have differ-



Kakaking has grown at camps. Photo by Twinlow

ent programs, but both use the waterfront and have lunch. At Lazy F, they also eat some meals together.

“Day camps have more younger children with more games and crafts. At Lazy F, they are for first to sixth graders, and at Twinlow for first to fifth graders,” Alan said. “Both have their own staff leaders and teach a common Bible-based curriculum.”

Residential—traditional overnight—camps for first through those leaving 12th grade—have more hiking, challenge courses and adventure activities, plus campfires. Residential camps will have the full range of activities this year.

Twinlow offers three sessions of primary camps. For elementary children in grades three to six, there are six options of lake camps, adventure camps, arts and sciences camps and a 4-H STEM camp, which is an adventure camp. Middle schoolers have water sports, fine arts, 4-H STEM and basic options. High schoolers have a water sports or basic camps.

Alan expects more day and residential campers this year than last.

While most campers are United Methodist, more are from the general population and local communities than in the past, he said.

Lazy F includes a Summer String Academy, in its ninth year,

for sixth to ninth grade budding musicians, a family camp and a “Grand Camp” for grandchildren entering K to 6th grade and grandparents.

“Our camps have grown, and we market them beyond United Methodist churches,” Alan said.

This year, Twinlow has added a new boat and other water toys as part of the ongoing process of replacing and upgrading equipment, Alan said.

The camps offer a time to “play, pray and grow.”

Kristen Moon is director of Twinlow and Dave Burfeind is director at Lazy F.

Through the year, churches and other groups rent the facilities as well.

“When COVID concerns lessened a little bit, the floodgates seemed to open with groups looking for places to do retreats. It’s a return to more of what we were used to,” Alan said, “like people are making up for lost time with church groups, men’s and women’s groups, crafting and quilting groups, and 12-step groups, among others.”

He finds the range of groups growing as some are finding hotels more expensive and realizing that the camps can meet their needs.

Dave told Alan he had never seen as busy of a year as 2023 is shaping up to be at Lazy F.

For information, email arogstad2pnwumc.org, or visit twinlow.org or lazyfcamp.org.

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Summer Camping Section

Many camps struggle to hire full staffs, but committed to give ‘amazing’ times

“Amazing” was the word Salvation Army Major Ken Perrine repeated when telling about the 2023 camping season and the experience of summer camping opportunities the Salvation Army offers through the summer at the 101-year-old camp on Loon Lake.

The camp is still looking for seasonal staff to fill the need for 45 positions for the discovery, wilderness and sailing camps, as well as maintenance, counselors and camp directors to be present with campers who come to swim, kayak, dance, fish; to do crafts, target sports, the climbing wall and zipline, and to take classes on wilderness.

They are still looking for life-guardians and counselors over 18 as paid staff and volunteers.

“We added a human foosball court on which the kids hold onto a line and act as the pins do in the table version,” Ken said, repeating, “It’s an amazing place for kids to expand their self-worth and self-esteem by being outdoors and working together as they learn they can climb, swim and sail.

“They overcome their fear of swimming, kayaking and sailing as they do those activities,” Ken said. “Camp allows them to grow up and build so many more skills compared with doing video games.”

Ken said camp offers a chance for children and youth to be in the wilderness, make lifelong friends and learn about themselves as they learn about nature.

“Camp makes children better adults,” he believes.

Camp Gifford camps operate from June 26 to Aug. 4 for about 140 children per week.

Camp Gifford and the Salvation Army recruit children each year by sending out postcards through local churches in Spokane and Stevens Counties.

Campers come from Eastern Washington, Montana and Idaho.

The camps that run from Monday to Friday are offered on a sliding scale, starting at



Serene settings are conducive to worship. Photo by Camp Gifford

\$60. There are also some full scholarships.

Bus transportation from Spokane is available for all the camp options.

Camp Gifford offers three types of educational summer camps and two other sessions.

- Four sessions of Discovery Camps run each week from noon Mondays to 9 a.m. Fridays for ages seven to 12. They are educational and spiritual outdoor experiences with games, arts and crafts, archery, swimming, boating, singing and fun activities to learn about God.

- Six sessions of Wilderness Camp are held at Camp Cougar for youth 13 to 17 years old. Activities include hiking, high rope courses, outdoor survival skills and swimming. Campers explore nature and grow their relationship with Christ while developing friendships.

- Three two-week sessions of Sailing Camp for 12- to 17-year-olds teach campers the fundamentals of sailing while developing courage, teamwork and leadership.

- One week is for Salvation Army Youth, children and youth who attend Salvation Army scouting programs.

- Another week is a Music Camp for boys and girls ages 7 to 14 teaches and develops music skills for brass bands, guitar, percussion and choirs.

For information, call 329-2759, email campgifford@usw.salvationarmy.org or visit campgifford.com.

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Holy Names Music Center continues charism of music education

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM

Believing that music is “a gift from God for the good of all” is behind the dedication that has guided Suzanne Bjork for the past 15 years working at Holy Names Music Center, first as office manager and then as its executive director.

“It has been one of the great honors of my life to serve the mission of the music center and the charism of the Sisters of the Holy Names,” she said.

Billing itself as Spokane’s Community Music Center with a commitment to providing music for everyone, Holy Names Music Center (HNMC) continues a long history of music education in the Pacific Northwest.

The center evolved from the music departments first of Holy Names College, which was established in 1907, and then, after the college moved from the Mission Park area and changed its name to Fort Wright College in the early 1960s, of that college.

It became a stand-alone non-profit in 1982, operated by the Sisters of the Holy Names at the time Fort Wright College closed, as some other small liberal arts colleges.

