

**SPOKANE VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
115 NORTH RAYMOND ROAD
SPOKANE VALLEY WA 99206
509 924-7262

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 69
Spokane, WA

Sundays

Traditional Service 9 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 11 a.m.
Youth Group 6 p.m.

Staff:

Congregation: Ministers of the Church
Mike Graef: Pastor
Desiree Forster: Christian Education
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Luke Henderson: Choir Director
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Nate Dunigan: Technical Ministry
James Gilreath- Youth Worker
Britny Grovom- Sunday School teacher
Brittany Sarto- Nursery Caregiver

Volunteer Staff Position:
Shirley Porter: Lay Leader

Church Office: (509) 924-7262
Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00am to 12:00pm
Closed Friday

Church Website:
www.spokanevalleychurch.org
Church E-mail:
secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org



OUR PURPOSE: *Spokane Valley United Methodist Church is here to invite people to: follow Jesus, love others, and transform the greater community through the grace of God.*



CONNECTIONS

APRIL 2022



Holy Week

Join us for Holy Week events!

Sunday, April 10th Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 14th 6:00 pm Seder Dinner (rsvp)
Friday, April 15th 7:00 am-7:00 pm Prayer Vigil
Sunday, April 17th Easter Sunday
9:00 am Traditional Service
10:00 am Easter Brunch
(donations accepted for the kitchen fund)
10:15 am Egg Hunt (meet in fellowship hall)
11:00 am Contemporary Service
(Sunday School and Nursery during both services)

Dear Valley Methodist Friends,

I'm thinking that for me personally this coming Easter will be the best Easter ever! That's why Lent was invented in the first place you know. The Bible doesn't say 'thou shalt have Lent before Easter.' Lent was created as a 'long enough flow of time before Easter' that brand new Christians could deeply study what they were committing their life to. Their baptism on Easter Sunday would make Easter a personal, life-changing experience of Jesus' resurrection for them. The best ever!

Our Tuesday night Lenten class here at our church has been equally deep. We've been studying John Wesley's epic sermon, "On Working Out Your Own Salvation" – in which he preaches this text, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure". [Philippians 2.12-13 KJV] The passage comes alive in amazing ways in every part of his sermon. But probably the most practical application, for me personally in this year 2022, is the confidence Wesley has in the presence of Christ in the soul. To your soul, my soul, and in a "prevenient" way, the soul of every human being alive is delivered Jesus Christ himself – by God's own will and action, every day.

To a world in which most people walk around believing their identity is formed by the thoughts in their head, John Wesley offers an alternative: Christian spirituality. Christian spirituality is the gift God brings you in this moment by sending you Christ within – an artesian well of agape love. Not merely thoughts of love, not a Hallmark card of love, not a poster about love to hang on your wall, not a scripture of love to memorize – actual present Spirit love you can discover within your own heart, body, mind and spirit. Charles Wesley described it this way in Hymn #183 – "O may Thy love possess me whole." If you pray those seven words every day between now and Easter, this Easter could be the best Easter you've ever experienced.

Dear friends, all of the good words we have to share with the world, all of the good works that we want to get busy doing, everything we witness to as a church is fully defined, described and taught in this simple teaching. I couldn't be prouder of you as a congregation – because you stand for this love, this possibility, this hope for the world. May this Easter be the best you've ever experienced! so grateful to be,

Your Pastor, Mike Graef

**Spokane Valley United Methodist Church
Mahan Memorial Scholarship
2022-2023 Academic Year Scholarship Time is Here!**

This scholarship is available to students attending school for an undergraduate or graduate degree. Applicant must be a member or an active constituent of SVUMC. Scholarships will be for a minimum amount of \$700. Please call the church (509-924-7262) to request an application. Completed applications must be received in the church office by May 8, 2022.

**\$1500 Scholarship opportunity for students in the
Pacific Northwest Conference!**

Please call the church (509-924-7262) to request the email link to apply.



**United Methodist Women
shall be a community of women
whose purpose is to know God and
to experience freedom as whole persons
through Jesus Christ;
to develop a creative, supportive fellowship;
and to expand concepts of mission
through participation in the
global ministries of the church.**

**Some exciting news for our beloved organization:
New wine skins, new programs, new ways to join the work and a new look.**

On March 3 United Methodist Women launch a new brand!
And with it a new website and a new name:

United Women in Faith.

March is Women's History Month and the month of our founding in 1869.
March is the perfect time for us to honor our history by stepping boldly in to our future.
This is an exhilarating time as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action and impact.

We are women of passion and power
united by God's love in our mission to uplift women, children and youth.
Let's stand together to continue to put love into action.

March/April issue of response magazine: Free for all! We are United Women in Faith!
To celebrate our new look and new name,

the March/April 2022 digital issue of response is free for everyone!

This issue not only features an article on our new brand,
but it's also the special biennial mission maps issue,
showing the people and programs your generous Mission Giving supports around the world.

If you would like access to this free digital issue,
contact Madelyn at maddyb47@msn.com and she will send you the link..

Thank you for all you do to put love into action.
Welcome to United Women in Faith!

