

**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
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

Church E-mail:

secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org



Return Service Requested

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



CONNECTIONS

March 2020



Mission Fair April 5th,
One service in the sanctuary at 10:00 am

This is an exciting opportunity to learn about the many groups, events, international missions, and outreach projects that are part of Spokane Valley United Methodist Church. New and updated ministry books will be available.



GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP

March 29- Lets fill the sanctuary and get growing! Invite a friend, make a friend, or give a call to someone you haven't seen for awhile. We will have special music both in the services and at Coffee Chat. This is a great chance to join together and make new friends!

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.*



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 at (509) 922-8371 or email: prayer_svumc@yahoo.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know that if each giving unit (person or family) would add just \$1 a week (\$52/year) it would amount to over \$5000 additional income for the budget?

The Senior Lunch Bunch

will meet on Sunday, March 8th at 12:30 pm at Crimson Hearth (11003 E. Sprague)

Reservations are required so that we can give the restaurant an accurate count. Please sign up at the Just Ask Me Desk. If you need to cancel or have questions, please contact Nancy Ashworth, 509 993 9074 or nancya53@live.com.



PEEK AT THE PAST



Our faithful stove, brand new in 1974!



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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.

**All Women of the Church are Invited to Attend
Spokane Valley United Methodist Women General Meeting**

Friday March 20, 2020

11 a.m. - Salad Lunch

11:45 a.m. – Program – “Tacoma Community House”

Presented by Angela Reed, Community Organizer

As a community organizer for Tacoma Community House, she works to connect faith communities to the vision of TCH to welcome the stranger.

**We will be collecting hats, gloves, scarves for all ages.
Angela will be taking these back to Tacoma Community House**

Childcare is provided, one month to five years.
Reservations required. Call the church office at **924-7262**.



**Mark your calendar for this upcoming event - United Methodist Women Spring Luncheon
April 25th**

Program – Covenant UMC Marimba Band

"Raising World Changers in a Changing World: How One Family Discovered the Beauty of Sacrifices and Joy of Giving"

by Kristen Welch

The author believes, in our changing world, parents must change how to practice parenting. The book tells us of breath taking and personal stories that impacts many families today. Parents must raise their children to be generous with their time and abilities to build character.

Each chapter begins with a strong statement, leading to the importance of generosity in our changing world. The chapters ends with the author in conversation with her children for their views on the materials discussed. Also listing two ways to practice generosity. The book provided two directions for parenting today -- HOPE AND LOVE with DIRECTIONS.

One of the BEST book I have read in years on Parenting. Easy to read and great suggestions for parents. Remember our children are our FUTURE!

-Anna Jenkins





Thank you to all who helped with the room parties at Broadway Elementary this school year! It was great fun, the teachers appreciated the help but more importantly it was the smiles on the faces of the children that warmed their hearts.



**Thank you
to all who contributed to
a Successful
Paper Product Collection
for Naomi**

Broadway Elementary School Teachers Luncheon on March 26th

- Sign up for soups, salads and cookies will be at the Just Ask Me desk on Sundays, March 3 and 10. The teachers enjoy the soups made by the great cooks at Spokane Valley UMC. We receive so many thank yous. They say this lunch is so special. Don't miss this opportunity to be in service to our neighbors.

Update from Eastern Washington Legislative Conference

Mission and Service hosted and provided lunch for this event. Thank you to all who helped. This fundraiser supports our financial commitment to our covenant relationship with Katherine Parker. After the cost of food we raised \$740.96. Added to what has been raised so far we now have a balance of \$908.31 toward our total commitment of \$1,930.

A Thank You Message

Dear Spokane Valley United Methodist Congregation,

On behalf of Lutheran Community Services Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Foster Care Program, we want to express our thank you for your donation from the Christmas Letter. The money helped purchase gifts cards that our youth in the program can utilize as they transition to Independent Living. We have nine youth that are in Independent Living with many more anticipated. These youth will be able to benefit from the grocery cards and the ability to buy some basic household necessities as they start this new transition in life. Thank you again for this blessing.

God Bless,

~The Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Team.

"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

From Our Pastor, Mike Graef

Dear Valley Methodist Friends,

Let's step into Lent. "Are you drifting, are you driven, or are you directed?" That's one of the best questions I've ever been asked, and so I pose it to you: "Are you drifting, are you driven, or are you directed?" Drifting is moving aimlessly, constantly floating, or moving about. Driven, propelled by or motivated by something, but not always sure what that something is. Directed is to be guided, watched over and then shown a path, a way forward, a vision. In the Christian life we don't want to drift, or be driven, we want to be directed. Jesus offers to be our director: "I am the Good Shepherd," he says.

