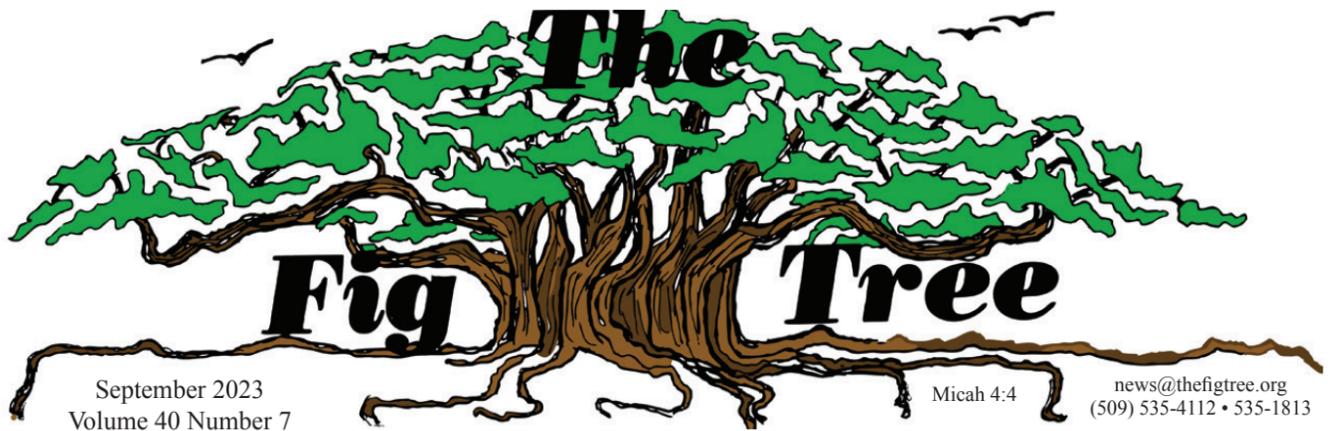


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Sravasti Abbey evacuates to caring friends - p. 10
Hospice focuses on self-directed care - p. 12

CALENDAR ON PAGE 11
FEATURES 75+ EVENTS



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

Family Promise helps families stay housed

By Mary Stamp

Operating as “Family Promise” for seven years, the nonprofit continues the essence of its original name, Interfaith Hospitality, as key to establishing the relationships and community needed to help families stay housed.

Joe Ader, executive director since 2019, came to Spokane in 2016 to do anti-poverty training and soon opened Family Promise’s Emergency Family Walk-In Shelter, Open Doors, in Emmanuel Family Life Center.

When Interfaith Hospitality started in 1997, families were housed by a network of 13 host churches, assisted by 20 support congregations providing meals and conversation. They helped three families at a time. They stayed in a church one week and moved to another the next week.

“The congregations were Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Jewish, Friends, Methodist, Unitarian, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, United Church of Christ and more,” Joe said, noting that the church program continued until COVID.

After opening Open Doors in 2016, they were able to serve 25 families at a time.



Joe Ader educates people to understand poverty in order to end it.

At the day center then and now, case workers help people find jobs, education and housing. They continue to support families up to two years to keep them housed.

In 2018, Family Promise opened its Prevention Program to offer rental assistance to keep families in their housing. It provided \$120,000 from federal grants a year before COVID. In 2021, it provided \$4.2 million in rental assistance in Spokane, and \$2.4 million in 2022, and \$1.5 million for 2023.

“We helped stabilize 2,000 people in families at risk,” Joe said, noting that large federal grants are now gone, but there are still city and county grants. “After 2023, it’s anybody’s guess as the program winds down, while housing costs continue to rise. The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,600, up 30 percent from \$1,200.”

Only 49 percent of first-time home buyers can find housing they can afford, he added. About 51 percent face inflationary pressure as they continue renting. In 2022, Spokane’s housing vacancy rate was 1.8 percent, putting those financially on the edge at greater

Continued on page 4

Veradale church’s hate incident spurs ‘Love Is Greater than Hate’ efforts

Veradale United Church of Christ’s Love Is Greater Than Hate campaign began with a party July 3 when people joined in a meal and conversation as well as donating security cameras for the church. It now includes art, fall events and letters to political leaders.

Gen Heywood, the pastor, now pays closer attention to what is going on around the church, not wanting the church to become a fortress.

Inside and outside the church

are hearts and signs saying, “Love.” That was true before Sunday, June 25, when vandals took down the rainbow Pride flag, a Black Lives Matter flag, a flag with human rights messages, and several small Pride flags. A neighbor’s video showed vandals running across the lawn, pouring diesel on it to kill the grass to write the phrase, Lev 20:13.

Gen said that refers to Leviticus 20:13, an anti-gay passage used by some Christians. Her church is open and affirming,

and many members are LGBTQ. The act is being investigated as a hate incident, she said.

With Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience (FLLC), which Gen convenes, and community outreach, Gen promotes ways for love to be greater than hate.

The Sunday after the vandalism, 103 people came to Veradale UCC for a Love Is Greater Than Hate Party. An anonymous donor replaced the three large flags, which were raised in a ceremony that ended the “Love Is Greater than Hate” party.

“Our plan was to have a different flag up each month,” said Gen. “The one we have up now says, ‘We strive to love God with all our heart, mind and soul, and our neighbor as ourselves.’ Another expresses the UCC three great loves: “Love neighbor, love children and love creation.”

Temple Beth Shalom and Congregation Emanu-El responded immediately, just as Veradale UCC and FLLC responded to hate and graffiti at the temple.