In 1990 the campus, including the building that housed the Music Center, was sold to Mukogawa Women’s University, a private university in Nishinomiya, Japan, to be its international branch campus.

Since then, although it continues to be operated by the Sisters of the Holy Names, it functions in a partnership with Mukogawa Women’s University for use of its facility.

Suzanne has strong feelings about the importance of music education and believes firmly that the music experience that touches the children and adults who come to the center not only enriches their individual lives but also contributes to the life of the community, as these same students go on to support the Spokane Symphony and other music and arts programs in the region and beyond.

To show how important music can be to an individual, she tells the story of her grandson, Atom.

“Our family was a sports family,” Suzanne explained, “but Atom was not particularly interested in sports and was also experiencing some instability. In sixth grade band at Garfield Elementary School, he heard a trombone, was intrigued and expressed an interest in learning to play. I suggested he take music lessons for a year and connected him with Stanton Cobbs, the faculty member who teaches trombone.”

After his year of music lessons, which he continues, and the support of Stanton, Atom



Suzanne Bjork retires from Holy Names Music Center.

advanced to junior high, a new school for him, and joined the band as a trombone player. There he found a home. It has helped him excel in junior high.

Suzanne related that with this confidence he also decided to join the chess club and baseball team. The music training that Atom received helps him persist through the victories and defeats of sports and life, she said. She attributes this to the home he has found as a musician in the Yasuhara Junior High School band.

HNMC has now existed as a separately incorporated music center for 41 years, providing quality music instruction and performance opportunities, Suzanne said.

HNMC relies on income from private tuition, as well as annual fund-raising programs.

“We depend on these efforts to be able to offer scholarships, especially to young musicians from the region,” she explained, “This year, our gala at the end of April was particularly successful with most of the proceeds dedicated to tuition assistance. This school year, we gave more than \$30,000 to students in need of assistance.”

Suzanne expressed her pride in the contributions HNMC has offered over the years of its existence, detailing its many programs.

- It has been able to give more than \$450,000 in financial aid to more than 1,000 young musicians and provided over \$60,000 in Talent Grant scholarships to students who exhibit potential.

- It has provided hundreds of Spokane public school students classroom music through a Music Support Team in collaboration with the Spokane Youth Music Consortium, of which HNMC is a founding member.

- Its Music for Vets program has served more than 100 veterans with post-traumatic stress disorders.

- Its Music Together program for families with young children has promoted family bonding through the Catholic Charities CAPA (Childbirth and Parenting Assistance) program.

- It has provided low-cost

facility use for musician performances, student recitals, and nonprofit organizations.

- It has provided a free honors Chamber Music group for talented, hardworking young musicians and after-school music at several community centers.

Suzanne determined that HNMC has taught more than 10,000 students through group and private lessons over the years of the Music Center’s existence.

“I am especially touched by the fact that we have taught more than 5,000 Japanese women who have come to study here a course in American music. When they take that course, they learn all the verses of our national anthem. I find that so moving.”

The search process for a new director is already under way.

Suzanne is the sixth director of the HNMC since its incorporation and, in spite of her commitment to music, she wants to spend more time with her family. She will leave the center at the end of June.

Suzanne traced the growth of the center under each of the past directors and talked about her own goals during her time as director.

Just after Fort Wright College closed, the first center director, Sister Janet Gorman, worked hard to simply save the gift of music for the Spokane community by separately incorporating the center.

Subsequent directors sought to make HNMC a community music center, started programs for adult groups, strove to build up the faculty, increased student enrollment and made the center more visible within the community.

“My goal during my time was to develop the business side of HNMC so it could support music lessons and pay the faculty. Often musicians have to piece together many small jobs in many different locations to be able to make a living. I wanted to be sure that our 35 faculty members would be paid a better wage,” she said.

Suzanne was a stay-at-home

mother and didn’t begin to work outside the home until 2004. For the next few years, she held positions with the Spokane Interplayers Theatre and the Spokane-based arts organization Allegro Baroque and Beyond.

When the position of office manager opened at HNMC in 2008, she was hired and used the opportunity to learn the various facets of what it would take to be a successful director of a community music center. When the previous director resigned, she applied successfully for the position.

HNMC and its predecessors have many student and faculty alumni in the music world. A few are famous, like Thomas Hampson. A few make a living professionally, like Mick Wetzel, a violist at the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Others are music educators in the region’s universities and community colleges.

Still others are music directors in the churches of the Spokane region.

The contributions of former students show the truth of Suzanne’s belief about the importance of music in forming people who contribute to the good of the community.

For information, email suzanne@hnmcc.org or music@hnmcc.org.

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Bike ride raises funds for LCSNW

Lutheran Community Services of the Northwest (LCSNW) invites bicyclists in Eastern Washington to join in its annual 8 Lakes Bike Ride on Saturday, July 15, through the scenery of Spokane, West Plains, Medical Lake, and Cheney.

Routes will be marked and include food stops, plus medical and mechanical support. The ride ends with participants and volunteers eating pizza and ice cream.

The ride attracts several out-of-town riders from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, helping raise funds to support the programs of LCANW.

Riders choose from a 30-, 45-, or 75-mile route. All leave from Kaiser Permanente's corporate

office off Sunset Hwy.

"Pledge riders provide generous financial support," said Christie McKee, advancement manager of LCSNW. "Our goal is to raise \$70,000 to benefit the programs of LCSNW."

"For nearly 70 years, Spokane LCSNW has offered hope, resources, and healing to thousands of Spokane-area residents affected by violent crimes and other traumatic, life-altering events. We touch the lives of people of all ages, cultures, and faiths. We walk side-by-side with them on their journey to find health, justice and hope," she said.

For information visit lcsnw.org/office/spokane.

