

**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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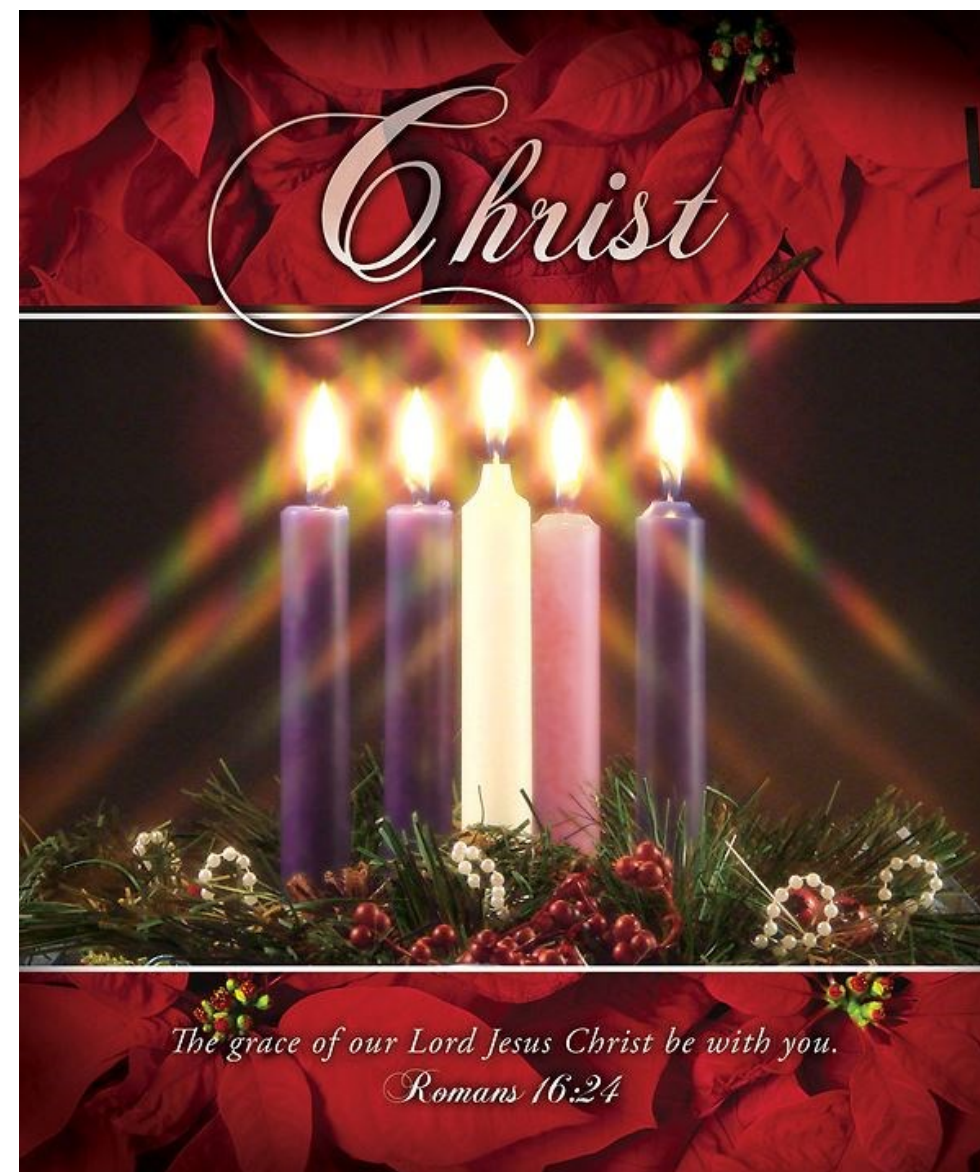
CONNECTIONS

WELCOME JANUARY 2021!!!

*We thank the Lord for
sending Jesus Christ to
be born into our hearts
again this Christmas!*

*We look forward to how
he will bring
resurrection and new life
to our ministries in 2021.*

*In the New Year, we step
boldly into the greatest
purpose ever given to a
body of believers: to
invite people to follow
Jesus, love others, and
transform the greater
community through the
grace of God!*

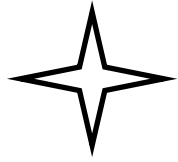


OUR PURPOSE: *Spokane Valley United Methodist Church is here to invite people to: follow Jesus, love others, and transform the greater community through the grace of God.*

January 24th is National Compliment Day.

Find a reason to give someone a shout-out!