From participating in the *Continued on page 6*

‘All Our Relations’ Journey set

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM

The “All Our Relations Snake River Journey” will take place at seven venues in Washington, Idaho and Oregon from Sept. 23 in Olympia and through Oct. 1 in Seattle.

There will be an event from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 27, at the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture, 2316 W. First Ave. in Spokane. Other Inland Northwest gatherings are from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 28, at the Moscow Contemporary, 414 S. Main St. in Moscow, and Friday, Sept. 29 and Saturday, Sept. 30, at Hells Gate Park, 5100 Hells Gate Rd., in Lewiston.

This two-week, indigenous-led campaign in partnership with faith-based groups like Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light (WA IPL) and the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) in Seattle, invites participants to be in solidarity with Northwest tribal communities’ effort to protect salmon from extinction and restore their abundance by reestablishing a free-flowing Snake River.

“**The journey is all about relationship.** Through our growing relationship with Se’Si’Le’, the faith community was generously invited to be part of the movement to restore salmon in the Pacific Northwest and honor treaty rights between the U.S. government and sovereign tribes,” said Will Rutt, executive director of IPJC, the contact person for the Spokane event..

“Se’Si’Le is an indigenous-led organization that uses ancestral knowledge to benefit Mother Earth. Its president, Jay Julius W’tot Lhem (Lummi), led IPJC’s Youth Action Team in a story-telling workshop,” said Will. “It was a step in our growing relationship.”

For the journey, Se’Li’Le designed an eight-foot-diameter, hand-crafted wood and iron sculpture created by Lummi Nation members A. Cyaltsa Finkbonner, artist, and Jewell James, master carver of the House of Tears Carvers. The sculpture represents a vision of All Our Relations.

Continued on page 3

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
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WCC marks 75th and addresses issues

The World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee met June 21 to 27, to mark the 75th anniversary of the WCC and to offer several public statements, including:

- The 70-year-old War Armistice Agreement for the Korean Peninsula should be replaced with a peace treaty: "We pray for peace and dialogue to end this dangerous cycle, and for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the entire world."
- The Central Committee affirmed the WCC's longstanding concerns about artificial intelligence technology and the absence of effective regulation and accountability of the accelerating development of a technology with vast acknowledged potential for harm, as well as for good.

Other issues addressed were global food insecurity, climate justice as a matter of faith and action, extreme weather events from climate change, the persistence of human suffering from injustice and discrimination.

Members from the Pacific, the United States and Asia spoke. **Armstrong Pitakaji of the United Church** in the Solomon Islands said many Pacific Islanders are taking solution-focused action, such as in the Cook Islands, where people are using the foods of their ancestors, Indigenous foodstuffs found and cultivated in the mountains, "which are improving diets and strengthening the community's capacity to withstand climate shock."

He urged churches to encourage investment in water and sanitation to promote healthy food systems and a transition to renewable energy.

The Central Committee discussed the WCC 11th Assembly's emphasis on seeking justice to attain healing, reconciliation and peace in the world.

Two U.S. members, Karen Georgia Thompson, president and general minister of the United Church of Christ (UCC), and Ann Jacob, a United Methodist hospital worker, spoke.

Karen cited Amos 2: "Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." She added that the UCC calls people to be "united in Christ's love for a just world for all."

"Christians should want to see a just world for all. The word, 'just,' informs the word, 'justice,' in Amos," she said. "The dictionary defines justice as our behaving according to what is morally right and fair. In these days, we are to care for more than widows and orphans. The call to care for our neighbors as ourselves spans a range of issues with complex intersections and global effects. We cannot say we are living as God wants us to and not show compassion to neighbors. The quest to seek a just world for all is perhaps at the heart of Micah and Amos."

Ann said climate change is "affecting local produce" and pushing up prices "so people tend to go for cheaper products that aren't even healthy." She would like churches to encourage government policymakers to help solve the problem.

Guest speaker Wesley Ariarajah, former director of inter-religious relations with the WCC, highlighted the role of the Asian region in developing ecumenism, and the gifts and challenges of this region.

Because half the world's living faiths originating there and other living faiths have been practiced there, other regions can build on the legacy of Asian ecumenism for Christian witness in a pluralistic world. He said acceptance of plurality, openness and willingness to listen and accept others in their otherness is at the heart of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue. He challenged participants to review early Christian missionary tradition, which often required converts to reject their cultures and previous traditions. He said growth in ecumenism comes through meeting in dialogues, conferences and events where people meet people to listen, talk and change.

Live stream of the WCC Central Committee's 75th anniversary celebration on 25 June is at the WCC YouTube channel and at oikoumene.org/live.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Community partners support directory

The Fig Tree published 22,000 copies and mailed about 4,500 in August. Volunteers are distributing bulk orders to agencies.

"We are grateful for 25 community partners supporting the publication," he said.

The partners are Banner Bank, Providence Health Services, Sisters of the Holy Names, Second Harvest, Gonzaga University, Northwest Intermountain Synod ELCA, Coordinated Care, Molina Health, Multi-Care, United Health, Launch Northwest, Innovia Founda-

tion, Empire Health Foundation, Community Building Foundation, Catholic Charities, Aging & Long Term Care, Parkview Early Learning, Jasmin & Associates, Washington Trust Bank, Northwest Mediation Center, Goodwill Industries of the Inland NW, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Eastern Washington University, Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels, Liberty Park St. Paul's United Methodist Church and East Spokane Kiwanis.

Resource Directory editor

Malcolm Haworth said that, as he delivered copies to fire response centers, he found that fire stations, civic organizations, veterans groups and grange halls he had added this year—along with faith, nonprofit, service and government organizations—were providing assistance.

