

**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
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Tracey Partridge: Contemporary
Worship & Choir Director
Margie Manfred: Hospitality Director
Nate Dunigan: Technical Ministry
James Gilreath- Youth Worker

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



Return Service Requested

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US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 69
Spokane, WA

CONNECTIONS

JULY 2021

**July 4th Worship at
Spokane Valley UMC,
9 and 11**

**Worship with Holy
Communion July 4, at
home and in the
sanctuary.**

**Welcome to our pulpit
The Rev. Dale Cockrum,
filling in for
Pastor Mike for two
Sundays:
July 4 and July 11.**

**Dale was our District
Superintendent just a
few years ago. Pastor
Mike returns on July 18.**



**In these July pages meet Britny Grovom, our new
Children's Sunday School Teacher! Check out the Youth
Group and Youth Sunday School schedule, with Gil
Gilreath.**

**SPR has been hard at work filling vacancies on our
staff, three more to go: (referrals please!)**

- **Nursery Attendant (s)**
- **9am Choir Director**
- **11am Praise Team Leader**

**Have a great Summer everyone . . . be safe and feel at
church!**

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.*



Caption Reads:
 “Group at Formal Opening of the Spokane Valley Methodist Church April 14, 1940”
 Photo by Leo’s Studios

From Pastor Mike: Dear Valley Methodist Friends, that’s our Chapel! In 1940. The cornerstone reads “1939”. Some of our neighbors were likely still farmers, very few houses or apartments near us then. Sprague became the main drag, even so our church was on “Main Ave & Raymond Rd”.

In the photo to the right from 1960 (l to r) Ed Dean, Maureta Brocklehurst and The Rev. Dr. David Almon break ground in the consecration ceremony for the “new” sanctuary. We built again just six years ago when we remodeled the sanctuary.

Be safe, and feel safe dear friends. We’re on our way back to full strength. “Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come. Tis grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home!” Joyfully, Mike Graef

“CHANGING AND GROWING” — here’s some fun Summer reading, an excerpt from Doris Swehla’s “There’s a Church in the Valley” history book, from August 2000.

“With volunteer labor, proceeds from chicken dinners and concerts as well as gifts from members and friends, the mortgage was burned by Rev. Mark Freeman. Later in 1946 the building dedication service was led by Bishop Baxter.

Next project was to build a parsonage across Main Avenue from the church. At a cost of \$16,000, the building was completed in 1947, and Rev. Filbert and his family moved in just before Christmas. More chicken dinners and concerts, plus the “Dollar a Month” club raised funds for a Hammond organ for the sanctuary.

By 1954, houses were replacing the open fields in the Valley, and families in The neighborhood meant children in Sunday School. Our membership was growing rapidly and it was obvious that we needed more room. With pledges of \$67,000 to the building fund, by 1956 we had a fine new education wing and a multi-purpose room which was also a gymnasium. The building was consecrated by Dr. Richard Decker in October.

According to a previous church history whose author is unknown, “For the next few years, we were involved in outreach programs. The Youth of the church sponsored a displaced young man from Holland, Evert Heineman-Renaud. The venture turned out right well. His first employment was with the Barclay & Brown Store in Spokane.

Through the Spokane Council of Churches, our Commission on Missions, with Mrs. E.H. Smith, chairman, arranged for a refugee family. Arrangements provided by MCOR (Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief) for the Gromow family to arrive in Spokane just before Thanksgiving, 1956; Mr. & Mrs. Kirel Gromow, Peter (10), Maria (8), Katherina (5), Tamara, (2) and Elizabeth (9 months). “Mr. & Mrs. Smith bought a small house, and with the help of member families supplied the household needs for the Gromow family. For several years our church continued to help provide for them.

Knox Abbott was our representative to Spokane Valley Athletic League in 1950. According to an article he wrote, the organization had a “two-fold benefit. It provided exercise and recreation for the young men and boys, and possibly kept them off the streets and out of trouble.”



*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.*

United Methodist Women are at Work around the World

Today, United Methodist Women continues supporting and empowering local women in Central Conferences of the United Methodist Church to be leaders in the church, community and the world. Whether in Peru, Mozambique or the Philippines, these are not just distant places for us. These are places where the gifts of United Methodist Women have supported skills and livelihood projects, founded schools, and provided leadership opportunities for women and girls.

