

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



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# CONNECTIONS



March 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
March 14 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
March 21 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
March 28 – PALM SUNDAY  
April 4 – EASTER SUNDAY!

**Come Worship Outdoors with Your SVUM Church Family on  
Easter Sunday.  
Worship Starts at 10AM**

In the east side parking lot – Raymond Road side  
Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, dress warmly for the weather  
Masks required, Social distancing required.  
RSVPs requested but not required – just come, it's outdoors!  
Valley Methodist musicians, Mike preaching, Holy Communion, the Body of Christ together!

An Easter YouTube Worship will also be ready for viewing at home by 8AM Easter Morning, just like we're used to in this time of pandemic. Choose your comfort zone: worship at home, worship outdoors at church. Do both!

**Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!**

**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.*

Dear Valley Methodist friends,

As I write to you today, I'm riding the pastor "high" of having been able to speak to quite a few of you this very Tuesday morning, the day of our Drive-Through parking lot missions event. After nearly a year a bumping around this church building as if it were a monastery, to actually see people and talk to them and offer a blessing face to face is over the top happiness! So I'm going to pretend that we're all in worship in the sanctuary, and I have just a few announcements:

Several people we're connected to have changes coming in their lives that in some ways affect us. Revs Gregg Sealey and Rev Joanne Coleman-Campbell – the two District Superintendents in eastern Washington and northern Idaho – will, after July 1, no longer be District Superintendents. Gregg is moving into an independent ministry/business venture in personal and professional coaching. Joanne is retiring. This means on July 1 we will have a new District Superintendent. We already know his name: Rev Daniel Miranda. But get this: Daniel Miranda will be the District Superintendent of the entire region of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. He will be DS of two districts. Inland (our district) and Seven Rivers (to the West of us). Daniel is 1/2 of a clergy couple. His wife Rev Sheila Miranda will also have a conference position. Changes such as having one DS serving two districts are happening all over the West, as the cost of supporting a superintendent increases. Good stewardship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century means DSs must do their work in new ways. We may see less of Daniel Miranda than we did of Gregg Sealey, but Daniel will be great for our region. Also you may have heard that our Bishop Elaine Stanovsky will be retiring at the end of this calendar year. So in 2022 we will also have a new Bishop.

One more quick thing. Our staff and church leaders are constantly working on being ready to reopen for Sunday worship, Youth Group, Children's and Adult Sunday school classes, small groups, and the full range of ministries of our church. Our DS Gregg Sealey is coaching us to be aware of the coronavirus danger color which is being applied to our County. We want the color to be yellow or green. Currently Spokane County is orange. So as you read news sources close to home, please peel your eyes on any changes in Spokane County. Yellow or green are a "go" for us to reopen – on a limited basis at first. So that's pretty exciting. We'll keep doing what we're doing with YouTube week to week, but we want to be poised to pounce onto that first Sunday possible – to have even half the sanctuary full will feel like heaven on earth.

I hope by now all of you have received the response card copied here below. Thank you for returning these as soon as possible. If you didn't get one, please call the church office and we will send one right out to you. When we get to yellow or green and have our first Sunday back in sight, we will proceed to contact those who have indicated they want to be here on that first Sunday back. Everyone is encouraged to stay in their own comfort zone. Many of you will choose to stay home until Phase 4 – even if that is in 2022. May God guide us all to choose exactly the right ways to venture out into public life which can keep each one safe. God is everywhere, not just at church. "In him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17.28

May you feel today the presence of Jesus in your very home, with you when you're outside, and with you in your mind, heart, spirit and body! "And lo, I am with you – says Jesus – to the very end of the age." Matthew 28.20 It's starting to get exciting around here! so grateful to be, Yours! Mike G

Hello Pastor Mike and Church Family! from (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Here's what I/we would like SVUM church to know concerning how I/we are feeling about coming back to indoor Sunday worship at church, with Phase 2.1 or Phase 3 rules in place (all worshippers wearing masks, maintaining physical distance between households, signing in, sanitizing hands, etc.):

Count me/us IN on that first Sunday if possible, recognizing pre-registration will be required and that the sanctuary will be limited in numbers to current guidelines. When we arrive we expect to be a party of \_\_\_\_\_ (number) of people. We would prefer to attend a service where the music is:

- Traditional hymns and liturgy, organ, piano, with songs blended, at 9AM  
 Contemporary Christian Music, with live band, at 11AM

I/we already know that I/we will not be returning to the sanctuary until at least Phase 4, or until the majority of our community is vaccinated.

Question for those planning to attend in-person indoor worship: would you be willing to volunteer to help as needed before, during, or after worship? Please indicate yes  or no



*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**

To make your takeout dinner order call Madelyn at 869-8213 beginning Sunday March 21st through Friday March 26th between 9 am and 1 pm.