He also observed that "being in print makes it practical in remote areas when internet access is out. This crisis shows why we offer it both in print and online."

For information, call 535-4112 or visit thefigtree.org.

Center announces new director, legal clinics

The Carl Maxey Center announces its new executive director and September legal clinics.

The board has completed its search for a successor to the late Sandy Williams. They have appointed Shari Williams-Clarke as its executive director.

Shari, who retired in June as vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion Eastern Washington University, moved to Spo-

kane in 2017 to serve in that role. In retirement, she had planned to volunteer at the center.

In September, the center will hold free Drop-In Legal Clinics from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursdays, Sept. 7 and 21, and from 3 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 13. A Racial Justice Clinic for BI-POC Family Law for domestic violence, housing discrimination and civil rights will be from 5 to

7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 28. No appointment is necessary, but clients must check in an hour before the closing time.

The Carl Maxey Center will also host a Sandy Williams Birthday Celebration from 12 to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 13 and a Birthday Block Party from 12 to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16.

For information, email selfhelplegal@carlmaxeycenter.org.

Faith Action Network plans area clusters

With faith communities in the region, the Faith Action Network (FAN) plans geographical cluster gatherings across the state for people to discuss local concerns in their communities.

Brianna Dilts, FAN's new Eastern Washington regional organizer, has experience in organizing on economic justice, housing justice and equitable decision-making. She worked

limited hours this summer while finishing a year of service as Participant Voice and Empowerment VISTA/Americorps member at Transitions in Spokane. She now works half-time with FAN.

Brianna believes that building relationships across shared values and looking to the experiences and wisdom of others are key for a more just world.

Born and raised in Spokane,

she completed undergraduate studies in social work at Eastern Washington University. Her commitment to advocacy and justice is informed by her Christian faith tradition. She looks forward to taking collective interfaith action on the shared values of justice, compassion and peace.

For information, call 206-625-9790.

Habitat raises awareness of housing needs

Habitat for Humanity Spokane is recruiting 78 volunteer fundraisers and community partners to rappel 22 stories down Spokane's tallest building to help area families build and own decent, affordable Habitat homes.

The earlier participants sign up, the more time they'll have to raise funds, said Caroline Schibel, marketing and communications director at Habitat-Spokane.

"Over the Edge" will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, at the 288-foot tall Bank of America Financial

Center in downtown Spokane.

"As the housing crisis continues, Habitat-Spokane seeks to creatively raise funds for equitable home-buying," said Caroline. "While Habitat typically has families and volunteers build homes, we also seek to raise awareness of the housing emergency with this approach."

Habitat is partnering with Over the Edge Global, a nonprofit that arranges urban rappelling fundraising events, helping nonprofits around the world raise

more than \$135 million since 2008. Individuals of all ages and abilities levels can participate.

"The campaign comes as housing costs are at an ultimate high, and the racial wealth gap is the highest in more than 40 years," she said. "The demand for safe, affordable places to live has increased dramatically here. Habitat's waiting list has more than 1,000 families hoping to build stability through homeownership."

For information, call 598-9820 or visit habitat-spokane.org.

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Teens join 18-mile trek recalling church pioneers

Nearly 100 Spokane teens and 24 adults learned life lessons as they left behind their cell phones to push handcarts and carry water pails as part of the June 22 to 24 Youth Pioneer Trek at Escure Ranch, 90 minutes southwest of Spokane. It was the first trek since 2017 for the Spokane Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

For the 18-mile trek, youth wore pioneer apparel and took turns pushing 12 handcarts like those used by early members of the church on their journey to the Salt Lake Valley, said Jennifer Hicks, communications director of the Greater Spokane Region.

It usually occurs every four years but was put on hold during COVID, said Heather Whitehead, a Spokane Stake member who who planned the event. It pays tribute to about 70,000 church pioneers who migrated to the Salt Lake Valley from the 1840s to 1860s to escape persecution and establish a center of their faith.

For information, call 270-4950 or email jennifer.hicks509@yahoo.com or whiteheadwildcats@gmail.com.

Catholic Charities opens Lemlmts Center

The Lemlmts Resource Center opened June 26 in Wellpinit in the former rectory of Sacred Heart Catholic Parish.

It will be a distribution point in natural disasters and a place where people can access resources, and gather to share traditions and form community, said Scott Cooper, vice president for mission with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW).

It is to be a place of peace and refuge, he said, adding that the rectory includes space upstairs for a visiting pastor to stay.

Cheryl Butterfly is the center coordinator.

“CCEW will send clothing, baby/toddler items and personal care/hygiene items. There will be some food, including receiving and distributing processed game meat, like deer/venison. We do not want to duplicate food bank services in the community,” Scott said.

For information, call 991-0076 or 258-6915, or email scott.cooper@cceasternwa.org.

Whitworth offers Resilient Church program

The Whitworth Office of Church Engagement (OCE) is recruiting its third cohort of churches for a two-year Resilient Church program, designed to draw diverse churches to explore what it means to be resilient in today’s changing culture. Participants will join online and in-person for retreats and consultations from summer 2024 to spring 2026.

They will 1) discover their past through identity/stories that formed their community; 2) discern the present by understanding their location, and 3) design for the future by developing collaborative initiatives to foster church resilience.

The program helps churches adapt to new circumstances and challenges to serve the gospel, said Lauren Hunter, Resilient Church program director. Whitworth faculty will offer expertise in church history, church vitality, city planning and entrepreneurship.

“Often church leaders are so busy with their ministry that they don’t take time to ask larger questions. We invite them to ask questions, rethink assumptions and seek God together for the future of the church,” she said.