One of the life lessons I've learned as a player in orchestras, is that the conductor up on the podium, the man or woman with the baton, counting time, cueing people – the orchestra will actually accomplish what the conductor believes they can accomplish. If the conductor is lazy, the orchestra will think, 'ok, we can be lazy.' But if the conductor says, 'we can do this, we can reach the beautiful goal' the orchestra will rise up. Take the challenge. They'll go home and practice, they'll work hard in rehearsal, and they'll give it everything they've got.

A Christian is one who looks up to the conductor of their life, God in Christ, and says, 'this One really believes in me. Believes in the goal of my life. Believes I can do this.' You can be directed by the God of the universe. That is called being a "spiritual" person. And you can be a spiritual person. You don't have to drift, you don't have to be driven, you can be directed – and rise up, and work hard at this, and rest and relax, and press on, and reach the goal one day.

Paul the Apostle continually re-upped his commitment to the goal, such as he remarks when he tells the Philippians (3.12-14):

"Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Our Lent 2020 began with ashes. The ashes of Ash Wednesday say that we don't have to live our life in a state of forgetfulness about the goal of our life. The dead ash is the end of that amnesia. There it is, the beautiful goal. We have a Redeemer, a conductor, who brings grace. Grace is the gift of a new beginning. So we leave forgetfulness in the past, and we remember that the beautiful goal is where we want to be headed. The One on the podium cues us: 'you don't ever have to do this alone. Yes it's going to take some work at home, self-denial, yes. Become a living sacrifice, yes. You're going to need to practice, but it'll be so worth it. I'm going to get you there!' says Jesus.

What does that prize look like for you this Lent? As you begin a season of 5 weeks this could really be a renewal time for you. What's the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus in your life? What's the beautiful goal of your life right now? The twinkle in your eyes when you were a baby promised you a beautiful goal. Life's harshness makes it hard to see sometimes. But Lent says it's still there. There's a beautiful goal for your life. Are you will to be directed toward it?

The early Christian pilgrims said, 'I'm going to start out toward it right now. For these 40 days of Lent, I'm going to follow the path of the Ash. And deny myself, and get back to being directed again. To the Great Goal, the beautiful goal. the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.'

Let's do that together, walk that path together. Welcome to Lent 2020! From our UM Book of Worship:

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. Let us bow before our creator and redeemer."

Grateful to be,
your pastor,
Mike



Praise God with a grateful heart. I thank all who kept me in their thoughts and prayers. God is good. –Marilyn Wixom

Thank you to our wonderful congregation for donating \$533.54 to Family Promise in the SOUP-ER BOWL of CARING this year! Thank you to those that gave and to the Youth that collected the donations.



Saturday, March 28th from 9:00—11:00.

Bring your favorite rags, dusters, brooms, mops, furniture polish and that “special tool” for cleaning all those nooks and crannies and join our church community for a day of sprucing up our building and grounds.

A projects list will be posted so you can select an area of special interest!

See you there!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you to our wonderful congregation for donating \$533.54 to Family Promise in the SOUP-ER BOWL of CARING this year! Thank you to those that gave and to the Youth that collected the donations.

Our 29th Annual Camping Auction will take place on Saturday, March 7th. All Youth that are planning on going to camp this coming summer should be signed up to participate in helping at the auction. Sign-up Sheet is on Kyra's window for job you would like sign-up the Auction. This is the largest fund raiser for children and Youth that the church has.

03/01 Sunday School for Junior & Senior High @ 9:00 a.m.

Youth Group at 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm MOVIE – bring snacks to share

03/07 **29th Annual Camping Auction** - ALL YOUTH should be dressed in jeans, or long shorts, tennis shoes and a camping shirt no later than 3:45 p.m.

03/08 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – late night last night after auction
NO YOUTH GROUP/UMY – late night last night after auction

03/15 Sunday School for Junior & Senior High @ 9:00 a.m.
St. Ann's 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

03/22 Sunday School for Junior & Senior High @ 9:00 a.m.
FOOD CHALLENGE – Win \$\$\$ 6:00 – 7:30

03/29 Sunday School for Junior & Senior High @ 9:00 a.m.
Pattison's Roller Skating – sign up sheet on Kyra's window – 12:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.



March 1st:
Lesson: Fishers of Men

March 8th:
Lesson: I Am Special to Jesus

March 15th:
Lesson: The Greatest Commandment

March 22nd:
Lesson: Characters of Easter – The Crowd

March 29th:
Lesson: Characters of Easter - The Disciples

Bible Bucks this month! The next Bible Buck Sunday is March 29th, from 10:15 a.m. -10:45 a.m. The children can redeem their Bible Bucks upstairs across from the elevator. Marlene McCoy will be by the glass case where the prizes are on display. Curious how to earn Bible Bucks for the store? Talk with a Sunday School Teacher and get an updated “How To” list!

9am Sunday School + Nursery
11am Sunday School + Nursery

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