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THE SPIRIT - ISSUE 08/09 AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CHENEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear friends,

I am writing this just a few days after the fires in Spokane began. Hundreds of people have lost their homes. Families are displaced. Many are scared, traumatized, and uncertain about what the coming weeks and months will bring.

The other day, I paused and found myself wondering what it really means to pray in a situation like this. What do we pray when friends are evacuated and don't know whether their house will still be standing when they return? What does it mean when I pray for a family I know, and their home survives while the neighbor's house—for whom others were surely praying as well—burns to the ground?

That is hard to reconcile. I don't have a neat or satisfying answer to what the "right" prayer is or exactly how prayer works in moments like these. But perhaps the deeper question is not whether prayer changes every outcome. Perhaps the deeper question is how prayer changes us in the midst of suffering.

A while ago, I stumbled across an interview with Stephen Colbert, the former late-night host, devoted Catholic, and enormous Lord of the Rings fan. In it, he says,

"It is a gift to exist. And with existence comes suffering. There is no escaping that." He continues, "When you are grateful for this life, then you have to be grateful for all of it. You don't get to pick and choose what you are grateful for, even the pain you wish never happened."

At first, those words almost sound impossible. Maybe even offensive. How could anyone be grateful for pain? For losing a home? For grief? For illness? For trauma? And Colbert makes clear that suffering itself is not good, and he wishes not to experience it. Nor do I believe we should pretend it is. Rather, I think he is pointing toward a profound truth that Christians have wrestled with for centuries:

Wherever there is life, there is also suffering.

Christianity does not promise a life without pain. We do not believe in a God who keeps us from suffering. We believe in a God who entered into suffering. Jesus carried a cross. He wept. He knew betrayal, loss, fear, and death. And because of the resurrection, we believe that suffering never has the final word. That hope does not erase our pain. But it changes how we live through it.

As someone who lost his father far too early and who experienced abuse in daycare as a child, I would never say I am grateful those things happened. I wish they hadn't. But I can be grateful for what those experiences have made possible. They have taught me how to sit with someone whose heart is breaking. They have helped me recognize grief in another person's eyes. They have allowed me to say, "I understand," not because I have all the answers, but because I know something about that road myself.

If it is true that every human being will know suffering in one form or another, then suffering is one of the most universal parts of being human. Strange as it sounds, it is also one of the deepest places where we can truly meet one another. The Apostle Paul writes,

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15).



Perhaps that is what prayer is meant to do. It shapes us into people who can truly weep with those who weep.

So, what do I pray for today?

- ♥ I pray for rain.
- ♥ I pray for the firefighters risking their lives.
- ♥ I pray for every family waiting to hear whether their home still stands.
- ♥ I pray for comfort, protection, and miracles.
- ♥ But I also pray for something I know God longs to answer:
- ♥ I pray that no one walks through this alone.
- ♥ I pray that, whatever happens to my friends' homes, they know they are surrounded by love.
- ♥ I pray that I have the strength, the understanding, and the compassion to support them—to listen, to hug, to show up, and simply to sit with them in the uncertainty, the grief, and whatever comes next.

Because perhaps one of the unexpected gifts that can emerge from suffering is not the suffering itself, but the love it teaches us to give.

May our prayers make us people who love more deeply, who see one another more clearly, and who become living reminders that, even in the darkest moments, God has not abandoned us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Damian

Rev. Damian Carruthers
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Pastor's Upcoming Absence

Pastor Damian will be out of office from **August 17 – September 21** in Germany for vacation and a continuing education course with the Lutheran Church.

While he is away, if you need assistance, please reach out.
For non emergencies, call the church office or email.

For Pastoral Care, contact:

Carol Kriegh (krieghcjc@gmail.com) or **Caren Lincoln** (carenllincoln@gmail.com)

They will ensure you are connected with the appropriate support, including the pastor on call if needed.

