Cradled baby’s feet convey love

By Mary Stamp

When teens visit Ryan Kiely in his office at Excelsior, many notice a close-up photo of him cradling his baby daughter’s feet lovingly in his hands. He has the photo there as an opportunity to remind them that they are worthy of being loved unconditionally, as he continues to love his now five-year-old daughter.

Those who did not experience the love they wanted from their families still connect to the picture. It’s still communicates they are worthy of love and respect.

“When there is hope of healing,” said Ryan, who is chief clinical officer.

In 2006, the summer after he graduated from Whitworth University in speech communication, he started working at Excelsior as a behavioral health assistant with the children’s residential program. He works there as part of his commitment to help youth heal from emotional injuries and advocate for trauma-informed systems.

Excelsior has grown from being primarily a residential treatment center to now having 80 percent of staff and services off-site.

“In the last two years, we have become the second largest provider of wrap-around services for all ages, next to Frontier Behavioral Health,” Ryan said.

Now, in a given day Excelsior’s 175 staff serve 250 youth and families on an outpatient basis and 30 youth inpatient.

“It’s a major shift from historically doing inpatient work,” he said. “We now work in homes and schools, and have 12 staff locations in the community.”

From 1893 to 1910, authorities placed underage girls in Good Shepherd Homes around the country, starting in 1907 in Spokane. The girls were taken from brothels and unsafe homes.

The first home was where Northtown Mall now is. In 1959, it was moved to 34 acres in the undeveloped area of Indian Trail. The modern, 60,000-square-foot facility that was built is now the home base for Excelsior.

Until 1982, the Home of the Good Shepherd was run by the sisters of the Good Shepherd. Then, Bob Faltermeyer, now retired, became CEO. Sue Bell still works as medical coordinator, and Marilyn Printz as an outpatient director.

Columbia River tribes in U.S., Canada seek representation at treaty negotiations

Leaders of the Colville Confederated Tribes and three indigenous nations in Canada have expressed their outrage at being excluded by the U.S. and Canadian governments from the re-negotiation of the U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty (CRT).

When the CRT was negotiated and signed in 1964, they were shut out of decisions affecting their rights.

Michael Marchand, chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes, has worked with 14 other Columbia River Basin Tribes to have a seat for tribal nations at the negotiation table.

On May 22, the State Department said U.S. entities joining it in negotiations to modernize the treaty are the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, the Department of the Interior, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Colville Tribes and 14 other Columbia River Basin tribes have participated in the multi-year treaty review process, seeking a seat for indigenous people in negotiations.

“We are the people with the longest and deepest connections to the Columbia River, the people who have respected and depended upon the river and its salmon and other natural and cultural resources for thousands of years,” Chairman Marchand said.

The current treaty has also harmed the indigenous people of the Upper Columbia River Basin in Canada—the Ktunaxa Nation, Secwepemc Nation and Syilx Okanagan Nation.

The CRT is the largest international water storage agreement between Canada and the United States, holding back 15.5 million acre-feet of water for flood control and power generation with an annual value of $3 billion.

The treaty has desecrated sacred, village and burial sites, cut fish populations and harvest areas, and turned a vibrant river into industrial water storage reservoirs, said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Kukpi7 Wayne Christian of the Shuswap National Tribal Council and Jesse Nicholas of the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

Fig Tree prepares to publish Directory

During June, The Fig Tree is completing ad sales and designs, gathering final updates for listings, preparing the layouts for printing the 2018-19 Resource Directory in early July and arranging for deliveries over the summer.

“We will continue to recruit community partners to help with sponsorship and continue to make calls to finalize numbers for printing,” said Malcolm Haworth, directory editor. “We invite agencies and congregations to let us know how many copies they would like to have available to distribute.”

On page 10, The Fig Tree expresses its gratitude for the many years Marilyn Stidman contributed to the life of our ecumenical endeavor.

“We value our volunteers and continually reach out to recruit new volunteers to help with mailings, deliveries, writing, editing, displays, planning, benefits and our board,” said Mary Stamp, editor.

The Fig Tree’s Annual Board Meeting to review its production year, elect board members and officers, and make future plans will be from noon to 3 p.m., Thursday, June 7, at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., where The Fig Tree has its office.

Board members are Pat Milten OSF, moderator; John Wang, vice moderator; Lauri Clark-Strait, secretary; Kathy Sandusky, treasurer; and board members Nick Beamer, Barb Borgens, Mary Ann Farley SNJM, Malcolm Haworth, Kaye Hult, Kimmie Meinecke, Roger Ross, Wade Schwartz, Mary Stamp and Anastasia Wendlinger.

For information, call 535-1813, email mary@thefigtree.org or visit thefigtree.org.
To celebrate refugees in Spokane, Refugee Connections Spokane, World Relief and Lutheran Community Services are hosting the United Nations World Refugee Day on June 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 16, in Nevada Park, 800 E. Joseph. The event will include a minute’s prayer each day from June 6 to 12. Refugee children will be invited to write about their experiences in an essay competition. The winner will read his/her entry at the event. Refugee children also have designed World Refugee Day T-shirts that will be available for purchase.

“We will also be adding youth activities and games,” said Mari-Jke Fakasiieiki, executive director of Refugee Connections Spokane. The event also includes an international marketplace with items refugees have made, a naturalization ceremony, a community fair, and performances by the Neenah Youth Choir with children from Africa and Bhutanese dancers. Refugees Connections Spokane was founded in 2011 to advocate for refugees’ and immigrants’ self-empowerment, to foster community building, and to celebrate traditions and cultures across cultures. For information, call 209-2384 or email rcs@refugeeconnections Spokane.

Korean churches are holding prayer vigils
Korean churches plan prayer vigils ahead of June summit. In the weeks leading up to the summit planned for June 12 between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) is planning prayer vigils to express hope for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The NCCK is holding a candlelight prayer meeting on June 7 at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul, in front of the U.S. embassy, and is inviting 300 people to join. The square is the same location as the Candlelight Revolution in which more than 17 million people gathered to demand the resignation of President Park Geun-hye and full democracy in 2016-17.

The NCCK is calling on its member churches and partners to organize prayer gatherings on the same day or sometime before the summit. The NCCK has suggested that Korean Christians offer a minute’s prayer each day from June 6 to 12.

Prayer cards will be distributed with a flag on the cover that the NCCK is calling on its member churches and partners to distribute. We invite these prayer cards to join in the NCCK and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S. A., as well as the World Council of Churches (WCC), invites Christians and people of goodwill across the world to join in these prayers.

The NCCK is holding a candlelight prayer service at noon on June 7 at the Ecumenical Centre chapel to express solidarity with its sisters and brothers in Korea.