United Methodist Women’s international work focuses on impacting poverty through enhancing the capacities of **local women leaders** and supporting **economic development programs**. We provide women with the tools required to succeed in finding local solutions and making positive, measurable change in their communities.

Here is what we are doing in Kenya

Center for Victims of Torture. Healing psychological wounds of war and famine for Somali refugees. Dadaab Refugee Camp, northeast Kenya.

Operation Hope. Support for supportive intervention to 48 widows living with HIV/AIDS.

Hope Foundation for African Women – Empowering communities to eradicate harmful practices on women and girls.

From United Methodist Women Reading Program

BEYOND LONELINESS: THE GIFT OF GOD'S FRIENDSHIP BY TREVOR HUDSON



This book states “loneliness touch everyone at some time in one's life. It believes there’s good news, God wants to be your friend. It discusses ways to spend time with others, learning about others, being honest and transparent, learning to be a good listener, etc. There are friendship exercises with questions and answers throughout each chapter and at end of each chapter. A tremendous book for all age groups.

TO ALL READERS OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S BOOKS:

The pandemic touched all our lives. The NEW books for 2021 are on the bookshelves in Room 201 next to the chapel. Many of the books in 2021 covers present day issues. I hope you can read one or two before we have to turn in our numbers to District in August. We will receive recognition for the number of books our unit read. Remember all are welcome to read **Women or Men**. Any questions call Anna Jenkins 928-4370 or email aajenkins1@juno.com. HAPPY READING

Anna Jenkins



"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 and Service Ministry wish to thank all who supported the
"Drive Thru Drive Birthday Party for John Wesley"**



**We collected shoes and socks and raised
\$500 for
Mission Community
Outreach Center
11th Annual
School Shoes for Kids**

AND

**Delivered a Cart full of Diapers for
Spokane Valley Partners Diaper Bank**



Mission and Service Team was Blessed from their Zoom Meeting with Katherine!

A few highlights from the Mission & Service Team Zoom meeting with Katherine Parker.

- It was 7:30 Wednesday morning for Katherine and 7 pm Tuesday for us.
- Katherine has been in Nepal since 2014 and as a missionary in Nepal works under the UMN (United Mission to Nepal) which has a staff of 120 people, 10 missionaries, 110 Nepali's and 15 community agencies.
- When the Pandemic hit Nepal the country immediately shut down. Schools being shut down did not stop the children's ability to learn. Lessons were broadcasted on the radio for the children. The grocery stores are open from 7-11am only.
- Nepal has a vaccination rate of 2.5%, 7,200 Napalis have died due to COVID and they presently have been hit by the upsurge in India.

In a few months we are again hoping to zoom with Katherine and would love to have others join us. It is so amazing to talk live with someone 12 1/2 hours ahead of us.

As a side note we are now able to send \$1,000 to the projects in Nepal due to your generosity from the May 18th Drive Thru and other donations.

**Mark your calendar for Next Drive Thru Drive—August 25th
benefiting our support of Emany at Jamaa Letu Orphanage**

"Since church attendance was required for participation, this was a means of keeping them in Sunday School. This seems to be the age at which they drift away.

"The League grew from 6 teams to a high of 24 teams in 4 classifications with about 250 boys participating. Through the years this has been a good program for recruiting unchurched boys and holding our own boys. There are whole families in the church who first came because their boy played basketball."

Things never stayed the same for very long. In 1959, the total membership was 680, it was clear that we were outgrowing our sanctuary. Three options were presented: remodel the present facility; move to another site; build a new sanctuary. After all the pros and cons were discussed at length, finances were arranged, and ground was broken November 20, 1960, and the cornerstone laid in February, 1961. Funds for furnishing the new sanctuary were very scarce, but memorial gifts provided things like pews, organ, bible holder and cross, kitchen equipment, hymnals, the lighted exterior cross and library equipment.

During the 1950s and '60s, whole families participated in church activities, and MYF was the place to be on Sunday evening. Most of one's friends were members of the same church, and youth groups were huge. Many people have worked with our young people in the past 94 years, but "The Bonnies" seem to evoke the strongest, fondest memories. For many years, Bonnie (Schultz) Randles and Bonny Moss were leaders, counselors and friends to the youth of our church.

