

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

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
Ed Poblete: Custodian
Desiree Forster: Christian Education
Jessica Lunceford: Nursery
Kelsey Martin: Nursery
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
**Tracey Partridge: Contemporary
Worship & Choir Director**
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Nate Dunigan: Technical Ministry

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



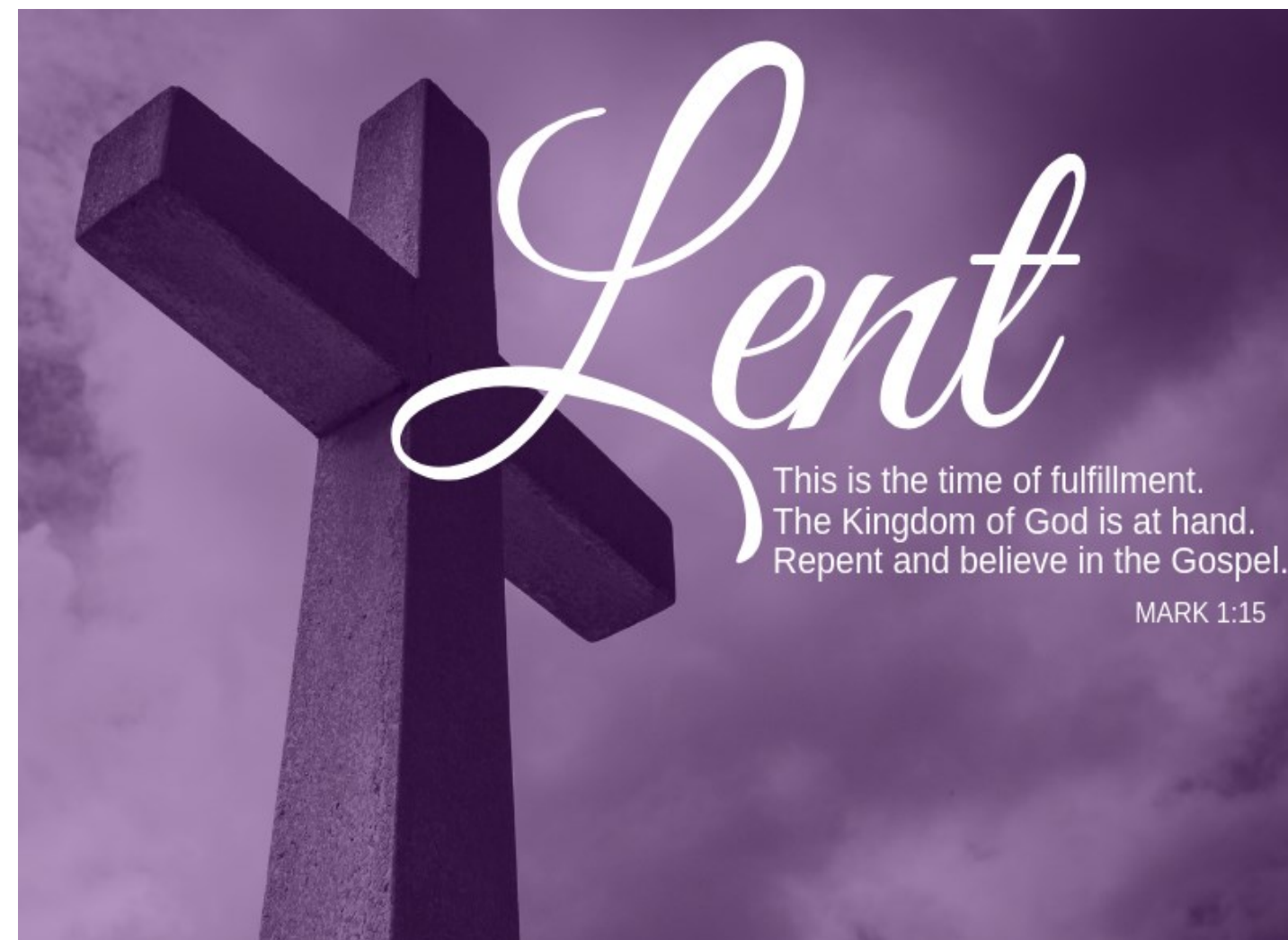
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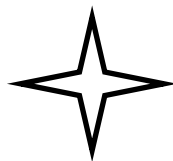
CONNECTIONS