Second Harvest appeals for funds to feed children

Summer break should be a time for children and teenagers to have fun and unwind, but for many, the three months without school meals mean they are more likely to go hungry.

One out of seven children faces hunger in Eastern Washington and North Idaho, said Jason Clark, CEO of Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest, appealing for donations to help local children and youth get the nutrition they need this summer.

To help inspire giving, Corwin Ford Spokane has offered to match every dollar donated up to \$15,000 to provide healthy food to children in need this summer.

"I hope we can earn your support to help area children and

teens enjoy summer as it should be—one without worrying about food," he said.

In addition to its Feeding Children First focus so no child goes to bed hungry, Second Harvest offers mobile markets to bring food to high-need communities, a hunger relief network of 250 food pantries and meal sites, and nutrition education with cooking classes.

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Nausea, vomiting



Rapid, strong pulse

May lose consciousness

CALL 9-1-1
 Get person cool until help arrives



In 'holy closure,' Cheney church recognizes that its life will go on

Jake Rehm, as one of the newest members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Cheney, became church council president in the summer of 2020 as the church began discernment about closing its doors.

"As the newest member, I had the least emotional attachment to the church, but it was still gut wrenching," he said. "For many members, it was their home—for some since 1947."

The building now sits empty of people, pews, organ, crucifix, robes, cross, art and everything that made it a church.

Because the MultiCare Clinic next door offered cash for the building, parsonage and parking lot, the church suddenly had a new ministry: to decide how to distribute \$600,000 to church, nonprofit and community entities.

In 2018, members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Cheney realized they were losing members. Many were 60 to 90 years old. Just 15 to 20 of the 40 members came regularly, said Jake. Most would not be there in 10 years.

Arianna Arends, the half-time pastor and half-time Lutheran campus minister at Eastern Washington University (EWU), resigned after four years.

"In 2020, we realized we were spending \$3,000 to \$7,000 more a month than we brought in and could no longer keep the doors open," Jake said, noting that attendance dropped in COVID.

"We spent six months discerning what the future held," he said. "No one wants to close a church that has been in the community for decades."

People in the community were aware they were in discernment. The director of the MultiCare Clinic next door asked to tour the grounds and made a cash offer.

"Realizing that the property could provide expansion of the health clinic and that we could give the money to churches and nonprofits made the decision easier," Jake said.

In June 2022, the church voted to dissolve. The closing service was New Year's Eve 2023. MultiCare Health purchased the property and buildings in January 2023 for \$600,000.

The church spent two months deciding where the funds would go. They developed a list of beneficiaries, including the Cheney senior center and food bank, and local, regional and national levels of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).



The closing worship for Emmanuel Lutheran in Cheney was New Years Eve. Photo by Chris Booth

Funds went to the Luther Seminary endowment, a Lutheran church they supported on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana, the Northwest Intermountain ELCA Synod's companion diocese in Tanzania, Lutheran World Relief, the national ELCA and Lutherhaven Ministries.

The City of Cheney and Eastern Washington University each received 20 percent, with EWU funds going for scholarships and a nursing school endowment. About \$20,000 paid for startup equipment for an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program in Cheney.

"We had a comprehensive plan for every dollar and for the tangible items," Jake said. "An oak cross—in addition to a mahogany crucifix that is now at Peace Lutheran in Otis Orchards—was given to a new Anglican church, St. Aidan, in the Perry District."

"Some members joined Medical Lake Lutheran. Some are going to other Cheney churches," said Jake, who grew up in a Charismatic-Pentecostal church in Omak and is now looking for a Lutheran church in Spokane.

Since earning a bachelor's degree in recreation management in 2006 and a master's in physical education in 2008 at EWU, he taught wellness and movement science for 10 years at EWU.

In 2022, he earned a master's degree in theology at Whitworth University.

"In studying church history, I gained perspective about saints, scandals, heresies and church movements," he said. "It gave me a new set of lenses to see faith."

Jake, impressed by German reformer Martin Luther, and Jake's wife, seeking a church that affirmed gay marriage, decided to attend Emmanuel Lutheran.

While the building now sits empty, Jake said there are no plans to demolish it. The Lutheran campus ministry it once housed will meet elsewhere.

Others who have been part of the decision-making, closing months and ongoing ministries shared about the church closing.

They are Phil Misner, assistant to the Northwest Intermountain Synod ELCA; Ladd Bjerneby, a former pastor who preached during closing months, and Christie McKee, advancement manager of Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW).

Phil came with Mary Morrow, also of the ELCA synod office, to a November 2021 church council meeting to help Emmanuel understand the synod process for discerning and steps for deciding to do "holy closure."

"They knew they were in a difficult financial situation and could not pay a half-time pastor," Phil said. "They considered sharing space with another church or selling the building."

"In January, they reviewed the options. They voted in June 2022 to move to holy closure," Phil said. "Once they decided that, the synod worked with leaders to assure they did it appropriately, following state and federal laws, and guidelines on legacy planning and distributing assets."

A nonprofit that closes must distribute assets to other nonprofits, must record their decision according to state laws and must inform the state where their records are archived.

"It's never easy to go through a closure process. There are emo-

tions like those with a death," Phil said.

The synod invited Ladd and Linda Webster, a hospice chaplain who was a member when she discerned her call to ordained ministry, to be among those preaching during the last few months to help the congregation celebrate its life and process its grief.

"Our faith tells us death is not the end. There is resurrection. That is happening for organizations and ministries that received the proceeds," Phil said. "There is life after death. We urged them to find hope that God would bring something to life."

Phil said the Church at Ephesus ended as a worshipping community, but its ministry still has had impact on the world.

