















# United Methodist relief program supplies hygiene and clean air kits

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assisted with Spokane fire aid beginning Aug. 19, partnering with the American Red Cross to supply 240 hygiene kits to people at the evacuation shelter at Spokane Falls Community College, said Sheila Miranda, associate for connectional ministries in the Inland and Seven Rivers District of the Pacific Northwest United Methodist Church (UMC).

UMCOR is the arm of the global UCM that responds to disasters domestically and internationally. It works with the Washington Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and at the request of affected communities. The kits, which include items

for personal hygiene—such as soap, wash cloths, towels, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste—are made by United Methodist churches before disasters and stored until needed.

“Hygiene kits were delivered to Spokane from UMCOR storage at Trinity United Methodist Church in East Wenatchee,” said Sheila, an ordained pastor serving with her husband, Daniel, who is district superintendent.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, Spokane area United Methodist churches were asked to make hygiene kits to replace those taken from storage. Several churches responded, so new kits will be available in the area if needed or held in storage until the next disaster.

The churches also respond in individual ways to needs they become aware of, especially supporting church family and friends who lost homes or who had to be evacuated.

“Cleaner Air Kits” (photo page 7) were brought from UMCOR storage at Wenatchee First United Methodist. These are box fans with a furnace filter attached by a bungee cord to filter smoke from air in homes. These kits were delivered to Deer Park UMC to distribute in the Elk and Deer Park areas to persons vulnerable to poor air quality, Sheila said.

UMCOR representatives are recruiting volunteers and work with other organizations on recovery of the Spokane and Whit-

man County wildfire survivors.

UMCOR is one of the first relief work organizations to arrive at a disaster. Early Response Teams, UMCOR-trained disaster site clean-up volunteers and disaster case managers are part of its work, as well as home rebuilds.

Sheila said UMCOR is available for the long haul. Its volunteers and staff are most often the last out of a disaster area.

“An example of its commitment to the long-term is evidenced in our recovery work in Okanogan County,” she said. “The Carlton Complex fire of 2014/2015 and a 2020 fire in the area found many uninsured or uninsurable homes destroyed. After nearly nine years serving in the area, UMCOR’s

work with the Okanogan Long Term Recovery Group will end as the last of 49 new homes was dedicated on Sept. 1.”

For information, call 206-870-6815 or email [smiranda@pnwumc.org](mailto:smiranda@pnwumc.org).

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# Faith communities find niche in long-term fire recovery efforts

Continued from page 7

## Bishop plans for long-term

On Aug. 22, Bishop Gretchen Rehberg of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane said that the diocese and its congregations were raising funds for those in need and working with Episcopal Relief and Development for financial and long-term support for those needing help.

“As we continue into longer-term recovery, we will see how we can best contribute to those efforts,” she said.

## Adventists go into action

Patty Marsh, director of Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response with the Upper Columbia Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, posted Aug. 19 on Facebook:

“Our first responders and emergency management teams were working around the clock with an air quality index from 300 to 500. We grieve with those who have lost homes, and are thankful for those whose homes were spared,” Patty commented.

Spokane County Emergency Management contacted her on Aug. 18. She continues in dialogue with them.

“Soon we will need volunteers to assist in the recovery stage, and distribute the items Spokane County Emergency Management requests,” she said, expecting that special “fire offerings” will be taken in Upper Columbia Conference churches.

For information, email at [pattym@uccsda.org](mailto:pattym@uccsda.org).

## Church action comes soon

Mike Bullard, who previously led Idaho Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and has worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), said the early stages are about first responders, firefighters, Spokane Emergency Management and the Red Cross, which has housed and fed people.

On Aug. 25, Spokane County Emergency Management and Community Organizations Active in Disaster opened a Disaster Assistance Center in Building 9 at Spokane Falls Community College. Many aid organizations set up information tables so victims can come to one place and sign up for various kinds of assistance from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

“The real involvement by larger church organizations develops in the next weeks as we transition into the long-term recovery and rebuilding process,” Mike said.



Smoke from local and Canadian wildfires affected everyone.

## UCC geared for long-term

Jonna Jensen, acting conference minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, said that the UCC response is generally geared toward long-term recovery, aware that the Red Cross and FEMA, as well as local churches, provide the first level of response.

## CCEW raises funds

Catholic Charities Eastern Washington (CCEW) set up an emergency fund to support individuals, families, communities and businesses impacted by wildfires. Donations help its Emergency Response team provide bottled water, hygiene items, clothing, food, medicines and other essential items.

