

## A Note from Pastor Steve

### So What?!

Will Jesus make any difference during this upcoming political season? Will Jesus change how we relate to each other or how we build relationships across the aisle? How will we embody the gospel in our service, our community, and even in our voting? Does Jesus make a difference in the way our society treats those who are poor or are displaced from their homes or nations?

Christians talk about salvation frequently, but that is only one outcome of Jesus' life and ministry. What difference does Jesus make to you?

Paul's letter to Philemon never mentions salvation, but this tiny letter contains so many outcomes of the gospel that readers can be overwhelmed by the enormity of changes Jesus makes to individuals, relationships, the world, the church, and, in fact, every area of life.

Our fall sermon series will explore how Jesus truly impacts absolutely everything in life. When Paul writes to his friend Philemon, many great implications of the gospel are revealed. These implications not only prepare us to be faithful during a polarizing political season, but also teach us what active faith can look like every day and in every way.

**See each week's sermon topic in the yellow sidebar.**

Instead of entering this season with anxiety, Philemon shows us how to embody the gospel always and even thrive when the world around us may seem uncertain.

Blessings to you this fall!



## Kickoff-Sunday Potluck & Backpack Blessing September 8

Help us kick off the start of the program year! All ages are invited to bring backpacks and briefcases to worship to receive a special tag and a blessing for the new year. **Immediately following the worship service join us for a potluck meal.** Deacons will provide ham and beverages, and **the rest of us are invited to bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.**

This is a chance to visit with people you have missed over the summer and connect with new friends that are calling Hamblen home. We hope you'll plan to share in food and fellowship with us this fall!

## Fall Sermon Series:

### So What?! How We Embody the Gospel in All the Spheres of Life

#### **September 8, Philemon 1-7:**

What difference does Jesus make to me?

#### **September 15, Philemon 8-16:**

What difference does Jesus make to my relationships?

#### **September 22, Philemon 17-25:**

What difference does Jesus make to my voting?

#### **September 29, selected verses of Philemon:**

What difference does Jesus make to the church?

#### **October 6, selected verses of Philemon:**

How will I embody the Gospel in other spheres of life?

# CONNECT AND GROW

## Come Sing with the Choir!

Do you love to sing? Then we have a place for you! The Chancel Choir starts again this September and sings through mid-June. Even if you can't commit to the entire program year, come sing with us on weeks that you are able. **Rehearsals are on Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm** in the sanctuary, and we gather at 9:00 on Sunday mornings (a half hour prior to worship). Childcare is available upon request. Contact Kyla Fague at [kylaf@hamblenpres.org](mailto:kylaf@hamblenpres.org) or 509-270-6848 for more information or if you are interested in joining this great community. **We begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 5, starting with a taco dinner at 6:00 in the fellowship hall. The choir's first Sunday in worship will be September 15.** We hope to see you in the choir loft!

## Serve in Worship

Your spot on the Worship Team is waiting for you. If you sing and/or play an instrument, the Praise Band and Chancel Choir are always looking for new members.

Not musical? Not a problem! We need Ushers, Greeters, Children's Sermon storytellers, Communion Servers, and Readers for the Call to Worship and Scripture. Also, our Production Team needs PowerPoint Operators (no experience necessary). Contact Scott Dicken at [scottd@hamblenpres.org](mailto:scottd@hamblenpres.org) to get started.

## Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

**Begins Tuesday, September 10, at 7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.** This season we are studying the book of James. Breakfast provided. If you are unable to attend in person, but would like to Zoom in, contact Joe Bruce at [columbiacycle@gmail.com](mailto:columbiacycle@gmail.com) or 509-954-3041.

## Discussions on Christian Nationalism and U. S. Christianity

What is Christian nationalism? What accounts for its strong appeal in Christian communities across the U.S.? And how should faith relate to national identity and social responsibility? This four-week course explores the history of modern Christian nationalism, its stubborn presence in the U.S. (including the Inland Northwest), and the ways it shapes and misshapes understandings of Christian identity today.