"Any congregation will have a legacy in the community beyond its lifespan," he said, mentioning one. "Meggan Manlove, the new synod bishop, was one of many interns the church helped shape in ministry over its years."

Phil, who served Trinity in Endicott and Peace in Colfax for eight years, joined the Synod staff in 2018 as Bethlehem was closing, and has overseen two other closures: Tree of Life Arbol de Vida, a Spanish-speaking congregation in Yakima, and St. Peter's in Spokane.

Part of Emmanuel's ministry continues in the Cheney Diakonia that has served LCSNW for

decades, said Christie, who attends its monthly meetings with nearly 20 women for LCSNW.

"The Spokane Diakonia, with members from various churches, dissolved before COVID. The Cheney group continues to adopt families at Christmas, provide backpacks with school supplies, bake cookies for the Christmas gift pickup for foster children, raise about \$500 in a June yard sale and help sponsor the fall fundraiser," said Christie.

Ladd, who served the church from 1989 to 1998, preached one Sunday a month in the church's final months.

"It was a vibrant, forward thinking, welcoming congregation," he said, mentioning several other legacies:

- Campus minister Sandra Kreis preached there before Lutheran women were ordained.

- Pastor Phil Maakestaad and members organized Lutheran Marriage Encounter. It became a national group.

- It supported EWU's Lutheran campus ministers. When one, George Cheney, suffered AIDS and came out as gay, members accepted him with love.

- It worked ecumenically with Cheney United Church of Christ and United Methodist, and St. Paul's Episcopal for outreach, campus ministry and a Good Friday service.

"The congregation, which did not want to be big, had an average of 99 attend worship," said Ladd.

"Members were good in the 20th century role of welcoming people who came through the door. After my first five years, half the congregation was new," said Ladd, who grew up in Kalispell, Mont., and studied biology at Pacific Lutheran University before entering Luther Seminary and serving four other churches.

For information, call 435-3477 or 838-9871.



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Reflections

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Faith Action Network reports how faith communities impact policies

Each year, the Faith Action Network (FAN) of Washington reports mid-year reflections on successes and invites financial support. The theme "Pathways to Solidarity" has guided FAN since last fall. One component of the theme is solidarity.

"At a time of division and polarization, our multifaith solidarity with each other is transformative," said FAN executive director **Elise DeGooyer**. "Solidarity is where love and justice meet. Building solidarity for racial equity and social justice for people and communities affected by the policies we work on is vital

to FAN's vision.

"This is work for the long haul, and we are constantly changing and learning how to be more effective," she said, sharing some of the victories for the people and communities made possible by people of faith raising their voices:

- Passage of the hunger and safety net bills, enhancing emergency food support, providing more school meals for K-12 students and expanding basic-needs support for college students.

- Removal of the death penalty from state law after being deemed unconstitu-

tional by the State Supreme Court. Faith communities have been involved in this work for decades.

- In a year of grief over multiple mass shootings, the state took steps to limit assault weapons, add comprehensive background checks and hold the gun manufacturers accountable for controls.

In the first week of May, FAN remembered Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP). FAN advocated for and helped establish statewide alerts for missing Indigenous people in 2022, and establishment of a

MMIWP cold-case unit in 2023, which will bring more capacity to investigations. Those interested may subscribe to the Washington State Patrol email alerts about Indigenous women and people who are missing or murdered at wsp.wa.gov/media/subscribe.

FAN's final Spring Summit is online on Sunday, June 4. To include all of the state, it will be a virtual meeting. There will be smaller, in-person cluster meetings and regional gatherings this summer and fall.

For information, visit fanwa.org/regional-spring-summits.

Spokane Valley Connect draws record number for services in one place

By Maurice Smith - Rising River Media

The Spokane Valley Connect, which took place on May 18 at Opportunity Presbyterian Church, served 384 guests, exceeding previous attendance records of 250 in 2019 and 324 in 2018. The event also set a record for the number of vendors at 70 this year, which exceeded the previous number of 64, said Aileen Lupert, chair of the Spokane Valley Connect Organizing Committee.

"It's heartwarming to be a part of something in which the sole focus is service to anyone who seeks it," said Aileen. "Every volunteer and provider treated our attendees like honored guests—not

as a homeless person, addict or struggling single parent, but as a sincerely welcomed guest."

The afternoon event was filled with stories of individuals and families finding the help they needed.

"My favorite story involved a young man who came to the clothing bank in search of boots to start working, but couldn't find any," Aileen said. "One of our committee members chatted with him and learned that he was a recent veteran with a medical discharge. He didn't know where to turn for help. She escorted him upstairs and talked with all the veteran service providers until she found the right

one to help him. He'll have boots within a week and now has access to a provider to help him even more."

Additional services that were popular with guests included 66 haircuts.

"At one point there was a solid line of people getting haircuts—20 at once," said Aileen. "Kevin Lind, senior pastor at Opportunity Presbyterian Church, said his office had received 10 phone calls ahead of time, all asking about haircuts. The Spokane Community College students were professional and kind."

The City of Spokane Valley distributed 50 free swim passes for kids.

The Spokane Valley Connect is a free

community event dedicated to making the community a better place by serving at-risk populations, Aileen said.

"Homelessness can be less obvious in Spokane Valley than in downtown Spokane. People and families are often doubled up or couch surfing, going unseen," she said. In the 2022-23 school year, the City of Spokane Valley has 764 homeless students in its schools, so the Valley Connect typically draws more families and individuals struggling with housing than people who are living outside or in shelters.

For information, visit spokanevalley-connect.org.

PJALS believes everyday people can do extraordinary things together

Speaking at the recent "Weaving Connection: Building the Power of Community" fundraising lunch for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS), executive director **Liz Moore** made the point that "everyday people can accomplish extraordinary things together."

