

**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

## MAY 2021



**May 23rd  
is  
Pentecost  
Sunday  
2021**

**Wear Red!**

### Happy Mother's Day Sunday May 9th!

**Big doings at church — this month the new sanctuary organ speakers will be installed, for a much improved organ sound when we reopen.**

**The Welcome Center repair will be started, fixing structural problems. A contractor has been hired.**

**The Fireplace Room looks great with it's new paint and carpet!**



**Staff Parish Relations wants to meet persons interested in applying for our open positions: Children's Sunday School Teacher, and Youth Minister/Leader. Please see:**

<http://spokanevalleychurch.org/job-opportunity/>

**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.*



Bishop Elaine Stanovsky

Dear Siblings in Christ,

**We are making progress, but we are not quite there yet.**

It has been over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life as we knew it. We continue to persevere, exhausted at times, yet anticipating the day when we can gather, greet each other, share communion and other precious rhythms of life and spiritual practice in person without risking harm to one another. Hopeful also that we now carry with us new learnings and practices, hard lessons of necessity that will continue to connect us in new ways in life and ministry.

The rapid vaccine rollout gives us hope that we can enjoy more freedom to gather as families and faith communities soon. Vaccinations coupled with continuous strict adherence to safety protocols are expected to lower infection rates, hospitalizations and COVID-19 related deaths. Overall, we have seen the number of cases decline since the winter peak in many places, but progress has been stalled by premature re-openings, the easing of restrictions in some places, resistance by some to being vaccinated and observing simple safety practices: washing hands, social distancing, wearing a mask. I hope that each of us is continuing to follow these practices, as well as being vaccinated, consistent with medical advice, as soon as we are eligible.

I was surprised by the deep joy that welled up in me when those shots went in my arm, protecting not only me but also everyone I encounter from the dangers of this virus. I'm grateful to every person who is able and willing to join this movement toward health and safety.

As Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reminded us [in a briefing earlier this year](#),

*We may be done with the virus, but clearly the virus is not done with us. We cannot get comfortable or give in to a false sense of security that the worst of the pandemic is "behind us – not now; not when mass vaccination is so very close."*

**Permissible not Necessarily Beneficial**

[In an article for The Atlantic](#), Dr. James Hamblin of the Yale School of Public Health points out, "Our social lives can resume, but only when the whole community is ready. The turning point does not arrive for individuals, one by one, as soon as they've been vaccinated; it comes for all of us at once, when a population becomes immune."

With this understanding, we are advised that the number of coronavirus cases needs to decrease further before we resume regular activities, especially in light of the arrival of new fast-spreading variants of the virus. A premature reopening, even if allowed by the state, may run the risk of not just stalling but even reversing the recent progress we have already achieved.

I am reminded of Saint Paul's admonition that things that are "permissible" are not necessarily things that are "beneficial" to the common good. (I Corinthians 10:23). While we should celebrate the good news of vaccines providing a layer of protection already for a significant number of members in some of our congregations, the church does not belong solely to those who are vaccinated. Especially as we have just now reached a time when all adults are eligible to receive a vaccine, we must continue to be patient to allow them the privilege of receiving this gift of security before we consider letting our guard down. At the same time, we will need to find ways to protect and include children in church life while continuing to wait for vaccination eligibility to be extended to them.

As the church, God calls us always to do things that are beneficial because we bear responsibility towards the well-being of others, especially the most vulnerable among us.

**A Posture of Hopeful Caution**

The progress we see in vaccinations, tempered by the potential threat of variants we race, leads me toward a posture of hopeful caution we are almost there but not quite there yet. Even as our hope is renewed with the increasing percentage of those vaccinated, our decisions and actions must continue to manifest the utmost concern for one another as an act of love in response to Jesus' command for us to love one another as he had loved us (John 13:34).

Accordingly, I am asking churches to remain vigilant in their planning and decision-making processes. The COVID-19 Response Team, made up of lay and clergy members from across the area, is continuing to review and amend its guidance to local churches. By May 5th, we will release updated guidelines for Phase 3, shifting more responsibility to local leaders to guide their congregation's, camp's or other ministry setting's COVID-19 response.