Led by Dr. Kevin Vander Schel, an Associate Professor in Religious Studies at Gonzaga University, course discussions will trace the origins of modern Christian nationalism, and will consider examples of Christian nationalism in the U.S. and abroad, the mainstream acceptance of nationalism in American Christianity, and the ongoing challenge of nationalist thinking in Christian communities. Optional electronic readings will be provided. **Classes held on Sundays at 10:30 AM in the Skylight Room, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, and 10/13.**

## Wednesday AM Bible Study

Jesus' core teaching comes to us in the form of parables. When we encounter a parable in the gospels, we're tempted to assign it a singular meaning. Biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine instead encourages us to explore what parables "do" in our lives, rather than what they "mean." This fall, we'll engage with Dr. Levine's work as we study six parables from the teachings of Jesus. **Join us Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Skylight Room. Our first session will be Wednesday, September 11.**

# CONNECT AND GROW

## Deborah's Circle (Women)

Deborah's Circle is a group of caring women that meet September-June, **first Monday of each month (Sept will be the 9th) at 9:30 AM** to share in fellowship as we make items to share with those in need. We would like to invite all women of the church to join us as we gather to participate in a busy morning workshop, (snack and coffee will be provided), and a brief meeting to plan for the ways we can contribute to our community and many items we donate yearly to schools, shelters and care centers of our city. If you like to sew, knit, crochet, tie quilts or even play with colors and fabrics to design works of art, come, join us in fellowship and ministry.

Questions? Call or email Kathy Williams 949-370-8025 or [kathylwms@gmail.com](mailto:kathylwms@gmail.com).

## Top of the Hill (Retirees)

Scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated as they target and defraud people. Come learn about how to protect yourself from financial and other scams as we kick off our monthly Top of the Hill gatherings on **Tuesday, September 10**. We'll begin with lunch at 11:30 then hear from Sergeant Brian Eckersley from the Spokane Police Dept. Please RSVP by calling the church office or emailing Heather Notske, Director of Operations, at [heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org). The suggested lunch donation for this year is \$10. Feel free to invite friends to this critical conversation; we look forward to seeing you there!

## Two Grief Group Experiences Starting Soon

Losing a loved one is one of the hardest things we have to endure. We grieve not only the loss of our special person, but we can also grieve other losses that come as a result of their absence like a change of identity (from spouse to widow, child to orphan...we don't even have a word for a parent who has lost a child or for someone who has lost a sibling). We can grieve a loss of freedom if our person was the driver and now we are more confined to our home, a loss of home if we need to move, a loss of financial security, and even a change in how we are treated by our friend groups.

Grief is normal and necessary but can feel overwhelming and messy. Sometimes we think that we are doing it wrong or that no one could possibly understand what we are going through. Talking about our personal experiences in a group helps us to realize that we aren't crazy. **Learning that other people have similar emotions and experiences while dealing with grief can bring us back into community and can help us feel not quite so lonely.**

Heather Notske, a trained group facilitator and certified grief educator, will lead two different groups this fall. **For more information or to sign up, contact Heather at [heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org) or 509-385-0627.**

Once-a-Month Group  
3rd Mondays 1:00-2:30 PM, Room 6  
Starting September 16

Drop in to this group whenever you can make it. We will do check-ins to see how each person is doing and share coping strategies around special dates and seasons.

12-Session, Once-a-Week Group  
Sundays at 10:45 AM, Room 6  
Start Date to be Determined, Likely January 2025

This more in-depth, 12-Session group will use the *Understanding Your Grief* curriculum by grief expert Alan D. Wolfelt and be limited to eight participants. Contact Heather Notske to save your space (contact info above).

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



## National Night Out

Thank you to everyone who helped make National Night Out a great success! Loving our neighbors by providing this experience free of charge is one way of living into our mission statement. We are grateful for volunteers who supplied chips and drinks to serve and for those who were able to come out and be part of the event. We served a hotdog dinner to around 350 people and got to visit with our mayor, the fire chief, Indians mascots Otto, Doris, and Ribby, and we even had a fly-by from the sheriff's helicopter! Kids of all ages had fun climbing on a fire engine, getting their faces painted, and playing on our new play structure and multiple bounce houses. Church members and friends brought classic cars to show, and we were serenaded by Justin Sherfey and his band. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time.