She reminded attendees that PJALS has been doing that for nearly 50 years.

"Our theory of change shows in the practice of our members and partners who collaborate in committees and coalitions to identify shared goals, develop strategies, mobilize through collective direct action to educate and pressure policymakers to see the light or feel the heat, to win policy change and to shift power," she said.

She uplifted PJALS as building a cross-racial, intergenerational, all-gender, rural-urban, bottom-up movement centered on the leadership of impacted people.

"We are organizing in multiple ongoing

crises of structural and ideological white supremacy, violent and political far-right authoritarian and white nationalist organizing, poverty and class exploitation, climate crisis and more. We face a tremendous resource differential when we take on the criminal legal system, the fueling of white nationalism by politicians and the powerful and prosperous, and the political and cultural structures of militarism and imperialism," Liz said.

Nationally and locally, certain politicians and the powerful and prosperous exploit racist rhetoric to turn working people against each other, while they rig government and the economy for themselves, Liz described.

Then they point their finger to blame the hard times on poor families, Black people, new immigrants and Muslims, she pointed out.

"The wealthy get richer, we get poorer—and the power of government is turned against Black, Indigenous, and

communities of color here and around the world," Liz continued, noting that Spokane County is contested territory. "We're in a struggle over who belongs, who's worthy, who's seen as a threat, and who deserves to be safe. Just under the surface, that's all about race and class, two topics we're conditioned to be silent about."

Liz said that in PJALS' new program, Building Organizing Leadership Development (BOLD), members are breaking the silence, diving in together, and reaching out to invite more people into community and into coordinated action, "because we know we can fight back and win."

Together, PJALS rejects messages of racism, fear, and division from the prosperous and powerful to join together with people from all walks of life, to ensure all communities have good housing and better schools, not more barbed wire, and have more jobs, not more jails.

She listed PJALS top priorities as 1)

ending mass incarceration and systemic racism in the city-county carceral system through a campaign to defeat Measure 1's proposal for massive jail expansion; 2) countering white nationalism to build an informed, active, anti-racist culture; 3) education for action on grassroots organizing and racial justice through BOLD, Showing up for Racial Justice and Peace and Justice Action Committee and training peacekeepers, and 4) PJALS' Young Activist Leaders Program (YALP) to supports the next generation of leaders in organizing and to empowers youth as leaders in PJALS.

"We all need and long for connection and community," Liz asserted. "These are the foundations of a movement that can build and hold power, not power-over but instead power with. Power with each other. Power with accountability. Power with sustainability and care. Power with healing. Power with love. The only way to create it is together."

Earth Ministry describes the impact of the gas pipeline through area

Maddie Smith, operations manager of Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light (WA IPL), held an informational meeting recently at Salem Lutheran in Spokane on what faith communities should know about TC Energy's effort to upgrade its 60-year-old Gas Transmissions Northwest (GTN) Pipeline to increase the pressure and flow from British Columbia through North Idaho, Eastern Washington and Eastern Oregon to Northern California.

Earth Ministry/WA IPL, which organizes people of faith for environmental justice, is part of the Stop the GPN Coalition of organizations in Washington, Oregon and Idaho that oppose this fossil fuel project.

"As faith communities, we seek to prevent harm to our neighbors, taking care of our neighbors and creation. This project goes against those values," said Maddie (they). "The faith community cares about environmental justice and making sure that harm is not done to communities dealing with increased climate impacts.

They spoke about hazards of the GTN Express. The gas that goes through the

GTN pipeline is fracked in Northeastern B.C., with delivery points along the pipeline, they explained. It is owned by TC Energy, formerly Trans Canada, the company behind the Keystone and Keystone XL projects.

The gathering learned that when the pipeline was originally built it was mostly in rural areas, but now goes through suburban and urban areas, near a preschool in Liberty Lake and under Valley Real Life Church in the Spokane Valley. It also runs under the Spokane River and I-90.

"It's scary that it is close to our communities," Maddie said.

Environmental and community organizers note that as new pipelines are stopped or shut down, fossil fuel companies have increased efforts to push more gas through existing pipelines because that's harder to stop.

"Increased fracked gas capacity to this pipeline means increased pressure. That's where safety concerns come in. They want to push more gas through 60-year-old pipes. This project involves equipment upgrades to increase pressure

at three compressor stations placed every 40 to 100 miles along the pipeline. One in Starbuck, Wash., and another in Athol, Idaho, will be upgraded.

The pipeline runs over the Spokane Valley and Rathdrum aquifer, the source of Spokane's drinking water, Maddie said.

The GTN pipeline has had three leaks in the last 10 years, they reported, adding concern about explosions. A farmer in the Palouse didn't know why his crop wasn't growing in one spot and then realized a gas pipeline was leaking there.

"GTN and TC Energy try to show increased demand for natural or fracked gas, but gas demand is going down in Washington, Oregon and California, where this gas could be used," said Maddie.

Earth Ministry/WA IPL and coalition partners helped pass new Washington State building codes last year that require new commercial or residential buildings to be built with electric heat pumps, space heaters or water heating. So new construction will not be powered or heated by natural gas, Maddie said.

"The main concern for the faith com-

munity and for Earth Ministry is health risks of fracking and people living near fracking, much of which is on indigenous lands," they said. "A B.C. organizer recently learned that to meet the increased gas flow through the GTN Express Project, 660 new fracking wells would need to be dug in Northeastern British Columbia near indigenous communities.

"We need to transition off fossil fuels and fracked gas because of climate concerns. This project throws out state and tribal climate goals," added Maddie, who sent the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) a letter signed by more than 350 faith leaders from Oregon, Washington and Idaho saying the project is "dangerous and immoral."