## Salvation Army offers canteens

The Salvation Army of Spokane deployed two full canteen trucks to recovery centers for both fires: Redemption Church in Medical Lake and Community Church of the Bible in Elk. They have drinks, snacks, blankets, stuffed animals and more.

“While damage is being assessed, we focus on immediate needs of food, clothing, and emotional and spiritual support. We will be in the community walking through the recovery process with people,” said Andrea Reedy, incident commander. “It’s beautiful to see neighbors rally to meet needs.”

Brian Pickering, communications director, said donations are “the best way to support fire victims.” He set up a donation link at [bit.ly/WAFiresHelp](http://bit.ly/WAFiresHelp).

“Funds will help families where it’s most needed,” he said. “When we have the green light to go into the fire area, we will do so with individuals trained to help in disaster situations.”

The Salvation Army seeks volunteers to drive canteens, distribute drinks and snacks, and provide emotional/spiritual support.

For information, call 329-2721, email [brian.pickering@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:brian.pickering@usw.salvationarmy.org) or visit [makiningspokanebetter.org](http://makiningspokanebetter.org).

## Baha’is donate funds

Individuals in the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Spokane County North have contributed their funds and their time as volunteers to help those affected by the local wildfires, said Brenda Beaulieu, secretary of that community. The assembly is sending funds to the local Red Cross and Second Harvest.

## Stake opens help centers

The Spokane Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened three buildings to provide backup for The Red Cross Evacuation Shelter at Spokane Falls Community College. They offered bedding, supplies, food and emotional support.

For people in the Oregon Road fire, the church offered clothes, diapers, toiletries and canned food at 34221 N. Newport Hwy.

The church will implement a Disaster Response JustServe project for both areas when cleanup and recovery begin. For information, call 981-3041.

## SRHD warns on air, debris

The Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and Spokane Clean Air kept residents informed about air quality and smoke exposure symptoms—coughing, a scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, stinging eyes, a runny nose, shortness of breath, chest pain and headaches—and when to seek medical attention. For information, visit [srhd.org/health-topics/environmental-health/wildfire-smoke](http://srhd.org/health-topics/environmental-health/wildfire-smoke), at [srhd.org/air-quality-wildfire-faq](http://srhd.org/air-quality-wildfire-faq) and at [spokanecleanair.org/air-quality/wildfire-smoke](http://spokanecleanair.org/air-quality/wildfire-smoke).

After a wildfire, property own-

ers have many considerations as they clean up remaining structures and the land.

The SRHD suggested that before people clean up their property after a fire, they review information on the potential hazards, how and when to start, how to handle and dispose of debris and chemicals, and how to deal with wells, septic systems and

other health issues.

For information, visit [srhd.org/health-topics/environmental-health/after-a-wildfire](http://srhd.org/health-topics/environmental-health/after-a-wildfire).



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## 120 speakers representing millions vow to continue MLK's march

Persistence and perseverance along with hope and unity are essential for the march for freedom, justice, equality, opportunity, respect and peace.

That reality was repeated by 120 speakers from more than 100 civil rights, faith, union, ethnic, women's, social, political, educational, legal, community and advocacy organizations representing millions upon millions of people. They spoke to thousands who came to the 60th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Freedom and Jobs. Their more than six hours of speeches are available to view on [youtube.com/watch?v=oJv\\_BWyEd7g](https://youtube.com/watch?v=oJv_BWyEd7g). Yes, I watched and was inspired.

The march continues, not just one day in DC, but every day in every community throughout the country and the world.

Marchers met again at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial, remembering that Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclama-

tion to end slavery. After Reconstruction came the NAACP, the Klu Klux Klan and Jim Crow. The Civil Rights Movement brought voting rights, affirmative action and some integration. Since the election of a Black President, there is a backlash of white supremacy challenging voting rights, affirmative action, history education and democracy.

Comments of some faith leaders are featured in Sounding Board below. Many Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, indigenous and other spiritual leaders also spoke.

How long will it take to acknowledge that the toil of African American slaves as well as efforts of many black, brown, indigenous, women and men spiritual, economic and political leaders contributed to U.S. wealth. What is there to fear to have everyone learn about the oppression and contributions of African Americans, indigenous, Asian, Latino/a/x, Pacific

Islander as well as European Americans?

Why can we not live in justice, love and peace across our racial, gender, cultural, religious, social, generational, identity, political and economic differences?

The March for Freedom and Jobs must continue as long as one percent of the population own 90 percent of the wealth and believe they are "entitled" to it. With the rest sharing 10 percent, it's hard to keep a middle class. The few with wealth and power try to keep the rest divided, competing with each other, distrusting and fearing each other so they don't challenge those who hold the wealth and power.