February- The season of Lent



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.*

The word Lent comes from Latin roots meaning "to lengthen." This refers to the lengthening of daylight hours in the northern hemisphere that coincides with this season of the church year. From its beginnings, Lent focused on four particular aspects of our lives: our baptism, a time to renew our baptismal vows. The Cross. A time for Christians to reflect on Christ's journey to the Cross and what it means for us. Seeking God's presence through the practice of spiritual disciplines – prayer, reading scripture, and fasting. And a time of confession and transparency with God, seeking healing and wholeness. God calls us to Life! How we live is our response to God. "In him we live and move and have our being." Let the people say: "God calls me this day!"



Dear Valley Methodist Friends,

Our church's Book of Worship gives pastors the BEST words to say in worship. Absolutely incredible. Words change the world. Words change my life all the time. Words can change your life too.



Some of my favorite words come in the membership ceremony, from the hymnal. The pastor's charge to the congregation: **"Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love."** It's jaw-droppingly awesome that you and I are charged to have this role in each other's lives. Hear it again: to do all in our power to increase each other's faith, confirm one another's hope, and perfect each other in love."



One of the things that is definitely within the power of most of us is to observe Lent, to participate in Lent. Ash Wednesday starts it always, this year on February 17th. We won't be gathering this year for a special service. Makes me sad, I will miss it. But that doesn't mean we can't do Ash Wednesday at home. There is nothing sacred about ash. That's the point of it. But ash of any sort can be a symbol of our own death, which is very sacred. (Don't tell anyone, but I'm going to use household dust – doesn't the Bible say, ashes to ashes and dust to dust? We have plenty of dust.)



In the Ash Wednesday liturgy the pastor gets more awesome words to say: "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent [...]" Let's to that! Let's observe a holy Lent. Let's start Lent together.

Join me in spirit on Ash Wednesday in a personal private space of your own, and together let us renew our commitment all through the year – to increase our own faith and that of another, confirm hope, and go on to perfection in love. You amaze me! I'm grateful to be,

Your Pastor, Mike G

Mission and Service thru the years 2014-2020

Look at the many ministries and lives your generosity has helped support and change!

Broadway Elementary

Started Teachers Soup Lunch on November 20, 2014. We have served 13 lunches
Events we support beginning in 2015 - Trunk or Treat, Ornament Night, Carnival & Play Day. In 2018 we started Room Parties and Appreciation Breakfast
Support financially – Benevolence to the Community from Church Budget, Christmas Letter 2015 & 2018 plus \$2,500 from Drive Thru on September 27, 2020

Naomi

We Started partnering in 2014 with Hearth Homes (Naomi) and 2015 began Paper Product Drives.
We also supported Yard Clean Up (2014-2017) and Bus passes at Blessed to be a Blessing
Support financially – [Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget](#), 2019 Fundraiser Breakfast, Christmas Letter 2016 (new carpet), 2018 & 2020 plus Drive Thru Drives

Mission Community Outreach Center

In 2015 started printing, folding and taping Newsletter and collection of Jeans & School Shoes.
Support financially – Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget, Christmas Letter 2017 plus Drive Thru Drive

Covenant Relationship with Katherine Parker

Started 2015 planning & selection of Katherine and then began raising money for Covenant - 2016 (\$1,930), 2017 (\$1,964.39), 2018 (\$1,951.95), 2019 (\$2,183.70), 2020 (\$2,094.95) & 2021 (\$2040) with a grand total of **\$12,164.99**. Supported by Cinnamon Roll sales (now 2 a year) and Legislative conference lunch. Donations to "Improve a Classroom", "Boots for Club Foot" & "Nepal Hospital"

Children at Risk

Support financially - Cinnamon Roll Sale 2019 raised \$500 and Cinnamon Roll Sale 2020 raised \$1,000

Jamaa Letu Orphanage

Sponsorship of Emany started in 2019. 2020 - \$500 and 2021 - \$500

Human Trafficking

Supported by produce sales in the summer months and donations. 2019 Christmas Letter benefited The Unaccompanied Refugee Foster Care program & and the Human Trafficking program.