For information, email lhunter@whitworth.edu.

Shades of Motherhood raises funds for efforts

The Shades of Motherhood Network is launching The Shades of Love initiative at its fundraiser 6:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, Sept. 29, at The Philanthropy Center, 1020 W. Riverside in Spokane.

Proceeds will help people access community-based doulas and support network efforts to strengthen Black maternal health, provide food and supplies, foster community and offer events.

“This event is a chance for our community to come together regardless of race or background to support mothers and future mothers,” said Stephaine Courtney, executive director.

For information, call 217-2993, email tlprcenter@gmail.com or visit theshadesofmotherhoodnetwork.org.

YWCA shares Racial Justice Challenge

YWCA Spokane’s 2023 Racial Justice Challenge runs from Monday, Sept. 18 to Friday, Sept. 29 sharing challenges by email or at ywcaspokane.org/challenge with prompts to take a few moments each day to read an article or podcast, or reflect on a personal experience.

It’s an opportunity to build social justice habits, dealing with race, power, privilege and leadership, said Lara Estaris, equity coordinator. It fosters personal reflection, social responsibility and efforts to dismantle racism and other discrimination.”

For information, visit ywcaspokane.org/event/2023-racial-justice-challenge.

Second Harvest adds disaster to regular food aid

Jason Clark, president and CEO of Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest, expressed concern for all those affected by the Gray and Oregon Road fires.

On Aug. 22, he commented that “when a disaster strikes, people suddenly become at risk of hunger and other hardships.”

He invited supporters to help ensure food gets to people who need it, adding that the Wolff Family Foundation has offered

to match donations up to \$25,000 to help with hunger relief in the communities affected by the Gray and Oregon Road fires. Another local couple will match \$10,000. These gifts help individual donations go farther to help with food distribution.

Second Harvest continues to assess the status of food pantry and meal program networks in affected areas.

“We coordinated a Mobile

Market free food distribution the third week of August at Faith Lutheran Church in Deer Park to help anyone needing food but especially those affected by the fires,” Jason said.

Those needing food can visit Second Harvest’s “Food Near Me” map at 2-harvest.org/food-near-me-wa, type in their address or zip code, or scroll to the Mobile Market calendar to find a nearby distribution.

‘All Our Relations’ unites tribes, faiths

Continued from page 1

During two-hour sessions, reflections and prayers will be offered by Se’Si’Le leaders, including Jay and vice president JoDe Goudy (Yakama) and other Indigenous leaders.

Jay said the Lummi Nation is being managed to extinction—just like salmon and Southern Resident killer whales. “If that sounds harsh, it is, because ecocide leads to genocide.”

Spokane’s faith community will be represented by Earth Ministries, the Faith Action Network (FAN) and IPJC Spokane members.

“FAN stands with Native peoples along the path of the Snake and Columbia rivers in support of their treaty rights,” said Elise DeGooyer, executive director of FAN. “All of us are impacted by the fate of the salmon. We want to lend our voices, presence and action as multifaith partners in support of our indigenous neighbors. Episcopal Bishop Gretchen Rehberg will bear that message on behalf of FAN in Spokane.”

Will’s comments echo the voices of the five Catholic bishops of Washington State in their November 2022 pastoral letter “Caring for Creation and the Common Good in the Lower Snake River Region.”

“We must all come together to care for our common home. We urge federal and state policy makers to develop and implement a holistic plan for the Lower Snake River region that seeks input from the Original Peoples of Washington state as principal dialogue partners, as well as input from farmers, community members and concerned citizens,” the bishops said.

They express particular concern for the common good in the Lower Snake River so it reflects “care for God’s creation, treaties and rights of the Original Peoples of Washington state, and those who live and work in the Lower Snake River region.”

The letter reiterates the points of the region’s salmon peoples about the serious decline in

salmon, the resulting endangerment of the Southern Resident orcas and the loss of biodiversity. They highlight the threat to the spiritual lifeways of the Original Peoples of the Northwest.

The letter also urges federal and state policy makers to collaborate with impacted communities to develop “innovative, holistic and sustainable solutions” ensuring that the Lower Snake ecosystem and its neighboring communities can thrive.

Chairman Shannon Wheeler of the Nez Perce Tribe explained the urgency: “Time is running out to protect our sacred salmon. This crisis threatens our way of life and violates our treaty rights. The federal government is failing to uphold the promises made to our ancestors when we ceded our lands.”

According to Will, “The purpose of the journey is to inspire a narrative about how creation cares for us and how we need to care for creation. If the salmon disappear, then the salmon people disappear and, ultimately, we will all disappear. The hope is to build community, and to press the Biden Administration and our region’s members of Congress to protect salmon from extinction and restore them to abundance.”

There will be a petition available urging breaching the Lower Snake River dams.

Earth Ministry/WAIPL sees the journey as a way to engage and mobilize Northwest people through intergenerational voices, ceremony, art, science, spirituality and cross-cultural collaboration to support the Indigenous-led movement to honor the spirit of a free-flowing Lower Snake River and restore its health for the salmon and the orca that depend on them.

“As people of faith, we are held to our faiths’ moral standards and called to be leaders of integrity and conscience,” said A.C. Churchill, executive director of Earth Ministry/WAIPL. “We have an ethical responsibility to support this Indigenous-led movement to protect our salmon and orca relations, and to hold the government accountable to treaty promises with Native Nations. Solidarity from the faith community helps amplify tribal leaders’ message that the need to recover abundant salmon and orca is a spiritual, moral issue.”

