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# THE SPIRIT – ISSUE 06 – JUNE 2025



## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT 10 AM

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CHENEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Recently, I found myself humming one of my favorite hymns from our hymnal, “The Faith We Sing” and then singing it to myself: “For everyone born, a place at the table.” That got me thinking on the last weekend in May. And I stumbled across the following passage from the Bible:

**“<sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”**

**Luke 14:13-14 (NRSV)**

Jesus never threw a potluck without also flipping the seating chart. Time and again in the Gospels, meals become the setting where Jesus tears down barriers—between rich and poor, insider and outsider, “clean” and “unclean.”

In Luke 14, He reminds us that the kingdom of God isn’t about upward mobility or social status. It’s about welcome. It’s about creating a table where those who are overlooked and under-invited find a place not just to eat, but to belong.

Hospitality in the kingdom is never transactional. Jesus says to invite those who can’t pay us back—not because it’s noble, but because it’s **normal** in His upside-down way of living. Feeding the hungry isn’t charity. It’s family. It’s kingdom culture. And it invites us to go beyond just handing out bread, toward building relationships rooted in dignity and shared humanity.



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Our hymn *For Everyone Born* puts it beautifully:  
*For everyone born, a place at the table...  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing...  
and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace...*

That refrain gets me every time. Not only are we welcomed, but we are *invited to become the welcomers*. To make room. To revise the roles. To listen to voices we might overlook. To create spaces that are safe and free—not just for some, but for **everyone born**. It’s easy to say we want to be inclusive. It’s much harder to actually rearrange the table to make room. To share power. To listen deeply. To serve without expectation. But in doing so, we catch a glimpse of what God’s kingdom looks like—and sometimes, we taste it too.

As we gather around tables this summer—at picnics, coffee hour, or even just with a neighbor across a porch—may we remember that Jesus is still setting the table, and the invitation list hasn't changed. Everyone has a place. Let's be the ones who keep pulling up chairs.

Pastor Daiman

There are a lot of things going on in our church life. We are planning, praying, and preparing for different events and when they come, they are over and we go on with the next thing. This section in our Newsletter should give us a moment of appreciation and celebration of what we have done and experienced in the last month.

So let's celebrate and be thankful!



**5 Desirae Glaze**  
**6 Steve Blomgren**  
**10 Josephine Kriegh**  
**11 Dave Reagan**  
**17 Shannon Kenna Wilkey**  
**20 Aidan McCrum**

**23 Rande Linder**  
**Deaven Kriegh**  
**27 Brenda Zito**  
**28 Michelle (Cloke) Ray**  
**Shirley Bloom**  
**29 Lonnie Lymch**



**9 Chuck & Carol Kriegh**  
**13 Gary & Loretta Glaze**  
**Pat & Cathy Sleeth**  
**Flint & Mia Simonsen**

**18 Bill & Valerie Schillinger**  
**29 Becky Reilly & Janie VandeBerg**

**If you do not see your name please let the office know and we will put you in our database.**

## Feeling Lucky—and Loved—at Cheney Mayfest 2025



If you strolled past our booth at Mayfest on Saturday, May 10, chances are you heard Star Wars music, laughter, and maybe a little cheering (or groaning) from our corner of downtown Cheney. That was the Cheney UMC table—draped in our familiar tablecloth, staffed by a joyful crew of volunteers, and fully embracing the festive spirit!

From 9:30 AM to 4 PM, ten dedicated volunteers took turns sharing smiles, information, and even a little healthy competition with the Cheney community. This year, our table had a little something for everyone: flyers about our church, copies of our latest newsletter, and some very cool Cheney UMC tote bags. But the real showstopper? The *human slot machine*.

Picture this: three people inside a decorated box, each having five different fruits in front of them. A visitor presses a button, music starts, and the “slots” begin spinning—aka our fruit-wielding friends randomly picking a fruit. If all three match? Ding-ding-ding—we had a winner! Lucky folks walked away with gift cards to local Cheney stores. But win or lose, everyone left smiling. (Well, maybe not the folks who got “banana-banana-apple,” but even they laughed.) The consolation prize was a little orange.



The community’s response was overwhelmingly positive. We had over 50 people sign up for our digital newsletter, handed out a ton of tote bags packed with info, and had meaningful conversations with neighbors we knew and folks we’d never met before. We also invited everyone to our upcoming **Star Wars-themed worship service**, which got more than a few raised eyebrows and excited grins. (May the Lord be with you!)

