

**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**  
**Noreen Duffy: Church Secretary**  
**Ed Poblete: Custodian**  
**Alyssa Arnold: Children's Ministry**  
**Kyra Straub: Youth Ministry**  
**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-Friday**  
**9:00am to 3:00pm**  
**Closed Noon to 1:00pm**

**Church Website:**  
[www.spokanevalleychurch.org](http://www.spokanevalleychurch.org)  
**Church E-mail:**  
[secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org](mailto:secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org)



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# CONNECTIONS

June 2020



**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.*

"Let's think of something to do while we're waiting  
While we're waiting for something new to do."  
Fred M Rogers 1928-2003

### DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know that if you signed an estimate of giving card that information will show up on your giving statement? This is for your information and possible action only. We are NOT going to come asking you to "pay up".

## From Our Pastor, Mike Graef

Dear Valley Methodist friends,

A time of waiting can be a time of flourishing. That was one of the messages that "Mr Rogers" brought into our living room when we were raising our kids back in the mid-1990s. Waiting ugh. Is there anything harder for a child to do than wait? Nobody likes to wait. But Mr Rogers wrote a song about it, and he would sing it fairly often on the TV show, which we watched daily. Our family loved it. We sang it on long car trips. We pulled it out any time the kids struggled to wait. When the complaints started to turn to hollering or even crying hysterically, Missy would just start to sing, "let's think of something to do while we're waiting."

"Let's Think of Something To Do"

Written by Fred Rogers | © 1982, Fred M. Rogers

Let's think of something to do while we're waiting  
While we're waiting for something new to do.  
Let's try to think up a song while we're waiting  
That's liberating and will be true to you.  
Let's think of something to do while we're waiting  
While we're waiting 'til something's through.  
You know it's really all right;  
In fact, it's downright quite bright  
To think of something to do  
That's specific for you.  
Let's think of something to do while we're waiting.

Perfect right?! I mean that is the message that I need to hear. What about you? Something to do while we're waiting . . . exactly! what we need right now. That little song offers a promise. A time of waiting can be a time of flourishing. There is something "to do" while we're waiting – waiting for a vaccine for the coronavirus, waiting for church to open up, waiting for our communities to be safe again for vulnerable people.

This is truly a moment "between the times". And we don't know how long we will be living between the times; between the time we first heard about the coronavirus and COVID-19, and the time when it's terrible teeth are dulled, it's jaw mostly shut, and we no longer have to live in fear. I know a few things for myself during these weeks and months between the times. Selfishly let me just state one of those up front (I expect many of you will feel the same) : I don't want to get the coronavirus, and I don't want to get COVID-19. In fact I will do just about anything to protect myself and my family from getting this bug. It's a very bad bug. I'm a really healthy guy, but it could kill me.

Now let us broaden that a bit, and then broaden it a lot: we don't want anyone in our family, or anyone we know, or anyone in our city or country, or even in our world – to get coronavirus or COVID-19. Now bring that back a little bit closer to home: we don't want anyone in our church community to be put at risk for contracting coronavirus or COVID-19 by anything they participate in, in the buildings here at Main & Raymond. Which means as your pastor I need to be able to get happy for awhile longer in this crazy time between the times. Something to do? Something to do while we're waiting?



### Spokane Valley United Methodist Church Mahan Memorial Scholarship 2020-2021 Academic Year Scholarship Time is Here!

This scholarship is available to students attending school for an undergraduate or graduate degree during the 2020-2021 academic year. Applicant must be a member or an active constituent of Spokane Valley United Methodist Church. Scholarships will be for a minimum amount each of \$700. This year, please call the church (509-924-7262) so an application may be mailed to you. Completed applications must be received in the Church Office by July 5, 2020 to be considered.

Prayer  
MINISTRY

Prayer is a priority at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church. It supports the needs of the Church, individuals, community and our world. For all of your prayer requests contact Margie Collin email: [prayer\\_svumc@yahoo.com](mailto:prayer_svumc@yahoo.com)

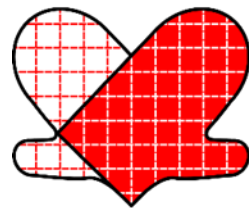
#### A huge thank you from the finance team!

The minutes from our May 12th Zoom meeting contain this phrase, "Revenue slightly ahead of projections." This is just astonishing in light of what our nation and our community, and our church family are going through right now. In April even without the ability to gather in church for any worship services, you gave \$31,341.90 in tithes and offerings. The month of May looks to be also very strong, and as of this writing we still have one Sunday to go. More people are using online giving. Please remember that online giving does limit your donations to two funds 1) the general fund or budget, 2) the building fund. It is not possible to designate to any other funds when you give online.