**2nd Annual Easter Takeout Dinner
April 9 (Saturday) from 3-5 pm**

**Ham and Creamy Potato Casserole
Carrots, Cole Slaw and Roll
Easter Cake for Dessert**

Adults - \$12 Children (6-12 yrs) - \$6 Children 5 & under - Free

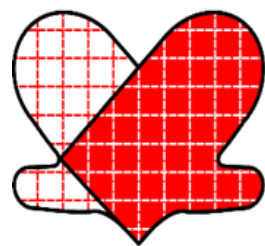
To make your takeout dinner order call Madelyn at 869-8213
beginning Sunday April 3rd through Friday April 8th between 9 am and 1 pm.

Esther Circle will meet April 19th in the Fireplace Room at 12:00 pm.
Contact Sue McGovney, 924-1555

Rachel Circle will meet April 14th in the Fireplace Room at Noon.
Contact Mary Alice Jones, 921-1982

Rebekah Circle will meet April 19th in Room 115 at 11:00 am.
Contact Nancy Olds, 928-2930

Sarah Circle will meet April 4th in the Fireplace Room at 6:30 pm.
Contact Robin Gregory, 443-5953



Helping Hands

serving one another in love
GALATIANS 5:13

*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."*
John Wesley

Thank You for Your Support

Cinnamon Roll Sale — \$538.86 was raised on February 27
Shalom Ministries—collecting adult gloves, mittens and hand warmers
Broadway Elementary Teachers Luncheon—serving soups, salads and cookies

At the Connect Desk Naomi Fundraiser Buffet Breakfast April 20, 2022

In October of 2019 we hosted a benefit breakfast for Naomi. It was a huge success for Naomi. We served over 100 Naomi supporters from all over Spokane County. Over \$20,000 was raised!

We are so pleased to be able to host it once again this April.
The breakfast will be on Wednesday April 20 from 7:30 to 8:30 am.
To make this a success we need your help. In 2019 over 30 of you volunteered to help.
We need volunteers to set up tables, prepare the breakfast, greet (in the parking lot and hallways), server, wash dishes and clean up.
Sign up to help will be at the Connect Desk- March 27, April 3 and 10

Mark your calendar—Upcoming in May

Naomi paper drive—May 1, 8 and 15
Cinnamon Roll Sale—May 15

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is on the ground responding to the Ukrainian People

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450**, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery.

This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

You can do this by making your check payable to the church with Advance Project 982450 in the memo line.

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions goes to the designated cause.

The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. UMCOR is in direct conversation with Methodist leadership in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. United Methodist churches in these countries are already assisting internally displaced people and refugees within and from Ukraine with food, water, shelter and other needs. UMCOR has approved grants that will immediately strengthen these efforts.



SAVE THE DATE!

12 Years ago we said hello, now it's time to say goodbye.
Join us for Mike's retirement celebration!
Thursday, June 2nd
More information to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Notes from the Kitchen

The kitchen needs some well deserved updates. Our stove and dishwasher need to be replaced, the priority being the stove. The cost to replace is about \$10,000.00. We will have several fundraisers this year starting with the Easter Brunch. .



Circa 1974

SPRING CLEANUP Saturday, April 9th at 8:30 am

Please attend if you are able, as many hands make light work.

It has been quite some time since we have gathered to spruce up the outside grounds, but it most definitely needs some TLC.

Remember to keep an eye on the weather and prepare accordingly.

Please bring garden and cleaning tools as the church has limited amounts. Items include: Gloves, rakes, loppers, shovels, hedge trimmers (manual and/or power), leaf blowers, brooms, dust pans, etc.

If you have a truck or trailer available, please contact Paul Norris, Trustee Chairman at

509-280-7448 .

We will need to haul away any debris that will not fit in the dumpster





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

04/01 Rowena Harr

04/09 Ivetta Howell

04/02 Todd Henderson
Ali Norris

04/11 Gerald Bafus

04/03 Abby Carpinteyro
Pat Porter

04/13 Barbara Soran

04/15 Michael Mackin

04/04 Alyssa Arnold
Judy Fox

04/18 Ruth Reynen

04/28 Katelyn Schilling

04/07 Georgie Batton
Erin Gregory
Florence Husa
Dommie Oswald

04/30 Dannie Hawley
Tyler Meckel

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

04/09 Tom & Pat Porter

04/13 Ken & Alicia Moore



April 3rd, The Children Sunday School curriculum finishes with the parable, "A friend in need".
This lesson will help the children understand how they can pray boldly and ask God to provide for their needs of others.

April 10th, Palm Sunday– We begin the "Good news of Easter". Our first lesson in this series is "Jesus Forgives"
Children learn that Jesus loves us so much He died on the cross to forgive our sins.

April 17th- "Jesus is Alive!"
The children discover how the Easter season is filled with hope and joy as they celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

April 24th begins a new series– GIFTS FROM GOD
The first lesson in this series is "God gives us Friends"
Children understand that friends are wonderful gifts from God and how they should always act friendly towards other children.

SPECIAL EVENTS!



APRIL 10TH– Palm Sunday. The Sunday School children will be handing out Palm leaves to all who attend service.

April 17th– Easter Egg Hunt
There will be an Easter Egg hunt for children ages 3-10, outside on the church grounds weather permitting or in the chapel . Please meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:15 and bring a basket or bag to collect eggs.



Grief and Healing support group starts, Friday, April 1st. There is still time to join.

If you are interested in Joining, please contact Nancy Ashworth at 509-993-9074