World Refugee Day will be on June 16

Regional Ecumenical & Interfaith News

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Phone: 509-358-1813 or 509-347-1125
Email: news@thefigtree.org

Deadlines:
- Sunday ad deadline: Sunday, 8 a.m.
- Deadline for upcoming events: Wednesday, 8 a.m.

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
Fax: +41-22 788 7244
wcc@wccweb.org

Communication Association marks 50 years
As the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) celebrates its 50th anniversary, the organization continues to explore how communication can help advance justice and build peace.

“WACC has always pursued a pilgrimage of justice and peace by advocating greater understanding through dialogue as well as the concept of ‘peace journalism’—when editors and reporters make choices that create opportunities for society at large to consider and to value nonviolent responses to conflict,” reflected the newly appointed WACC general secretary Philip Lee. “WACC emphasizes communication rights for all as a way of opening up society to democratic and creative ways of communication for help build more just and peaceful communities.”

As a pioneer of the communication rights movement since 1966, WACC has been among the original organizations working to advance the communication rights of marginalized communities around the world.

In the late 1970s, when both the World Council of Churches and WACC were involved in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, strengthening the public voices of underprivileged communities became a means to question the political and social structures and apartheid in place, recalled Lee.

“In today’s digital societies, independence and trust are vital to the existence of public service media that are independent of corporate and government influence and that can provide a diversity of balanced information on every topic that impact the lives of people,” he said. “Hope lies in the ability of people to see through the fog of fake news and misinformation to the essential truths that are fundamental to human dignity.”

Over the past 50 years, WACC has partnered with thousands of grassroots communities, including indigenous people, women, and the poor to advance communication rights. WACC has also supported changes in communication policy and structures at the national, regional, and international levels.

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Faith Partners plans August workshop
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Regional Ecumenical & Interfaith News

Personal or legal problems? DUI? In need of alcohol and drug treatment?

Faith Partners plans August workshop

World Refugee Day will be on June 16

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Cyclist raises funds for Habitat-Spokane in cross country bike race

Starting June 2, Jason Oestreicher of Spokane is spending two weeks competing with 136 other bicyclists from 23 countries in the 10-state, 4,200-mile Trans Am Bike Race to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity-Spokane.

It is a self-supported—meaning no outside assistance is allowed—race and the only competition are the other competitors who drop out from the race.

He will start his cross-country journey in Astoria, Ore., with the hopes of finishing at the Victory Monument in Yorktown, Va., because it will push my boundary of selflessness.

Jason said nearly half the meaning no outside assistance is allowed. He has been planning his route which is blocked by other dams

The construction of those and other dams blocked all passage to the upper Columbia Dam and Chief Joseph Dam.

in the Okanogan River to near Kettle Dam and built river community with each home that they built,” he said.

Jason has had a bicycle since he was in kindergarten in Wyoming.

He and friends rode on a homema made track in a field by his house. “Bicycling gives me freedom to explore the world and experience it with my senses,” he said.

With his first mountain bike, he explored dirt roads outside town. After moving to Spokane, he began riding singletrack through forests dirt roads in the Cowlitz Mountain, Riverside State Park and Beacon Hill.

In eight years ago, he bought his first ride bike and discovered the rural Northeast Washington—Palouse farmlands, West Plains hills, little lakes and the Vista House on top of Mount Spokane.

Jason long wanted to tour across the country on his bike and in 2016 learned about the Trans Am Bike Race. He has been inspired by reading past racers’ blogs about the thrill, misery, elation, monotony, adventure and accomplishment.”

Jason’s personal goal is an opportunity to donate are posted at habitat-spokane.org/events/ racing-for-habitat or by following HabitatSpokane on Facebook @HabitatSpokane.

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane partners with qualified homebuyers based on need, ability to pay and willingness to partner.

Participating in the race, completes 500 hours of sweat equity, pays closing costs, attend home-buyer workshops and help to build their own homes. haze and build a new or rehabilitated home, an affordable mortgage and stability, said Colleen Weeden, executive director.

Since 1987, Habitat-Spokane has built or renovated more than 300 homes in Spokane County, she reported.

For information, call 534-2522, visit habitat-spokane.org or follow @HFSpokane on Twitter.

Disaster recovery groups report on flooding

Representatives from the Inland Northwest and the Idaho Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), the Kootenai and Idaho Office of Emergency Management (OEM), United Way, the Red Cross and Salvation Army met May 23 by phone and in person to respond, the Red Cross and Salvation Army met May 23 by phone to discuss the needs and future recovery efforts.

Some of the region’s flooding continued from page 1

The tribes need and deserve meaningful input into the treaty renegotiation,” said Chairman

Certain significant provisions of transformative change.” Speaking Feb. 14 to the House

The Unity Parade will follow the same route—a few blocks through downtown Spokane—as last year to demonstrate the region’s respect, support and honoring of its diverse communities.

Last year, 300 participants represented various similarities and differences make us a stronger and better community,” said April Anderson, co-organizer of the 24th annual Unity Parade.

“Parade participants are asked to register at munity-events/unity-parade.

This year, people are asked that they are adding toothbrushes and dental floss to the 1,400 school bags with school supplies such as paper, binders, crayons, glue, folders and more.

They are also preparing 300 senior bags for people 65 and older with 15 pages of discount coupons, water bottles, jars openers, stress balls, puzzles and more.

The vendor booths will be in the Clocktower Meadow, where the entertainment will be. The Cultural Village will be in the Lilac Bowl. People are estimated that about 5,000 attended in 2017.

It is meant to be a time of show our unity,” she said.

Unity in the Community is about dancing together.

For information, call 599-6669 or visit twnnity.org.

Columbia River crucial to cultures of tribes

The Columbia River is the lifeblood of the region and an essential link to cultural expression, said Marnie Bengston, executive director of the Wenatchee Valley Community Foundation.

The region is a place of diversity, which is about being invited to the table, and inclusiveness, which is being asked to dance,” she said.

Unity in the Community is about dancing together.

For information, call 599-6669 or visit twnnity.org.
Excelsior reaches from North Spokane facility to people throughout city

Program builds ties to the community
Karen Kearney, community development and outreach coordinator, represents Excelsior in the community, bringing the community to Excelsior and Excelsior to the community to build good relationships with its neighbors.

"People fear what they do not understand, so we want to be part of the neighborhood and let people know we are here to serve a purpose to make youth healthy as the generation of the future," she said.

So Excelsior is a member of the NAACP Spokane, Corbin Senior Center and affiliated with churches in the Indian Trail area that bring quilts and birthday cakes.

Reince of Peace Lutheran is one of the Indian Trail areas church that assist. Eagle Scouts built five raised beds for the residents to garden and then give produce to Second Harvest.