For information, visit ipjc.org/all-our-relations-snake-river-campaign, wildsalmon.org/news-and-media/sos-blog/all-our-relations-2023.html or earthministry.org.



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END THE VIOLENCE
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Family Promise emphasizes stabilization

Continued from page 1
risk of eviction and homelessness. In response, Family Promise is increasing emphasis on its Stabilization Program. From January 2022 to June 2023, it rehoused 49 percent—285 people—of the homeless people rehoused out of any local shelter, Joe said.

Family Promise has five locations.

- The Emergency Family Shelter at 2002 E. Mission serves 79 people/day for up to 61 days. People sleep on six-inch high mats on the floor because they have many children under three who might fall out of bed. The mats are stacked during the day.

- The Family Infant House at 227 E. Mission serves up to 20 people in five families.

- The Mission House beside the family shelter is for three families—up to 12 people—with a member who has special needs.

- The Healing House at the former Hartson office building has space for up to 16 people in four families who have a member leaving a hospital after medical care. The Housing Assistance Center and Administrative Offices are now at 2322 E. Sprague.

- Soon Family Promise will open the first shelter in Spokane Valley at Flora and Main to house up to four—eventually six—families. It is designed for families to be rehoused within 72 hours through the Fast-Leasing and Sustainable Housing (FLASH) Program. The program is supported by a grant from the City of Spokane Valley.

School case managers will identify children at risk and try to prevent them from becoming homeless. Those who become homeless will enter a rapid rehousing program offered through partnerships with local landlords.

Family Promise will remove barriers by helping pay rents and deposits, offering case management to tenants and landlords, and identifying families needing extra help. Families in the Valley shelter for more than three days will move to the emergency shelter.

Now Family Promise seeks to involve congregations three ways.

First, after families are in housing, they need community.

“Loss of community is the main cause of homelessness,” he said. “If someone has a community, they have someone to stay with.”

Building community helps prevent a family from being homeless again, said Joe. They can build relationships and community to be friends that the newly housed people can go to.

Several years ago, a mother, father, three boys and a baby on the way came to Family Promise. The mother and three boys came

right in, but the dad sat in the car, ready to leave because he was ashamed. Finally, he entered, and Family Promise helped him find housing and community. He began attending the Rock Church, connected with people and became a believer. The church became the family’s community.

After an extensive search, the family moved into affordable housing a day before school. The baby was born the next week. Then the father, who had found work, noticed vision problems.

His doctor diagnosed a brain tumor and referred him to specialists in Seattle. Who would care for the children or pay for the hotel? How would they get there? The church took care of everything through the crisis. The tumor shrank, and he returned to work.

“Without the church, they might have been homeless again,” Joe said.

A second role for churches is to address the “perception problem” related to homelessness, he added.

“Most think someone homeless is a man with a beard on a street corner or in a tent, but 36 percent of homeless people nationwide are families with children,” he said. “The largest group we serve are babies. We served 35 newborns in 2022. Few think of babies as homeless, and few see families on the street. Many sleep in cars or motels, out of sight.

“Christians worship a God born as a homeless child, so we shouldn’t be surprised,” Joe said.

With 3,000 homeless K-12 students in the county, that’s one in every classroom of 25.

Another misconception is that homeless people don’t work, but 50 percent of adults in the shelter are working. They just don’t earn enough working to make ends meet, he said.

“People in congregations learn about homelessness and tell others,” said Joe. “The community needs to be educated on homelessness so we can create the right solutions for ending it.”

Family Promise has two “On the Corner of Homelessness” podcasts at familypromiseofspokane.org. One is about the history of homelessness and the other is on affordable housing. Others are planned.

A third way churches are involved is through volunteers doing service projects, such as

preparing welcome home kits that include pots and pans, toilet paper and plungers. The idea came from a former guest, who had to take a bus at 1:30 a.m. to Walmart to buy a plunger. Items for the kits cost \$50.

Congregations send volunteers and groups to paint walls, upgrade facilities, lead children’s programs, offer movie nights, sponsor dinners or parties, and invite families to events.

Before COVID, 40 congregations were involved. There are now about 25. To rebuild congregational participation, Family Promise has hired Shawn Ewart as congregation coordinator.

Joe observed that many in the younger generation focus on faith in action, the reverse of previous generations, who came to church, studied the Bible and became involved in the community as a result. Young people engage in mission and find a church or not, said Joe, who attends the Rock Church in the Spokane Valley.

He was first introduced to church when in junior high a cute girl invited him to church. The next week, he went to a youth camp at an inner-city hotel with homeless people. That opened his eyes to poverty and began his faith journey to end poverty.

After graduating in 1999 from Baylor University with majors in religion and political science, he worked with an international company and then moved to the Dallas area for more affordable housing. He joined a megachurch and became mission pastor. His experience with mission teams convinced him that those doing missions need to understand the communities they are serving.

He has developed “Understanding Poverty” training for churches, schools, nonprofits and corporations.

“Faith is why I do this,” Joe said, repeating, “I worship a God born as a homeless child who, if he was born in Spokane today, would be in a Family Promise shelter. So, I see promise in children in the shelter, knowing that our intervention can help them contribute to the community as adults,” he said.

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Nez Perce leader is also a Presbyterian pastor, connecting traditions

At 83, Mary Jane Miles serves two churches as an ordained Presbyterian minister, is vice president of the Nez Perce Tribal Council and dances at powwows.

To combine her Christian and Nez Perce traditions and values was once not possible. Missionaries told Nez Perce to give up their cultural practices and beliefs when they became Christian.