March speakers repeatedly called for solidarity and unity among racial and ethnic groups, among women, educators, workers, LGBTQ, faiths and more.

Unity is needed so after progress for one group comes, others know that their rights, freedom and equality are enhanced

by working together. When backlash comes, when hate comes, when violence comes yet again, we have the strength of a common voice, the strength of marching together and singing together to persist and persevere to overcome oppression.

Hope comes in knowing we are not alone when the voices of hate resurge.

Hope comes in standing up and speaking out together to multiply our voices.

Hope comes in holding onto the dream, the vision of a world in which all will live under their own vine and fig tree in peace and unafraid because they have marched in solidarity and faith to win the promise of shalom.

"All of us need to be engaged," said Martin Luther King III, MLK's son.

Wherever we are, we are called to continue to march, vote, speak and connect.

**Mary Stamp**  
Editor

## Sravasti Abbey Community finds welcoming hosts in evacuation

*The Sravasti Abbey Community was among those to evacuate in response to the Oregon Road Fire. Thubten Samten shared the abbey's experiences on needing to "Go now," being welcomed in homes, being showered with care, concern and prayers from around the world, and returning Aug. 25.*

On Aug. 18, the Sravasti Abbey Community began activities for a weekend retreat. The retreat managers were finishing an orientation, guests were still arriving and the kitchen team was preparing meals.

About 4:45 p.m., a friend called to alert us that a fire had broken out nearby. She said her brother was part of the firefighting team attending the incident and news of the fire was not yet public. She urged us to be vigilant. About 15 minutes after her call, all the cell phones received an emergency alert about the Oregon Road fire.

Fortunately, the Abbey community has a fire emergency plan. We gathered everyone in the dining room to communicate news that the fire was about four miles away. We rounded up our "go bags"

and brought out the Barricade Fire Gel Retardant to spray a protective coating on buildings if we had the opportunity. Soon we saw huge plumes of smoke billowing in the west and growing in magnitude quickly. The Newport Sheriff's office dispatched a member to the Abbey, directing us to evacuate as soon as possible. We thought we would have time to apply the Barricade but then we reached Evacuation Level 3, which meant, "Go Now!"

Quickly guests and residents headed to an agreed meeting place. Once there we started calling friends who had agreed to house us in fire/natural disaster.

As each carload contacted friends, the response was overwhelmingly positive and supportive for us to please make our way to their homes immediately. One friend not on the official host list emailed shortly after news of the Oregon Fire went public, letting us know that if evacuated, we were welcome at his home.

One group could not reach their assigned host, so I took him up on his spontaneous offer. Not only did he offer

his home, but also he headed out to direct us to his rural property in Valleyford.

For the next several days, the Abbey community was showered with care, kindness, meals and warm-hearted company. People around the world wrote expressing concern for our well-being, offering prayers and asking what help we might need that they could offer from afar.

People living close to the Abbey wrote to offer us a place to stay. We had no idea how long the evacuation would be and how this might strain our hosts. Our kind friends hosting us assured us we were welcome to stay as long as needed.

We stayed in touch with each other that week, doing practices and pujas online. Venerable Thubten Chodron, abbess and spiritual teacher of Sravasti Abbey, suggested practices to do during our evacuation and reminded us to keep the world community in our minds and hearts as so many are displaced, dealing with loss of life of loved ones and loss of homes.

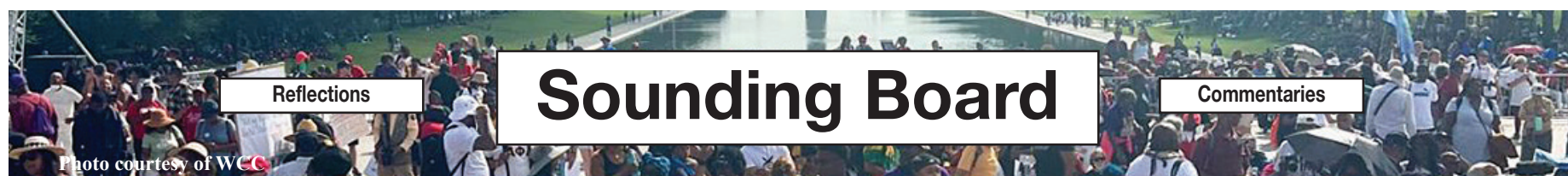
All of us watched the progress of the firefighting effort through an app called

Watch Duty, which eventually included video updates on the Oregon Road Fire. We were deeply touched by the effort invested in fighting this fire and all areas burning in the state and beyond. Organizing and implementing how to bring these fires under control is extremely well thought out and carefully managed.