My Cheney UMC friends,

This has been a year of significant change at Cheney United Methodist Church. One of the biggest changes has been the retirement of our beloved Music Director, Mary Jane Shervais.

On Sunday, June 28, we gathered to celebrate Mary Jane and to give thanks for an extraordinary ministry. For twenty years, she has faithfully led the music of this congregation. Twenty years! That's long enough to see pastors come and go, choir robes drift in and out of fashion, and enough Christmas cantatas to last a lifetime. But more importantly, during those two decades, Mary Jane did something remarkable: she helped us sing our faith.

Through hymns and anthems, rehearsals and worship services, she taught us that music is far more than notes on a page. Music is prayer. It is comfort in difficult seasons. It is joy in times of celebration. It is the way we remember God's promises when words alone are not enough.



During the retirement celebration, we sang songs that have marked our congregation's journey together; songs that carried our choir to Carnegie Hall, accompanied us through Middle-earth, led us to Hogwarts, and even into a galaxy far, far away.

Those moments reminded us that Mary Jane's ministry has touched every chapter of our life together. Perhaps that is the best way to describe her ministry: Mary Jane has been part of the soundtrack of Cheney UMC's life. Her music has accompanied baptisms and funerals, Christmases and Easters, ordinary Sundays and extraordinary moments. Long after the final note of her retirement cantata faded away, the music she planted in this congregation will continue to be sung in every hymn, every anthem, and every voice lifted in worship.

While we celebrate her retirement as Music Director, we are grateful that this is not goodbye. Mary Jane remains a beloved member of our church family and will continue leading our Bell Choir. We look forward to continuing to worship alongside her for many years to come.

At the same time, we are thankful that God has provided for the next chapter in our music ministry by sending us a new Music Director. (You'll meet them later in this newsletter.)

Mary Jane, thank you.

Thank you for twenty years of faithful service, for helping us raise our voices in praise, and for reminding us that when God's people sing together, they proclaim the gospel in a way that words alone never could.

Pastor Damian



Special Dates

AUGUST

Wedding Anniversaries

6	Don & LaVerle McCandless
13	Debra & Mark Baker
19	Bob & Karen Brasefield
25	George & Jan Abrams

Birthdays

2	Karlee Pope	15	Pat Reagan
	Kendall Pope	16	Ronda Cordill
3	Bill Hargrove	21	Karen Runyon
11	Matthew Dupler		Lisa Tharp
12	Eric Dean	26	Ash Arlt
13	Margie Lindner	29	Carson Kerr
14	Candice Lindner		Valerie Schillinger
		31	Carol McFadyen

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

2	Jane Tiedt	14	Roy Friedman
5	Dale Cockrum	19	Jim Almekinder
10	Don McCandless	23	Lynn Gronlund
11	Grace Kriegh		Tina Thorson
	Quentin Gainer	30	Todd Brooks

Wedding Anniversaries

1	Fred & Lynn Gronlund
6	Margie & Rande Lindner
7	Dale & JoAnn Cockrum
19	Mary Jane & Steve Shervais

Need to update your birthday/anniversary information? Email the church Office!

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	5 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library)	6 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	7	8
9	10 AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)	11 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	12 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library)	13 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	14	15
16	17 AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)	18 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	19 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library)	20 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	21	22
Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on Vacation						
23 Worship in the Park	24 AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)	25 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	26 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library)	27 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	28	29 Bazaar Kickoff Meeting 10am
Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation Pastor Damian on vacation						
30	31 FEED CHENEY 5:30 Veteran's Memorial Park AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)					
Pastor Damian on vacation						

Pastor Damian's day off is Friday. Please allow him to enjoy his day off and do not contact him on Fridays. Thank you!