You should feel very proud as a church family that you have been able to pay the salaries of all of our staff during the coronavirus pandemic. This has helped several families stay afloat during a time of catastrophic rises in unemployment across America and right here in Spokane Valley. Our church exists to resource your life with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to minister the unlimited love of God. Our tithes and offerings are first an act of praise and thanksgiving to God, the matchless Giver. We give not because the church needs money, but because people need to give. Heartfelt thanks to you who give tithes and offerings to support this ministry. We're glad for all of the wonderful charities you support in addition to our church, and we're glad that for you yourself, Spokane Valley United Methodist Church is the place you call your church home. Whether you're a member here or a recent visitor, our church shines bright with the Gospel to bless your life. You have encouraged us all beyond measure. Thank you that we can continue to count on your financial support in these months ahead.

Co Chairs Gerry Bafus and Jim Droppers. Plus Lowell Brocklehurst, Shirley Porter, Pauli Erickson, Mike Graef, Ed Kelly, Nancy Moore, Sue Ingalls, Wey Simpson and Ron Pope.

Thank you for Sharing  
at  
Mission & Service  
Drive Through Drives  
Held on  
May 5th and June 2nd



Helping Hands  
serving one another in love  
GALATIANS 5:13



### Happy Birthday John Wesley

*"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

**John Wesley** was born in Epworth, England, on June 28, 1703. John was brought up in a deeply religious

atmosphere. At the age of five, he was rescued from a burning rectory which left a lasting impression on him of the grace of God. Wesley became one of the most prolific preachers and travellers of all time. He continually travelled around the country, offering sermons where-ever people would receive him. It is estimated that he "rode 250,000 miles, gave away 30,000 pounds, . . . and preached more than 40,000 sermons. His writings provided a core of standard doctrine and interpretation to guide the new Methodist movement.

From John Wesley we learn that faith and good works belong together. What we believe must be confirmed by what we do. Personal salvation must be expressed in ministry and mission in the world. We believe that faith should inspire service. Because of what God has done for us, we offer our lives back to God through a life of service. Love of God is always linked to love of neighbor and to a passionate commitment to seeking justice and renewal in the world.

On June 28 let us celebrate John's birthday doing something that would have made him smile. Join the Mission and Service Ministry Team in a **Drive Through Drive Birthday Party for John**.

What might John want for a present? He might like a new pair of school shoes for a child in need. Mission and Service invites you to help Mission Community Outreach Center "School Shoes for Kids." Buying a pair of shoes at this time in the middle of the pandemic may not be possible but you can bring your monetary donation and Mission Community Outreach Center will be purchasing shoes. If you have already purchased shoes they will be gratefully accepted. At this time they do not know when or how they will be able to give out shoes but their board is in the midst of planning an event that has a possible date in August.

**So come to the party on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2 pm.  
Mission and Service masked team members will gratefully accept your gift.  
They will have party favors to give out as a thank you.**

## From Our Pastor, Mike Graef, continued

As I write today, we are still in Phase One as a United Methodist church. Phase Two doesn't really do us much good here, and we really don't know when Bishop Stanovsky will declare that we are in Phase Two anyway. What we really want is Phase Three – when because of Washington State's discipline of social distancing, because of wearing masks as a whole community, we have truly flattened the curve. To be in Phase Three as a United Methodist Church would mean that we are truly confident if not certain – that a person 65 years or younger, wearing a mask, in otherwise good health, could with the discipline of being socially distanced, attend a worship service in our building. This person would not sing hymns or songs, nor would anyone sing in the same room toward them or behind them, but (s)he could listen and hum along as vocal music is offered on video, or maybe even sung from our courtyard through the glass. And of course this person would be together in prayer and sermon and Bible and leave strengthened by the fellowship. And their week would be different because they started it with worship on a Sunday morning.

Dear friends we United Methodists in the Pacific Northwest have truly found together something to do while we're waiting. We are each one of us, each UM congregation, asked to draw up a plan to be ready for Phase Two and Three. (Phase Four too but that's way off.) This task has been taken on by a team in our church already, and we hope to submit our first draft to District Superintendent Gregg Sealey in two weeks or so. If any of you under 65 are wondering, "when can I come back to church?" hang in there. It will happen. Thursday's May 28 Spokesman Review has a great article (Restrictions Eased On Religious Services) indicating that lots of churches will be open this coming Sunday, May 31. Not us yet. But this is changing and evolving so fast, I'm just staying hopeful that for Valley Methodist it will be sooner than later. Those over 65? Changing and evolving for you also. That same SR article had a good word in it for anyone, "Those who are ill or are anxious about attending a gathering should stay home." So our plan is to bring church to you in addition to opening up here. We will keep doing this and we'll get better at it.