## VBS Recap

Scuba Vacation Bible School was an incredible experience for our church and community! We had 114 kiddos join us throughout the week, and it was all hands on deck for the 54 volunteers we had! We played fun games, sang whacky songs, and we got to join Jonah in the whale and see Jesus' empty tomb. THANK YOU to everyone who helped make VBS happen this summer, and we're excited to do it again next year.

## Camp Spalding Scholarship Update

For many years, part of our mission has been to help offset the cost of attending Camp Spalding for children who are part of the HPPC family. **This year, thanks to generous donations from our congregation, we covered half of the tuition cost for 43 children, at a total of \$11,650.** Thank you for investing in the future of our youth!

## Our Yard Looks Beautiful Again!

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to make our yard and flower beds look great. Many people stopped by for a few minutes, hours, and/or days to pull weeds, mow, fix sprinklers, and remove dead shrubs. An anonymous donor covered the cost of extra landscaping work to improve our curb appeal even more! You are all appreciated so much!

## Mission Partner Fundraiser

We raised a combined total of \$5,270 for Bite2Go, Liberty Park Community Development Center, Family Promise, and Mission Community Outreach Center. Thank you for choosing to support these agencies financially!

For more hands-on ways to serve, contact Joe Bruce at [columbiacycle@gmail.com](mailto:columbiacycle@gmail.com) or 509-954-3041.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Fall School Supplies for Hamblen & Adams

Adams has requested crayons, markers, pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, student scissors, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, composition books, earbuds, etc. With your monetary donations, we purchased and delivered these items. **Hamblen is requesting gently used clothing in case of 'accidents' for various reasons. Primarily, leggings, sweatpants and all sizes of gloves.** Leave items in the bin by the info center.

## Bite2Go

Bite2go deliveries will begin Wednesday, September 18, for Hamblen Elementary and Liberty Park Preschool. Dates for deliveries can be found by clicking the Bite2Go links on the church website at [hamblenpres.org/signup](http://hamblenpres.org/signup).

Currently, Hamblen is requesting 35 'kits' for their school. That number may change as the year goes on. Your continued support through donations and/or driving keeps this program afloat. Thank you for your generous commitment to this program.

## Food-Packing Event Coming This Fall

Multiple generations joined together this past spring at HPPC to pack 12,048 meals for those in need in the Spokane community.

We will be doing another food-packing event this fall, and you're invited! Watch for more information to come.

## 2024/25 Book Club Selections

The HPPC Book Club meets at the church October-May on the third Thursday of the month at 1pm. All are welcome to attend! Questions? Contact Betty Thompson at [bettythomps@aol.com](mailto:bettythomps@aol.com). **Here is what we are reading next:**

**October:** *The Girl with Seven Names* by David Lee

**November:** *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

**January:** *Go As A River* by Shelley Reed

**February:** *The Last Year of the War* by Susan Meissner

**March:** *Sooley* by John Grisham

**April:** *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin

**May:** *The God I Love* by Joni Eareckson Tada



## Hamblen Park Preschool Still Has Openings

Hamblen Park Preschool put on two fun-filled camps for the neighborhood this summer! The kids enjoyed the new playground, water activities, and nature crafting.

We are looking forward to opening our preschool doors on September 3! **This fall, there are still openings in our 3-Day and 4-Day programs for 4- and 5-year-olds.** We'd love to have a few more preschool friends join us for an amazing year of learning and growth. For more information, please email [preschool@hamblenpres.org](mailto:preschool@hamblenpres.org).

# NEXT GEN MINISTRIES

## NEXT GEN family ministries

### A Note From Mitchel

This fall marks school year #2 with our new shifts in Next Gen Ministry! I'm now fully overseeing both our Children's and Student Ministries, and continuing to focus on all parts of our families—it has been an incredible time getting to know kids and families in a new way. Our Student Ministry Coordinator Kat Wilkins-Luton continues to thrive as she coordinates our youth ministries, plans events, teaches and shares, and invests in our students. We're so grateful for the ways that God has been at work this last year, and excited for the ways he will continue to work this coming school year at Hamblen.

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Fall Kickoff + Oasis and Caravan Kickoffs

Immediately following church on **Sunday, September 8**, we're having a churchwide potluck to kick off the start of the (school) year! Our programs kick off a week after that!