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	2 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library)	3 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	4	5
		Pastor Damian on vacation				
6 Sunday Experience Begins	7 AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)	8 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	9 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library) Choir 7-8:30pm	10 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	11	12
Pastor Damian on vacation						
13	14 AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)	15 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	16 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library) Choir 7-8:30pm	17 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	18	19
Pastor Damian on vacation						
20	21 AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)	22 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	23 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library) Sassy Senior Society 2-3:30pm Choir 7-8:30pm	24 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm WIC All Day	25 EWU Neighborfest 10am-2pm	26
Pastor Damian on vacation						
27 EWU Eagle Sunday MOVIE NIGHT: 5PM POTLUCK 5:30 MOVIE	28 FEED CHENEY 5:30pm The Wren Pierson Building 615 4th Street AA Meeting 7-9pm (WIC room)	29 Meals on Wheels 11am-1pm	30 Al Anon Meeting 11:30am-1:30pm (Library) Choir 7-8:30pm			

Pastor Damian's day off is Friday. Please allow him to enjoy his day off and do not contact him on Fridays. Thank you!

Worship Schedule: August and September

August Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 2 - Revelation Series -10am -**With Communion**

Pastor Damian is preaching on Revelation 17-18

Sunday, August 9 - Revelation Series - 10am -Pastor Damian is preaching on Revelation 19-20

Sunday, August 16 - Revelation Series –10am Pastor Damian is preaching on Revelation 21

Sunday, August 23* - Worship in the Park - 10am - Sutton Park: 815 Washington St, Cheney
Rev. Jeremy Armstrong from the Episcopal Church is preaching.

Sunday, August 30* - 10am - Lay Preacher Stan Kerr is preaching on Genesis 1:1-9

September Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 6* - Labor Day Weekend -10am -**With Communion** (Pastor Bob Foote)

Deaconess Ronda Cordill is preaching

Sunday, September 13* - Labor Day Weekend -10am - Lay Preacher Laurie Zapf is preaching.

Sunday, September 20* - 10 am -Lay Preacher Todd Brooks is preaching.

Sunday, September 27 - EAGLE SUNDAY - 10 am - **Come in EWU Colors (White, Red, Black)**

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on Luke 15:11-32

***Pastor Damian on Vacation & Educational Retreat: August 17th – September 21st**

Church Office Hours:	Tuesday	10am-12:30pm
		2:30-5pm
	Thursday	6:30-8:30pm
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday	7-9:30pm
Bible Studies: contact the church office for addresses.		
With Congregational Church* *Note, they are not meeting in August	Thursday	1:15-2:15pm
Leader: Margie Lindner	Monday	2-3pm
Leader: Carol Kriegh	Monday	7:30-8:30pm
Leader: Saralynn Kerr	Wednesday	7-8pm

What do Spider-Man and Batman have to teach us about faith?

Perhaps more than we might expect.

Beginning **Sunday, October 4**, join us for a six-week worship series exploring the masks we wear, the identities we hide behind, and the courage it takes to become the people God created us to be.

For the first three weeks, we'll swing through the original **Spider-Man** trilogy starring Tobey Maguire. Peter Parker's story is one of responsibility, sacrifice, forgiveness, and discovering who we truly are when life becomes complicated.

Then, during the final three weeks, we'll enter the darker world of Christopher Nolan's **Dark Knight Batman** trilogy. Bruce Wayne's journey invites us to wrestle with fear, justice, grief, hope, and the masks we put on to protect ourselves and sometimes to hide ourselves.

As with our previous movie worship series, the experience extends beyond Sunday morning. Before each sermon, we'll gather to watch the featured film together, creating a shared experience that enriches our worship and discussion.

Our first Movie Night will be **Sunday, September 27, at 5:00 p.m.** here at the church, where we'll watch **Spider-Man (2002)** starring Tobey Maguire.

We will start with a Potluck Dinner and then watch the movie at 5:30 PM. A complete schedule of movie nights and worship themes will be included in the October newsletter.

Be Part of the Adventure!

These movie series have always been a community effort, and we'd love for you to help bring this one to life!

Whether your gifts are in music, decorating, acting, video production, hospitality, or simply sharing creative ideas, there's a place for you.