For more information refer to the February Connections

**See you on March 27th for a dinner of ham, creamy potatoes, carrots, coleslaw, roll and Easter cake.**

## All Women of the Church are Invited to

**United Methodist Women Spiritual Retreat  
"Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality"**

**March 19—March 20, 2021  
6:30 to 9:00 PM on Friday  
8:45 to 11:00 AM on Saturday  
Via ZOOM**

SPIRITUAL LEADER: REV. BRENDA TUDOR  
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: HARRIET JANE OLSON, CEO OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

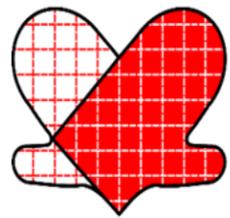
PRIOR TO THE RETREAT, PLEASE READ THE BOOK,  
"WHAT WE NEED IS HERE" BY L. ROGER OWENS  
AVAILABLE THROUGH AMAZON OR BARNES & NOBLE

### REGISTRATION FORM FOR ZOOM SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_  
United Methodist Women Officer Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Please list local/district office. Local \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration Deadline: March 12, 2021

Email Registration form to: Susan Chamberlain at [susanchamberlain@yahoo.com](mailto:susanchamberlain@yahoo.com)

For further information contact Madelyn at 869-8213 or email at [maddyb47@msn.com](mailto:maddyb47@msn.com)



# 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 to all who  
Bought cinnamon rolls benefiting "Our Covenant Relationship with Kathrine Parker"  
and

Donated paper towels for Naomi and socks for Shalom Ministries.  
Next months Connections will have the results of this Drive Thru Drive



**8th Drive Thru Drive  
benefiting the Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank  
March 16th 10am to noon  
Church Parking Lot**



Food Items especially needed at this time

**Boxed Cereal, Granola Bars,  
Canned Soup,  
Small cans of Tuna or Chicken,  
Crackers, and Canned Fruit**

### **Broadway Teachers Soup and Salad Luncheon—March 30th**

If you would like to help, by bringing a pot of soup, a salad or cookies  
please contact Madelyn at 869-8231 or email: maddyb47@msn.com



**Spring Cleaning and New Blinds Drive Thru Drive  
(our 9th Drive Thru) benefiting  
Mission Community Outreach Center  
April 16th—10 to noon—Church parking lot**

Now is the time to go through your winter clothes and take a good look at your summer clothing.  
Mission Community Outreach Center would appreciate receiving any clothing item  
still in good wearable condition for their clients.

Bring them to the church parking lot on April 16th from 10 to noon and  
they will be gratefully received.

Mission & Service will also be collecting monetary donations for new blinds at the MCOC center.  
Installing these new blinds will give privacy for shoppers and help keep the building warmer.

## DAUGHTERS OF DORCAS



Sandy Sprague has graciously accepted taking the lead of the quilting group, Daughters of Dorcas.

Daughters of Dorcas is a social group that makes quilts for donation to various local Agencies such as Vanessa Behan, Family Promise and Spokane Valley Partners, to name a few, as well as national organizations affiliated with United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Sandy and her team are currently putting together (and a few are ready) complete quilting kits for an at home quilting project.

Kits are available by contacting Sandy via cell phone or email.  
Cell: 406-531--6960  
Email: spraguesandy17@gmail.com



### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SVUMC

"There are no words to express the depth of love that I feel for the SVUMC community that has been a part of our family for decades.

I submit this check in honor of my parents Bob Swehla and Doris Swehla.

May the spirit of the lord continue to grow and shine in our hearts."

Gratefully,  
Robin Swehla Cole





03/04 Jessica Clifford  
 03/05 Dominic Gutierrez  
 Brad Shaffer  
 03/06 Jerry Larson  
 03/07 Liliana Peterson  
 Otto Vegele  
 03/08 Orva Lee Phillips  
 Madison Pring  
 03/10 Ann Holmquist  
 03/12 Sarah Headley  
 Stephanie Mackin  
 03/13 Georgian Cheney  
 03/14 Betsy Pletscher  
 03/15 Heidi Peterson

03/19 Gary Straub  
 03/20 Jenny Schrock  
 03/21 Evan Lantzy  
 03/23 Glenda Kay Hurlbut  
 Levi Schrock  
 03/24 Bob Luther  
 03/25 Brandon Stultz  
 03/26 Nancy Bowman  
 03/28 Michael Cheney  
 03/29 Whitney Nevills  
 Ryan Peterson  
 Zack Reiber  
 Rick Wallace  
 03/31 Frank Fey

**50<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary  
**Happy Anniversary**  
**Dick & Sue**  
**McCovney!**



03/03 Joe & Sue Ingalls  
 03/14 Ted & Wren Hanks  
 03/18 Luke & Jennifer Hoene  
 Nancy Moore & Otto Vegele  
 03/30 Jerry & Pat Bishop

Dick and Sue McGovney's **50th** wedding anniversary is Saturday, March 27th.  
 SVUMC, Let's shower them with cards, calls and email anniversary wishes!!!  
 Cards can be sent to:  
 515 South Perrine Road  
 Spokane Valley, WA 99206  
 Calls can be made to:  
 509-924-1555  
 Emails can be sent to:  
 smcgovney@gmail.com  
 Dick.mcgovney@gmail.com



**Christian Education**

We continue with our virtual Sunday School with Quinn McQuire. We have received great feedback on her online lessons and have started to incorporate a small craft project with the lesson.

Craft bags were put together and many picked up from the church and several were mailed.

Please let me know if your child was missed, you want them mailed or you don't want a craft bag at all.



*Watch for a special craft for St. Patrick's day!*

I know it was a little bumpy this first time, and I will continue to work on the process to make it better and accommodating for everyone. I am open to your comments, suggestions and feedback.

Many of you may not know, but Quinn is doing these virtual lessons from her home in Minnesota. She is doing a fabulous job and working hard to put together a good Sunday School lesson that has something for all age levels.

While we continue our search for a Sunday School Teacher replacement that resides here in Spokane, Quinn has graciously agreed to continue as our Sunday School Teacher.

In the meantime, work has continued in the Sunday School rooms getting ready for when we can return and have in person Sunday School. All the rooms have been painted, new furniture and new wall décor. I can't wait for everyone to see the new look and feel of the rooms!

Our search continues for a Youth Worker. We are hoping that in the near future we will find the right person to lead and resume our youth group activities.