At one time, under the direction of Shirley Richner, we had about 80 young people in choirs. Our Youthsingers performed all over the northwest, and presented concerts at our own church that drew a full house every time. Some others involved in the music of the church at that time were Edgar Mason, Lois Iller, Jake Mauk, Kathy and Dave Murbach, and the singing Croskreys who even made a record of their own. We bought two organs for the sanctuary since 1961, with Ron Shaffer being the liaison between church and organ company. The grand piano in the sanctuary was donated by Larry and Yvonne Thompson, and for a while, Larry accompanied the congregational singing on it.



For about ten years, Carol Filippini was our organist, and several people substituted for Carol now and then, including Ruth Mogan, a Methodist Deaconess and Lucille Hurlbut. Marcie Matthies served as Choir Director for several years, followed by David W. Johnson (not to be confused with Dr. David J. Johnson, pastor beginning in 1999). Dave Johnson's wife, Cindy, played the organ and sang in the choir. When Bob Roberts was pastor, his wife, Julie, first served as choir accompanist, later as choir director and organist for worship services.

In the 1980s, we purchased three octaves of hand bells, and in the '90s, we received a set of chimes in memory of Janet Shaffer's father. The Chimaleers, as they were first called, were led first by Peggy Rudolph, then by David Johnson and Julie Roberts. Maggie Wild came to SVUMC with a background in hand bell choir and has become an accomplished solo ringer in recent years.

1999 introduced us to Jeff Batdorf, as music director, and Synnove Anderson organist, who are leading us at the beginning of the 21st Century."

Happy Birthday



07/02 Laura Gottberg
Pat Palanuk

07/03 Karen Goyins
Maya Simonson

07/07 Pearl Hansen

07/08 Laura Gardner
Gary Holmes

07/09 Richard Dawe

07/13 Heather Reynen

07/15 Barbara Burnside

07/16 Asher Cheney

07/20 Jeff Danner

07/21 Phil Chesley

07/23 Josephine Killingsworth

07/24 Jerry Miller

07/25 Lori Douglas

07/28 Dennis Forster

07/29 Brandon Meckel

07/30 Roberta Headley

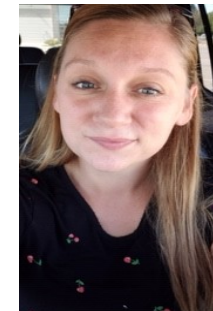
07/31 Joan Kelly



07/05 Ed & Joan Kelly

07/20 Jenni & Aveek Majumdar

07/29 Brian & Georgiann Cheney



Meet our new Sunday School Teacher, Britny Grovom!

Britny Moved to Spokane 3 years ago and works full-time at Spokane Child Development Center. Britny has worked with children of all ages and taught Sunday School for a year in Aurora Oregon. She is anxious to share her love of the lord with our church children and to join our church family. Britny joined our staff on June 26th and will be teaching her first Sunday School class on July 11th. From Britny- "I want to thank you all for welcoming me into your church family. I am looking forward to growing and learning with this new family. I cannot wait to become part of such a great group of amazing people"

Sunday School begins July 11th!

Come see our new Sunday School rooms!!

We will be having 1 Sunday School class for ages 4-12, starting at 9:00am-10:00am in room 209 or 210 depending on how many children we have.

YOUTH

Our Youth programs are up and running!!

Youth Sunday School- Sunday mornings at 9am

Youth Group- Sunday nights at 6:00pm

Basketball- Wednesday nights- July 7th, 14th and 21st!

All youth and friends are welcome!

Coffee Chat- July 4th Youth are serving!

Come meet our youth while they pour you a cup of coffee

Adults

Adult Sunday School starts on July 11th from 10:30 to 11:30 in Room 115. Linda Hansen has chosen the book of Matthew to kick off this class. If you are interested in joining, please contact Linda Hansen via phone at:208-620-0158 or by email at tweetiword@yahoo.com

Opportunity

Are you looking for some extra income? Love Children? We are looking to hire a Nursery Caregiver. Position is 4 hours on Sunday from 8:30-12:30. If you are interested, please contact Desiree Forster by phone at: 924-7262 or by email at: christianeducation@spokanevalleychurch.org