If you'd like to be part of the planning team or help with any aspect of the series, please reach out to Pastor Damian or our Office Administrator Macey Fredenberg. We'd love to have you involved.

Come join us this fall as we discover that the greatest heroes are not the ones who wear masks but the ones who have the courage to take them off.



Final 2026 Summer Worship in the Park

Every summer for multiple years now, we meet monthly for worship at Sutton Park in Cheney. Our last summer worship in the park together with the Cheney Congregational Church and the Episcopal Church will be **August 23rd** at Sutton Park.

The services start at 10 AM and we ask you to bring a comfortable chair for yourself (and others if you like).

Coffee, cookies/donuts and water will be provided.

In case of a heavy rain, we will inform you where we are meeting for worship.

**New Music Director**

Hello! I am Tony Barnes, and I will be your new Music Director here at Cheney UMC. My background is in social work, community service, and performing arts. I believe that music is how us human share our stories, and I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing our stories with one another here at Cheney UMC.

Anthony Barnes

They/Them

cheneyumc.music@gmail.com

NOMINATE A HERO

For our fall movie series, we are collecting stories of folks who often get overlooked. We want to highlight those in our community who have secret powers or abilities, or just a massive heart, and celebrate them.

In your nomination, tell us the person's name and a bit about why you want to see them highlighted.

We have 4 nominations already, and are looking for 2 more people!

Email the church office with
"Hero" in the subject.
cheneyumc204@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Here is an update on our church construction project: Following our most recent meeting with the architectural team, which was open to the congregation, the Church Council has officially approved the overall design for our construction project. For planning purposes, the project is organized into four phases. This allows us to move forward step by step if necessary, while also giving us the flexibility to complete multiple phases or even the entire project at once, if our fundraising campaign is successful.

The project includes:

Phase 1: Rebuilding the failing window wall facing 4th Street, our highest priority.

Phase 2: Expanding the Fellowship Hall and creating a fully ADA accessible restroom.

**Phase 3: Building a new vestibule entrance with automatic doors to improve accessibility for people using walkers,
wheelchairs, and other mobility devices.**

Phase 4: Updating the sanctuary lighting.

We have received our first preliminary cost estimate for the complete project. At this point, we anticipate a total cost of approximately \$300,000 for all four phases. Our next step is fundraising. If all goes well, we hope to begin construction in the spring, starting with Phase 1 if needed or, if our fundraising campaign is especially successful, completing multiple phases together.

Over the coming weeks, you will receive a campaign booklet, available both in print and online, that shares the full vision for this project. It will include detailed drawings, explain why these improvements are needed, and describe how they will strengthen the ministry of Cheney United Methodist Church for years to come. The booklet will also include a pledge card and information about the different ways you can support the project.

Every gift matters. Some members may be in a position to make a significant one-time donation. Others, like many of us, may choose to pledge \$1,000 or \$2,000 over 12, 24, or even 36 months. We invite everyone to prayerfully consider what they might give above and beyond their regular giving, which continues to support our ongoing ministry, staff, programs, and the day-to-day operation of our church.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. You are always welcome to contact our Trustees, Trustee Chair Patti Sooy, Trustee Nelson Cordill, who has led much of the communication with our architects, or me, your pastor.

Continued next page

We have established a dedicated Building Fund so that every gift designated for this project is carefully tracked and used exclusively for the construction campaign. The upcoming campaign booklet will also explain our fundraising timeline, the various ways to give, and the broader vision behind this project.

Because this project is about much more than repairing a wall. It is about creating a church that is more welcoming, more accessible, and better equipped for ministry in the years ahead. It is about making room for new people, strengthening the ministries we already cherish, and ensuring that our building continues to serve as a place where our community can encounter the love of Christ.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your commitment to the future of Cheney United Methodist Church.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Damian



EAGLE SUNDAY AT CHENEY UMC

The fall quarter is here, and that means it's time for Eagle Sunday at Cheney United Methodist Church on **Sunday, September 27**.

