

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

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 69  
Spokane, WA

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



**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.*



# CONNECTIONS

## May 2022

### Happy Mothers Day!



*Please Join us for*

**Pastor Mike's Retirement Celebration!**  
Thursday, June 2nd at  
5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Rsvp at (509) 924-7262

Reservations needed no later than May 13th

(Seating is limited)

*Monetary Gift of Appreciation Welcome*

Dear Valley Methodist Friends,

It has been one of the great honors of my life to serve as your pastor these past 12 years. For myself personally, it's also been a gift of God's grace that God chose me to come to Spokane Valley UMC for this last chapter of my professional career. There are a few things that are quirky and interesting as I look back and reflect:

\* I've been able to stay longer in every appointment since coming out of Drew seminary in 1987. One year in Wenatchee; three in Colfax; five at Spokane: Covenant; six at Vancouver: Salmon Creek; eight on the Vancouver District; and twelve at Spokane Valley. I've enjoyed most of these years, and survived 2 churches that (like with horses) tried to buck me off.

\* God did not bless me with all of the natural gifts needed to be a good pastor. But what I lacked in natural gifts, I was able to somewhat compensate for by acquiring skills – which required great patience from my early congregations especially.

\* I've been incredibly lucky that never in all these years has any church that I've served paid less than 100% of conference apportionments. This is a tribute purely to the laity, not to me. But it kept the DS off my back every year, thank you!

\* Landing here 12 years ago was a bit of coming home, and a bit of coming to a place I've 'never been before'. 'Never been before' because the role of a pastor is so unique – and of course I had no idea what your journey as a congregation actually had been. My 10 years here as a child and youth from 1964-74 were years where I received all you had to give. Now it was time to help you give to others. I praise God for you dear congregation, because you received what I was able to do well, and put up with what I have always done poorly and continued to struggle with, with you, and you were committed and gracious from beginning to end.

Last week I had a wonderful moment all by myself in the downstairs choir room, searching through file cabinets for particular choir anthem. I didn't find the choir anthem, but I found a file folder with my mother's handwriting on it. She had an unmistakable left handed way of writing. And there it was, from the years that she had directed the Methodist Youth Singers, 1972-74 (I think). So as we come full circle and my last Sunday of June 12 approaches, I am filled with a sense of awe and wonder – at how astonishingly blessed I am to have been your pastor these past 12 years. I believe one thing with all my heart: your best years as a congregation are ahead of you! Hope, Trust, Joy, Outward Focus, and Intentional Diversity will be used by God's Holy Spirit as he shepherds you to new adventures I cannot even conceive of, with your new Pastor Alissa Bertsch.

Can't wait for these Sundays of May, one at a time, to come! Come join me, let's have fun together! I'm so grateful still today to be, Your Pastor, Mike Graef

**Thank**

Thank you to all the Volunteers who helped with Holy Week,

Palm Sunday, Sedar Meal, Easter Cross, Easter Brunch,  
Easter Egg Hunt

**You**

**Please keep Reverend Alissa Bertsch in your prayers**



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

**Thank you to all who supported  
the 2nd Annual Easter Takeout Dinner  
It was a successful event, making \$1,176 for Mission Giving**

### **Spokane Valley United Women in Faith Prayer Shawl Ministry**

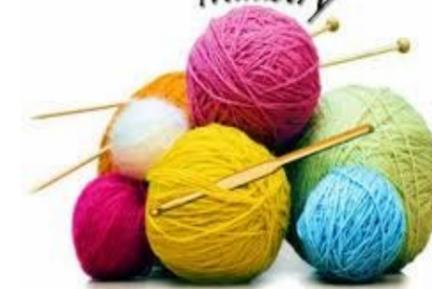
If you love to knit or crochet please join us in this ministry.  
We meet in the Fireplace Room every other Thursday from 10 –12.  
Our next time together will be May 12th and 26th.

We provide prayer shawls for those in our church and community  
in need of healing and prayers.  
Join us in making prayer shawls with us or in your home.