Karen is building relationships with the Police Department and Fire Department, inviting officers to stop by to coffee.

A grounds specialist maintains the arboretum and grounds. Youth will learn to preserve jams, work on the local market, handle money and go on field trips. JC Penney helped residents paint and can save. Excelsior providedockets of clothes for youth needing receipted. Excelsior invites community members into events.

Down a hallway is a library with donations from the community, bringing the book left after church rummage sales.

"I felt the youth that when they read, they say something," said Karen.

Between the buildings are community gardens. One bed was originally for cloistered nun.
Exclesior has received a support or options. At Excelsior, the average youth is 14 when placed in the child welfare impatient services, just as he/she is entering adolescence, coming with neurologic injuries from the trauma of poverty, abuse, neglect and living in multiple families.

Because many were suspended from school, Excelsior started an accredited middle school and high school on site, some who are isolate and some from around Spokane.

Excelsior also has parent education, special education, GED and substance use education. We have many parents exchanging, who are giving their children with substance use or mental health problems, he said. "Few have support.

"Many also are impacted by poverty, and a lack of housing and food resources," he said. "Poverty affects people's ability to pursue their goals because they need focus on meeting their basic needs."

Ryan has enjoyed spending time with the teens, but realizes that trauma affects their brains and nervous system, influencing their behavior and function. They struggle with anger over minor issues, such as an egg salad sandwich not being made right.

Ryan, who grew up in an evangelical church and now attends Branches, also seeks to influence others to create trauma affecting the teens.

"My faith drives my compassion for those suffer. It also motivates me to improve the justice of systems, to address systemic injustices that keep some from succeeding," he said.

"We have prioritized cultural diversity in our organization to address patient concerns about culture and race," said Ryan, noting the disproportionate number of people with disabilities in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Excelsior brings in diversity. Slightly more than 25% of the population of Spokane, he said.

After four years at Excelsior, Ryan and his wife, Jenny, who he met at Whitworth, spent a year in Daegu, South Korea, teaching English. That gave him space to reflect on his work and be more drawn to it. He emailed the director to say he wanted to come back and be a therapist.

Since returning, he completed a master's degree in applied psychiatric and mental health counseling at Eastern Washington University. After graduating in 2012, he became a social work intern at Excelsior.

"I now understood how people can change and heal from trauma," he said.

Part of caring for youth includes families, even grandparents, who also come in for treatment.

While the treatment program is no longer faith-based—as it was under the Good Shepherd Sisters—Ryan said faith can be a component for healing, so they encourage youth and families to connect to the faith of their choice.

Excelsior works with young people until they are 21 in a transitional program, extending foster care for those too old for the juvenile system but too young for adult programs.

Excelsior started LifePoint in 2015 to help males from 17 to 21 transition from psychiatric hospitalization or child welfare and step down from institutional care. For six months, they live in community receiving help to find jobs and education, learning to make sandwiches, wash clothes, take their medicine and develop life skills.

Excelsior has a $2 million Department of Commerce grant to build a $1.6 million affordable and supportive house young men in LifePoint.

They also have a $700,000 Hagan Foundation vocational school grant to train youth in restaurant, retail and beautician work. That grant also funds a pre-apprenticeship certification training to prepare students for construction trades. A Future Scholars grant is for a music studio.

General funding is from Medicaid and private insurance.

One donor provided a zipline. Another funded a bridge for a ropes course. Others give theoretical recreational equipment.

Excelsior seeks support from the community as they transition into a wellness-based model.

Ryan said "graduation" is based on developmental progress. What it means varies with each person, defined by goals set by the youth or an external entity.

Some complete short programs and some are in longer programs.

"We help youth recognize early the triggers of anger, so they don't let it ramp up. We help them notice and articulate their anger, and develop strategies to de-escalate by it calming their body, such as with yoga or individual therapy," Ryan said.

"The most important component of our work is helping them identify as they transition to a better future," he said, "encouraging them to stay to work on the plan they agreed to do, in a supervised and safe environment."

For information, call 328-7041, email ryan.kiely@4eyc.org or visit excelsioryouthcenter.com.

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Excelsior reaches from North Spokane facility to people throughout city

Excelsior has received a $2 million De...
“Beyond Belief” is the theme for the 2018 camps at N-Sid-Sen Camp and Conference Center of the Pacific Northwest United Church of Christ on the east side of Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Registration for youth camps is on par with previous years, but this summer, campers from throughout the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ will come to N-Sid-Sen, rather than be divided between the Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center at Port Orchard.

Counselors and directors are coming from both eastside and westside churches.

“We are working on transporta
tion to make sure campers from across the conference can come to camp,” said Mark Boyd, managing director of N-Sid-Sen.

One church has provided funds to rent vans. The conference is also helping connect people who need rides with people who can provide rides. To rent vans will require two drivers to comply with safe church policies.

“We are bringing all the youth camps here because we are better set up for larger youth activities,” Mark said. “In the past, our two
camp sites were competing for campers. “Pilgrim Firs will be hosting mission-trip based camps with youth groups coming from around the region and nation,” he said. Volunteer directors and counselor
ers run the programs at both sites. As they bring campers together from the two camps, they will focus on valuing the traditions of each camp and on creating new traditions.

Mark said that having the camps for the different age groups facilita
tes activities, such as worship, meals and campfires.

“We tell for senior high campers is different from those for younger campers,” he said.

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

Climbing through or swinging from ropes course builds confidence

Through her 15 years as admin
istative assistant at Ross Point, Marta Walker has valued working with the camp as a ministry that changes lives. She has been there long enough to see campers grow and send their own children to pass on their faith to them.

One person recently said she became a Christian when she came to Ross Point in 1965.

This year the campers, begin
ing with second graders through senior high, plus family camps, will discuss the theme, “More than Enough” from Ephesians 3:20.

Volunteer directors for each youth camp will frame programs for the week and speakers around the theme, working with volunteer and paid counselors, and eight
time staff who provide the meals and facility and recreation.

About 500 campers come, many from the American Baptist network, and other local chil
dren and children from Christian schools.

“We want children and youth to gain a sense of God’s presence and a deeper relationship with Christ through teaching and outdoor activities,” said Marta.

“The high ropes course and team building activities build a sense of relying on God to help campers through fears, to coopera
tee with each other, to build servant leadership, to stretch their faith and to build community,” said Marta.

Staff talk with campers about how God relates to them in every
ting they do,” she said.

“Building camp community is important today because we are so scattered in our society,” she said.

Camping for children and families touched by cancer will be at Ross Point July 29 to Aug. 4.