It can be as simple as an appreciative “thanks for being a great friend” Research shows that both the giver and receiver get an emotional boost in fact, one study showed that getting a compliment has the same positive effect as receiving a cash reward.



"You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power." Deuteronomy 8.18

Dear Valley Methodist friends,

If we let the Holy Bible set the tone for how we enter the new year, there may be no better text than Deuteronomy's three little words "it is he." Preachers sometimes try to write so well, and perform their words so effectively, that three little words like these arrest the hearer's attention for the moment – thinking that if we could say it just right, everyone's eyes would be opened. Everyone's sense of truth would become God's truth. Every listener would be sustained and focused for their spiritual growth.

Kind of laughable though really when you think about it – that a preacher would think (s)he could convey this simply by being really good at what we do, when what the text really says is it doesn't matter whether my preaching is good or bad, or your listening careful and discerning or a million miles away. What we really need to understand is "it is he who gives you power." You don't give power to yourself. No one else can give it to you. Not even if your wildest dreams come true, or everything in life lines up just as you planned it. It is he who gives you power.

This short passage appears in one of the most beautiful and moving chapters of the Old Testament. Moses is preaching to the people of Israel. The long and strenuous journey through the desert is behind them, and the promised land of their forefathers lies before their eyes. These people are now told: 'do not imagine you succeeded in this venture on your own strength! No, it is your God who tested you in the wilderness and at the same time sustained you. It is your God who has given you this good land. Recall this about him, let us recollect this together, this simple but very focused thing: it is he who gives you power.'

So, far more than even in normal years, I believe we can hear this word addressed quite directly to ourselves. Doesn't the journey which lies behind us at the end of 2020 somehow fit the description of this chapter? We too wandered through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water. (vs 15)



*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.*



Spokane Valley United Methodist Women Takeout

1st Annual Easter Dinner

March 27th (Saturday) from 3-5 pm

Adults - \$12

Children (6–12 yrs) - \$6

Children 5 & under - Free

Ham and Creamy Potato Casserole

Vegetable, Salad and Roll

Easter Cake for Dessert

2021 PNW Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Retreat “What We Need Is Here” Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality

March 19 & 20, 2021 on Zoom

Lead by Rev. Brenda Tudor

Are you looking for an “ever-deepening relationship” with God?

Are you finding challenges to growing spiritually?

Take this time to retreat and find exactly what “you need” to draw nearer to God.

Open to all women of the church at no cost.

Retreat based on the book:

What We Need is Here, Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality by L. Roger Owens.

It is available for purchase from Amazon.com.

For more information contact Madelyn Bafus at 869-8213

"The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas

This book is about a 16-year-old Black girl who lives between two worlds. She lives in a poor black neighborhood and attends a fancy suburban white prep school. She is an ordinary girl caught in an extraordinary life. She deals with issues of racism and police violence (she sees a black friend killed by a white policeman). Her community could be destroyed, and she is in danger. A story with heart, intelligence, and steadfast honesty. This book can cause uncomfortable feelings.



"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



Mission Community Outreach Center "Children's Christmas Joy"

**This year we received 24 jeans and 16 tops
Plus \$550 which could buy 20 jeans and 30 tops
That would make a total of 44 jeans and 46 tops**

**To put this in perspective: 2015—20 jeans. 2016—35 jeans
2017—19 jeans and 14 tops, 2018—22 jeans and 38 tops
and 2019—43 jeans and 43 tops**

**We exceeded past years and did this in the midst of a pandemic.
Thank you all but especially thanks and praise to God
who blesses us and shows his glory in so many ways!**

**Mission and Service is ending 2020 with their biggest event!
\$5,000 Special Christmas offering for NAOMI and Family Promise
"With God all things are possible"**

Family Promise helps local communities coordinate their compassion to address the root causes of family homelessness. They tap existing local resources to empower families towards economic stability. Families come to them in crisis. They help them rebuild their lives with new skills and ongoing support. In 2020 they served 1,153 kids, moms and dads (384 families). Besides partnering with over 90 community resources to provide a holistic support for families, they also maintained Spokane's only permanent low barrier, all inclusive 24/7 walk-in shelter.



NAOMI provides a grace-filled environment for women to pursue their healing and break cycles of dependency in their lives. Mothers can find a supportive community of other women, access educational support groups, accountability partners, and resources. At NAOMI, moms have the time, space, and support to recover from trauma and dependency. They make choices about how they want to live and raise their children while building true relationships with other community members who will walk alongside of them.

And isn't it equally true that we are about to walk over a threshold into a future where things will be good, even very good for us? It is a future where we all may sigh with relief, where we all will feel safer and then energized. The coronavirus behind us. Could there be a better time than now to remember that it is he who gives us power?