FERC decides if the project is in the public interest. Recently, FERC wrote GTN asking: "How do you know that gas demand is going to go up? There's all this evidence saying that it won't."

Maddie said Earth Ministry/WA IPL is updating progress on the campaign and action by faith communities on its website at earthministry.org.

Calendar of Events

Area code for phone numbers is (509) unless otherwise listed.

- June 2** • **National Gun Violence Awareness Day**
 • **Evening of Praise and Worship**, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- June 2-4** • **ArtFest**, MAC, 2316 W. First, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., 456-3931
- June 3** • **NAMI Spokane Walk**, Rotary Fountain, Riverfront Park, 10 a.m., namiwalks.org/index.cfm
 • **S'cwi'n Salmon Run Luncheon** for Salish School of Spokane, 4125 N. Maple, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., salishschoolspokane.org
 • **Spirit of the Eagle Pow Wow**, EWU Native American Student Assn, Reese Court, 1136 Washington, Cheney, 1 p.m., 7 p.m., emeltintallow@ewu.edu
 • **Benefit for Responsible Growth** Northeast Washington, Create Arts Center, 900 Fourth, Newport, 2 to 6 p.m., 447-7958, rgnew.org
 • **"A Whole New World: An Evening of A Capella Disney Music,"** Lilac City Voices, Spokane Valley Assembly, 15618 E. Broadway, 7 to 8:30 p.m., lilacityvoices.org
- June 4** • **Andrea Brower: "Seeds of Occupation, Seeds of Possibility,"** Hawaii and resistance to biotech industry, Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W. Main, 5 p.m., 838-0206
- June 5** • **Sandy Williams Legal Clinic**, Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, 3 to 6 p.m., selfhelp@carlmaxeycenter.org
- June 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16** • **Into Spokane: English for Daily Life**, Barton English Language School, 318 S. Cedar, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., beckyr@spokaneefpc.org, 747-1058 x 212
- June 6** • **Sandy Williams Legal Clinic**, Deer Park Library, 208 S. Forest, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., selfhelp@carlmaxeycenter.org
- June 7** • **Kiwanis Club of East Spokane** and Mission Community Outreach Center Benefit Performance of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," Spokane Civic Theatre, 1020 N. Howard, 6 p.m., Show 7:30 p.m., 536-1084, mccc.spokane@gmail.com
 • **Life Center Church Craft Fair**, 1202 N. Government Way, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 434-9239
- June 7, 21, 28** • **Sandy Williams Legal Clinic**, Family Promise, 2002 E. Mission, 4 to 6 p.m., selfhelp@carlmaxeycenter.org
- June 8** • **Rural Nonprofit Gathering**, Nonprofit Association of Washington, Online, 2 to 3:30 p.m., nonprofitwa.org/event/online-rural-nonprofit-gathering/
 • **Global Neighborhood Block Party**, BrickWest Brewing Co., 1318 W First, 5:30 to 8 p.m., 279-2982, global-neighborhood.org
 • **Sandy Williams Legal Clinic**, Family Promise, 2002 E. Mission, selfhelp@carlmaxeycenter.org
 • **Spokane Falls Two-Spirit Powwow**, Riverfront Park, 507 N. Howard, 1 to 9 p.m., 347-269-1998, linktr.ee/SpokaneFalls2sPowwow
 • **Spring Market**, NE Youth and Family Services, 19 E. Queen, 3 to 8 p.m., 981-5595, neyfs.org
 • **YMCA Healthy Kids Day**, YMCA Spokane Valley, 2421 N. Discovery, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 777-9622
- June 9, 10** • **Opportunity Presbyterian Rummage Sale**, 202 N. Pines, Spokane Valley, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 924-9750
- June 9-15** • **Young Adults Explore Buddhism**, Sravasti Abbey, 692 Country Land Rd., Newport, 3 p.m., 447-5549, office.sravasti@gmail.com, sravastiabbey.org
- June 10** • **A Taste of Harmony Woods**, Harmony Woods Retreat Center, 11507 S. Keeney, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., 993-2968, harmonywoods.org
 • **Manito Park Art Festival**, 1800 S. Grand, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 456-8038, thefriendsofmanito.org
 • **Spokane Pride Parade & Rainbow Festival**, Riverfront Park, 12 to 9 p.m., 625-6600, info@spokanepride.org
 • **Musings on the Weaving Woman** Archetype and Soul Making, Elmer's Restaurant, 290 W. Appleway, Coeur d'Alene, 3 to 4 p.m., kimemorgan.com
 • **To the End Movie Screening**, Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main, 7 to 9 p.m., 209-2383
- June 10, 11** • **Sandpoint Renaissance Faire**, Bonner County Fairgrounds, 4203 N. Boyer, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 208-263-8414, sandpointrenfaire@gmail.com
- June 10, 11, 17, 18** • **Yoga with Goats**, Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary, 16602 N Day Mt. Spokane, Mead, 8:30 and 10 a.m. 869-4436, lilaclotusyoga.com
- June 11** • **Philippines Independence Day**, Riverfront Park, 12 to 5 p.m., 590-6613
- June 12** • **Summertime Spiritual Moment**, "Living Under the Umbrella of Hope", Fr. Max Oliva, SJ, IHRC, 8 to 10:30 a.m., ihrc.net
 • **Working Families Tax Credit Application Assistance**, Argonne Library, 4322 N. Argonne, Spokane Valley, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 893-8260, scl.d.org
- June 13** • **Water-Wise Gardening**, Fairfield Library, 305 W. Main, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 893-8320
- June 14** • **Medicare Workshop**, Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 702 E. Front, 3 to 4:30 p.m., 208-769-2315
 • **Sandy Williams Legal Clinic**, West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt, 3:45 to 5:45 p.m., selfhelp@carlmaxeycenter.org
- June 15** • **Nonprofit Innovation Summit**, "Overcoming Burnout and Embracing Healing," Nonprofit Association of Washington, Gonzaga University, 502 E Boone, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., nonprofitwa.org/event
 • **Water-Wise Gardening**, North Spokane Library, 44 E. Hawthorne, 6:30 p.m., 893-8350
- June 16** • **Handbell Concert**: BellaCristo and Rendezvous on the Spokane Conference Choir, CenterPlace Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery, 7:30 p.m., 541-324-0404
- June 16, 17** • **Friends of Liberty Lake Municipal Library Book Sale**, 23123 E Mission, Fri 12 to 6 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 232-2510, friendsllmi@gmail.com
 • **"Welcoming Grace: Embracing the loving-kindness and tender mercy of God,"** Fr. Lamanna S.J. and Deacon James Fish, 24-Hour Retreat, IHRC, 4:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- June 16-18** • **Serenity Weekend Retreat**, "Nothing Fancy, Something Simple," Tom Weston, SJ., IHRC, ihrc.net