Late afternoon Aug. 25, we learned that it was safe to return to the Abbey. As we prepared to leave the homes of our kind friends who cared for all of us with such care and thoughtfulness during the evacuation, we were impressed by the incredible generosity and kindness we had received.

As we continue to reflect on this week and the outpouring of support for the Abbey community, we are reminded at a deeper level of the interconnectedness of life and our dependence on others. We will continue to make prayers and dedications for all involved in firefighting, for everyone impacted by these fires and for everyone who reached out to us to express their concern and support.

**Thubten Samten - Sravasti Abbey**



## Faith leaders featured in 60th anniversary of March on Washington

A continuation, not a commemoration: at the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., religious and civic leaders spoke before thousands of demonstrators who turned out despite intense summertime heat on Aug. 26.

They stood with signs and flags, children with their parents and elders, many of whom remembered the day back in August 1963 when Martin Luther King Jr and his "I Have a Dream" speech became icons in the push for justice and peace. Some carried photos taken 60 years ago.

Then and now, marchers affirmed their fight for justice and peace is not over.

**World Council of Churches (WCC)** president from North America Angelique Walker-Smith brought greetings to the crowd from the WCC, and reflected on the power of faith, resiliency and resolve.

"Yes, we have marched nationally and globally and we are still marching!" she said. "Let us remember we must always march forward, for to do otherwise is to give in to death which we can never do!"

"Let us be clear that we are a global and beautiful people seeking the embodiment of reparatory justice and God-given freedoms, even as we seek to find new ways to love one another having learned from our past and moving forward in faith, by faith and grace," Angelique added.

**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA president and general secretary, asked those gathered: "When are we going to say enough is enough? Crazily, it is unsafe to be Black and Brown anywhere, anytime in America. This is an all-out war against us."

The same day as the March on Washington, a gunman took the lives of three people of African descent in Jacksonville, Florida at a local store, a hate-based attack originally intended for Edward Waters University, a campus related to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a historic Black church and a WCC member church.

It's a struggle every day for people to maintain their personhood, noted Vashti.

"People feel they have a right to revoke our rights—basic rights—all of them making a mockery out of democracy," she said. "This is the hour to keep believing that justice is still possible even when democracy is on life support."

"This is the time. We must have the will to lead and not just react," she said. "We must reset the moral compass of our nations. Now is the time. Now is the hour. The future is in your hands."

**Bishop Charley Hames Jr**, presiding bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, reflected that the March on Washington in 1963 was not really a

singular moment but a catalyst for change reverberating through generations.

"As we stand here today, we recognize that the fight for equality, justice, and civil rights is not over," Charley said. "We must carry the torch they lit and continue their mission to create a truly inclusive and equitable society."

The March on Washington 60 years ago was a powerful statement against racial injustice, he acknowledged, commenting, "They demonstrated the power of the collective action and the strength of unity. The March on Washington reminds us that we must address all forms of systemic oppression and discrimination."

"Today, we still witness injustices that demand our attention and action," Charley added. "We must challenge prejudice and discrimination where we encounter them. We must amplify the voices of the marginalized communities."

Marching is still necessary, he urged, otherwise, "my grandson will be seen as a weapon and not as a child of God."

**Bishop Talbert Wesley Swan II** from the Church of God in Christ reflected that "we live in strange times. We are here to say you cannot erase us. We're not going anywhere."

On July 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr should have entered the Uppsala Cathedral in Sweden to preach at the opening

service of the WCC's 4th Assembly, but he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

On its 75th anniversary, the WCC remembers that ecumenical moments of profound lament still shape the ecumenical commitment to justice and peace.

**Franklyn Richardson**, chair of the National Action Network, a primary hosting organization of the March on Washington, said it was not merely a march of reflection but a march of projecting into the future.

"We will not let the clock turn back. We've come through great difficulties and hardships," said Franklyn, who is a former member of the WCC Central Committee.

Noting that the nation was built on the backs of African-Americans and African people, he said, "Today we come to serve notice that we are determined to collect what we invested—what our foremothers and forefathers deposited in this nation. We are all here because we all have an investment in this nation turning and living up to its possibilities."

**In a letter to those gathered**, WCC general secretary Jerry Pillay said, "Today we see far because we stand on the shoulders of the giants of 1963. The march must continue. I exhort you, sisters and brothers, to make sure that we are not the last wave," he urged. "The demands must be taken to every nook and cranny of the earth!"

