



CHENEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

® *To Seek, Serve, and Share Jesus Christ*

NEWSLETTER



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THE SPIRIT – ISSUE 10 – OCT 2025

WHEN GOD GOES TO THE MOVIES

WORSHIP AT 10 AM



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CHENEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



“Wait... We Have Social Principles?”

Did you know the United Methodist Church has something called the ***Social Principles***? If that phrase makes you raise your eyebrows a little, you’re not alone. I didn’t discover them until I was already well into my faith journey as a Methodist and I can’t stop talking about them. Why? Because they are, in many ways, one of the best-kept treasures of our denomination. And here’s some really exciting news: as of 2024, we now have a *brand-new revised version* — created, prayed over, and voted on by United Methodists from all over the globe. Yes, really, this isn’t just a U.S. thing. These updated Social Principles have been affirmed by delegates from Europe, Africa, the U.S., the Philippines, and beyond. I honestly don’t know of another global church that has something quite like this: a shared, thoughtful, worldwide reflection on what it means to live faithfully in the world today.

The Social Principles aren’t rules. They’re not requirements. **They are a spiritual and moral compass** offering reflections and affirmations on how we as Christians (specifically as United Methodists) might engage with the economic, social, and political realities of our time. (That’s actually how they’re organized: *The Economic Community*, *The Social Community*, and *The Political Community*). Some of the topics might surprise you. There’s a section on creation care. On human rights. On healthcare, peace, the use of power, and yes, even gun violence. And each one is grounded in our calling to follow Jesus in real, everyday life.

One section that especially speaks to me and maybe it will to you, too, is the part that affirms *single people*. As someone who has been single for quite a while now, I’m all too familiar with the awkward comments or assumptions that come along with that. Sometimes it feels like singleness is treated like a problem to be solved; like you’re somehow less whole until you’re part of a couple. But the Social Principles say something radically different. They say:



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“We celebrate the contributions of single people and reject all social practices that discriminate against them or subject them to bias and prejudice. We respect the decisions of single people regarding marriage and we affirm the many ways in which they may participate in family and community life. This profound sense of respect extends to single parents. We recognize the extra burdens and challenges that single parenthood entails and offer our love, support, and care in the fulfillment of this special vocation.” Isn’t that beautiful?

That’s the kind of church I want to be part of: one that sees people in all their variety, honors their dignity, and speaks love into every life stage and situation. Whether you’re single, married, divorced, young, old, parenting, or figuring things out. You matter. You belong.

And if you’re curious to hear how Methodists from all over the world are living out these values, I’d love to invite you to check out our new podcast series: **The Holy Club**. We just launched on September 29 (a German Episode) and are already

interviewing inspiring voices from across the globe. Our most recent episode (released Wednesday, October 1) features **Rev. Paul Mitchell from our District**, an English pastor with deep wisdom, humor, and heart. You can find it anywhere you listen to podcasts. Just search “*The Holy Club – Paul Mitchell*” and it should pop right up.

So if you’ve never explored the Social Principles, maybe now is the time. They’re not perfect, and they’re always evolving but they’re worth reading. You might just find your story there.

I’d love to hear what stands out to you, and what questions they raise. Let’s keep the conversation going.

With hope and grace,
Pastor Damian



OCTOBER Birthdays

5	Linda Friedman	20	JoAn Leaver
	Laverle McCandless	23	Patti Sooy
	Myrna Reynolds	24	Nancy Lindell
6	Bill Clark	25	Pat Sleeth
7	Laurie Murphy	27	John Dupler
12	Austin McCrum	30	Emily Clark
14	Karla Griffin		Candace Dress
		31	Collen Leontovich



OCTOBER Anniversaries

3	Bill & Martha Clark	12	Jim & Patti Soy
5	Del & Virginia Fitzner	20	Terry & Kristin Mansfield
	Stan & Saralynn Kerr	25	Howard & Karen Marsh
	Kevin & Tina Thorson		

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed please let the church office know.

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!

Adult Fellowship with Macey: Wizards, Jedis, and Cheese Cubes—Oh My!

Who says grown-ups can't have a little fun? This past month, the Cheney UMC Adult Fellowship got crafty (and maybe a little nerdy) under the leadership of the one and only Macey—our fearless leader of glitter and glue guns.

We gathered in her cozy craft shop (a.k.a. the Room of Requirement for grown-up creativity), where we turned ordinary paper into over *100 Hogwarts acceptance letters, complete with wax seals and enough magical charm to impress even Professor McGonagall. These letters were our way of welcoming EWU students at NeighborFest and, let's be honest, living out a few childhood dreams.*

But we didn't stop at owl post. No sir. We also made *lightsabers out of pool noodles. Yep, full Jedi status unlocked. If you've never seen a group of adults dueling in the name of Christian hospitality, you're missing out.*

We rounded it all off with some delightful finger food—because all good fellowship involves snacks. Cheese cubes were eaten, cookies were consumed, and no one lost an eye to a foam saber. Success all around.