This year, Ross Point, which is on the Spokane River at Post Falls, had to replace its high ropes course because of a bark beetle infestation in some of the trees. They had to cut and now the course is on telephone poles in a grove of trees. In addition, they created three new elements to the course. They are still raising funds for the new course, which cost $26,000 with a matching gift offered for $13,000. This fall, Ross Point will add two new 12-bed cabins to increase its capacity from 140 to 164 campers/guests to meet demand.

The new cabins are for summer and year-round use.

For information, call 208-773-1655 or visit rosspoint.org.

N-Sid-Sen combines campers from two camps, opening one site for mission

N-Sid-Sen builds community playing beachball volleyball.

MiVoden offers traditional, ultimate camps

MiVoden Camp offers three weeks of age-based youth camps, plus “ultimate” camps, offered three weeks each—cowboy, ex
treme teen and wakeboard/wa
ter rafting. Three weeks each—cowboy, extreme teen and wakeboard/water rafting.

MiVoden is a Seventh-Day Adventist camp located on 500 acres on the northern shore of Hayden Lake, drawing about 200 people a week from July 1 through Aug. 20.

Through activities and rela
tionships with the 95 paid staff who “work to show Christ to the campers, we seek to bring people closer to Christ,” said Denise Kinney, who has been camp registrar for 12 years.

About two-thirds of campers are Adventist, she said, noting that camp experiences carry over into greater involvement in church life and youth groups.

For information, call 208-772-3484 or visit mivoden.com.

Ross Point Camp & Conference Center is open year round!

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Website: www.rosspoint.org
Email address: rp@rosspoint.org
Phone number: 208-773-1655

N-SID-SEN-Camp & Retreat Center

A year-round retreat center for your youth group, church gathering, workshop or meeting space.

With 200+ acres and 1/4 mile of beachfront, we welcome you to the eastern shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene.
In the midst of a ‘total blast,’ campers consider invitation to follow Jesus

During its 60th season in 2017, Camp Spalding had its second best attendance with 1,667 campers coming over 10 weeks to its main camp and Pioneer Camp. About 75 percent of campers return each summer.

Camps are based on age groups, with a maximum 180 campers each week. The camp is affiliated with the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest.

“We hire 43 college-age summer staff who rotate as counselors and program leaders for crafts, waterfront, rock climbing and nature activities,” said Andy Sonneland, who has been the executive director for 27 years at this camp near Newport. The camp’s mission is consistent: “It’s a place for children and youth to get away from their daily routines. In the midst of a week that is a total blast, the camp offers a chance to hear, consider and respond to Jesus’ invitation to follow. It provides a chance to think of what it would look like for them to live with Jesus, to follow him more closely,” he said.

“We see God at work each week of camp all summer long. We are not arm twisters, but allow campers to make thoughtful decisions,” Andy said.

“Many campers make spiritual decisions. We don’t count the number of commitments, but create an opportunity for kids. Over the years, a week at camp plays a key part in the spiritual journeys of many,” he said. For information, call 509-731-4244 or visit campspalding.org.

Camp Gifford campers enjoy learning to sail. About 125 campers come each week from June 25 to Aug. 3, and about 75 paid and volunteer staff are on site for each camp. In 2018, there are two new options, a Band Camp July 2 to 7 for sixth to eighth graders, and a Sailing Day Camp from 9 a.m. to noon for the six-week camp season. Regular campers also have access to sailing.

Each year, Camp Gifford brings international youth adult staff through the Salvation Army Discipleship School in Australia and America. Usually about 10 come to give the campers an opportunity to learn about other cultures. The International staff have an opportunity to learn about U.S. life at camp and to travel six weeks after.

Gerriann, who grew up in Spokane and moved with her family into ministry, studied social work at Southern Connecticut University. She returned to Spokane in 1995 and began working with the Salvation Army’s program on homelessness in 2000. She joined the Salvation Army then.

She took a few years off to be with her child who has autism. She does autism advocacy locally and statewide.

In the winter, Gerriann raises money in the Red Kettle program. Those funds supplement costs for families who cannot afford to send their children to camp. Those funds also support other Salvation Army programs for children and families,” she said. For information, call 329-2759 or email gerriann.armstrong@us salvationarmy.org.

Transition in leadership is time to consider new ways of doing camp

John Palarine, Camp Cross director and canon for youth ministry, brings insights from 40 years and canon for youth ministry, bringing insights from 40 years of serving the Episcopal church as a parish rector and diocese staff. He began in January after Colin Haffner retired.

“My passion is to raise up young people in the church,” he said.

John seeks to develop youth-led ministry and to make a difference in the lives of young people so they are able to make a difference when they return to their congregations and communities, touched by the power of Christ.

Along with serving the church, he started Youth Presence Ministries in 2013 to help congregations establish young ministry programs, before coming on staff with the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida.

For Camp Cross, which has been operating since 1923, this transition is a time to look at new ways to do camp and to listen to the many people whose lives have been shaped by camp, he said.

“It’s a rustic summer camp on Lake Coeur d’Alene focusing on how God touches lives and strengthens people’s faith through generations,” John said.

“The bishop wants the camp, as other programs, to be consistent with the diocesan emphasis on being creative and compelling witnesses to Jesus Christ in our region and being a place where all people are welcome.”

The diocesan theme is “Loved and Called: Listen and Respond,” he said.

John is building collaborative leadership and teamwork among paid and volunteer staff, counselors and resource people. There are 15 summer staff and 20 paid high school counselors, plus two resource people for each session.

Resource people include a sports editor turned youth worker, a Christian formation leader, the Urban Gypsies music group, a national musician for youth and a professor from Virginia Seminary. Several are from Florida. Pia Longinotti, a high school teacher, journalist and basketball coach, is assistant camp director.

Age-based youth camps run from June 24 to Aug. 11. There are Family Days at the Lake camp July 4 to 7, and a Labor Day family camp. About 250 youth and adults come through the summer, with about 150 in the youth camps.

For information, call 509-379-1231 or email johnp@spokanediocese.org.

Camp is opportunity to be outside, away from electronics in positive setting

The goal of the Salvation Army’s Camp Gifford is to give children and youth the opportunity to be outside, away from electronics in a positive environment where they can be kids.

“We seek for them to develop a love for swimming, sailing, boating, geology, fishing and other activities that may carry over into future interests,” said Gerriann Armstrong, the camp registrar.

Discover Camp is for children seven to 12 years old who do arts and crafts, swimming and boating. Camp Cougar, a wilderness camp for teens 13 to 17 years old, focuses on team building, self-reliance, hiking, a climbing wall, high ropes and a giant swing.

Camp Cross senior high youth share in activity.

Allen Durnin never knew he was going to be a minister, but he has been in youth ministry and camping. He began in January after Colin Haffner retired.