# Calendar of Events

- Sept 7** • **Vets on the Farm Produce Sale**, Shadle Park Library, 12 to 2 p.m., [events.spokanelibrary.org](http://events.spokanelibrary.org)
- **Rural Nonprofit Gathering**, Nonprofit Association of Washington, online, 2 to 4 pm
- Sept 7, 12, 13** • **Atomic Washington**: Our Nuclear Past, Present and Future, Steve Olson, 7th-Moses Lake Museum and Art Center, 401 S. Balsam, 6 pm; 12th-Asotin County Library Downtown Branch, 417 Sycamore, Clarkston, 6:30 pm; 13th-Columbia County Rural Library District, 111 S. 3rd, Dayton 6 p.m. [humanities.org](http://humanities.org)
- Sept 7, 18, 21** • **Medicare101 Enrollment Events**, SHIBA, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 625-4801 for appointment and location
- Sept 8** • **Unify Community Health Fair**, Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, 2 to 6 p.m., [yfvwc.com](http://yfvwc.com)
- **North Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture**, Daniel James Brown: Facing the Mountain, Coeur d'Alene Resort, 115 S. Second, 7 to 9 p.m., 208-765-4000
- **Bringing Democracy Back from the Brink**, Danielle Allen, Gonzaga University, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, Coughlin Theater, 211 E. Desmet, 7 p.m., [humanities.org](http://humanities.org)
- Sept 8-10** • **Girl Scouts Women's Weekend** at Camp Four Echoes, fundraising event for scholarships, camperships and leadership programs, 22270 S. 4 Echoes, Worley, ID, 1 p.m. to 11 a.m., 747-8091
- Sept 9** • **SPAN Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk** 2023, 5K, Riverstone Park, Coeur d'Alene, Registration, 8:30 a.m., Walk, 10 a.m., [appengine.gov.com/apps/id/phd/span](http://appengine.gov.com/apps/id/phd/span)
- **#WEDORECOVER Art Show**, artists committed to recovery and artistic growth, Chrysalis Gallery, 911 S. Monroe, 12 to 5 p.m., 991-7275
- **Share Our Dreams: Nurture Our Nature**, Camp Fire Inland Northwest Campership fundraiser, Camp Dart-Lo, 14000 N. Dartford, 4 to 7 pm
- **Joys of Summer Gala for Feed Spokane**, Corbin Senior Center, 827 W. Cleveland, 4:30 p.m., [feedspokane.org/joys-of-summer-gala-2023/](http://feedspokane.org/joys-of-summer-gala-2023/)
- Sept 10** • **Sharing the Dharma Day**, Sravasti Abbey, 692 Country Lane, Newport, 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 447-5549
- Sept 11** • **Monday Market – Native Arts and Crafts**, Indigenous Eats, 829 E. Boone, 12 to 6:30 p.m., 850-9292, [bit.ly/45AOqjV](http://bit.ly/45AOqjV)
- Sept 11, 18, 25** • **Social Services Resource Room & Community Court**, Central Library, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., [event.spokanelibrary.org](http://event.spokanelibrary.org)
- Sept 12** • **Eastern Washington Legislative Conference Planning**, Zoom, 3 p.m., [kaye@thefigtree.org](mailto:kaye@thefigtree.org)
- **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, Zoom, 5:30 p.m. [pjals.org](http://pjals.org)
- **From Ukraine to Spokane**: Stories of Displacement and Resilience, Thrive International, Central Library, 906 S. Main, 6:30 p.m., [events.spokanelibrary.org](http://events.spokanelibrary.org)
- **Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Foster Care Information Night**, Lutheran Community Services NW, online, 6 p.m., 747-8224, [theirhope@lcsnw.org](mailto:theirhope@lcsnw.org)
- Sept 12-Oct 6** • **A Matter of Balance**, Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, Pullman Senior Center, 325 SE Paradise, Tues/Th, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., [philip.healean@dsh.wa.gov](mailto:philip.healean@dsh.wa.gov)
- Sept 13** • **Sandy Williams Birthday Party**, Carl Maxey Center, 3114 E. 5th, 12 to 2 p.m.
- **PJALS Gathering and Potluck**, Finch Arboretum, 3404 W. Woodland, 6 to 8 p.m., [pjals.org](http://pjals.org)
- Sept 14** • **Eye Contact**, Volunteers of America of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho art, music, performance fundraiser for and awareness raiser on homelessness, Washington Cracker Co. Bldg, 3-4 W. Pacific, 5 to 8 p.m., 688-1109
- Sept 14-17** • **Odessa Deutschesfest**, Hwy 21 and Hwy 28, [deutschesfest.net](http://deutschesfest.net)