Thanks to Macey and everyone who showed up to create, laugh, and serve in this unique way. Hogwarts letters and pool noodle lightsabers may not be in the Bible, but we're pretty sure Jesus would've shown up for the snacks and stayed for the lightsaber battles.



A Long Time Ago in a Church Not So Far Away...

Maybe something someone would write who visited us during our Movie Series for the first time ...

Okay, full confession: I came to Cheney United Methodist Church expecting hymns, maybe a nice sermon, and some cookies afterward. What I *didn't expect*? A full-blown *Star Wars* takeover. From the moment I walked in, it felt like I had stepped onto a spaceship (or maybe a movie set?). The sanctuary was decked out in glowing stars, galaxies, and lightsabers—seriously, even Yoda would have been impressed. And the worship? It was something else entirely.

Pastor Damian dove deep into the story of Anakin Skywalker—yep, *that Anakin*—and somehow tied his journey of pride, failure, and redemption to our own walk of faith. There was one week where he said, “Anakin wasn’t born Darth Vader. He became Darth Vader.” That hit me. Because aren’t we all a little tempted to let our fears and pain pull us away from who God created us to be? These messages weren’t just clever, they were moving.

But it wasn’t just Sundays that had the Force. We had THREE epic *Star Wars* Trivia Nights at the Mason Jar, with 15–20 *Star Wars* nerds (and some brave tag-alongs) gathering for laughs, friendly battles, and a few heated debates over obscure droid names. Total blast.

Then there were the Movie Nights—so good! Thanks to Dale Cockrum, we had a theater-worthy experience, complete with popcorn, snacks, and cozy seating. Big shoutout to our hospitality heroes Carol Kriegh and Caren Lincoln who made sure we never ran out of treats or warm welcomes.



And guess what? The magic’s not over yet—because we’re heading to *Hogwarts* next. That’s right, *Harry Potter* is coming to Cheney UMC! Movie Nights for films 1–3 are up next, and let’s just say, if you get your *Hogwarts* letter in the mail... don’t be surprised.

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Whether you're a Jedi, a Muggle, or just someone looking for a church that's welcoming, creative, and unafraid to mix movies with meaningful messages, this is the place.

Here are the dates summarized:

Trivia Nights @ The Mason Jar

Doors open 6 PM | Trivia starts at 6:30 PM

- **Harry Potter (books + movies):** Oct. 7, 14, 21
- **Lord of the Rings (books and movies):** Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11

Movie Nights @ Cheney UMC (204 4th Street)

Doors open 6 PM | Movie starts at 6:30 PM

- **Oct. 10! (Friday!)** – *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- **Oct. 16** – *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
- **Oct. 23** – *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
- **Oct. 30** – **This week is NO Movie Night. We skip *The Fellowship of the Ring***
- **Nov. 06** – *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- **Nov. 13** – *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*



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.

Choir Rehearsal starts on Wednesday, September 10 from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. .

Bible Study with Congregational Church - we are meeting weekly on Thursdays from 1:15 to 2:15 pm. For the month of October we will be meeting at the United Methodist Church

Sassy Senior Society meets on October 15 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.

Family Fellowship in October!

Family Fellowship on October 12. Come in costume, bring the family and a potluck dish to share and join in the fun at 6 p.m. on Sunday evening. Food, fun and fellowship!

Holiday Bazaar



“Joy to the Earth” Holiday Bazaar, November 1 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a major fundraiser for our church ... and a lot of fun too. We will need volunteers on the day of the bazaar and to set up October 30 (afternoon and evening) and October 31 (afternoon). Sign ups will come doon to the door of opportunity. Please donate gently used vintage, collectible and Christmas items and **Make and Bake!**