Mary Jane not only weaves together traditional Christian and traditional Nez Perce values and practices, but also shared how she did that in her dissertation about the intersection of those traditions for the doctoral degree she earned in 2014 from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Jeremiah 33:3 is the basis of her call to ministry, which she received at Camp Spalding. The verse says: "Call to me and I will answer. I will show you great things, things you would not imagine," she said.

"God is a big God and continues to amaze me," Mary Jane said. "I have seen things I never thought I would see. I have abundant blessings as I serve."

Many Nez Perce are Christian because the Nez Perce once believed white men would bring "The Book." Missionaries came. Two teachers, MacBeth sisters—Sue, who came in 1873, and Kate, who came in 1879—taught scriptures to seven young men who were ordained and went to different tribes to share the Gospel, Mary Jane said.

Many Nez Perce became Christian. Today about half the tribe—mostly older people—are Christian, and half—mostly younger people—are returning to the traditional roots of the Seven Drums.

Mary Jane seeks to bridge the divide. At funerals, the traditions are combined at times.

"I merge the Seven Drums and Christian service, because I see our common values," said Mary Jane, sharing insights from her dissertation on being a Christian Indian. "I am a Christian minister and wear a wingdress skirt when I dance at powwows."

"I realize Jesus was from the tribe of Judah and a tribal person," she noted.

"I am proud to be Nez Perce. I realize I did not need to leave my cultural roots behind to go to church," she said. "There is beauty in the regalia people make and wear to dance. There is spirituality in hunting and fishing traditions when we hunt or fish to provide food to feed our family. There is spirituality when women dig roots and celebrate the first roots of the year."

She sees the similarity with Old Testament records of festivals of the Israelites taking animals and plants from the land for food.

"We are tied to the land, as



Mary Jane Miles energized to serve God and serve Nez Perce.

Photo courtesy of the Nez Perce Tribe Communications Office

they were tied to the land," Mary Jane said.

Another shared value is relationships with people. Nez Perce revere their extended family and call each other relatives, even those not in their family.

"If we grew up together in the same home, we call each other 'my sister' or 'my brother.' We call each other relative names," she explained.

Traditional Nez Perce legends are about the river and animals, who are "our four-legged brothers. Nez Perce have a high regard for creatures," she said. "Christianity shares those values. Job 12: 7-13 begins, 'Ask the animals... the birds in the sky... the plants of the earth, and they will teach you.'"

Mary Jane was living in an elder complex when she felt called to ministry.

A churchgoer all her life, she grew up on a ranch in Kooskia before moving her senior year to Lapwai.

"Summers in high school, I visited my aunt in Riverside, Calif., near Hollywood. She invited her nieces to work as maids in the homes of the glamorous. Auntie taught us how to dress and have good posture," Mary Jane said, commenting that her aunt had no children. Later she learned that girls at the Riverside Boarding School were sterilized.

After high school in 1958,

Mary Jane went to Bacone Junior College in Muskogee, Okla., a Christian school for Native Americans from many tribes. Because an uncle gave her piano lessons from first grade on, she thought she would be a musician, but changed to social sciences after working a summer in Albuquerque for Save the Children Foundation.

After she left the Southwest in 1963, she did secretarial work while going to night school at Lewis and Clark State College in Lewiston. She moved from secretarial work to the reservation library, where she became interested in Native American history.

In the 1980s, Mary Jane earned a bachelor's degree in social science and began working as a behavioral counselor at the tribal clinic in Lapwai.

By then her adult son was an artist who traveled with an American Indian dance group.

"Teaching the Bible with no education, I asked the church if I should go to seminary. They said yes. I moved from a senior center to Fuller Seminary in Pasadena," she said.

"In 1998, I went to Pasadena. I had loved the Los Angeles area and wanted to go back. After graduating in 2000, I was

ordained at the annual Talmaks Camp Meeting for the Indian churches. After a year, I was called to serve a church on the Navajo Reservation. Five years later, I was called to serve a Tohono O'odham Nation community in Arizona on the Mexican border."

When her son, who worked in Hollywood as a fashion designer for TV soap operas, became terminally ill, she brought him home to Lapwai in 2008. In grief, she stayed to get back on her feet.

Second Presbyterian Church in Kamiah asked her to be a supply preacher after the pastor left. Then First Presbyterian called her in 2009. She has served those churches since then.

In 2015, she ran for the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, concerned that older people needed assisted living and nursing care. She served two three-year terms and was chair for two years. After losing an election, she remained active and ran again, aware that the council needed to be reminded about care for elders.

"The Lord has put the call on my heart and has given me energy," Mary Jane said. "I enjoy the people, but we lost many to COVID and are losing younger people to cancer."

All of the 20 to 30 people in each of the two churches she serves grew up in the area, except those from Youth with a Mission.

Mary Jane has been involved with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women since she went to a summer conference on violence against women at Vancouver Theological School and learned from members of the First Nations of Canada. She continues to support that effort.

"Indian women's worth is often overlooked. The lack of respect for women and the overlapping layers of tribal and community

justice systems are behind in their justice for women," she said. "Native women, however, are rising up to educate themselves and join the fray to seek justice."

"Nez Perce are remembering our legends, the bedtime stories my grandmother told me. The legends were about coyote and brother salmon who gave his life so we could eat. Salmon would go from Selway Falls to the ocean and then make it back through dams to the creek at Selway Falls, where they would spawn and die," said Mary Jane, who is proud of the young people studying and speaking the language to keep it alive.

She did not learn the Nimiiipuu language because her parents did not speak it with her. They wanted her to go to school and be proficient in English.

"So as tribal chair, I asked young people to tell me what to say in Nez Perce. I would begin by telling who I am," she said.