“My passion is to raise up young people in the church,” he said.

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Ten children from China will interact with campers for two weeks

Among the campers at Lutherhaven, said Chuck Jepson, 11 and under can attend the “Narnia” programs, which are offered for children ages 10 to 12. They will stay one or two weeks to interact with the campers. After taking five years off to be with her children, Rebecca Smith is back at Lutherhaven as associate director. Previously she was there for 19 years.

“I love the camping ministry,” she said. “The world is different now, and what camping offers the world is needed more now than ever—an opportunity to step away from busy, connected lives.”

While some weeks focus on teens, most of the summer youth of all ages come. Families can send all their children the same week, and campers can come any week.

Camps are hands, feet and labor making a difference in mission camps

Northwest Conference of the UMC will be held. From 40 to 50 come each week for eight weeks to this opportunity for campers to put their faith into action. Every day the campers do different projects. Some help repair or paint houses that need work. Some sort food in an air-conditioned warehouse.

They break in the early afternoon or at dinner and return to TWINlow to be part of the camp community, which will include eight weeks of summer camps for all ages each week. TWINlow has shifted to an inter-generational model, so campers can come on their scheduled week and return to TWINlow for fun.

Holden brings teaching faculty from around the world for programs

Over 50 years, Holden Village has been transformed from a copper mining town into “a vibrant community, to identify what it means to be Christian and to gain a sense of our biological sex and/or gender identification,” said Chuck Hoffman, co-director. Located in the Cascade Mountains above Lake Chelan, Holden welcomes people seeking contemplation and community in the wilderness. Holden offers a summer of diverse programming with teaching faculty from around the world conducting engaging conversations in conversations on theology, justice, peacemaking, ecology, the arts, music, philosophy, the sciences and more.

Holden also offers summer educational programs for children and youth. Children 11 and under can attend the “Narnia” programs, summer weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Programs for children include nature walks with the village naturalist, time for music, crafts and games. Middle school and high school programs are available in the afternoons and some evenings for youth 12 to 17. Programs aim to increase understanding of the self, the other and place.

This summer more than 80 leaders will lead presentations on cultural and ecological change in East Africa, making worship meaningful, food and climate justice, economics of reconciliation, youth perspectives on faith, Martin Luther King Jr.’s spirituality, agricultural ecosystems, re-forming intercultural relationships, King’s vision in a Donald Trump world, poverty in a land of plenty, reawakening prophetic spirituality, morality and economic life, building shalom in a fragmented world, transforming camp with indigenous people, and more.

For information, visit www.holdenvillage.org.

Campsers help with morning missions and return to TWINlow for fun.

Disciples youth camps build relationships

Youth live generously in Lutherhaven’s Idaho Summer Adventures. Once there, campers divide by age, but interact some so young children look up to teens, and teens help take care of younger

The youth ministry coordinator for the Northwest Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is Chris Snow, the pastor at North Hill Christian Church in Spokane. He oversees the camps and will work to bring Montana’s camp, Cambridge West in Lincoln, and the Northwest’s camps together to create one camp program.

There will be a kids and junior camp one week in Gwinwood, which is owned by Western Washington Disciples congregations.

‘Moving Beyond Toxic Gender Roles’ presented by Faith Partners

Monday, Aug. 13 - 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Jepson 114, Wolff Auditorium, Gonzaga University
• Explore how toxic gender expectations and expression contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault
• Discuss how to raise healthy children regardless of their biological gender and sex
• Discuss how to create a faith community that is welcoming to all.

Presenter - Deborah Svoboda
Eastern Washington University National Work and Women’s Gender Studies

Special Feature
Participatory Session with Interfaith Panel
REGISTRATION DEADLINE - August 10
Email FaithPartners Spokane@gmail.com, Send checks to Faith Partners c/o WHEN, PO Box 9637, Spokane 99209
Call 509-998-5332 or 509-343-5032

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Long-time peacemaker advocates for Spokane to be nuclear-free zone


Rusty Nelson, who retired several years ago after 20 years as co-director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS), is helping promote a city ordinance to ban nuclear weapons materials in Spokane.

After several constituents approached her, Councilwoman Kate Burke decided to introduce it for a vote by City Council on August 6, which is Hiroshima Day. The day the United States dropped its first nuclear bomb in 1945.

She has a draft ordinance and has done research, learning that the United Nations "seeks to rid the world of nuclear weapons."

In July 2017, 122 nations in the UN adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a ban on developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons. By September, 58 nations signed it. After 50 nations ratified it, it went into force.

"The city ordinance to prohibit nuclear weapons materials in Spokane is largely symbolic, but is an urgently needed symbol to point out the moral depravity of any nuclear weapons program," said Rusty, who has long campaigned against nuclear weapons, the arms race and actual war.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, he said, the U.S. did not win the arms race or Cold War, but Russia's economy collapsed after spending themselves into bankruptcy. He added that government leaders are not interested in nuclear weapons forget there are no winners to a nuclear war or arms race.

"With the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6, which is Hiroshima Day, comes a moment of clarity for incumbent leaders to listen to the ideas of peacemakers," he said. "Our challenge is to educate people to know we have a choice, and it's in our best interest to stop nuclear weapons proliferation and over-arming ourselves."

For information, call 291-4646.

Rusty Nelson speaks on behalf of Veterans for Peace.

Rusty said many expected there would be a peace dividend from not having a "great enemy."

"We could have quit spending on nuclear arms and systems of delivery, but went on to create enemies elsewhere to support corporate welfare for the military system, even though it's impos- sible to win war, especially nuclear war," he said.

"We demand North Korea and Iran to have no nuclear weapons and consider them outlaw nations, but we and Israel continue to possess and deploy those weapons. Instead of denying the evil of nuclear weapons on our side, we need to put our nukes on the bargaining table," he said.

By presenting the ordinance, Veterans for Peace and Physicians for Social Responsibility seek public discussions for education on what defense the country really needs. Rusty added that the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th are days to recall how finger-pointing and name-calling between the U.S. and Soviet Union cost trillions of dollars and minimized outrage over the routine atrocities of war.

"It's absurd that the only country that has dropped atomic bombs on another country presumes to be the arbiter of who can build, possess and deploy these things," said Rusty. "A Vietnam War vet who does not believe that bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought a quick end to the war."

"It was ready for an armistice before July 1945, but we wanted to test our new weapon to scare the Soviet Union. We had no regard for the lives of Japanese civilians," Rusty said.

"In the arms race, an armistice could save trillions," he said.

Rusty said that nuclear waste affects the poor, ghettos and communities to say we're not going to scare the Soviet Union.

