

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

Return Service Requested

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Spokane, WA

Sundays

Traditional Service 9 a.m.
Contemporary Service 11 a.m.
Youth Group 6 p.m.

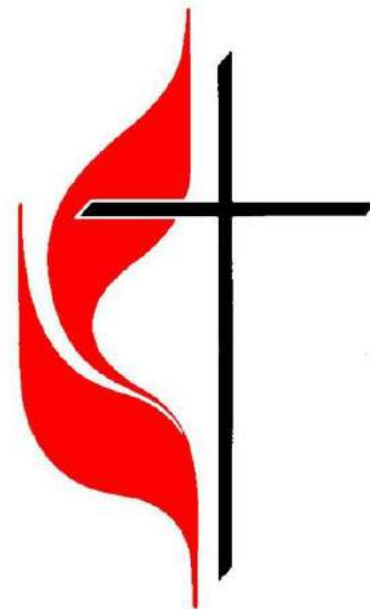
Staff:
Congregation: Ministers of the Church
Mike Graef: Pastor
Lori Douglas: Church Secretary
Ed Poblete: Custodian
Stephanie Fisher: Children's Ministry
Kyra Straub: Youth Ministry
Chandra Beauregard & Sarah Stultz
Betsy Pletscher: Piano & Organist
Tracey Partridge: Contemporary
Worship & Choir Director
Andy Jamison: Technical Ministry

Volunteer Staff Position:
Madelyn Bafus: 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



CONNECTIONS

May 2017



Good Friday, April 14, 2017 production of "Reflections at the Foot of the Cross" was a huge success. You could really feel the Holy Spirit in our presentation. Thank you to all who participated in this event.

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Our congregation's Church Council will meet the evening of May 2nd, Tuesday evening at 6:30PM in the Chapel - to consider motions coming from the Landscaping and Signage Team for beautification and sign-upgrades on our property.

One worship service for all, at 11AM, Sunday May 7th because it is the 2017 "Bloomsday" Race.



United Methodist Women will be having their Spring Luncheon on May 13, 2017 at 12:00 PM. The cost of the tickets will be \$10 Adult, \$5 Children 10 and under, 3 and under eats for free. The Guest speaker this year is Whitworth University Professor Emeritus Margo Long.



SCHOLARSHIP TIME IS HERE!!
Our Church's College Scholarship is available to students attending school during the 2017-2018 academic year. The Spokane Valley United Methodist Church "Mahan Memorial Scholarship" will be for a minimum amount of \$800.00 each - for the 2017-2018 Academic Year. Applications will be available in the Church Office and in the Welcome Center. Completed applications must be received in the Church Office by May 14, 2017 to be considered.



Isaiah 43:18-19

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

New Discipleship Class Starting Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 5:00 PM. This class will run for 34-weeks and will be led by Pastor Mike.



This & That



Birthdays for the Newsletter

Do you enjoy still getting mail that isn't a bill or advertising? Many of your church friends still enjoy mailing you or your family members birthday cards. Let the Church Office know the month and day for inclusion in the calendar. The year is not needed and you don't need to be a member.

Free Sunday Lunch May 28 at 12:30pm Menu:

Beef Roast, Salad & Dessert



55 Plus Luncheon and Program at Noon in the Fellowship Center - May 31, 2017 12:00 PM

The Croskreys
Hot Chicken Souffle' & Salad



The deadline for the
June 2017 Connections is
Friday, May 19th

Happy Birthday ~

Marilyn Clements, Mary Jane Waters, Drew Satter, Sharon Maxey, Jeanette Warga, Theresa Meckel, Pat Bishop, Wes Holmquist, Glenda Lovchik, Meredith Elsensohn, Casandra Partridge, Samantha Wallace, Bob Dale, Brian Cheney, Tammy McKibben, Tom Warga, Jim Crull, Daniel Graef, Brian Bos, Katie Gage, Brent Gregory, Cliff Maxey, Carl Jenkins, Claudia Michael, Sterling Hardy, Jason King, Trinity Hall, Jo Marie Collin, Kyndal Gottberg, Dennis Graham, Margaret Natividad, Beth Ross, Donald Bower



Happy Anniversary ~

David & Dommie Oswald, James & Patrice Schaefer, Wayne & Martha Brown, Rob & Rachel Peck, Philip & Margaret Chesley, Howard & Elaine Lloyd, Bob & Darlene Dale, Norman & Chris Moss, Jerry & Sharon Partridge



Twinlow Camp, Lower Twin Lakes is planning major improvements, beginning with new housing for manager's family. Other long range plans include - remodeling existing house for staff use, relocating Nurse's cabin and enlarging Selkirk lodge. Twinlow has become debt free.

Right now area congregations, and individual members have an opportunity to support the housing improvements having an estimated cost of \$250,000. Twinlow has raised \$100,000 and is expecting grants of \$100,000, leaving \$50,000 to complete housing goal.