All the hardships we may have endured in the past, Moses believes, would have been suffered in vain, and all the hope with which we look out into the promised future would be an illusion – were we to forget, were we not to remember, that it is he who gives us power. And the greatest benefit of this simple recollection is not even to think about the past. The greatest benefit of recollection is that it launches expectation, future hope. By praising and crediting God for his power before now, we confidently are launched into expecting God's power in the future. We were not alone this past year, and we will not have to pull ourselves out of the difficulties of the future by ourselves. How great for us then if we choose not to forget this truth? We have every reason to bring it to mind.

"He gives you power!" Power is know-how, skill, freedom to do something. So often life puts a challenge before us which confronts us with our limits. There are so many things we can't do, so many times I have felt this myself, life called for things that I did not have within me. If I had known that my legs had no more muscle fuel in them on the second to last run, heli-skiing in Canada last year, I wouldn't have taken one more run. My legs had limited out, but foolishly I asked them to ski one more – forcing my more athletic new German friend to share some salty vocabulary with the heavens above!

We need strength when we're young, and we need even more strength to grow up and grow old. We need strength not to grow bitter and not to despair in the disappointments of life and in the times of bad luck. We need even more strength to not become shallow and self-congratulatory when things go well and good luck is with us. What we need is the strength only he can give, he who is the source of all power and strength. He does not want to keep it for himself. He wants to give it to us. And he follows through every day: he delivers it.

I am sure that if you do this, if you remember the Lord your God, the power he gives you – like the water from the rock touched by Moses' staff – will begin to trickle, to flow, to rush into your heart and into your life in 2021. His power will carry with it comfort, joy and peace for this coming year, and all the following years. Power to you, precisely to you!

And here is one of the greatest promises of all from God to us: May you and I walk together knowing that this is true:

**the Lord our God has never failed anyone
who prayed for power and strength to
remember him.**

It's going to be an amazing year. Let me leave you with an image. I'm picturing the Roadrunner from the cartoons. Picturing him two feet off the ground with his legs swirling so fast that they are simply a blurred circle of movement. He's not moving anywhere yet, because his churning legs are up in the air. But in just a moment, his feet will hit the dirt and then the race will be on!

That's us — Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, joyfully expecting God's power in the future! We're sprinting, but our feet aren't allowed to hit the dirt yet. But it won't be long, it won't be long. So grateful to be,

Your Pastor, Mike G





**Christian
Education**

01/07	Joylyn McAdams	1/22	Dolores Koch
01/13	Carol Anderson Emily Gutierrez	01/24	Michelle Bos Nancy Croskrey
01/14	Debbie Carney Jennie Tinsley	01/26	Ruth Lang
01/17	Micah Peck	01/28	Ann Singh
01/18	Brian Fisher Capri Nevills	01/30	Pauli Erickson Adam Stultz
01/19	Thomas Lang	01/31	Vicki Brandt Destiny Hallmark
01/21	Dennis Gottberg Jack Pring		



01/01 Drew & Kimber Satter

01/19 Aaron & Jenny Schrock

01/29 Mike & Missy Graef

PRAYERS ANSWERED!!!!

I am very excited to announce that we have hired our Sunday School Teacher!!
Quinn McGuire



Quinn is from Minnesota where she was a nanny for several different families and was a camp counselor at Northern Pines Camp and Retreat Center, which is a Methodist camp for all ages. At this camp, Quinn enjoyed sharing her love for the Lord with children and adult campers. She is experienced in working with special needs children and adults and was a peer minister for several years in her church in Minnesota. Currently, Quinn resides in Electric City where she is a nanny to two young children. She will be moving to Spokane in June but will begin as our Sunday School Teacher on January 2nd.

Please see below introduction from Quinn to you!!

“Hello! I’m Quinn. I was born and raised in Minnesota but, currently, call Washington my home. I grew up being very involved in my local church. I love meeting new people and sharing my love of Jesus, especially through fun games and songs. I was a camp counselor and always found that the moments where I felt closest to God was when I was outside and teaching the love of Christ through activities like canoeing, boating, archery, and meditation. I’ve found that the best teaching moments come through unconventional means. I often incorporate songs and crafts into lessons to help build a deeper meaning on the day’s lesson. I am so excited to start on this new adventure and to share my love of the Lord with all the children. “

Quinn will be reaching out to all you parents to introduce herself and will be working diligently to find the right technology to begin conducting Sunday School lessons that are meaningful and engaging to our children.

Welcome to our church Quinn!!

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
Mark 11:24*