"We could just spend millions to research and use radioactive materials for medicine, instead of trillions to destroy the earth over and over," he said.

"It's not too much to ask for our leaders to listen to the ideas of peacemakers," he said. "Our challenge is to educate people to know we have a choice, and it's in our best interest to stop nuclear weapons proliferation and over-arming ourselves."

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For information, call 291-4646.
By Kaye Hult

On July 7, 2011, Theresa Hart’s son, 20-year-old SPC Nicholas Newby, was killed in Baghdad, Iraq by an armor-piercing bomb.

In October 2013, with the help of her husband, James, and friends, Theresa opened Newby-ginnings of North Idaho, a non-profit program for active military, veterans and Gold Star families.

Newby-ginnings allows her to honor her son and others who have died serving the country.

Theresa thought she would offer support part-time from her dinning room office. In the first five months, she was able to help more than she expected. Her work allows her to talk about Nick daily. She attended with honor, respect and integrity, the services of North Idaho, a non-profit program for active military, veterans and Gold Star families.

Newby-ginnings started with her son’s passing, and has expanded to include those who served and sacrificed.

Theresa realized she could help young men and women who had returned home. Her mother came up with the name “Newby-ginnings.” As Theresa sat at her kitchen table, the motto, logo and mission statement flowed.

The mission statement is: “With support from and in partnership with the community, Newby-ginnings of North Idaho, Inc., a non-profit organization, will provide, with honor, respect and integrity, essential items, resources and referrals to area active military, veterans and Gold Star families in need of such services.”

They provide basic necessities and common comforts. They welcome clean, functional donations, such as household items, furniture and clothing. They provide these free with no red tape or appointment. People do not have to wait for months, she said.

“We do this with community support through donations and fund raisers,” she said. “There are no income eligibility guidelines. No one has to prove their need. All that is required is proof of military service. They can take what they need.”

Since starting, Newby-ginnings has enrolled 2,325 veterans, active servicemen and women, and Gold Star families in the Coeur d’Alene area, serving 50 to 100 a day. Theresa called Scott Thorsness, director of the Kootenai County Veterans Services Office in Post Falls. She asked him to refer people with needs and things to donate. He began making referrals to her.

For about a year and a half, she did nothing. During that time, many of Nick’s battle buddies called her telling her of their struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), and financial and relationship problems.

Theresa recites many statistics. Nick was the 4,471st U.S. Casualty in Iraq since U.S. involvement there in 2003. He was one of 54 from the Coeur d’Alene area, serving 50 to 100 a day. Theresa said.

Losing him defined me. Losing him defined me. Losing him defined me. Losing him defined me. Losing him defined me.

Theresa went to work as an RN for the State of Idaho. When I walked back into work, my boss said, “They are changing a person at a cellular level.”

Theresa realized she could change a person at a cellular level. When I walked back into work, my boss said, “They are changing a person at a cellular level.”

Theresa started Newby-ginnings with only a box truck like the one across the street at Dalton Gardens. Theresa had been using his personal truck to haul goods. When a $26,000 grant she wrote for a truck, tires and maintenance was denied, she was devastated.

Within a week, Molly Shirley called to say she was dissolving “We’ve Got Stuff” and giving her remaining inventory to us,” Theresa said.

Theresa started Newby-ginnings.

Theresa said. That included a bigger and better box truck and the driver, Cedric.

One connection led to the next. Through the Couer d’Alene VFW, Josh Scott of Maximum Exposure donated a wrap for the truck.

He contacted Riverbend Office Park, which gave Theresa a lease at 570 S. Clearwater Loop in Post Falls, where they have been since May 2016.

The non-profit works with various area veterans’ organizations, service agencies and assisted-living facilities.

“If a veteran is released from rehabilitation with a new knee or hip, they call us. We can give them what they need—walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, power chairs or power chairs,” she said.

Newby-ginnings welcomes new kitchen items, underwear, socks, cleaning supplies and more. Those donations go to veterans when they move into a new location. They may have been homeless or just out of the hospital. She wants them to have both a new home and a fresh start with dignity.

They are now having a “Stuff-Raiser.” For every new kitchen item sold through Thanksgiving, they receive a raffle ticket for a patriotic quilt. The drawing is July 3. Theresa is having 60 hours a week providing this service . . . 30 hours at the shop Mondays through Wednesdays, plus she attends meetings, makes presentations and works at home.


Newby-ginnings has a seven-member board of directors and a staff of about 50 volunteers. “Their unselfish effort, caring and compassion for others is the lifeblood of our organization,” she said. “They are a source of inspiration for me and for the clients. We couldn’t do what we do without them.

Theresa was born in Norwalk, Conn. Her father was in the Air Force 10 years. By the time Theresa was in the ninth grade, she had attended 11 schools. After his discharge in 1978 in Anchorage, the family settled there, attending Catholic churches for a while.

Theresa graduated from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, in 1985 with a bachelor’s in nursing. Her children, Nick and Nathan, were born to her and her former husband, Wayne, in Alaska. They moved to Coeur d’Alene in 1996.

“Sometimes, I still can’t believe Nick is gone,” she said. “I just keep moving. My faith has been challenged, but I wonder if God has a sense of humor, because of the coincidences I have experienced with Newby-ginnings.

“I have an overwhelming sense of responsibility. I want people to appreciate their freedom because of the sacrifices made by so many to preserve it,” she said.

“It is our job to live our lives worthy of their sacrifice, to live our lives to the fullest, to laugh, to love, to make this world a better place. Nick would want that,” Theresa said.

“When I walked back into work, my boss said, “They are changing a person at a cellular level.”

Theresa said.

Newby-ginnings is the collateral beauty that occurred after immense tragedy. It has helped bring our local veteran community closer together. It has impacted the lives of thousands of people.

For information, call 208-610-6996, email newbyginnings447@gmail.com.
“There is power in love.” Those simple words by the U.S. Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, preaching at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, reminded me of our call to love. At the royal wedding, he cited America’s “King,” Martin Luther King Jr., who said, “We make a weekly commitment to the power of love, the redemptive power of love, and when we do that we will make of this old world a new world. For love is the only thing that will leave us.”

Bishop Curry was not talking about over-sentimentalizing the power of romantic love at the time of a wedding, but recognizing that when we know and embrace love, we are loved.

“We are made by a power of love,” he said.

Love permeates what we do with The Fig Tree—sharing love stories.

Fig Tree stories tell of people turning selfishness, greed, lust, lies, hate, division, oppression, injustice, grief, anger, hunger, poverty, homelessness, racism and more into hope. They do that out of faith, because they love God and God’s creation, because we are all who are made in God’s image, and love ourselves, because they live in love.