**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.**

**Where does our pledge to mission money go? Here is one place!**

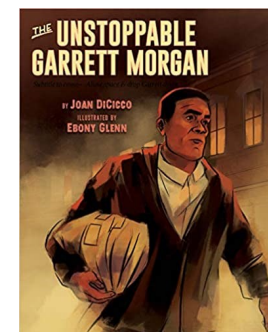
**National Mission Institutions**

United Methodist Women's predecessor organizations established social service programs across the United States at the turn of the 20th century in response to the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities— newly arrived immigrants, freed Blacks, the working poor, and indigenous peoples. Many of these programs survive today as independent, autonomous non-profit agencies referred to as National Mission Institutions. Located across the United States, United Methodist Women national office assists these organizations through grants, technical support, and member involvement. The nearly 90 National Mission Institutions are empowering women, caring for children, educating youth, housing the neglected, advocating for social justice issues, creating economic opportunities and changing neighborhoods. Two of these National Mission Institutions are in our state: Atlantic Street Center and Tacoma Community House.

Founded in 1910, **Atlantic Street Center** is an award-winning agency, located in Seattle, providing services to children, youth, and their families for over one hundred years. As one of our region's oldest non-profit social service agencies, they work to help families and communities raise healthy, successful children and youth through direct services and advocacy for social justice and equity.

For over 100 years as one of the longest continuously-operating social service agencies in Washington state, **Tacoma Community House** has improved the lives of generations of immigrants, refugees, and long-time residents. Serving more than 3,000 families each year, TCH aims to provide the highest quality of comprehensive and wrap-around services to all individuals who come seeking services. Today Tacoma Community House annually serves more than 3,000 individuals through four core programs of education, employment, immigration, and advocacy.

**From United Methodist Women Reading Program**



**THE UNSTOPPABLE GARRETT MORGAN BY JOAN DICUCCO**

A picture story about the life of an extraordinary African American man. At the age of fourteen, he left his shared cropped (free slaved) family. With his creative mind, he became an inventor, entrepreneur, and a hero. His first invention was a safety hood for firefighters which is still used today. He became a successful man who overcame racial barriers. He continued to invent many items which included traffic lights and sewing machines.

Anna Jenkins



# 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*

## Update

### Mission and Service Ministry Team Thanks you for your donations of clothing



Ali Norris, Director of Mission Community Outreach Center received your generous donations!



New Blinds are in at the center now.

So far \$721 has been raised towards a cost of \$1,500. You can still donate to this project by sending your donation to the church stating that it goes for new blinds at MCOC.

### May 18th "Cinnamon Roll and Paper Products Drive Thru Mission Event" Benefiting Our Covenant Relationship, Nepal and Naomi From 10 to 11 am in the church parking lot on Balfour

Money raised by buying a Cinnamon Roll will:

**Support** "Our Covenant Relationship" with Katherine Parker,  
**Improve** classrooms in Nepal to be bright, comfortable, safe, places where every child feels loved

**Provide** transportation support to children with treatable disabilities (especially club-foot) to get from their village into the city hospitals where they can receive treatment.

In support of Naomi House, please **Bring:**  
Paper Kleenex/tissues and paper plates, bowls and cups

I am grateful for each of you and your faithfulness and commitment, especially during this long time of physical separation due to this pandemic. May the hard lessons learned as we have persevered, and new skills developed as you have adapted, empower our work together and witness to God's love which never fails us.

*"Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31)*

With love and grace,

**Elaine JW Stanovsky**  
Bishop, Greater Northwest Episcopal Area

Offered in consultation with the COVID-19 Response Team, as currently composed:

- Rev. Alyssa Baker, pastor, Open Door Churches of Salem-Keizer, OR-ID Conference
- Laurie Day, OR-ID Conference Director of Connectional Ministries
- Rev. Jim Doepken, pastor, Moose Pass & Seward Memorial UMCs, Alaska Conference
- Rev. Mark Galang, Puget Sound District Superintendent, PNW Conference
- Rhondalei Gabuat, Executive Assistant for Bishop Stanovsky, Greater Northwest Episcopal Area
- Rev. Karen Hernandez, Sage District Superintendent, OR-ID Conference
- Rev. Pat Longstroth, pastor, Bremerton UMC, PNW Conference
- Becky Platt, lay member, Boise (ID): Whitney UMC, OR-ID Conference
- Patrick Scriven, PNW Conference Director of Communications
- Jim Truitt, lay member, Renton (WA): Fairwood Community UMC, PNW Conference