- June 17** • **"Win the Battle of Overthinking,"** Women's Retreat, Harmony Woods, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., harmonywoods.org
 • **World Refugee Day**, Nevada Playfield at Garry Middle School, 725 E. Joseph, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 • **Juneteenth**, Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 500 E. Stone, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 868-0856
 • **Bazaar 2023**, Terrain, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., terrainspokane.com
 • **Coeur d'Alene Ride to Defeat ALS**, 4411 W. Riverbend, Post Falls, 11:40 a.m., 724-0963, britni.minkler@als.org
 • **Benefit for Teen and Kid Closet**, Historic Flight Foundation, 5829 E. Rutter, 12 to 4 p.m., 535-6000, teenkidcloset.org
 • **KPBX Kids' Concerts** 30th Anniversary, Musha Marimba, Shadle Park, 2005 W. Wellesley, 1 p.m., spokanepublicradio.org/2023-05-23/kpbx-kids-concerts-30th-anniversary-celebration
- June 21** • **Executive Director Coffee Hour**, Nonprofit Association of Washington, online, 9 a.m. nonprofitwa.org/event/online-executive-director-coffee-hour-june
 • **NAMI Spokane Open House**, 152 S. Jefferson Ste 100, 1 to 3 p.m., 838-5515, chauntelle@namispokane.org
 • **Summer Parkways 2023**, Comstock Park, 29th and Howard, 6 to 9 p.m., summerparkways.com
 • **Summer Solstice Celtic Celebration**, St. David's Episcopal, 7315 N. Wall, 7 p.m., officestdavidsspokane.comcastbiz.net
 • **Spokane Symphony: Summer Solstice**, Brick West Brewing, 1318 W. First, 7:30 p.m., foxtheaterspokane.org
- June 22** • **Kootenai County Human Rights Task Force Luncheon**, "The Rise and Fall of the Aryan Nations," Coeur d'Alene Inn 506 W. Appleway, 11:30 to 1:30, 208-765-3932
- June 24** • **Spokane Mindfulness Meditation Community: One Day Meditation Retreat**, "Working with Anger," Venerables Semkye and Jigme at Harmony Woods Center, 11507 S. Keeney, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., svmcouncil@gmail.com
 • **Life Center Church Craft Fair**, 1202 N. Government Way, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 434-9239
 • **Spokane Herbal Faire**, West Central Episcopal Mission, 1832 W. Dean, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 326-6741
 • **Pride in Perry**, South Perry Business District, 12 to 5 p.m., odysseyyouth.org
- June 27** • **Water-Wise Gardening**, Moran Prairie Library, 6004 S. Regal, 6:30 p.m., 893-8340, scl.d.org
 • **Spokane Symphony**, Arbor Crest Wine Cellars, 4705 N. Fruit Hill, Spokane Valley, 7:30 p.m., 927-9463
- June 28** • **Silent Day of Prayer** on the Trouble of Guilt, "Oh, No! Here We Go Again!", Sister Mary Eucharista, SMMC, IHRC, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., ihrc.net
- June 29** • **Emmanuel Fitness Opening**, 631 S Richard Allen Ct., 2 to 6 p.m., akeyse@ohfspokane.org
- July 4** • **Spokane Symphony: Patriotic Pops**, Pavilion at Riverfront, 9 p.m., 625-6000, foxtheaterspokane.org
- July 7** • **Star Fest**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W Whistalks Way, 3 to 10 p.m., 609-8395, spokanemagicalmoot@gmail.com
- July 7 - 9** • **Post Falls Festival**, Q'emilin Park, 12201 W Parkway Dr., Fri, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat., 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 208-773-0539, hcarver@postfalls.gov
- July 8** • **Spokatopia 2023**, Camp Sekani, 67070 E. Upriver, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 625-6200, spokatopia.com
- July 9-16** • **8-Day Ignatian Silent Retreat**, "Experiencing God: Our Interior Movements Understood Using St. Ignatius' Rules for Discernment," Jeff Putthoff, S.J., IHRC, 4:30 p.m. on 9th to 1 p.m. on 16th, ihrc.net
- July 14, 15** • **Sandpoint Pride Fest**, sandpointpride.com
- July 15** • **8 Lakes Leg Aches Bike Ride**, Lutheran Community Services, starts at Kaiser on Sunset Hwy, 7 a.m., 343-5060, lcsnw.org/8-lakes-bike-ride
- July 28** • **Evening in Tuscany**, YWCA benefit, Beacon Hill Events
- Aug 3** • **Umoja (Unity): Sustaining African Cultural Arts**, Moses Lake Museum, 401 S. Balsam, 6 p.m., humanities.org
- Aug 4-6** • **55th Annual Art on the Green**, North Idaho College Student Union, 495 N College, CdA, Fri 11-8 p.m., Sat. 10-8 p.m., Sun. 10-4 p.m., info@artonthegreen.org
- Aug 9** • **Summertime Spiritual Moment** "Companioning the Dying: Death is the Moment of Truth for Human Life and Meaning," Fr. Mike Savelesky, and Deacon John Ruscheinsky, IHRC, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., ihrc.net
- Aug 11-13** • **Weekend Retreat** for Men & Women, Encountering the Father's Heart, Brendan Case, IHRC, 6 to 1 p.m., ihrc.net
- Aug 12** • **Unity in the Community**, Riverfront Park, 507 N. Howard, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 625-6600, nwunity.org
- Aug 26, 27** • **Tacos y Tequila Festival**, Hispanic Business and Professionals Association, Central Library, 906 W. Main, 1 to 10 p.m., 444-5336
 • **The Root Experience: Living Cultures of Art, Music, and Soul Festival**, Central Library, 906 W. Main, 444-5336, therootexperience.org
- Aug 30 - Sept 4** • **Pig Out in the Park**, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., 625-6600
- Tuesdays** • **Shades of Motherhood Network**, Task Force on Maternal Mental Health Resources, 1 p.m., tlprcenter@gmail.com
- Sundays** • **Burritos for the People**, 168 S. Division, 9 a.m., scarsspokane.org
- 2nd Tues** • **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, Zoom, 5:30 p.m., jarcher@pjals.org/burritos-for-the-people
- 2nd Weds** • **Hispanic Business Professional Association** Monthly Meeting, Fiesta Mexicana, 1227 S. Grand Blvd, 6 to 7:30 p.m., hbpaotspokane.org
- 3rd Weds** • **NAACP General Membership Meeting**, Spokane Public Library, 906 W. Main, or virtual, 6:30 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- 2nd & 4th Thurs** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, PJALS, Zoom, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., slichty@pjals.org
- Last Sats** • **El Mercadito**, A.M. Cannon Park, 1920 W. Maxwell, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., latinosenspokane.org/mercadito
- 3rd Suns** • **Intentional Community Gathering**, Harmony Woods Retreat, 11507 S. Keeney, 1 to 4 p.m., harmonywoods.org