At the heart of it all was the same simple goal: to show up, have fun, and share a little love. And thanks to our amazing volunteers and the warm hearts of this town, that mission was definitely accomplished.

Until next Mayfest, keep spinning those fruits and spreading that joy!

Pastor Damian



## Worship in a Galaxy Not So Far Away – A Star Wars experience



If you noticed an unusual amount of lightsabers, robes, and giggling Wookiee impersonations in the sanctuary this May, don't worry—you didn't accidentally wander into a galaxy far, far away. You were exactly where the Force meant for you to be: Cheney United Methodist Church, for not one but *two* epic Star Wars-themed worship services!

### Episode I: May the 4th – “May the Light Be With You”

From the moment Pastor Damian welcomed us as “Rebels of the Light,” the tone was set. Our sanctuary was alive with music, laughter, trivia, and yes—costumes. We explored how God's love, like the Force, surrounds us, guides us, and can be trusted even in the dusty, Tatooine-ish moments of our lives.

Luke Skywalker's transformation became our metaphor: slow down, unlearn fear, and trust the light already within you. And we were reminded that even in our doubts, our tiredness, and our kitchen-window-staring moments, God's light is already in us. And unlike Luke, we don't need to train in a swamp. (Although, if you do find yourself in a swamp, maybe bring bug spray *and* a Bible.) Also, props to JoAnna Cockrum for playing “Leia's Theme” and the “Cantina Band” with such galactic flair. I'm pretty sure even Yoda would've shed a tear.

### Episode II: May 11th – “The Gospel Strikes Back” (Mother's Day Edition!)

This service turned to Darth Vader's story—and how even the hardest hearts can be redeemed. We saw how the Dark Side often starts with wounds, not wickedness. Pastor Damian reminded us that the Gospel doesn't shame us into the light—it loves us out of the dark. And judging by the glow sticks lighting up the sanctuary during prayer, we're all a little more ready to fight fear with faith.

### Closing Thoughts from a Proud Rebel of the Light

If you missed these services, I'm so sorry... but also, HOW DARE YOU!? Just kidding. But seriously—these two Sundays weren't just cute theme days. They were deeply meaningful. They reminded us that worship can be creative, playful, moving, and incredibly relevant—even when it's inspired by space wizards and sarcastic robots.

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So let's keep carrying that light with us—not just in lightsaber form, but in love, grace, and holy rebellion against despair. As Pastor Damian said: “You matter to the rebellion. The kingdom of God needs you.” Whether you're a Jedi, a Padawan, or just someone trying to make it through your next Monday—remember: The Force of Love is strong with this church. And the Gospel? Oh, it *definitely* strikes back. *This is the Way*.

### **But here is more good news: The Saga Continues**

Didn't get a chance to wear your Jedi robe this time around? Or still working on the perfect Princess Leia hair buns? Fear not! This fall, during our *Movie Worship* series, we'll return to the Star Wars galaxy for *three more services*. So now's the time to start planning your costume—and maybe watch a few Star Wars movies for, you know... *spiritual preparation*.

Whether you're a Jedi, a Wookiee, or just someone hoping your glow stick still works—remember: “*Rebellions are built on hope*.” And this one? It's just getting started.



**Final Reminder: Parking Lot Sale is Almost Here!**

The big day is almost upon us—our **Annual Parking Lot Sale** is happening on **Saturday, June 7, from 9 AM to 1 PM** right here at Cheney UMC!

Starting **June 1**, you can begin bringing **furniture donations** and placing them in the big **horse trailer in the parking lot**. Smaller, clean items can be dropped off at the church anytime before the sale.

We're still collecting:

- Clothes
- Kitchenware
- Books & toys
- Small furniture
- Working electronics
- Miscellaneous treasures

Every item donated helps us declutter with purpose—and connects us with our community during Cheney's citywide yard sale weekend!

Thanks for your generosity. See you (and your treasures) soon!