Each year, on the first Sunday after classes begin at Eastern Washington University, we celebrate the students, faculty, and staff who are part of the EWU community. Whether you're a first-year student, a graduating senior, a staff member, or a longtime Eagle, we want to begin this new academic year by surrounding you with prayer, encouragement, and God's blessing.

Everyone is invited to join the celebration by wearing your Eagle gear or the EWU colors of red, white, and black. Let's fill the sanctuary with Eagle pride as we pray for a wonderful year ahead!

GO EAGS! 🦅

SEED Youth Ministry Launch

SEED Youth Ministry Launches This Fall!

We are excited to share some wonderful news!

Beginning Tuesday, September 22, a new ecumenical youth ministry will launch in Cheney: SEED Youth Ministry.

(And no—this is not the same as SEED Campus Ministry, although the two ministries are closely connected!)

SEED Youth Ministry is a partnership between Cheney United Methodist Church, Cheney Congregational Church, and the Episcopal Church in Cheney. Together, we are creating a welcoming, inclusive, and Christ-centered community where middle and high school students can build friendships, ask honest questions, serve others, and grow in faith.

Cheney UMC will be represented on the ministry board by Macey Fredenberg, Kevin Thorson, and Regina Yancey, and we are grateful for their willingness to serve.

We're also thankful that this new ministry has received a \$5,700 grant from the Pacific Northwest Conference's Ministry Opportunity Fund. In addition, SEED Campus Ministry has committed \$20,000 over the next two years to help fund a part-time Youth Pastor. To ensure the ministry continues to flourish beyond those first two years, all three partner churches will work together to support it financially.

The search for our Youth Pastor is well underway. We have received three applications and hope to have someone in place by the end of August. Please keep the search team and applicants in your prayers.

Would you like to be part of this exciting new ministry? We are looking for meal volunteers (preparing meals for 10-20 youth), adult helpers, prayer partners, and people willing to encourage our youth. If you feel called to help, please contact Pastor Damian or one of our board members.

Young people aren't just the future of the Church, they are an important part of the Church today. In a world filled with pressure and competing voices, we want to offer a place where every young person knows they are loved, welcomed, and invited to discover the hope found in Christ no matter of their sexuality or walks of life.

Please keep SEED Youth Ministry in your prayers as we plant seeds of faith, friendship, and belonging in the next generation.

Pastor Damian

Tuesdays at SEED Youth Ministry
5:30 p.m. - Youth Gathering
6:00 p.m. - Dinner
6:30-8:00 p.m. - Worship, Games,
Bible Study & Small Groups



Make, Bake, and Donate People!

Although it does seem a bit early to think about the holidays, now is the time to get the Bazaar Machine cranking. The 2026 Holiday Bazaar will be **Saturday, November 7**; please mark your calendars. Check in each week at the Bazaar Corner in the bulletin to get the latest information and dates leading up to our big event, which is a major fundraiser for our church. All the Holiday Bazaar info will also be on the Door of Opportunity.

In the meantime, you can bring your items to donate to the church and place them in the big box at the top of the stairway by the Fellowship Hall. All items should be in good condition; holiday items, vintage pieces, home décor, and jewelry are our top sellers, as well as the popular hand-crafted and upcycled items.

In the Bake Shop, sweet breads and fruit pies sell well, and you can freeze them if you bake them now. The same goes for all the cookies we'll be needing for the extremely popular cookie table. The kickoff Bazaar meeting will be **Saturday, August 29, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited; we will review our notes from past years, divvy up tasks, set dates for sorting, and generally get our Elf spirit fired up!

See Head Elf Saralyn Kerr to get involved.



Annual conference is really not high on my list of the types of meetings I enjoy attending. However, I believe it's something most Methodists should consider attending in the future. I learned a lot about Methodist interactions, celebrations, beliefs, and of course, rules. There was worship, singing, discussion, eating, praying, and voting—not necessarily in that order. Here are some of my takeaways.