UMCOR – One Great Hour of Sharing

2016 - \$1,465.47, 2017 - \$1,214, 2019 - \$2,338 and 2020 - \$2,505

Family Promise

Started supporting in 1998 by being a support church for St. Mary's – dinner and overnight.
Financial support – Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget, Christmas Letter 2015 & 2020, gas cards at Blessed to be and Blessing and Drive Thru Drives

Crosswalk

Started supporting in 1985 with a dinner provided 1st Wednesday of month
Financial support - Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget

Neighborhood Sunday Lunch (St Ann) –

Started supporting in 1994 with a lunch prepared and served every 6 weeks
Support financially - Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget

Spokane Valley Sunday Lunch

We started in 1998 with a lunch served last Sunday of every month
Support financially through Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget

Meals on Wheels

Started in 1973 at our church. Members volunteer for routes. Support financially Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget, Christmas Letter 2014 & 2015, and cinnamon roll sale in 2014

Valley Partners Food Bank

Started in 1972 at our church. Members volunteer and we have collection cart in welcome center
Support financially - Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget, Christmas Letter 2014 and Drive Thru Drive

Twinlow Camp

We support financially through Benevolence to the Community from the Church Budget



"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

2020 Special Christmas offering had a goal of \$5,000 for
NAOMI and Family Promise
"With God all things are possible"
Final Results \$8,040 (each agency will receive \$4,020)
Thank you one and all for your generous giving!



Drive Thru Drives are Back
7th Drive Thru Drive
benefiting Covenant Relationship,
Naomi and Shalom Ministries



February 16 (Tuesday)
10am to Noon—Church Parking Lot

Cinnamon Roll Sale for our Covenant Relationship with Katherine Parker
Paper Towels only for Naomi
New Basic White Athletic Adult Socks for Shalom Ministries

Shalom Ministries located at 3rd and Howard in Spokane began as a nationwide effort within the United Methodist Church in 1992 to create effective ministries in urban settings. Two years later, a separate 501(c)3 was created in Spokane. Shalom seeks to build relationships and community amongst people who are disenfranchised. By providing a safe, loving, and accepting environment the door can be opened for healing and renewal, creating a sense of belonging.

Their Dining with Dignity Program serves a breakfast Monday through Thursday and a dinner Monday and Tuesday Night. They serve over 50,000 meals annually.

The homeless do not have the luxury of throwing dirty socks into a laundry basket each day. Their socks become wet due to the weather and a change of socks helps prevent numerous health problems. Shalom Ministries is asking for socks to give out to the homeless they serve.

Lets send them a full laundry basket of new socks!

Coming Soon in the March Connection
8th Drive Thru Drive benefiting the Food Bank on March 16th 10am to noon
Broadway Teachers Luncheon—March 30th
March's Connections will have more information

For your prayers and reflection as we enter Lent on February 17th:

"Ash Wednesday. There is no other day like Ash Wednesday. The proud and the meek, the arrogant and the humble are all made equal on Ash Wednesday. The healthy and the sick, the self-assured and the sick in spirit, all make our way of a gray morning or a dusty afternoon. They line up silently, eyes downcast, lips mumbling prayers. All are repentant, all are preparing themselves for the shock of the laying of the ashes on the forehead and the pastor's agonizing words, "Thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return." Rudolfo A. Anaya

From the United Methodist Book of Worship:

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Pastor: Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ

People: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, that speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.

Pastor: I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. Let us bow before our creator and redeemer.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."



Grief and Healing

NEW— Last Wishes form available for download or mail

In planning for a loved one's memorial service, do you know their favorite songs, scriptures or if they even want a service? Do you know their contact information such as their attorney/consultant etc.?

These were concerns of people at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church. The group got together and created a "Last Wishes" form. This form will help you gather the answers to the above and much more!