Pastor Damian

**Cheney United Methodist Church Schedule**

**Church Office Hours - Tuesday - Thursday 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Meals on Wheels every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm at our Church.**

**The Choir is taking a summer break and will start back up on September 03.**

**Bible Study with Congregational Church - we are meeting weekly on Thursdays from 1:15 to 2:15 pm. For the month of June we will be meeting at Cheney UMC.**

**Sassy Senior Society meets on June 18 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm**

**House Bible Studies:**

**Mondays from 2:00—3:00 led by Margie Lindner**

**Mondays from 7:30—8:30 led by Carol Kriegh**

**Wednesdays from 7:00—8:00 led by Saralynn Kerr**

*Contact the office for the addresses, please.*

## June Worship Schedule

### **Sunday, June 01 – “7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter” – 10 a.m**

With Communion

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on **Revelations 22:12-21**

### **Sunday, June 08 – “Pentecost” – 10 a.m**

Pentecost

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on **Romans 8:14-17 & Acts 2:1-21**

### **Sunday, June 15 – “Church in the Park” – 10 a.m**

We meet at Sutton Park: *815 Washington St., Cheney*

Pastor Matt Goodale is preaching

### **Sunday, June 22 – “2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” – 10 a.m**

We celebrate Father’s Day (one week later)

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on **Galatians 3:23-29**

### **Sunday, June 29 – “3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” – 10 a.m**

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on **Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

### **Pastor’s Upcoming Absence**

Annual Conference: **June 26<sup>th</sup> until June 29<sup>th</sup>**

Upcoming vacation: **July 15<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>**

**“If God Goes to the Movies...” — Let’s Plan a Series Worth Sharing!**

*Next Big Planning Meeting: Tuesday, June 3 at 5:30 PM*

Whether you’re a lifelong fan of *Harry Potter*, *The Lord of the Rings*, or *Star Wars*—or you’ve never seen a single lightsaber in action—this is your invitation to help create something special.

This fall, we’re launching a new Movie Sermon Series titled **“If God Goes to the Movies...”** Our goal? To build bridges between faith and pop culture—and to offer a welcoming, creative space where neighbors, friends, and folks who might not usually come to church can encounter Jesus in a new way.

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We're planning something more than just sermons. Think interactive experiences, themed events, and meaningful conversations that start with film and lead to faith. But we need your help to make it happen.

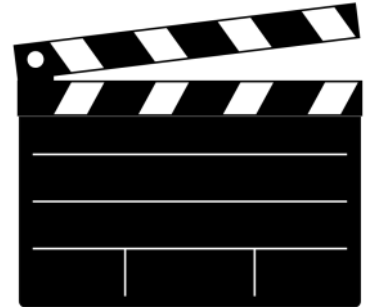
Join us for our **next planning meeting on Tuesday, June 3 at 5:30 PM.**

Whether you're great with ideas, décor, music, tech, snacks, or just showing up with a heart to serve—we want you there!

Let's make this more than a movie night. Let's create a moment where people can meet Jesus in a place they didn't expect—maybe even with popcorn in hand.

Questions? Chat with Pastor Damian.

Some dinner will await you!



### **One Book Club to Read Them All...**

The Return of the King Begins June 10!

Calling all hobbits, elves, wizards, and even those who have no idea what a Silmaril is yet—you're invited to join our Lord of the Rings Book Club as we begin Volume III:

#### **The Return of the King!**

Led by Pastor Matt Goodale and Pastor Damian Carruthers, our group meets every two weeks at the **Paperbound Book Club inside the Mason Jar** (1st Street, Cheney). Join us from **1:00–2:00 PM** for thoughtful discussion, epic storytelling, and plenty of laughter. We're kicking things off on **Tuesday, June 10**, discussing **Chapters 1 and 2**—but don't worry if you haven't read the first two volumes. Newcomers are welcome to jump in anytime! (We'll catch you up faster than Gandalf arriving at dawn on the third day.)

**Bonus sneak peek:** Once we finish *The Return of the King*, we're planning to dive into Tolkien's mythic prequel, *The Silmarillion*. So whether you're a longtime fan or just starting your journey to Middle-earth, there's a seat for you at our table.

Questions? Just ask Pastor Damian—or show up with your book and a cup of coffee or tea. We'll see you there!

Pastor Damian

## Ready to Say "Yes?" Join Our Membership Class!

When we baptize children, we joyfully proclaim God's "yes" over their lives. And when someone chooses to become a member of Cheney UMC, they get the opportunity to say their own "yes"—to God, to a life of faith, and to our church family.