- Sept 14, 28** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Zoom, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., [slichty@pjals.org](mailto:slichty@pjals.org)
- Sept 15** • **Sequins & Velvet**, benefit with dancing, food, games for Mujeres in Action, Overbluff Cellars, 304 W. Pacific, 5:30 to 10 p.m., 599-5527
- Sept 16** • **Navarasa Kalinga Nartana**: Classical South Indian Bharatha Natyam, South Asia Cultural Association, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., 227-7404
- **20th Annual Spokane River Clean-up**, The Lands Council, People's Park, 2500-2834 W. Clarke, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 838-4912, [tlc@landscouncil.org](mailto:tlc@landscouncil.org); Spokane Riverkeeper & Spokane River Forum in Spokane Valley, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., [spokaneriverkeeper.org](http://spokaneriverkeeper.org)
- **SNAP Homebuyer Education Seminar**, Argonne Library, 4322 N. Argonne, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 893-8200
- **Care Fair**, Care Moses Lake, Moses Lake Youth Dynamics resource fair, 106 E. 3rd, 12 p.m., [caremoseslake.com/care-fair](http://caremoseslake.com/care-fair)
- **Sandy Williams Birthday Block Party**, Carl Maxey Center, 3114 E. 5th, 12 to 4 p.m.
- **River of Tears**: A Climate Grief Workshop, art-making ritual with artist Elyse Hochstadt, The Hive, 1 to 5 p.m., [events.spokanelibrary.org](http://events.spokanelibrary.org)
- **Mexican Independence Day**, Pavilion, Riverfront Park, 2 p.m. 558-9359, [info@latinosenspokane.org](mailto:info@latinosenspokane.org)
- **Dream Beyond Auction for Life Services**, Davenport Grant Hotel, 333 W. Spokane Falls, 4 to 7:30 p.m., 800-913-9344, [Elizabeth@lifeservices.org](mailto:Elizabeth@lifeservices.org)
- Sept 16, 17** • **Spokane Symphony Masterworks 1: A Place** Called Home, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun, 3 p.m., 624-1200
- Sept 18-29** • **YWCA Racial Justice Challenge**, [ywca.org/challenge](http://ywca.org/challenge)
- Sept 19** • **All the Rage**: How American Politics Boiled Over, Steven Stehr, Columbia County Rural Library District, 111 S. 3rd, Dayton, 6 p.m., [humanities.org](http://humanities.org)
- Sept 20** • **Communities Rise** September Legal Clinic for Nonprofits, online, 5 to 7:15 p.m., [legalclinic@communities-rise.org](mailto:legalclinic@communities-rise.org)
- **NAACP General Membership Meeting**, Spokane Public Library, 906 W. Main or virtual, 6:30 p.m., [spokanenaacp@gmail.com](mailto:spokanenaacp@gmail.com)
- **Feast World Kitchen Million Dollar Moment**, 1321 W. 3rd, 7:30 to 9 p.m., [feastworldkitchen.org](http://feastworldkitchen.org)
- Sept 20, 21** • **African Children's Choir Concert**, Suncrest Worship, 6048 Highway 291, Nine Mile Falls, 7 p.m., 466-6330
- Sept 21** • **Illuminations: Illuminated Manuscripts**, Hanna Charlton: highlights from the archives and special collections, Central Library, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., [events.spokanelibrary.org](http://events.spokanelibrary.org)
- **Sandy Williams Justice Center**, Racial Justice Clinic: BIPOC Family Law, DV, housing, discrimination, civil rights, Carl Maxey Center, 3114 E. 5th, 5 to 7 p.m., [selfhelplegal@carlmaxeycenter.org](mailto:selfhelplegal@carlmaxeycenter.org)
- Sept 22** • **The Fig Tree deadline**, [mary@thefigtree.org](mailto:mary@thefigtree.org)
- **Jim-Isaac Chua**, performs pieces by Chopin, Liszt, Beethoven and Rameau, benefit for The Arc of Spokane, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 7 p.m., 227-7404
- **Symphony Sessions**, The Wonder Building, 835 N. Post, 8:30 p.m., [foxtheaterspokane.org](http://foxtheaterspokane.org)
- Sept 23** • **National Public Lands Day**, The Lands Council, Hikes at Riverside State Park and North Idaho, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., [landscouncil.org](http://landscouncil.org)
- **Village Cohousing Works**, Benefit Golf Tournament, Deer Park Golf Club, 1201 North Country Club, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., [help@villagecohousingworksspokane.org](mailto:help@villagecohousingworksspokane.org)