## The Promise of Pentecost

**"But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning."**  
**John 15:26-27**

Pentecost, a Hebrew wheat harvest festival celebrated every year since Old Testament times, got its name from being the 50th day after Passover. It would be profoundly significant that on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples experienced the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, the "Counselor" promised by Jesus. We observe Pentecost today by recalling Jesus' promise, and leaning forward in expectation, that in our lives too, the Counselor comes. Then we have our own witness. "I shall send the Counselor to you from the Father." A promise to you!



### Spokane Valley United Methodist Church Mahan Memorial Scholarship Academic Year Scholarship time is Here!

This scholarship is available to students attending school for an undergraduate or graduate degree during the 2021-2022 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 \$800.

To get an application mailed or emailed to you, please call the church office at 509-924-7262. Completed applications must be received in the church office by May 9, 2021



## Happy Birthday

05/01 Marilyn Clements	05/16 Aaron Schrock
Drew Satter	05/17 Daniel Graef
Mary Jane Waters	05/18 Brian Bos
05/02 Sharon Maxey	05/20 Brent Gregory
05/04 Theresa Meckel	Cliff Maxey
05/05 Pat Bishop	05/21 Carl Jenkins
05/06 Wes Holmquist	Claudia Michael
05/07 Meredith Elsensohn	05/24 Sterling Hardy
Glenda Lovchik	05/27 Jason King
05/08 Cassandra Partridge	05/28 Trinity Hall
05/10 Chandra Reiber	Alek Reiber
Samantha Wallace	05/29 Kyndal Gottberg
05/11 Brian Cheney	Dennis Graham
05/12 Dorothy Carpinteyro	Margaret Natividad
Tom Warga	05/30 Beth Ross
05/15 Jim Crull	05/31 Donald Bower

## Happy Anniversary



05/01 David & Dommie Oswald  
 05/06 Will & Amber Schilling  
 05/08 Rob & Rachel Peck  
 05/12 Philip & Margaret Chesley  
 05/30 John & Stephanie Mackin



## Christian Education

**This month Sunday School Lessons are a 5 part series around Pentecost.**

**Lesson 1 - Jesus Promises a Helper**

*This lesson teaches children that the Holy Spirit helps us live like Christ.*

**Lesson 2 - Pentecost**

*The promised Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.*

**Lesson 3 - The Holy Spirit Lives In Us**

*The Holy Spirit lives in us when we become believers.*

**Lesson 4 - The Holy Spirit Empowers Us**

*The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to obey God.*

**Lesson 5 - The Holy Spirit Teaches Us**

*The Holy Spirit teaches us about God and how to live a holy life.*

**Meet our Missionary!**

Katherine Parker, our missionary from Nepal, will be meeting with the Mission and Service Team on zoom to give an update on Nepal and her work there. All are welcome to join this zoom call. To receive a zoom invite, please email or call Madelyn Bafus at [maddyb47@msn.com](mailto:maddyb47@msn.com) or 869-8213.

Due to the time difference, the zoom meeting will an evening call. The exact date and time is being determined.

## SPRING CLEANUP

May 15th 8am-11am

Please attend if you are able, as many hands make light work.

It has been quite some time since we have gathered to spruce up the outside grounds, but it most definitely needs some TLC.

Remember to keep an eye on the weather and prepare accordingly.

Please bring garden and cleaning tools as the church has limited amounts. Items include: Gloves, rakes, loppers, shovels, hedge trimmers (manual and/or power), leaf blowers, brooms, dust pans, etc. If you have a truck or trailer available, please contact Paul Norris, Trustee Chairman at

509-280-7448 .

We will need to haul away any debris that will not fit in the dumpster.