Whether you were baptized as a child or are still exploring baptism, this is your moment to step into something beautiful. At Cheney United Methodist Church, we describe ourselves as a "community of believers and seekers"—people walking together in faith, with open hearts and a readiness to grow. Becoming a member is more than just a formality. It's a way to say, "I belong here. I want to be part of what God is doing in and through this church."

Interested? We'd love to have you with us for a series of four relaxed, no-pressure classes. It's a chance to ask questions, get to know others, and discover what being part of the UMC—and this specific congregation—is all about.

Here's the first class:

□ **Sunday, August 10th**

🕒 **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

📍 **Cheney United Methodist Church, 204 4<sup>th</sup> Street**

🏊 **Afterward we meet at Patti and Jim Sooy's House for our annual Pool Party!**

We'll set the dates for the remaining three classes together during the first session, so we can find times that work for everyone.

And mark your calendars! We'll be celebrating our new members (and offering baptisms too!) during a special outdoor service at the **Sooy's on Sunday, August 24 at 10:00 AM**. It's going to be a joyful morning of faith, fellowship, and fresh beginnings.

If you're feeling that gentle nudge, that quiet invitation from God—come. Just show up. And if you can't make the first class but still want to join, simply reach out to Pastor Damian. We'll make it work.

We're excited to walk this journey with you.

## Pianist John Nilsen in Concert at Green Bluff UMC

On Saturday evening, June 14, Oregon pianist John Nilsen, who has performed for most of our area United Methodist churches, will be at Green Bluff UMC at 7:30 p.m.

John is a renowned musician who has performed in all 50 states and on four continents. In October 2024, he was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame. John founded the Magic Wing recording label and has sold over one million CD's. He also performs with the rock band John Nilsen and SWIMFISH. You will get to hear him sing this time.

The concert at Green Bluff UMC will be a delightful hour of folk music, jazz, hymns, and storytelling. You may even hear some Beatles music. A love offering will be taken. The Green Bluff folks invite churches in the Spokane area to join them on the Bluff for this enjoyable evening.

John will also present his own piano music during worship at Spokane Valley UMC on Sunday, June 15 at 9a.m.

## A Few Announcements

**June** is our month to make sack lunches for **Feed Cheney**. Please check the door of opportunity to sign up to help on **June 30** to make and distribute meals or to make cookies.

There are still some spots open **to make dinners for Candace and Mason**. General grocery help is also welcome. Remember, no corn or shellfish. Thanks for all your help with meals for our church families.

**Summer health care bags** will be given to our Salnave Bite2go students. Please see Carol Kriegh to contribute.

## Wedding Bells for Madeleine & Austin!



We're excited to share that *Madeleine Gamble and Austin Steltz* are getting married this summer! Their wedding will take place on **July 19 in Leavenworth, WA**—what a beautiful place to begin a new chapter. While Pastor Damian was honored to be asked to officiate, he'll be away on vacation in Germany during that time.

Let's surround Madeleine and Austin with love and prayer as they prepare for this joyful day. If you'd like to send a card or a note of encouragement, they have a folder in the box under our name tag board—feel free to drop something in!



## Twinlow is Hiring

Are you 18+ and looking for a meaningful summer? Twinlow Camp in Rathdrum, Idaho, is hiring enthusiastic summer staff to make a positive impact on kids at beautiful Twin Lakes! Gain leadership skills, build friendships, and grow personally while supervising campers and leading activities in a fun, safe environment. Earn \$450/week plus room and board, free lifeguard training, and two days off weekly. If you have a heart for ministry and enjoy working with kids, we encourage you to apply here, <https://twinlow.org/summerstaff/>. Questions or want to learn more? Contact Tyler Rauhauser at (859)230-4456 or [tyler@twinlowcamp.org](mailto:tyler@twinlowcamp.org). Don't miss this chance for a summer of difference!"





**FREE SACK MEAL AND  
INFORMATION FROM CHAS CLINIC**

**WHEN**

**5:30 PM MONDAY,  
JUNE 30, 2025**

**FOR ACCOMMODATION CONTACT CHENEY PARKS AND  
RECREATION AT 509-498-9250 BY JUNE 27.**

**WHERE**

**Veterans Park  
612 4th Street, Cheney**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**509.498.9250 [WWW.FEEDCHENEY.COM](http://WWW.FEEDCHENEY.COM)**



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