- **SNAP Pajama Party**, donate cold weather gear, pajamas, hats, gloves, socks and hand warmers for SNAP, Brick West Brewing Co., 1318 W. First, 4:30 to 9 p.m., 456-5242
- **MAC Gala**, Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 W. First, 5:30 p.m., 456-3931
- **Fostering Flight**, fundraising auction for former foster youth, Safety Net Inland Northwest, Historic Flight Foundation, 5829 E. Rutter, 6 to 9 p.m., 863-9431, [safetynetinlandnw.org](http://safetynetinlandnw.org)
- **Spokane Arts Awards**, Lucky You Lounge, 1801 W. Sunset Blvd., 7 p.m., 474-0511
- Sept 23-24** • **Spokane Valleyfest**, Mirabeau Point Park, 13500 E. Mirabeau Pkwy, Fri Parade 7:30 p.m., Sat 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., [valleyfest.org](http://valleyfest.org)
- Sept 23-Oct 1** • **All Our Relations Snake River Campaign**, 27th-MAC, 2316 W. 1st, Spokane, 6 p.m., [wruitt@ipjc.org](mailto:wruitt@ipjc.org); Hells Gate Park, 5100 Hells Gate, Lewiston, 29th-6 p.m. and 30th-8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., [protectingnimitipuu@gmail.com](mailto:protectingnimitipuu@gmail.com), [earthministry.org](http://earthministry.org)
- Sept 24** • **Spokane Civics Salon – The Rise of Populism**, Central Library, 2 p.m., [events.spokanelibrary.org](http://events.spokanelibrary.org)
- **Spokane String Quartet** with Evren Ozel, piano Brahms and Schumann, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, 3 to 5 p.m., 998-2261
- **African Children's Choir**, Liferoads Church, 3007 E. Marshall, 7 p.m., 328-1099
- Sept 25-Oct 18** • **A Matter of Balance**, Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, Cathedral Plaza Apts, 1120 W. Sprague, M/W 10 a.m. to noon; Cheney Parks & Recreation, 615 4th, M/W, 10:20 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., [philip.healean@dsh.wa.gov](mailto:philip.healean@dsh.wa.gov)
- Sept 26** • **Riverside Chats**: Evening with Luke Baumgarten, RANGE Media founder, "Conversations with do-gooders, newsmakers and rebels," Central Library nx?yx?yetk? hall, 7:30 p.m., [events.spokanelibrary.org](http://events.spokanelibrary.org)
- Sept 28-30** • **Spokane Greek Fest**, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1703 N. Washington, 328-9310
- Sept 29** • **Behavioral Health Resource Fair**, Interagency Movement for Patient Access, Care & Trust, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., [gminchow@northpointrecovery.com](mailto:gminchow@northpointrecovery.com)
- **Fundraiser for Shades of Motherhood Network**, The Philanthropy Center, 1020 W. Riverside, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., [theshadesofmotherhoodnetwork.org](http://theshadesofmotherhoodnetwork.org)
- Sept 29-30** • **Rest, Rewild, Retreat**, Harmony Woods Retreat Center, 11507 S. Keeney, plant-based meals, gentle movement, meditation and reflections, 993-2968
- Sept 30** • **Peace & Justice Action Conference**, "Praxis: Building Beloved Community Now," Spokane Central Library, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., [pjals.org](http://pjals.org)
- **El Mercado**, A.M. Cannon Park, 1920 E. Maxwell, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Mend-It Café**, Spokane Zero Waste, 7413 E. Trent, 11 a.m., [spokanezerowaste@gmail.com](mailto:spokanezerowaste@gmail.com)
- **Oktoberfest**, Deutcheshaus, [deutcheshaus.org](http://deutcheshaus.org)
- **CdA Symphony**: Beethoven's Emperor, Schuler Center, 880 W. Garden, CdA, 7:30 p.m., 208-769-7780
- Oct 1** • **Healing the Earth Vigil**, Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience, Saltese Wetlands, 1330 S. Henry Rd.
- Oct 4** • **The Fig Tree Mailing and Distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 24th & Grand, 9 a.m., 535-4112
- Oct 5** • **The Fig Tree Meetings**, Zoom, Development Committee, noon, Board, 1 p.m., 535-4112
- Oct 5-6** • **Washington Low Income Housing Alliance** Conference on Ending Homelessness, [wliha.org/conference](http://wliha.org/conference), [conference@wliha.org](mailto:conference@wliha.org)