Day 1:

It began with a welcome, worship, singing, and a bold message from Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth on Love. I attended remotely and was able to see the group, feel the energy, and hear the meetings well. I learned about plenary sessions (meaning all attendees). We heard reports, processed legislation, and voted for delegates to the 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

New clergy appointments were announced and celebrated. The Circle of Indigenous Ministries gave a thoughtful, informational presentation about truth-telling and healing. An evening Memorial Service was held for those saints who have departed this past year.

Day 2:

This day started with a celebration of 70 years of Women's Ordination along with worship and song. And then it was back to work, balloting, and debating.

Apportionments: Do you know what this word means? It's simply a portion of our giving meant for supporting wider district, regional, and global church missions. This topic has a great deal of debate around what the "fair share" is for each individual church. This was referred for further research. There was no final ruling about apportionment calculations.

The budget had a last-minute amendment proposed by our very own Pastor Damian. He proposed reducing the budget, specific to apportionments, and it was passed. I believe our local churches are doing incredible ministry, often with limited resources. This amendment was an effort to ensure that our conference budget reflects that reality and does not place additional burdens on congregations that are already stretching every dollar for ministry. I am grateful for the trust placed in me to serve on the Conference Finance and Administration Committee and look forward to being part of the work of building a sustainable path forward together.

All in all, it was an interesting process and full of Bold Love, Joyful Service, and Courageous Leadership. The conference will be held again at the Spokane Valley UMC in 2027 (Reverend Alissa Amestoy serves as Pastor there).

Patti Sooy



A note from Pastor Damian:

I collaborated with other pastors to propose an amendment that would reduce the 2027 Conference Budget by about \$240,000. This aims to prevent an increase in apportionments, which local churches contribute to support the Annual Conference and the United Methodist Church. The amendment seeks to align the budget with the financial realities of local congregations, leading to a special session later this year for adopting a revised budget.

Each year, every United Methodist Church holds a Charge Conference, where we celebrate the ministry of the past year and make important decisions for the year ahead.

Traditionally, the meeting is led by our District Superintendent, although in recent years the superintendent has often appointed other United Methodist pastors (ordained elders) to preside. This year, Pastor Megan Madsen from Covenant UMC will preside over Cheney UMC's Charge Conference, while I have the privilege of presiding over the Charge Conferences at Manito UMC and Pullman UMC.

It is one small but meaningful way we live out our United Methodist connection and support one another across our churches.

Our official Charge Conference will most likely take place in November, but before then we will gather for a **Church Conference on Sunday, October 18, at 11:30 a.m. in the** sanctuary, immediately following worship.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect the members who will serve on our Church Council and other leadership teams. These leaders help guide the ministry and mission of Cheney United Methodist Church, making important decisions, caring for our facilities and finances, and helping us continue to grow as a welcoming and faithful congregation.

We invite everyone to prayerfully consider whom God might be calling to serve. You are welcome to nominate someone else—or nominate yourself if you feel called to one of these ministries. Nomination forms are available online as well as in printed form at the Welcome Center and are included with this newsletter.

This year we are seeking people to serve in several important leadership roles, including:

Church Council

The Church Council serves as the administrative leadership board of our congregation and provides guidance and decision-making between Church Conferences. The Council typically meets once each month for one to two hours. We especially look for people with gifts for discernment, long-range vision, collaboration, and a passion for the mission of Cheney UMC. Members serve a three-year term and must have been church members for at least one year.

Board of Trustees

Our Trustees oversee the care, maintenance, and long-term stewardship of our church buildings and property. They normally meet quarterly, although they are currently meeting more frequently as we move forward with our construction project. Gifts for this ministry include practical problem-solving, attention to detail, and an interest or experience in construction, maintenance, or project oversight. Trustees also serve three-year terms.

Finance Committee & Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

We are also seeking individuals to serve on our Finance Committee and our Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Detailed descriptions of these ministries and their responsibilities can be found on the nomination form.