Mary Jane is grateful for the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest's campaign to raise funds for repairs to keep the six Indian churches safe places for people to gather and worship. Those churches are hosting the Sept. 21 presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Clarkston.

For information, call 208-791-1338 or email mjmiles@gmail.com.

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'Love Lives Here' signs will be part of 2023 Healing the Earth Vigil

Continued from page 1
World Council of Churches in September 2022 in Germany, Gen observed the capacity all people have for empathy and love so they act in solidarity, strengthening efforts to challenge injustices.

To invite solidarity, she recently offered some ideas to the Spokane Valley Arts Council and FLLC asking people to think in their own settings about ways to make love, compassion and empathy unavoidable, just as hate seems unavoidable today.

"I invite everyone to consider what can we do in our settings to make compassion unavoidable," Gen asked.

In that spirit, she invites the community to create and display "Love Lives Here" or "Love Is Greater Than Hate" signs in solidarity.

The suggestion is for people to recycle political signs that stand on wire H's in lawns, to use their creativity and visualize experiences of love rooted in compassion, to create designs and then set them in the yards of homes, businesses and churches.

Once people complete their sign, they are asked to send a photograph of both sides, write a brief description and send it genheywood@gmail.com.

"Gen is collecting and posting online the images people create and the stories behind them "for us to enjoy and to grow love together where we live," said Jennifer Compau, a Spokane Valley artist involved with FLLC who is assisting with the project.

After displaying their signs in lawns, people who wish can bring their heart signs to the FLLC's annual Healing the Earth Vigil from 2 to 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Doris Morrison Learning Center—1330 S. Henry Rd. in Greenacres—and place them along the pathways near the center where the vigil will be held.

During the Healing the Earth Vigil, Constance Holland of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane will speak on behalf of the Saltese Flats marshlands and wildlife, telling their stories as if the land could speak its concern about plans to increase the



Gen Heywood is surrounded by some signs expressing love.

pressure of natural gas that flows through a 60-year-old pipeline running underneath it.

Gen remembers the trauma in 2010 when the San Bruno Pipeline in California blew up a neighborhood.

The GTN Xpress Pipeline that runs from British Columbia to California under the Saltese Flats Wetlands, as well as under Liberty Lake, Ridgeline High School, Valley Real Life Church and daycare centers, she said.

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light is calling for efforts to stop the pipeline expansion.

After the vigil, people can take a wildlife photography nature through the Saltese Wetlands to where coyotes, owls, geese, swans, ducks, blackbirds, chickadees, swallows, eagles, hawks, frogs and otters might be seen.

Gen said the plan is for the "Love Is Greater" community engagement to continue into the fall.

"Another idea to illustrate love where we live is to do chalk drawings on sidewalks with messages of compassion for kids to see on their way to school," she added.

In addition, during November, FLLC plans to join with the "Little Amal" Walk to build empathy for refugees. Little Amal is a 12-foot puppet of a nine-year-old Syrian refugee girl looking for her mother. Since July 2021, she has traveled from Syria through Eastern Europe. On Sept. 7, the puppet begins her U.S. walk.

Gen hopes every place of faith and conscience can discover what they can do to strengthen the message that "love lives here."

"Bullying voices have been

strong this year, belittling LG-BTQ kids at school board meetings and creating fear," she said.

Members of FLLC and Gen were concerned how long it took for the Spokane Valley mayor to make any statement at City Council related to the vandalism at Veradale UCC. Gen wrote a letter to the editor asking the city to take a stand against hate.

She was relieved, however, that the Spokane Valley police chief has called the vandalism "an incident of hate" and called in the FBI to help with investigations.

Gen wants those who did the vandalism to know they do not have to continue to act in hate.

"Christian faith says we can each turn around and start again. God created everyone. No one has to stay stuck in hate," she said.

"All of us as humans get things wrong. Part of being human is that we can change if pride and ego do not get in our way," Gen said.

In the spirit of solidarity and to express that love is greater than hate, Gen, who convenes FLLC, recently helped the group write a letter to Venerable Geshe Phelgye and those at the Temple of Universal Compassion in Spokane to express grief that funds were stolen from them on Aug. 13. FLLC members spread word about an event Aug. 18 and 19 to raise funds to replace those lost.

Then FLLC wrote the Spokane City Council and Spokane's mayor expressing concern that the mayor was on stage and prayed for at a recent rally held by leaders known for their white nationalist hate and racism. The letters called city leaders to live up to their new slogan, "In Spokane, We All Belong."

FLLC also sent a letter to state leaders asking the people of the State of Washington to join with us in opposing Christian nationalism and white supremacy in Spokane and, indeed, the entire State of Washington.

"We reject all attempts to cloak bigotry in religious language, and we ask you to do the same. We hold fast to the separation of church and state, as articulated in our nation's constitution. We seek a city and state that are welcoming to all, and civic leadership that clearly observes the vital importance of the separation of church and state."

For information, call 926-7173 or email genheywood@atl.net.

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Wildfires stirred immediate responses by faith and local communities

When two wildfires raged in Spokane County beginning Aug. 18, faith communities rallied into action to feed, clothe, shelter, comfort and provide supplies for those who were evacuated from fire zones or lost their homes.

Faith communities have regular roles in disasters, coordinating with each other and with other disaster response and government organizations. Each has a unique role and responds at different times. Some help early with evacuees, and many help people through the long-term recovery phases as people rebuild their homes and lives. Many provide channels for collecting funds and volunteering.