**High schoolers (9th-12th)**, join us **Sunday, Sept 15, 6:00-8:00pm** for our first Oasis of the school year!

**Middle schoolers (6th-8th)**, you're invited on **Monday, Sept 16, 6:00-7:30pm** to our first Caravan of the school year! At both of these kickoffs, we'll be playing fun games, getting to know each other, and sharing a meal together. Bring a friend! After these kickoffs, we'll meet weekly for games, worship, and small group time (no meals).

## CARAVAN

middle school ministry

## OASIS

high school ministry

## Sunday Syrup

Each **Sunday morning after the worship service**, we're continuing to have Sunday Syrup! Youth **6th-12th grades** are invited to join us for pancakes and cartoons as we hangout together from 10:30-11:30!

## Upcoming Save-the-Dates:

- **Middle School Fall Camp:** November 8-10
- **High School Fall Camp:** November 15-17

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## Fall Kickoff + Blessing of the Backpacks

On **Sunday, Sept 8**, with our Fall Kickoff we're having our annual Blessing of the Backpacks during the service. Students and teachers of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks, and come up during the Children's Moment as we pray for everyone heading back into school.

This will be a Kids' Zone Sunday, and after the service we've got our churchwide potluck! **The first Sunday School of the year will be September 15.**

## Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed!

Kids need at least five separate adults (outside of their parents) investing in them and caring for them to be best set up to succeed. You could be a part of caring for the next generation at Hamblen through these ways:

- **Sunday School Teacher:** Guide the kids (either PreK-1st or 2nd-5th) through predetermined Sunday School curriculum, which might include teaching, fun games and activities, and/or a video. This can be once a month, twice a month, or every week!
- **Journey Meal Team:** Cook and serve weekly meals on Wednesdays. Rotation-based, monthly or bi-monthly.
- **Sunday School Helper or Journey Helper (open to youth as well):** Assist in our weekly ministries corralling and guiding the kids, helping the leaders and teachers, and investing relationally in the children.

For more info, contact Mitchel at [mitchelp@hamblenpres.org](mailto:mitchelp@hamblenpres.org).

## Journey

We start Journey back up again on **Wednesday, October 2**. We're so excited for our mid-week children's program where we play fun games, explore the Bible together, share a meal, and worship together from 5:00-7:00 PM! Open to all **1st-5th graders**; Kindergarteners welcome up to parent's discretion. A \$5 weekly donation encouraged to help support dinner costs.

**JOURNEY**  
children's ministry

## Would you like to be an Acolyte?

There will be an information and training session for students in 4th-6th grade (and their parents) who would like to serve as an Acolyte (candle lighter and helper during worship services). **We will meet September 29**, after the service, at the pews at the front of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, or are interested but can't come that day, please contact Kathy Williams at 949-370-8025 or [kathylwms@gmail.com](mailto:kathylwms@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Save-the-Dates:

- **Trunk or Treat:** Sunday, October 27
- **Advent Fair:** Sunday, December 1
- **Christmas Pageant From Scratch:** Sunday, December 8



Address Service Requested  
4102 SOUTH CRESTLINE  
SPOKANE WA 99203-4209

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SPOKANE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 731

August 2024

## Help Support Our Preschool By Donating Supplies



Hamblen Park Preschool is in need of supplies to start our school year! The classrooms will be full of imagination, creativity, and laughter as soon as September starts.

**You can help by taking a card or two from the donation board in front of the sanctuary. Purchase materials and then place them in the bin below the board.** It would be so helpful for our littlest learners! We appreciate your generosity and care for our preschool community.

## Special Worship Sundays

Cooler days remind us 1) sweater weather is coming, and 2) the new Program Year is here! As we prepare to dive into our fall schedule, here are some Special Sundays that we are all looking forward to:

**September 8—Kickoff Sunday!**  
"Jesus at the Center - Embodying the Gospel." Guest musicians will join us as we "Make a joyful noise" (Psalm 100).

**September 15 - Program Year Begins.**  
Welcome back to worship, Chancel Choir!

**October 6 - World Communion Sunday**  
We will celebrate with music styles from around the globe!