Wow! The bishop took us back to the simple basis of our faith and many faiths—love is unselfish, sacrificial and redemp-tive, it changes lives. He invited us to imagine a world, families, neighborhoods, communities, governments, nations, business and commerce “where love is the way.”

When love is the way, no child is hungry, justice rolls down, poverty is history, we lay down our swords and shields, and we treat each other like family.

When love is the way, we must discover love—the redemptive power of love. When we do that, we will make of this old world a new world.

Loving the hungry and those needing shelter, the immigrants and those in prisons, the thirsty, the poor and those marginalized by racism, living faithful and serving in community, working for peace, advocating justice, praying, teaching, collecting shoes, reading to children, cleaning a house, chopping wood, sitting with someone who is dying, listening to someone’s story—love stories in The Fig Tree each issue.

Mary Stamps - Editor

For 22 years, Marilyn Stedman brought light to the Fig Tree family

Marilyn Stedman, a volunteer with The Fig Tree since 1996, died on Monday, May 28, at the age of 89.

One line in her obituary sums up Mari-lyn: "It said that Marilyn was full of activities that blessed others.

As a volunteer, Marilyn Stedman said that her involvement with The Fig Tree Board has been the "backbone of everything I’ve done.”

That includes the Girl Scouts, Japanese Cultural Center, YWCA, Museum of Arts and Culture, Whitworth Auxiliary, Covenant Christian Church, Junior League and reading to children.

"The Fig Tree represents an ecumenical vision,” she said in a 2014 interview at the time of the 30th anniversary.

Marilyn said that “The Fig Tree has always been positive and I’ve always tried to be positive in my life. It has helped me and I hope it helps others.

Marilyn joined The Fig Tree board in 1996 and became chair/moderator of the board during its transition to becoming an independent nonprofit corporation in 2001 and for many more years.

Last month, she picked up copies of The Fig Tree to deliver to Origin, her church, and Unity Church near her home.

She has helped with mailings, deliveries, editing, hosting benefit tables, planning benefit events, doing volunteer tasks at events, making phone calls, assisting at displays and speaking up the world.

The Fig Tree.

She has spent almost all of her years in Spokane and has attended Franklin High School and attending Washington State College in Pullman for three years. She met her husband, Dale, there.

She had motivated in recreation with the goal of being a professional Girl Scout. Dale worked with AAI in Spokane, giving her the freedom to volunteer with Girl Scouts. Her involvement with Girl Scouts led to connection with Mukogawa’s Girl Day and the doll festival at Immaculata.

For many years, she volunteered with the Japanese Cultural Center, putting out friendship dolls during March.

Most Japanese girls receive traditional dolls from their mothers or grandmothers on their first Immaculata, a 1,000-year-old- old tradition in Japan, Mukogawa Girl Scouts help put out the girl dolls.

Marilyn became involved with Girl Scouts at the age of nine, because of her love of the outdoors and because her father, a member of Lions Club that supported Girl Scouts, had helped buy land where the Girl Scout Camp Four Echoes is near Worley, Idaho.

“I loved the camp and was there the first day. My mother was a Girl Scout leader. I was a camp counselor and assistant director. I have led troops for my daughter, Cyn, and granddaughter.

Marilyn also helped start the day camp program with Spokane Parks and Recreation in the woods at Valleyford County Park beginning in 1983.

"Girl Scouts, like The Fig Tree, has an international ties. We have four international houses—London, Switzerland, Mexico and India,” said Marilyn, who visited all but the one in India.

She has traveled internationally with the board, when she served on the National AIA Board, going to Holland, Greece, Italy, Estonia, Russia, Rwanda and Tanzania.

In 1983, she took 30 Girl Scouts to Japan, where they had three-week home stays. While there, a Baptist missionary pastor offered to assist the girls, teaching them Japanese.

Marilyn has had ties with Malawi, including sending a group of Girl Scouts with special needs to a visit and connecting with three Malawan Catholic priests, who studied at Gonzaga.

“it’s important to try to know other people’s cultures, thoughts and religions. We are all one under God,” she said.

While the Whitworth Auxiliary was Presbyterian women who were 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, Marilyn was 60s, 70s. She led the Girl Scout Silver Tea Fund in the early 1970s and asked her to join. Since then it became ecumenical.

The auxiliary supports international students, helps paint and make curtains for residence halls, and tunes the pianos in the halls, among many activities.

Marilyn appreciated in role in funding international students. She befriended several international students.

For many years, she and Dale read to preschool children. She read to children at the Bethel African American Church’s preschool for 10 years until it closed.

She also read with preschoolers at St. Charles’ Catholic and the Hearts & Rainbows Preschool at Bethel Lutheran Church. The pair also read with St. John Vianney’s preschool.

Marilyn grew up in Central Christian Church. She did not live in Spokane until the time she came.

It moved to 5th and Palouse Hwy., and then to downtown and 6th Ave. before moving to Central Christian Church. More than 10 years ago, the church sold the building and moved to 5th and Regal.

Still a Disciples of Christ congregation, it recently changed its name to Origin Church, in the woods at 51S 5 Freya.

Through the years with the church, she taught Sunday school and was president of the board and was involved in the women’s fellowship.

Her memorial service was June 1. Family have requested that people “bless” their favorite charity with gifts in her name.
**Calendar of Events**

### June 8-15
- **Young Adults Explore Buddhism**, Spokane Civic Theatre, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **What Is a Community Bail Fund Benefit and Do We Need One in Spokane?**, 1st Community Bail Fund, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224
- **Café Affogato Community Day Benefiting the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane**, 19 W. Main, 1 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### June 8
- **“Art, Crafts and Drafts,” 2018 Kopanga Benefit of Partnering for Progress, River City Brewing, 121 S. Cedar St., 4 to 6 p.m., 720-8480
- **Spokane Civic Theatre**, 20 W. 5th Ave. between Division & Spokane Falls Blvd., 3 p.m.

### June 9
- **27th Annual Pride Parade**, Spokane Pride, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Hello, Dolly** by Mary Rodgers, directed by Joan Mitchell, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 2424 N. Discovery Pkwy., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 458-7460 x2

### June 10
- **What’s Up Town Hall: Sexual Violence at School and Work, Lumen Community Services Northwest at North Central High**, 1600 N. Howard, 4 to 6 p.m., 747-8224

### June 11
- **Silent Day of Prayer**, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224
- **Celebrating the Positive**, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 7 p.m., 882-6009

### June 12
- **Unity in the Community Committee, Emmanuel Family Life Center**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 3:30 p.m., monerty.org

### June 13
- **“Practical Ways to Cultivate Relationships in Troubling Situations,”** led by Catherine Reimer, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224

### June 14
- **“How Do We Do It as Churches?”** organized by Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224

### June 15
- **Healthy Kids Day**, Children’s Museum of Eastern Washington, 448-1224

### June 16
- **Garland Street Fair**, Garland Business District, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### June 17
- **Café Affogato**, 8 a.m.