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# Horizon Hospice program focuses on holistic, self-directed care

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

Since Horizon Hospice started 25 years ago, the program has grown to 100 staff who provide personalized care for 170 patients, said CEO Chris McFaul.

Their focus is on holistic self-directed care of mind, body and spirit, he pointed out.

The care is also adjusted to help people live life to the fullest while they navigate the final chapter of life, he added.

**“We understand** the importance of the last days of life because everything then changes and becomes more difficult for the patient, and more exhausting and emotional for the family,” Chris said. “We are dedicated to making sure no one dies alone, in pain or outside their home.”

Horizon Hospice continues to figure out how to make a positive difference for patients.

**Chris came out of** a business and medical science background, working as a leader in a pharmaceutical company, knowing little about hospice.

In 2008, his mother-in-law, Sue, called with news that she was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer.

About the same time, Loren Guske, who founded Horizon Hospice with Barbara Morgan and his wife Beth, invited Chris to join him to run Horizon Hospice.

**“In terms of providence,** God’s timing is interesting,” Chris observed. “I just couldn’t imagine doing it, but in walking through the last several months of my mother-in-law’s life, while she was receiving hospice care, I saw the impact it made, not only for her, but more so for my wife, her sisters and our entire family.”

His newly married niece, who lived a few hundred miles away with a new job and new house, had not been in touch with Grandma Sue for several months and didn’t see her gradual decline. When she came to visit, she saw visibly the decline that was taking place and how much had changed in that short period.

She talked to family members and eased her way into seeing Grandma Sue, who was sitting on the edge of her bed and engaging in the key conversations of ‘I love you’ and ‘Goodbye.’



Chris McFaul found a mission with Horizon Hospice.

“The value of Hospice showed. If we were in a hospital, not in her home, it would have been difficult,” Chris said. “At that moment, I knew this was something I could pour my life into that would be more than a job and paycheck. It would be a mission, a calling for my life.”

**“What I see with Hospice** was that this is a critical juncture, where people don’t know how difficult the end-of-life journey is. It is a pathway strewn with landmines we are not aware of. We are emotionally fragile. Medically, our loved one is very fragile,” he said.

To have a guide can make a positive difference if it’s done well, he added.

**Chris said care providers,** aides, nurses, social workers and chaplains are to be personable, so care is personalized, prioritizing listening and connection.

He described what that looked like for one patient, a cowboy, who grew up riding a horse under the big sky on the range, away from the city. He was in hospice care in an apartment, looking out the window to a parking lot.

“You can imagine that person would feel cooped up in hospice care,” he said.

One care team member learned from his wife that he loved horses and the outdoors. One Sunday morning while he was sitting in his wheelchair he rolled his chair to the window and saw the caregiver bringing a horse to visit him, Chris said.

His wife was in tears. He said, “That’s a red roan.” His wife said the horse looked like the last horse he had owned.

They took pictures of him

feeding and petting the horse as he sat in his wheelchair, celebrating his life with his whole family.

**“Our vision at Horizon is** to help people live life to the fullest, one day at a time,” Chris said.

Another caregiver learned a patient and his wife had their first date 40 years before at the movie, “The Electric Horseman.” With a few phone calls, they arranged for the family to recreate the first date and have a private viewing of “The Electric Horseman” in the Garland Theatre.

**“When I meet** on the first day with a new employee, I talk with them about these stories. When I tell these stories and see tears in their eyes and emotional connection, I say, ‘This is a good hire.’ They understand the reason we exist, catch the vision and will take good care of our patients.”

Hospice is unique because Medicare requires patients to address medical, psychological and social elements of care, as well as spiritual care.

“We are grateful for that requirement because it is important to address the questions, What’s next? Does my life have significance? and Will I see God face to face? We support them in pursuing their spiritual meaning,” said Chris.

**“Faith is important** as we focus on patient and family au-

tonomy in self-directed care. Patients determine what their care looks like. If they are not able to do this, their healthcare durable power of attorney determines what care looks like,” he said. “Whatever faith system a patient wants support for, that’s what we connect them to. Each describes that and our team makes connections to put that support in place.”

**Chris believes everyone** lives by a faith system. Being a follower of Jesus Christ, he said, informs him to be a servant leader and empowers the Horizon team to meet a patient’s spiritual needs through self-directed care.

On intake, Hospice staff ask the patient, “Do you have a faith system that you want supported?” Knowing that, the care team can help them connect with their spirituality as they face their mortality and end.

Communication is critical to keep people connected.

“My perception of my title CEO is as a Custodial Equip-

ment Operator. My job is to get the broom out and sweep any obstacle out of the way, anything that is impeding our care team from giving the patient quality care, support and ability to process with the least restrictions and encumbrances.”

**Because the staff care** so deeply for the patients, they need to process their emotions, frustrations and loss as part of their work. They do that with teammates, a social worker, chaplain, nurse or someone else.

“That way we are all recharging their batteries so they are able to give their best,” Chris said.

For information, email [cmcfaul@horizonhospice.com](mailto:cmcfaul@horizonhospice.com).

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