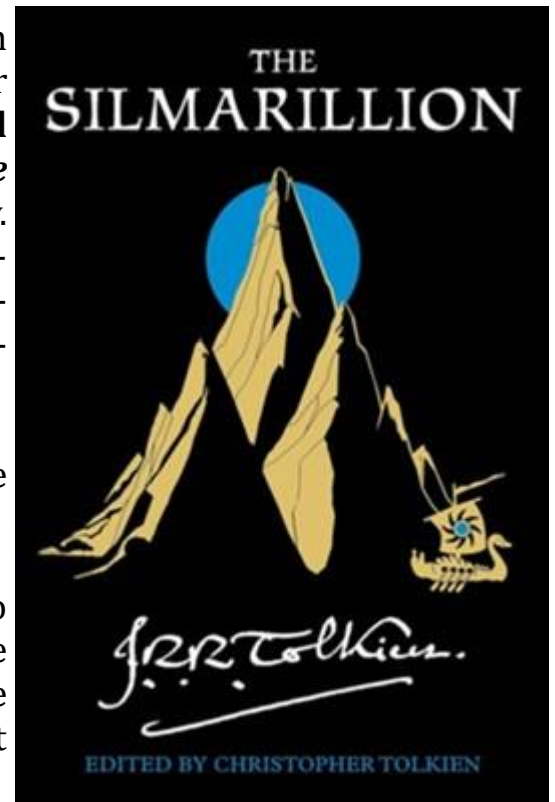
Joy to the Earth - Our Holiday Bazaar November 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

One Book Club to Rule Them All...

Our **Lord of the Rings Book Club** is wrapping up an epic journey! On **Monday, October 14**, we'll gather at **Paperbound Bookstore** to discuss the **final chapter of the second book of *The Return of the King***—the last book in Tolkien's legendary trilogy. To celebrate the end of our quest (and the destruction of the One Ring!), we're throwing a little Hobbit-style celebration. Expect good cheer, deep conversation, and maybe a few second breakfasts.

But don't worry—the adventure doesn't end at the undying lands.

We're staying on the Tolkien Train and diving into ***The Silmarillion*** next. If you're ready to explore the rich and mythic history of Middle-earth—from the creation of the world to the rise and fall of ancient Elven kingdoms—grab your copy and join us.



Here's what you need to know:

📖 **What to read:** The first two chapters of *The Silmarillion*

📍 **Where:** Paperbound Bookstore

🕒 **When:** Tuesday, October 28 at 1:00 P

👥 **Who:** Pastor Matt, Pastor Damian, and the whole Tolkien Gang—and you!

Whether you've been with us since the Shire or you're just joining in now, you are *most* welcome. No Elvish required—just a curious spirit and maybe a mug of tea.

After the *Silmarillion* we are going to read the *Hobbit*.

Unmasking Christian Nationalism

Why do we need a series like this right now? Because Christian Nationalism isn't just a distant political theory, it's shaping our culture, our politics, and even some churches in ways that distort the gospel. At its heart, the message of Jesus is about love, justice, and dignity for all people. Yet too often, faith is misused to justify fear, exclusion, and division. As followers of Christ, we are called to name those distortions and live out a better way: the way of liberation, reconciliation, and hope.

That's why we're gathering for **Unmasking Christian Nationalism**, a three-part event series at Eastern Washington University. Each evening will feature a nationally recognized voice who will challenge, inspire, and equip us to think faithfully and respond courageously. Whether you are a student, community member, person of faith, or someone simply curious about how religion shapes public life, you are welcome.

Event Details:

- **Wednesday, October 9 – Shane Claiborne** *A well-known author and activist kicks off the series with a bold vision for the church's witness in a time of division. Also the Co-author of The Red Letter Christians.*
- **Wednesday, October 30 – Jer Swigart** *Speaking on "Mending the Divide," Jer will offer practical wisdom for building peace and bridging differences in our polarized world.*
- **Wednesday, November 6 – Malynda Hale** *With the theme "Faith in Action," Malynda will invite us to put our convictions into practice and embody justice and compassion in everyday life.*

📍 All events take place at **6:00 PM in the Pence Union Building (PUB), Room 317 & 319, Eastern Washington University.** Free and open to everyone.

Come, listen, ask questions, and join the conversation. Together, let's unmask the distortions of faith and rediscover the radical good news of Jesus.



Unmasking Christian Nationalism



**Thursday, Oct. 09 at 6PM - PUB 317
Shane Claiborne - Jesus for President?**

**Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6PM - PUB 317
Jer Swigart- Mending the Divides**



**Thursday, Nov. 06 at 6PM - PUB 317
Malynda Hale - Faith in Action**

“When God goes to the Movies”

Sunday, Sept. 21 10 am - Star Wars - Episode I

Sunday, Sept. 28 10 am - Star Wars - Episode II

Sunday, Oct 05 10 am - Star Wars - Episode III

Sunday, Oct. 12 10 am - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Sunday, Oct. 19 10 am - Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Sunday, Oct. 26 10 am - Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Sunday, Nov. 02 10 am - Lord of the Rings & The Fellowship

Sunday, Nov. 09 10 am - Lord of the Rings & The Two Towers

Sunday, Nov. 16 10 am - Lord of the Rings & Return of the King

Every Tuesday, Trivia at the Mason Jar at 6 PM

Starting September 16

Movie Watch Parties on Thursdays

Starting September 18 at 6:30 PM



It's Charge Conference Time!