If you have made a prayer shawl and would like to donate  
it to the ministry, please bring it to the Connect Desk any Sunday.  
If you know of someone who needs comfort and healing,  
please visit the Connect Desk to select a prayer shawl that you  
can take to the recipient.  
Along with the Prayer Shawl a card will be included.

Prayer Shawls provide warmth and embrace the recipient  
through the prayers and presence of a loving church and the  
presence of a loving God.  
For further information contact Jodi Mackin at 509-979-0310

*Prayer Shawl  
Ministry*



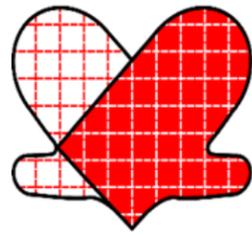
### **We invite you to visit our circles**

**Sarah Circle** will meet May 2nd in the Fireplace Room at 6:30 pm.  
Contact Robin Gregory, 509-443-5953

**Esther Circle** will meet May 10th in the Fireplace Room at 12:00 pm.  
Contact Sue McGovney, 509-924-1555

**Rachel Circle** will meet May 12th in the Fireplace Room at Noon.  
Contact Mary Alice Jones, 509-921-1982

**Rebekah Circle** will meet May 17th in Room 115 at 11:00 am.  
Contact Nancy Olds, 509-928-2930



**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 Your Support**

**At the Connect Desk in May**

**Naomi paper drive**—May 1, 8 and 15

Paper towels and toilet paper for Naomi Community

**Broadway Appreciation Breakfast**—May 8, 15 and 22

Sign up to help Mission and Service host this event on May 26  
We last served this breakfast April 25, 2019

**Spring Cleaning for Mission Community Outreach Center**—May 22, 29 and June 5th

MCOOC donation room is empty.

They are in need of clothing, blankets, towels and shoes.

Bring your donations to the Connect Desk. MCOOC will pick up donations each week

**Shalom Ministries**—May 22 and 29

Shalom is in need of men's gently used shoes sizes 12 and up.

**Cinnamon Roll Sale**—May 15

This sale supports our Covenant Relationship with Katherine Parker.

We hope to complete our commitment for our 2023 Covenant Relationship with this event.

We need to raise \$503.14 to reach our goal of \$2,040 .

Come and join us, purchase a cinnamon roll and celebrate reaching our goal!

**Thank you for supporting Advance #982450**

**United Methodist Committee on Relief responding to the Ukrainian People**  
**\$2,070 has been raised so far.**

**April 24th was the last served Sunday Free Lunch Meal**

Sunday Free Lunch has been a program since 1998. Mission and Service has decided to close Sunday Free Lunch Program due to decline in numbers and cost. This has been a service to our community but it is now time to look at other possible outreach opportunities.

This was not an easy decision but the members of the team feel that it was time to make a change. Celebrate with them the mission of Sunday Free Lunch and the new doors God will open.

Thank you to all for your support of Sunday Free Lunch through your service.

