

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

Sundays

Traditional Service 9 a.m.
Sunday School 9a.m
Youth Group 6 p.m.

Staff:

Congregation: Ministers of the Church
Mike Graef: Pastor
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Luke Henderson: Choir Director
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Amanda Roche: Church Secretary
Nate Dunigan: Technical Ministry
James Gilreath- Youth Worker
Britny Grovom- Sunday School teacher

Volunteer Staff Position:
Shirley Porter: Lay Leader

Church Office: (509) 924-7262
Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00am to 12:00pm
1:00pm to 3:00pm

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



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CONNECTIONS

JUNE 2022



Reminder to wear
red for our June
5th Pentecost
9:00am Sunday
Service.

Pic Below, May 22nd we celebrate the
baptisms of Jeremiah Faasala and Paul
Watson. Photo by Michael Myers

Special Sundays ahead:

**June 5, Holy Communion,
Baptisms, Pastor Mike preaching**

June 12, Pastor Mike's last Sunday

**June 19th, Father's Day! Rev Katy
Shedlock preaching**

**June 25th, "Women Speak Sunday"
UMW leading worship**

**July 3, Holy Communion, Rev Sheila
Miranda preaching**

**July 10, Pastor Alissa Bertsch's
welcome, and first sermon with us!**



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.*

Dear Valley Methodist friends,

Earlier on this very day that I write to you I was asked, “if you could capture in one word what all these years of ministry have meant to you, what would that one word be?” I looked away from the questioner, took a moment to think, and then I had it and the verse: treasure. “But we have this treasure in clay jars.” (2 Corinthians 4.7)

Sometimes treasure can look like pirate’s treasure. As a kid it seems this way, you know an old fashioned chest with its lid popped open gold coins and jewels sparkling. Still, all treasure sparkles in its own way. I’m sure that’s why that one word popped into my mind this morning. To sum up what all of ministry means to me in one word, and to choose “treasure” as that word conveys the many sparkles I’ve had a chance to see in thousands of moments in people’s lives.

This past Sunday I saw sparkles in two who decided they wanted to be baptized: Jeremiah Faasala and Paul Watson. Just as profound for a pastor are the sparkles one has a chance to see in the conversations over many months – or in some cases over many years – leading up to the decision, “I want to be baptized.” Each conversation is so special, each life is a treasure. The sacrament of baptism, the moment of baptism as special as it is, is one sparkle among many. And it is a commencement also not an end in itself. Baptism is a new beginning. Our entire future life unfolds as a baptized person who has just received proof positive that (s)he is loved unconditionally, forgiven forever, accompanied closely by God every day. Christ is inside us now. We see the intrinsic value of all human life and all creation, through baptism.

Spending my whole career in ministry it’s been a great privilege to personally witness countless sparkles in people’s eyes and faces, young and old alike. In other words this treasure I’ve seen has come in moments when people change and grow, learn and risk. People DO sparkle. They sparkle even at their lowest points, when peace and calm bring true comfort. I’ve seen this. Pain is not able to define us. This treasure is the toughest stuff in the world.

This past Sunday May 22nd nine adults chose to become full members of Spokane Valley United Methodist Church. We welcome these wonderful, faithful people, each one a treasure: All baptized Christians are “members” of the body of Christ. Some of us choose to take vows of local church membership to identify with a place saying publicly, ‘right here, this is my community, my church home. Until God leads me elsewhere, from here my faith with grow, and I’ll help others grow, through prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness.’

WELCOME! Caryl Kaelin, Fred Trimmer, Rebecca “Rikki” Sallstrom, Lynn Salyers, Chris Reiber, Chandra Reiber, Zackerey Reiber, Alek Reiber, and Michael Myers.

Membership also is a commencement, a new chapter begins, maybe a great adventure starts? It’s up to us. Likewise the moment of taking membership vows comes after perhaps hundreds of conversations in the past – each one a conversation that sparkled in its own way. Sometimes a pastor is able to be a part of many, many previous conversations with one person. Pure treasure. When I am invited to hear something very deep going on inside another person, I’m speechless.

The treasure continues, the sparkling moments continue. So what about retirement? What events will show up as sparkles for a retired pastor? It will be different for sure. I won’t be “in the saddle” in the same way anymore. But why can’t retirement be a commencement as well?! I look forward to it! Having fun times with Missy and our 7 grandchildren – and with all of you now as friends! Wow, talk about sparkles. So grateful to have been your Pastor! Mike Graef

“These blessings, which cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty, are kept in heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1.4 (NCV)



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



**Women Speak Sunday
June 26**

“The Beauty of Change “

**Guest speaker
Rev. Brenda Tudor**

Since moving from the San Francisco Bay Area in 1993, Brenda has served many churches in the Inland and Seven Rivers Districts. Ordained an elder in 2000, Brenda has training in Hispanic/Latinx community development and intentional interim ministry for churches in transition.