After nominations are received, the Church Council will contact each nominee to confirm their willingness to serve and ensure they meet the requirements for the position, including church membership and a background check.

Serving on a committee is more than filling a position; it is one of the ways we live out our faith together. Every ministry of our church is strengthened by people who offer their gifts, wisdom, and time in service to God and our community.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you or someone you know might be called to serve. If you have any questions, I would be happy to talk with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Damian



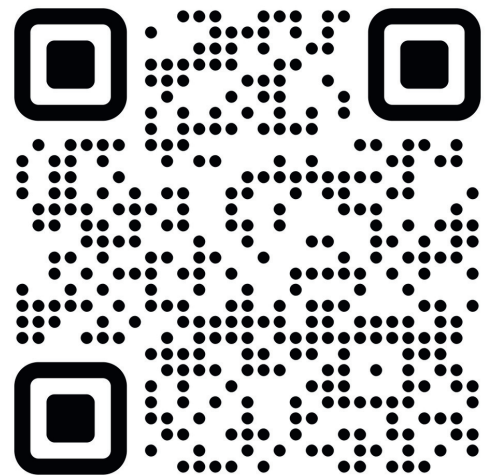
Affected by the Spokane Wildfires?

A PNWUMC Early Response Team may be able to help!

If your home is covered by red fire retardant or you're looking for treasured personal items and need support, our PNWUMC Early Response Team may be able to help.

They're UMCOR-trained, equipped and serve with their caring, Christian presence. The team will be in the Spokane area August 28 through 30.

Please take a moment to fill out this form if you're interested in this free service (and share!). ERTs serve as the hands and feet of Christ. May they walk with you in this time of grief.



**Please share with
anyone in need!**

Dogs in the Park! (Hunde im Park!)

Our first adult/family fellowship of the fall will be on Sunday September 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Sutton Park, 815 Washington St.

It will be a potluck and fundraiser with **German sausage dogs available for \$6 each**. Please bring potluck side dishes to share. This is our first fundraiser to help defray some of the cost of the Germany trip for scholarship assistance.

Everyone is welcome!



Bite2Go

Once again Cheney UMC will sponsor 35 Salnave students in the Bite2Go program providing non perishable food for the weekend for students whose families deal with food insecurity. The cost for the year is \$180 per student or \$15 per month. The food bags are created by Second Harvest Food Bank and distributed at Salnave. Please be a part of this valuable mission project.



Salnave Teachers

We also show our support to the teachers at Salnave by providing a continental breakfast on the first day of school, August 25th. If you would like to contribute toward this please see Carol Kriegh. The total cost is about \$100

Neighborfest is coming!

Mark your calendar for Friday September 25th, from 10am through 2pm.

We will have a table set up representing Cheney UMC. This is our opportunity to welcome EWU students to campus ministry and Cheney UMC.

Stay posted for info on how you can help, and a sign up on the door of opportunity!

EWU





FREE SACK MEAL

WHEN

**5:30 PM MONDAY
AUGUST 31, 2026**

For accommodation contact Cheney Parks & Recreation at 509-498-9250 by August 28.

WHERE

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

FREE MEAL

WHEN

**5:30 PM MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2026**

For accommodation contact Cheney Parks & Recreation at 509-498-9250 by September 25.

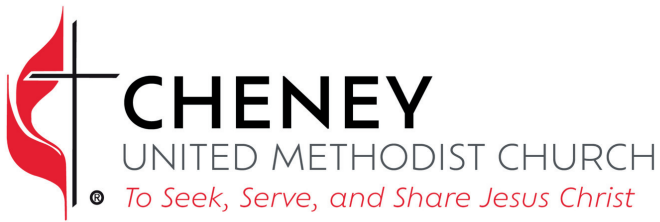
WHERE

**Wren Pierson Building
614 4th Street, Cheney**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

509.498.9250

WWW.FEEDCHENEY.COM



Newsletter

204 4th St
Cheney, WA 99004
Return Service Requested

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