The information provided on wildfire response describes how communities of faith are involved and partner with others. **Directories given to centers**

While distributing Resource Directories to congregations, evacuation centers and outreach programs in the fire areas, directory editor Malcolm Haworth compiled information on churches and agencies assisting Spokane County Emergency Management and Red Cross. He is preparing a list of faith communities and community agencies responding. It will be available at thefigtree.org.

Malcolm offered a sampling:

- Redemption Church in Medical Lake distributed food, clothing and essentials delivered by a semi-truck from the Assemblies of God's Convoy of Hope.

- Cheney Church of the Nazarene offered a pop-up clothing and essential needs bank for



Pastor David Baird and District Superintendent Daniel Miranda show "Cleaner Air Kits." Photo from Sheila Miranda

those who were displaced.

- Medical Lake Outreach's Care and Share Thrift Store opened to offer clothing and medical supplies.

- VFWs in Medical Lake and Airway Heights collected and distributed essentials.

- In Deer Park, there were drop-in day shelters at Christ Church, which allowed animal trailers, and Open Door Church, which let RVs park in its lot.

- In Colbert, New Hope Resource Center distributed clothing and hygiene items for people at Red Cross Centers related to the Oregon Road fire.

- North Country Food Bank was open all week.

- The Country Church of the Bible was open as a 24/7 shelter, offering meals.

- Turning Point Open Bible opened as a shelter for several days and cooked meals for churches like Country Church of the Open Bible and Peaceful Valley Community Church in Elk.

- Serve Spokane at North

Church helped Mead Food Bank. **ELCA bishop briefed on LDR**

New as bishop of the Northwest Intermountain (NWIM) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Meggan Manlove had just been on a Zoom call with the Washington State Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) representative a week before the Spokane area fires began.

She learned how Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) partners through the long relief process.

Meggan said several members of St. John's Lutheran in Medical

Lake lost homes. The fire came within a few blocks of the church building, which opened when it was safe to provide essentials.

St. John's and Emmanuel Lutheran in Reardan are served by co-pastors Carol and Greg Yeager, who held worship for both churches in Reardan Aug. 20.

"They had planned to open the worship with a litany of lament about the fires in Lahaina, Hawaii. Little did they know that the lament would be for the fires much, much closer to home," reported Betty Krafft, a Fig Tree Board member and liaison with the NWIM. "It has been heartening to receive many messages of prayer and support

for the Medical Lake community and others affected by the fires."

St. John's is posting updates on their Facebook page.

Meggan said the state coordinator LDR suggests synod members give to 1) Inland Second Harvest at 2-harvest.org, which is providing food to those who are impacted, or to 2) LDR, designating them "U.S. Wildfires," to assist those affected by the region's wildfires.

Continued on page 8 and 9



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United Methodist relief program supplies hygiene and clean air kits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

man County wildfire survivors.

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

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

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

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

For information, call 206-870-6815 or email smiranda@pnwumc.org.

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Faith communities find niche in long-term fire recovery efforts

Continued from page 7

Bishop plans for long-term

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

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

Adventists go into action

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

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

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

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

For information, email at patym@uccsda.org.

Church action comes soon

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

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

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



Smoke from local and Canadian wildfires affected everyone.

UCC geared for long-term

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

CCEW raises funds

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

Salvation Army offers canteens

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

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

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

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

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

For information, call 329-2721, email brian.pickering@usw.salvationarmy.org or visit makiningspokanebetter.org.

Baha’is donate funds

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

Stake opens help centers

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

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

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

SRHD warns on air, debris

The Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and Spokane Clean Air kept residents informed about air quality and smoke exposure symptoms—coughing, a scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, stinging eyes, a runny nose, shortness of breath, chest pain and headaches—and when to seek medical attention.

For information, visit srhd.org/health-topics/environmental-health/wildfire-smoke, at srhd.org/air-quality-wildfire-faq and at spokanecleanair.org/air-quality/wildfire-smoke.

After a wildfire, property own-

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

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

other health issues.

For information, visit srhd.org/health-topics/environmental-health/after-a-wildfire.



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120 speakers representing millions vow to continue MLK's march

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Islander as well as European Americans?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mary Stamp
Editor

Sravasti Abbey Community finds welcoming hosts in evacuation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thubten Samten - Sravasti Abbey



Faith leaders featured in 60th anniversary of March on Washington

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

singular moment but a catalyst for change reverberating through generations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Calendar of Events

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

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Horizon Hospice program focuses on holistic, self-directed care

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

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

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

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

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

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

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

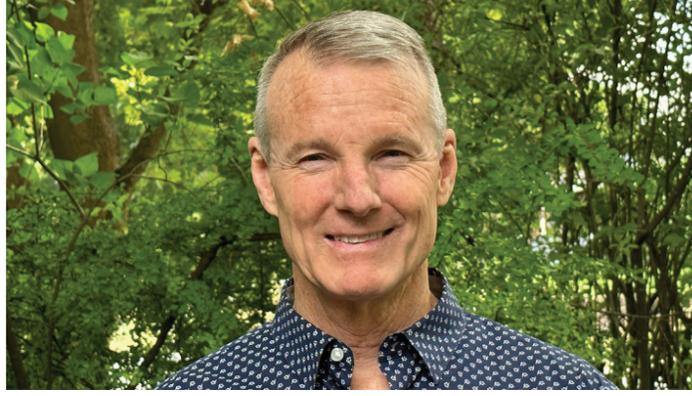
In 2008, his mother-in-law, Sue, called with news that she was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer.

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

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

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

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



Chris McFaul found a mission with Horizon Hospice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They took pictures of him

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Communication is critical to keep people connected.

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

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

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

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

For information, email cmcfaul@horizonhospice.com.

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