Mary Picken, Sunday Free Lunch Coordinator



# Happy Birthday

**05/01** Marilyn Clements

Drew Satter

Mary Jane Waters

**05/02** Sharon Maxey

**05/04** Theresa Meckel

**05/05** Pat Bishop

**05/06** Wes Holmquist

**05/07** Meredith Elsesohn

Glenda Lovchik

**05/08** Casandra Partridge

**05/10** Chandra Reiber

Samantha Wallace

**05/11** Brian Cheney

**05/12** Dorothy Carpinteyro

**05/015** Jim Crull

**05/18** Brian Bos

**05/20** Brent Gregory

Cliff Maxey

**05/21** Carl Jenkins

Claudia Michael

**05/28** Alex Reiber

**05/29** Kyndal Gebhart

Margret Natividad

**5/30** Beth Ross



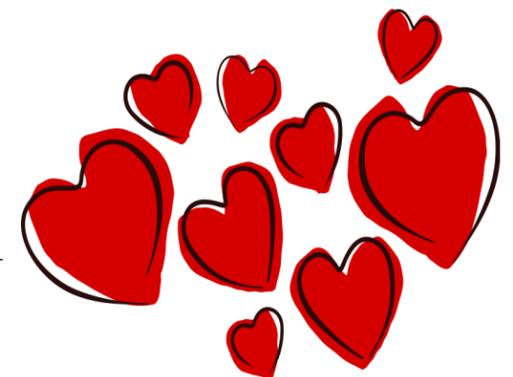
# Happy Anniversary

**05/01** David & Dommie Oswald

**05/06** Will & Amber Schilling

**05/08** Rob & Rachel Peck

**05/30** John & Stephanie Mackin



**ANNOUNCING AN ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE**, for Spokane Valley United Methodist Church. Meeting to be led by DS Rev Daniel Miranda, and other leadership as he appoints.

**Sunday, May 15, 11 AM, in the Chapel**, with two items of business:

1) To set the pastor's compensation and accountable reimbursement budget amounts, for the second half of 2022.

2) To ask the gathering to receive a motion, second, and vote up or down, the recommendation of the ad hoc SPR/Finance/and Trustees team to sell the church-owned parsonage, and appoint the Board of Trustees to lead and complete the sale as they see fit, representing the All-Church Conference and the entire congregation in their actions with full support.

Spokane Valley UMC's All Church Conference accepts as a quorum those who are physically gathered in the Chapel at that hour. Every member of the church has voice and vote, every constituent, friend and worshipper has voice. No votes shall be included from those not present.

**MOTION:** that the All-Church Conference of Spokane Valley United Methodist Church hereby directs and authorizes the SVUMC Board of Trustees to lead and complete the sale of the parsonage at 10915 E 24<sup>th</sup> Ave – with all haste and priority of greatest stewardship of income for our church.

**WHEREAS:**

1. Our incoming pastor, Rev. Alissa Bertsch, has declined to live in the parsonage – having her own house for she and her family to live in.
2. SVUMC is now to be guided by the UM Book of Discipline in all matters related to the proceeds of the sale of the parsonage.
3. The ad hoc committee's recommendation is to sell rather than rent out the parsonage.
4. Investment of the capital from the sale will produce interest which can be used to provide Rev. Alissa Bertsch and other pastors to follow with a housing allowance.
5. The amount of principal can be used for capital improvement projects in the future, as approved by the All Church Conference of SVUMC in that future time.
6. United Methodist churches who sell their parsonages often never need a parsonage again, but continue to provide housing for their pastor through a housing allowance.



Christian Education

**May 1st, God Gives Us The Bible**

This lesson will help children understand that the Bible is a precious gift from God. The Bible teaches us how to live a life that will please God.

**May 8th, Special Mothers In The Bible**

A lesson to celebrate mothers everywhere, for Mother's Day or anytime of the year. Children learn about three special mothers.

**May 15th, God Gives Us Jesus**

This lesson will help children realize that Jesus is God's most precious gift. Jesus came to earth to be with us, teach us, save us, and give us a way to know God in a personal way.

**May 22, Fishers Of Men**

This lesson will help the children understand that Jesus calls all people, from all walks of life, to follow Him.

**May 29th, Go And Tell**

This lesson will further help children understand that Jesus wants them to go and tell others about Him and the wonderful plan that God has for their lives.

**Spokane Valley United Methodist Church  
Mahan Memorial Scholarship  
2022-2023 Academic Year Scholarship Time is Here!**

This scholarship is available to students attending school for an undergraduate or graduate degree. Applicant must be a member or an active constituent of SVUMC.

Scholarships will be for a minimum amount of \$700. Please call the church (509-924-7262) to request an application. Completed applications must be received in the church office by May 8, 2022.

**\$1500 Scholarship opportunity for students in the  
Pacific Northwest Conference!**

Please call the church (509-924-7262) to request the email link to apply