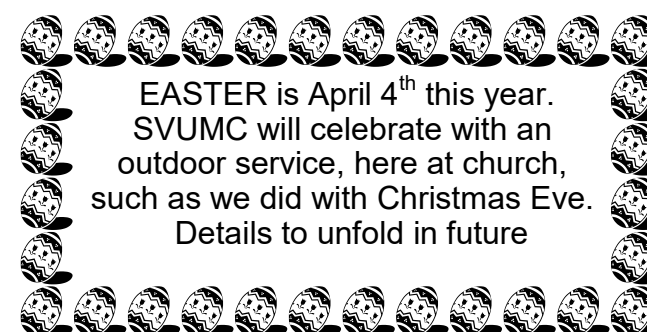
The Last Wishes form is available on-line on our church website under: Connect, ministries, memorial services

OR

Postal mail, call the church office, 509-924-7262. Monday through Thursday 9am –12 noon.

We hope our congregation finds this form useful. We suggest you fill it out and keep it in a accessible place at home. (not in a safety deposit box). Let family members or friends know where it is.

Nancy Ashworth
Grief and Healing Ministry



EASTER is April 4th this year.
SVUMC will celebrate with an outdoor service, here at church, such as we did with Christmas Eve.
Details to unfold in future



02/05	Ida Mary Remington	02/11	Eugene Owen
02/06	Gabe Erickson	02/13	Jenni Ross
02/07	Dot Burdette Betti Gieser Marlene McCoy	02/15	Gianna Nevills
		02/16	Roberta Bayne Desiree Forster
02/09	Steve Ross Kimber Satter Darlene Turner	02/17	Michael Myers
		02/20	Paul Bos
02/10	Rob Peck Jaque Todd	02/24	Aubrianna Henderson
		02/27	Barrett Meckel Walt Sheard



02/11 Ed & Nancy Brown

02/12 Don & Judy Fox

02/13 Dennis & Laura Gottberg

02/14 Gary & Kyra Straub

02/22 Randy & Mary Jane Water

02/23 Adam & Sarah Stultz



I am excited to announce that February 7th will be the first recorded children’s Sunday School lesson with Quinn McGuire!!!

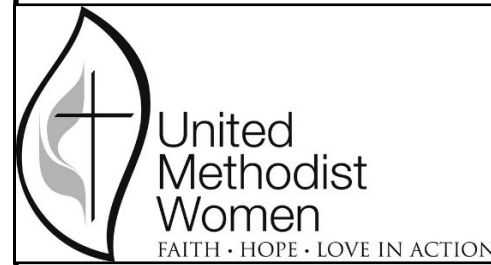
You will be able to access this by going to our church website <http://www.spokanevalleychurch.org/> and the access the Youtube channel. You will be able to select either Pastor Mike sermon or the Sunday School lesson.

We are doing a phased approach in order to work out any technology/recording challenges we might have.

Feb 7th and 14th will be the Sunday School lessons only, no craft projects.
February 21st and forward, Sunday School lesson and a small craft project

Craft kits for the upcoming 4 weeks (2-21, 2-28, 3-7 and 3-14) will be put together and available for pickup at the church office the week of February 15th. The church office is open Monday-Thursday 9am-12pm. Craft kits will be on the connect center desk with the child’s name on the bags. If you are not able to pick up your child’s craft kit, please contact me at 924-7262 by Thursday Feb 11th and we will get it in the mail.

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19



**Spokane Valley
United Methodist Women
Takeout
1st Annual Easter Dinner
March 27th (Saturday) from 3-5 pm**

To make your takeout dinner order call Madelyn at 869-8213 beginning Sunday March 21st through Friday March 26th between 9 am and 1 pm.
Besides your name and number of meals you want you will also sign up for your pickup time.

There will be 4 pickup times: 3:00-3:30; 3:30-4:00; 4:00-4:30 and 4:30-5:00
Pick up will be at the back of the church by the double gym doors.

**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**

Enter on Raymond & drive through the parking lot to the back of the church on Balfour.

Please have your check made out to SVUMW or cash ready in a sealed envelope with your name, amount of money in the envelope and number of meals purchased. **No money will be collected prior to the event.**