Lots more detail to come on this. But for now I just want to say, Mr Rogers was right. A time of waiting can be a time of flourishing. I feel deeply challenged by this. This time has struck a nerve, it's been a gut punch. I think our church family is really hurting right now. That's part of living between the times. But we're also strong. Because of God's Spirit and God's faithfulness we are full of hope, and day by day there is joy. I have no answers, but let's walk together in this question: what will we "do" while we wait? Knowing us, there will be fun involved!

Our Valley Methodist Church continues to grow through this. Might we even be getting stronger? For sure there will be new opportunities for ministry as this opens up in the next few months. Picture the new faces we will see. Who are the new people we will meet here? People who now understand their spiritual need more than ever. Some of those will seek out a church somewhere. A few of them will come here. We'll look at them and they will look at us and we'll say to each other, 'I can see you're hurting, and I'm hurting in the same way. I feel shaken and I can sense you do too.' And then together we will find support. We'll find the presence of the One who knows how to heal our wounds, restore our joy, and speed up our steps to bring God's love to others. The call will be upon us, and even stronger and more vividly felt than ever before.

Between the Times, I'm challenged but also really encouraged. You have been a big part of encouraging me. Thank you! So here it is, something to "do" – a beautiful Word for today:

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:9-10

So grateful to be,  
Your Pastor, Mike G

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Recognizing our Graduates will be held once we are able to come together as a church family again. This year we have one college graduate and two high school graduates. Our college graduate is Cassandra Partridge. She graduated from the University of Idaho. She has just received her Masters Degree in Family and Consumer Services and she specialized in Nutrition and Cognition. GO VANDALS! Brooke Bos was Home-schooled but also attended Valley Christian School and Central Valley High School. She will be attending Washington State University in the autumn. GO COUGS! Our other high school graduate is Abigail McKibben from Lakeland High School in Rathdrum, ID. Abbie will be going to Indiana University in Pennsylvania. GO CRIMSON HAWKS! WE ARE VERY PROUD OF ALL OF YOU!

**Mahan Scholarships will be available soon! Keep your eyes open for announcements regarding the application!**

Soon we will be able to look back at COVID-19 and the social-distancing and isolation that most of us have gone through. For most it will be a memory and a closely held story to tell your children and grandchildren. For others it may even have made your life better. You were able to spend time with your families, read, write in journals, keep in touch with friends by phone, computer and hopefully by mail. NO MATTER HOW THIS HAS BEEN A PART OF YOUR LIFE, remember that we all care for each other, care about each other and God watches over all. Be Safe!

Craig and I can't wait to see you all again!

JUNE Schedule:

06/21 FATHER'S DAY - spend this time with your Dad



## Earn Bible Bucks at Home!

We want to give all children an opportunity to continue to earn Bible Bucks for what they do at home with their family. Once together on a Sunday morning again, the child will have an opportunity to show their teacher what they have learned over this break to receive their Bible Bucks. At that time, have kids ready to recite verses, find a given verse in the Bible, or bring completed projects from home!

## Here are some ways they can earn Bible Bucks:

- Memorize verses
- Find verses in the Bible
- Complete Bible crafts and projects
- Be a good helper to family members

***"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are grown they will not turn from it." -Proverbs 22:6***

## BIRTHDAYS

- 06/01 Kyia Warner
- 06/02 Craig Partridge
- 06/03 Carmen Shaffer
- 06/04 Erica Lovchik
- 06/05 Randy Waters
- 06/07 Renee Norris  
Jaime Wallace
- 06/08 Robin Gregory  
Carol Lingow
- 06/10 Susan Henderson
- 06/11 Carla Joyal  
Megan Wallace
- 06/12 Nancy Ashworth
- 06/14 Bryan Gieser
- 06/15 Idell Choate
- 06/16 Michael Gieser
- 06/17 Ed Kelly
- 06/18 Lois Simpson
- 06/21 Bruce Butler
- 06/22 Sylvia Seipp
- 06/23 Brent Bos  
Ron Pope
- 06/24 Dorothy Merriman
- 06/25 Megan Herdrich  
Sharon Holmes
- 06/26 Wey Simpson
- 06/28 Russell Gray  
Cole King  
Ron Walter



## Anniversaries

- 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  
Jim & Karen Droppers
- 06/11 Walt & Joan Sheard
- 06/12 Brian & Stephanie Fisher
- 06/14 Mick & Pat Palanuk
- 06/15 Michael & Jodi Mackin
- 06/16 Evan & Alyssa Arnold  
Gary & Sharon Holmes  
John & Lolita Kirkland
- 06/23 Carl & Anna Jenkins
- 06/25 Ryan & Heidi Peterson
- 06/28 Michael & April Cheney  
Jack & Donna Pring
- 06/29 Jerry & Shannon Miller

