The North Hill Christian

Spokane, WA

September 2026 **www.nhchristian.org**

Flurries from Chris,

For decades the word Evangelism has been equated with standing on street corners trying to convince passers by to attend their brand of Christianity. Even 20 years ago I was seeking a better understanding of evangelism when I wrote my bachelor's senior thesis, "An Ecumenical call for Evangelism." Looking back on my views from those days, I can't help be realize I completely left out the importance of relationships when spreading the good news.

It can be really difficult to talk about one's faith with an absolute stranger. But it becomes easier when first some sense of connection is formed. The importance of that connection becomes even more important when a new visitor steps foot in the church. Because how can someone feel welcomed into a community if they have not made any connections with that community?

The public ending of the Shalom Minsitires lease in downtown Spokane has raised conversations between Jenn and I about percieved approaches to evangelism. Our perception about the church that ended the lease is that they wanted Jesus to first save the people before they built relationships, while our approach with both AA and the Aurora shelter are to first build relationships and let Jesus show up through our actions.

But no matter the approach to spreading the good news it is not only up to the pastor to build relationships. It is up to every member of the community to find ways to build relationships with those who could possibly find comfort in the good news that we have come to believe through Jesus Christ.

Peace in Christ,
Chris Snow

Weekly Events

Attitude Adjustment, every day at noon and 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Jewels Helping Hands
Aurora Center
24/7

Citizenship Preparation
Call Sarita for info.
360-202-8367

Meals on Wheels
North Hill Christian is responsible for delivering one week each month. Please call Patty Morris for more information. **Next delivery week is September 8-11.**

All are Welcome vs, Open and Affirming

Recent conversations brought up the question of why should we go through this discernment process of being Open and Affirming, when we already declare All are Welcome?

The simple answer is, most churches declare All are Welcome, but in practice limit what "those" people can do in the church. They limit who can fill volunteer or leadership positions. They limit who can receive various rights of the church such as communion, baptism, weddings and funerals. So, with as you can imagine many individuals looking for a church home may be warry when they only see All are Welcome in the church's materials.

When a congregation goes through the discernment process and decides they are Open and Affirming, they are first stating that this was not simply a branding move but an intentional decision by the congregation over the course of time and through intentional conversation. The second is that the congregation is committed to being mindful of those practices or structures that prevent someone from fully participating in the life of the congregation.

So, in many ways the label of an Open and Affirming congregation carries more weight than the phrase All are Welcome that is used rather loosely to get people in the door.

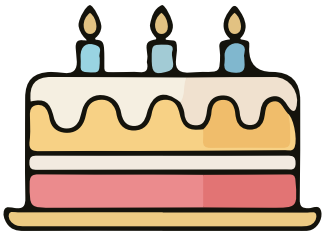
Prayer Requests:

Concerns:

- Kathy Riley
- Larry Snow
- Those impacted by natural disasters
- Darin's Uncle who is in the ICU
- Those impacted by the fires.

Joys:

- Several Aurora Guests celebrating new jobs



Birthdays:

- Cat Borquin 9/3
- Riley Gray 9/11
- Debbie Jennison 9/14
- Arlene Pandelis 9/15
- Dave Medina 9/26

Anniversaries:

- Karl and Liz Kohler 9/3
- Riley and Margaret Gray 9/10

Putting the Beard on the Line

Pastor Chris has a challenge for you, will you accept it? September is typically a month that churches return to "normal" activities. We are no different. On September 13th we will have our annual "Rally Day BBQ" potluck as we welcome everyone back from summer and kick off the school year. This gives us a great chance to challenge all of our membership to bring friends and family with them to church.

So, what's the challenge?

If we get 10 unique visitors to sign in on the "Green Cards" (or comments on our livestream) in the month of September, Pastor Chris will trim his beard down and keep it trimmed for the rest of the year.

Coffee with the Pastor

Starting September 13th, Pastor Chris will be hosting a time for coffee/tea and chat before worship in Hazen Hall. This is a chance for any who wish to ask any questions about our church or faith in lieu of a dedicated Sunday School class. Please join him starting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings for these chances to talk about all sorts of queries of our faith.

Change of Season Barbeque

We've had a lot of really hot days this summer. Now it's time to think about it cooling down a little, school starting and the trees beginning to turn color.

Our annual fall barbeque is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th . The following are provided: hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, meat toppings, drinks, desserts and table settings. You can help out by bringing a side dish or a salad to feed 10 of your choice. There will be a basket to accept funds to assist in buying the meats. Come and share the morning worship service and the fellowship, food and fun with others participating in the morning's activities.

Questions: Call Janie Selley

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering

Received September 27 & October 4, 2026

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthen our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. Your gifts help support pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs through education, camp and conference, and relationship-building in each expression of our Church's mission.

Note that 50% of the funding collected comes back to the region to support these efforts. Further, our own congregation received a Regional Reconciliation Grant this past spring for $2,500 which the board agreed to use to widen the doorways in the Fireside room kitchen and both doorways in the Mission room per the property committee's recommendation. A contractor is currently working with us to complete this work to make our building more accessible to any with disabilities which prevent full access to all spaces. As we seek more community partners, these physical barriers are limiting those who seek to participate, so erasing these obstacles is paramount to our purpose to fully engage with our neighbors.

With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

Little Free Pantry

As the seasons are changing it is time to think about what supplies are needed for our little free pantry. While we are collecting non-perishiable food items (preferably single serving) througout the year, we would also encourage donations of socks, rain protection, and hand warmers. Please help support the Little Free Pantry minsitry by donating items or financial directed donations. There is a collection table all ready for your donations set up and ready in the sanctuary.

September, 2026 Serving Schedule				
	6	13	20	27
Count	Linda Alexander, Patty Morris	Sheila McCrea, Debbie Jennisn	Janie Selley, Sally Deranleau	Janie Selley, Sheila McCrea
Diaconate	Sally Deranleau	Linda Alexander	Nathan Burford	Patty Morris
Elder	Debbie Jennison	Bill Jennison	Jerry Klein	Sheila McCrea
Worship Leader	Debbie Jennison	Bill Jennison	Jenn Snow	Sheila McCrea
Visual Tech	Natasha Belton	Debbie Jennison	Natasha Belton	Jenn Snow
Sound	Bill Jennison	Jenn Snow	Ben Greene	Nathan Burford
Greeter	Nathan Burford	Arlene Pandelis	Janie Selley	Patt Hooker

August 2026 Financials			
	August	**YTD**	**YTD Budget**
Income	**$12,839**	**$115,742**	**$98,480**
Expense	**$12,241**	**$112,788**	**$111,826**

General Offering income was below budget $71.

North Hill Christian Church
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