She is a lifelong supporter of policies that support justice, especially those that elevate women & children from homelessness and poverty.

Retired in 2019, Brenda does an occasional retreat, pulpit supply and weddings . With 3 adult children and 4 young grand children she travels often to spend time with them.

We invite you to visit our circles

Esther Circle will meet June 14th for a luncheon at Shirley’s house at 12 pm.
Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555 for further information

Sarah Circle will meet June 18th for a tour of Hope House and Lunch at World Feast.
Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953 for further information

Rebekah Circle will meet June 21st
Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930 for further information

Rachel Circle will not be meeting in June but will meet again in August.
Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982 for further information



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 supporting in May at the Connect Desk

**Naomi paper drive
Cinnamon Roll Sale for our Covenant Relationship with Katherine Parker
Broadway Appreciation Breakfast
Spring Cleaning for Mission Community Outreach Center
Shalom Ministries Men's Shoe Drive**



Mission and Service will be taking a break in June.
There are no events planned

We will be back in July with

**Mission Community Outreach Center 12th Annual
"School Shoes for Kids"**

We will be collecting kids NEW tennis shoes, sizes 1-3 and children's socks
This event held every year helps families prepare for back to school
by providing children ages K-8th grade with a new pair of shoes and socks.

On **Sundays July 3, 10 & 17**
bring children's school shoes sizes 1-3 and socks
to the Connect Desk.



Happy Birthday



06/02 Craig Partridge

06/03 Carmen Shaffer

06/04 Erica Lovchik

06/05 Randy Waters

06/07 Renee Norris

Jaime Wallace

06/08 Shelly Graham

Robin Gregory

Carol Lingrow

06/10 Susan Henderson

06/11 Carla Joyal

06/12 Nancy Ashworth



06/15 Idell Choate

06/14 Bryan Gieser

06/15 Idell Choate

06/17 Ed Kelly

06/18 Lois Simpson

06/21 Bruce Butler

06/23 Brent Bos

Ron Pope

06/24 Dorothy Merriman

06/25 Sharon Holmes

06/28 Russel Gray

Ron Walter

Happy Anniversary



06/03 Michael Myers & Nancy Croskrey

06/06 Evan Lantzy & Cassandra Partridge

06/08 Caryl & Bill Kaelin

06/10 Alan & Glenda Lovchik

Craig & Tracey Partridge

06/11 Walt & Joan Sheard

06/14 Mick & Pat Palanuk

06/15 Michael & Jodi Mackin

06/16 Evan & Alyssa Arnold

Gary & Sharon Holmes

06/23 Carl & Anna Jenkins

06/28 Jack & Donna Pring

06/29 Jerry & Shannon Miller



16th Distribution Of The Mahan Memorial Scholarship

This is the 16th Distribution of this fund. This fund as well as others designated contribution had given over \$70,000 out to scholarship recipients.

Congratulations to this years recipients!

1. Noah Crow, Rocky Mountain College in Billings Montana. He is pursuing a Bachelors degree in health sciences.
2. Alek Reiber, Gonzaga University School of Law. He is pursuing a degree of Juris Doctor.
3. Sarah Stultz, Paul Mitchell The School. She is studying to start her own business.

For anyone who has a passion for education, you may contribute to scholarships by simply writing a check to SVUMC and put “scholarships” in the memo section of the check.



Welcome Samantha Wallace! Our new Coordinator of Children's Ministries

I am a recent graduate from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix Arizona. I grew up in this church as a child and youth participating in several youth activities throughout the community. This church has given me so much growing up and being a part of the church as the coordinator of children's ministry is my way of giving back to the church

and strengthening my faith in God.

During my time at college, I participated in a leadership position in a dance club on campus and I worked very hard in earning my Bachelor of Science in General Psychology. From there I plan to continue my education here in Spokane online through GCU to earn my Master of Science in Clinical health and counseling to pursue my calling to be a counselor for youth and families to better aid in the assistance of treating mental health.

Through all the many things that I have learned over the years, I found photography to be something that I enjoy so I had spent the last several years building a small photography business which I have had great success down in phoenix taking cap and gown photos along with family photos and portraits. Running this small business has been a great joy because I get to help others capture moments in their lives that they can remember forever. With my business growing, I have been featured in a few articles that feature young business owners and photographers.