Friends, it's that time of year again—our annual **Charge Conference** is just around the corner! This important gathering is where we make key decisions about the life of our church. We'll be voting on committee leadership, the church budget, and the pastor's salary, among other matters. It's the highest decision-making body in our local church life, and it helps guide us as we seek, serve, and share Jesus Christ together.

All professing members of Cheney UMC are invited—and encouraged!—to attend. You don't need to register, just come as you are. If you'd like a copy of the conference documents in advance, please reach out to **Pastor Damian**, and he'll be happy to get those to you.

Not a professing member but still interested in attending? You're welcome too! Just let Pastor Damian know ahead of time so we can be prepared to welcome you. This year, our Charge Conference will be led by Pastor Alissa Amestoy, who will be presiding on behalf of our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Miranda.

□ **Tuesday, November 25**

⌚ **6:00 PM**

📍 **Cheney United Methodist Church**

We hope to see you there as we reflect, vote, and look ahead to the future God is calling us toward.

Pastor Damian

Coat Distribution

Please help distribute coats on Thursday, October 23 at Salnave Elementary School from 4 to 6:30 p.m. or at Feed Cheney on Monday, October 27 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Let's keep Cheney warm this winter.

Cheney Helping Cheney **COAT DRIVE**

**Please donate
NEW COATS ONLY - ALL SIZES**

Now through October 23

**at Copy Junction, Wren Pierson,
Owl Pharmacy, and other local
churches and businesses.**

*Distribution will be at Salnave Elementary
School Thursday, October 23 from 4:30 p.m.
until 6:00 p.m. and at Feed Cheney,
Monday October 27 from 5.30-6:30 p.m. at the
Wren Pierson Center.*



Dining with Dignity, A Gala Event

October 18, 2025 — 5:00 to 8:30 PM

LOCATION | Southside Community Center, 3151 E 27th Avenue, Spokane

TICKETS | \$60 / Individual

Purchase On-line: <https://fundraiser.support/ShalomMeals>



DONATE

If you enjoy donating a "Theme Basket" or items for the auction, please contact Peg Johnson at (509) 953-1391. She's available for questions and can pick-up your items.

Donations are accepted at <https://fundraiser.support/shalommeals>
Email kristinlarson509@gmail.com for questions about the event.



Since 1994, Shalom Ministries *Dining with Dignity* continues to provide over 85,000 meals annually to the homeless and marginalized living downtown. A solid team of 67 volunteers and 14 outreach agencies provide hope and affirmation that each diner has self-worth and they "matter" regardless of their situation. Vital support and needed resources are always available.

AUCTION

A year ago Spokane's Stephanie Vigil came to serve breakfast at Shalom Ministries and so many of our homeless friends felt valued. We are blessed to have Stephanie return to be our live auctioneer to support the life changing ways we are making a transformative difference in our community.



AUCTION PREVIEW

A preview of auction items will begin 10 days before our Gala Event starts at <https://fundraiser.support/ShalomMeals>

EVENING PROGRAM

Join us in a uplifting and inspiring evening experiencing why Shalom is vital to our community, as we share a common vision to renew broken lives, food insecurity, reducing homelessness, and preventing Fentanyl deaths.

HORS D'OEUVRES, DINNER, DESSERT, and DRINKS

The main course is being catered by Mangia Catering Co. Meat Lasagna, Salad, and Roll. Vegan, Gluten-free and Vegetarian option available.

Relax with Tim G's original song writing with familiar covers to give a blend of popular music that spans genres & decades.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Pam Kohlmeier volunteers every Monday and is a strong advocate for our community at large. Living her transformative messages, Pam offers a better and safer place to thrive and grow.

Guest speaker: Social Worker Patrick Allen who works with CHAS' outreach team.

Shalom Ministries, PO BOX 4684, Spokane, WA 99220, (509) 455-9019
Shalom Ministries is a 501 C 3 Non-Profit and an equal opportunity provider





**FREE HOT MEAL
COAT DISTRIBUTION**

WHEN

**5:30 PM MONDAY,
OCTOBER 27, 2025**

**FOR ACCOMMODATION CONTACT CHENEY PARKS AND
RECREATION AT 509-498-9250 BY OCTOBER 24.**

WHERE

**Wren Pierson Building
615 4TH STREET, CHENEY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

509.498.9250 WWW.FEEDCHENEY.COM



204 4th St
Cheney, WA 99004
Return Service Requested

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