### June 18
- **Peace and Justice Action Committee, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870

### June 19
- **Fighting Hate Crime in Spokane’s LGBT+ Community, Hemminger Center, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 747-8224

### June 20
- **“The Global Village...How do We Do It as Churches?” Barbara Emphasizes William Skylstad, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224

### June 21
- **Unity in the Community, Riverfront Park**, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. event, 599-6669, monerty.org

### June 22
- **Silent Day of Prayer on Releasing Anxiety, Peace in an Anxious World: How to Lower Anxiety and Increase Joy**, led by Teresa Warren and Michael D’Esterre, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., free, 448-1224

### June 23
- **Day of Reflection on Christian Mindfulness, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 448-1224
- **“Practical Ways to Cultivate Relationships in Troubling Situations,”** led by Catherine Reimer, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 838-7870

### June 24
- **“Dig In,” Catholic Charities, Historic Washington Cracker Co., 304 W. Pacific, 6:30 p.m. single $15, each shared
- **“The Question of Jesus,”** led by Catherine Reimer, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224

### June 25
- **Gathering at the Falls Powwow, Riverfront Park, 590-5044, gatfpowwow.org
- **Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery, St. Mark’s Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9:30 a.m.

### June 26
- **Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meetings, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon for benefit, 1:30 p.m. for board, 530-1813

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**OPENING DATES**

**Saturday, May 12 & Wednesday, June 13**

**Wednesdays & Saturdays – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Natural and organic fruit, vegetables, meats, eggs, bread, honey, garlic, flowers, nuts and more from local family farms.

**Food Stamps/BT, VUMC, WIC & Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Coupons**
Devon Wilson says ‘racism is about power, the power of violence’

Devon Wilson, chair of the NAACP Spokane Criminal Justice Committee, is a member of the Center for Justice Board and the Coordinating Committee member on the state Poor People’s Campaign Committee, was one of the speakers Monday, May 21, in Olympia.

The theme that week was racism. ‘Racism is about power, more specifically the power of violence,’ he said. ‘Violence has a sound. It sounds like whips cracking, dogs snarling and prison scuffling. It’s the sound of stomachs achting.’

‘Violence is unique because it’s one of few sounds known to create obedience, and if not obedience, then silence. If you pause you can hear the silence echo across cells and cemeteries all over,’ said Devon, a 2015 graduate of the University of Kentucky in political science and psychology, drawn to Spokane by a family friend.

He has served as an intern in Washington, D.C., and as an aide to Spokane by a family friend.

“Racism is division,” he continued. “It’s division through dehumanization.”

He said those gathered at the rally were there in part to stop someone seeking to exploit or displace a group of people, because it’s the right thing to do.

Then he pointed out that those who exploit others try to convince people that their targets are “not human.” He mentioned “cockroaches, super-predators or animals.” Then more are willing to con people that their targets are “not human,” but apes, savages, rats, human, but not to con about immigrants and other communities of color.

An oppressor seeks to con very few people that what will improve their well-being because they might help that group.”

“Racism is whitewashing of our history,” he said. “It’s being told that only great men from great families and wealthy are the ones who can change the world,” he said.

Devon added that people are often told that they are not powerful enough, not rich enough, or from the right ethnic background to make a difference, so not to bother fighting.

The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival over 40 days this spring has several demands. It demands the end of systemic racism, demands to end the war on the poor, the environment and communities across the globe.

“I stand here today with only one demand: keep fighting, do it nonetheless and don’t stop fighting,” he said in Olympia.

“We cause the tired, the poor, we the huddled masses and a witched refuse, we the people are the engine that drives this nation forward, we are the change we have been waiting for, and we are the trumpets that bring down walls,” Devon said.

“Devon Wilson speaks for Poor People’s Campaign.

Our movement is growing bigger every day.”

Sandy Williams, editor of The Black Lens, shared a poem she read last year at a march, remembering a young black man shot in the back by a man a white jury said acted in self-defense.

Her poem, “We don’t see color in Spokane,” points out that people of color are stopped by police more often. For every white adult detained, seven blacks and six Native Americans are detained. Half of the students arrested at schools are people of color, and a disproportionate number of students of color are suspended or expelled.

“Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans are twice as likely to live in poverty and have higher mortality rates. Elected officials and decision makers are all white,” Sandy said.

“Maybe Spokane needs to start seeing color,” she suggested. “Racism is insidious here. We need people meeting in rooms to make decisions that challenge our lack of access and speak on our behalf.”

She called for allies to work with people of color to “make Spokane be the place we want it to be.”

Alexis Gallaway-Tonasket, an organizer against environmental racism who is half Colville and half Irish, said being “half from two different worlds,” she sees half of her family face different issues from the other half.

“Racism is more than a rude comment in passing. It is a deep dark secret in plain sight. It is that we forget we are all human. We all feel, fear, dream and breathe. We share the same sky, earth water and stars,” she said.

“If many humans are struggling with the system, it’s the system that is flawed, not the people,” Alexis said.

“We need justice for Native Americans, African Americans and immigrant communities,” Devon said as the rally ended and many of the 50 who gathered chanted, “We need justice,” as they began to march.

At 2 p.m. on “Moral Mondays,” people gather from throughout the state for a rally at the State Capitol in Olympia. Some, but not all, may risk arrest. In Spokane, those who go will report back at 5:30 p.m., Thursdays through June 21, at the Tribal Gathering Place.

The theme for May 28, was “The War Economy: Militarism and the Proliferation of Gun Violence.” For June 4, it is “Ecological Devastation and the Right to Health, Healthcare and a Healthy Planet.” June 11 rally is on “Racism is about Power, the Power of Violence.” June 18 rally is on “A New and Unsettling Force: Confronting the Distorted Social Narrative.”

Nationally, as of May 21, hundreds of people were arrested and many were injured. In Spokane, a leader in the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign, was arrested with campaign co-chairs the Revs. William Barber and Liz Theoha- ris, poor people and clergy who sat in prayer on the floor of U.S. Capitol rotunda, resisting orders from the police to disperse.

They sought to deliver a letter to Senate and House Republican leaders, asking them to restore the Voting Rights Act, end racial gerrymandering and honor minimum wage increases.

For two years, leaders of the Poor People’s Campaign visited 10s of thousands of people in dozens of states on a listening tour about issues.

For information, call 838-7870 or visit ppcs.org or visit poorpeoplescampaign.org.

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