

**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
Church E-mail:
secretary@spokanevalleychurch.org



Return Service Requested

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



CONNECTIONS



March 7 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
March 14 – 4th Sunday of Lent
March 21 – 5th 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 21st 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 susancchamberlain@yahoo.com

For further information contact Madelyn at 869-8213 or email at maddyb47@msn.com



"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**



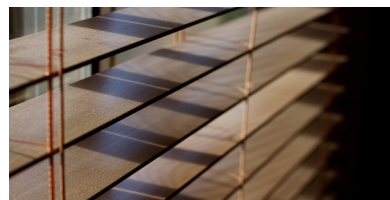
Food Items especially needed at this time

**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	03/19 Gary Straub
03/05 Dominic Gutierrez Brad Shaffer	03/20 Jenny Schrock
03/06 Jerry Larson	03/21 Evan Lantzy
03/07 Liliana Peterson Otto Vegele	03/23 Glenda Kay Hurlbut Levi Schrock
03/08 Orva Lee Phillips Madison Pring	03/24 Bob Luther
03/10 Ann Holmquist	03/25 Brandon Stultz
03/12 Sarah Headley Stephanie Mackin	03/26 Nancy Bowman
03/13 Georgian Cheney	03/28 Michael Cheney
03/14 Betsy Pletscher	03/29 Whitney Nevills Ryan Peterson Zack Reiber Rick Wallace
03/15 Heidi Peterson	03/31 Frank Fey



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!

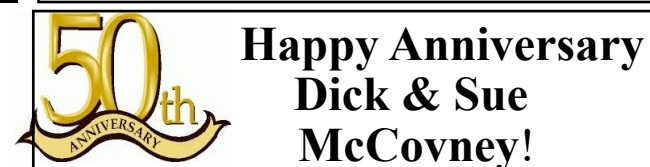
I know it was a little bumpy this first time, and I will continue to work on the process to make it better and accommodating for everyone. I am open to your comments, suggestions and feedback.

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.



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