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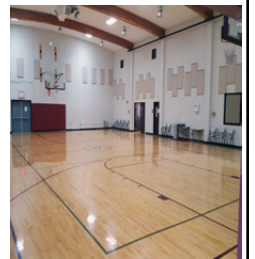
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Quilter ensures graduates have a quilt to take with them

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

Sandra Wade stitches love and warmth into the handmade quilts she sews for Hutton Settlement graduates.

"I started making quilts in 1986 after I took a quilting class. We were making mini quilts for the Festival of Trees, as a benefit for the Valley Hospital. That mushroomed into my interest in quilting," said Sandy.

While she ran a quilt shop from 1995 to 2008, she had fun meeting people and gathered "a lifetime supply of fabric." Sandy continues to quilt every day.

She is a member of small quilting groups and Washington State Quilters (WSQ). Those groups decided to make quilts for every bed at Hutton Settlement, which provides safe and healthy living opportunities for children ages five to 18 in need of a long-term alternative home.

That was Sandra's introduction to Hutton Settlement.

The settlement provides young people with intentional educational programs, attachment-based care, social, emotional and talent development and eco-literacy.

Sandra's group eventually made 100 quilts for settlement beds. Those quilts stay on the beds and go through generations of children who live there.

"About 10 years ago, I realized that every year several graduate after a good experience and education in West Valley schools. They leave their residence at the settlement to go off, but they have little that's theirs," said Sandy.

"A quilt is something these teens can take away that's theirs, and it's something made by someone who cares," she said.

So, Sandy started making quilts for each Hutton Settlement graduate.

Some years there are three, some years five, and some years there are no graduates.

"Every child who graduates receives a quilt. That was my ground rule if I was going to do this. I don't know them or meet them. I just know how many of them are boys and how many are girls," she said.

Sandy includes a note with



Sandy Wade shows a quilt she is making for a graduate.

each quilt about how to care for it, and saying she expects it will be used, loved and abused: "Every time you wrap yourself in this quilt, know you are being wrapped with a hug."

She now does this as a volunteer activity under the auspices of Spokane Valley Sunrise Rotary.

When she puts together the documentation, she always signs her name with the Rotary symbol and the name of her club.

Because Sandy is a quilt designer and pattern producer, not all the quilts are the same. She usually uses one of five different patterns she has created.

"I'm building one now that is a published pattern," she said.

Sandy chooses fabrics to put together and sends them off to be laid out. Then she does the quilting and binding.

Everything is put together by sewing machine, except for the binding. She puts it onto the face of the quilt by machine, then stitches the back by hand.

She makes the quilts 60 by 80 inches. That way the quilt is big enough for students to wrap around themselves and cuddle in, and also big enough for a dorm bed in college.

In the process of giving quilts to graduates, Sandra discovered that one young man became interested in learning about coffee roasting when a Sandpoint coffee roaster came and taught him and others at Hutton the coffee roasting process.

Before the student graduated,

because a quilt is a product that will last generations," she said.

Other Rotary volunteers and Sandy also recently spent time at Second Harvest packing lunch bags for school children for the next weekend.

"It was something we could do, that just took a couple of hours of our time and those kids will be really happy that we did, because they will be able to eat this weekend," she added.

For information, call 926-1027.

Summer Solstice Celtic Celebration
St. David's Episcopal
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