Many members and friends of SVUMC have supported and benefited from the Twinlow "Experience". Many events and great experiences over many years - Summer Camps - Family Camps - Day camps - Retreats more.

Will you join me in underwriting the \$50,000 goal with your gift to Twinlow 22787 North Twinlow Lane, Rathdrum, Id 83858?

Your thoughts and questions will be appreciated.

Thanks,

Lowell Brocklehurst (509) 926-9231 lbrocklehurst1@netzero.net



A huge thank you to Kyra and everyone who participated in the Good Friday Production on April 14, 2017.

Thank you to Jerry Bishop and everyone who participated in the Wind Ensemble and Handbell choir.

Also, a big thank you to Tracy and the choir for awesome performances on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

All three were spectacular and you could really feel the Holy Spirit's presence during each performance.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

May 2017

Contact Person - Anna Jenkins
UMW President - (509)928-4370



Executive Board Meeting - 5/4 at 9:30am, Fireplace Room
Bible Study - 5/31 at 1:30PM, Fireplace Room

Circles

Sarah - 5/1 at 6:30pm, Fireplace Room
Esther - NOT MEETING
Rebekah - 5/16 at 11:00am, Room 115
Rachel - 5/25 at 12:00pm, Fireplace Room

Special Events

May Luncheon 5/13 at 12:00pm - Tickets on sale 4/23, 4/31 & 5/7
Eastern Star Luncheon - 5/26 at 12:00pm, Room 115

FAST Ministry-(Food And Support Team)

Welcome to new members Becky Anderson and Mick Palanuk. They join members: Katie Gage, Jacque' Todd, Brenda Anderson, Nancy Moore, and Sherri Robinson. FAST can use more members. Great opportunity to serve short term or if you travel. Members sign up for 3 months. During that period, they agree to prepare a portion of a meal for more than 2 people. Last month a meal was provided for a new mom coming home from the hospital and her family. One member had cheese, rolls, and cookies while another provided a sliced ham, fruit salad and green salad and a soup. A third member delivered the meal. The family didn't have to shop or fix a meal for several days. Usually only one meal is provided per month but 4 or 5 contacts were made if a meal was needed.

Contact Sherri Robinson at 509-927-4931/995-0891 text or ionaceltic@gmail.com with questions or if you would like to serve on the team for 3 months. We need another 7 people to fully function.

KOINONIANS

We Want You



To Join Koinonians
If you are not a part of this fun group, you should be! We get together once a month and go to a play, a concert, a movie, a game or take a road trip.



This Month we will be having a Cinco De Mayo potluck and game night on May 5th at 6:00 PM in the Fireplace Room at our Church. Bring your favorite Mexican dish and some games for a night of fun and fellowship. We may even play a game of Mexican Train.



We are looking for some ideas on what fun activity to do for June, so please let me know what you are interested in doing next month.

If you are 50 or older you should join us!

For more information,
call Jerry or Nancy Larson at 509-928-4899

Financial Resources



The Financial Resources Thermometer As of March 31, 2017

Budgeted Yearly Expenditures:	\$ 326,650.00
Revenue needed to be on budget:	\$ 27,220.83 per Month
March Revenue	\$ 25,029.27
Revenue shortfall for March	\$ 2,191.56
Revenue to date for 2017	\$ 81,012.83
Expenditures in March	\$ 29,431.58
Expenditures, year-to-date	\$ 85,396.29
General Fund Cash Balance	\$ 26,685.99

Some Thoughts:

The last two months on Sunday mornings, our attendance average has been spectacular – averaging in the 170’s for the first time in years. Giving is hanging in there. We expect to be at 25% after three months and we’re actually at 24.9%. More good news: expenditures are lower than expected at 24.2%.

We are amazed at the giving hearts of SVUMC’s members and supporters. So many things are possible because of your generous hearts. I belong to a Small Group that has been together since 2003. We do our own prayer list to supplement the one that Margie Collin produces for the church’s prayer team. One of the lines in that prayer reads “Give us generous hearts that we may help to make this a better world.” I feel that that statement reflects the hearts of all of you.

God allows us to share his heart, and be the hands and feet of Christ in this world. In so many ways, our church reaches out and touches those who are struggling, who are in a tough place, who are short of needed resources, or who experience “food insecurity” – wondering where the next meal will come from. These are just some of the ways we invite people to *“follow Jesus, love others, and transform the greater community through the grace of God.”*

Spring seems to be stuttering its way into the year. One nice day of sunshine, and 3 or 4 soggy ones in which we dodge the rain drops. But, just as Spring *will* arrive in all its glory and beauty, SVUMC will continue to grow and serve because of your generous hearts.

May we help God bring peace, joy and vision upon our church, our city, our state, our nation and our world. And may we, in these days of when so many are worried and anxious, exhibit hearts that face tomorrow with joy, compassion and hope. May a better world begin with us.

Blessings
Wey Simpson



By Anna Jenkins

This Month we will be taking a look at the book “Extraordinary Grace” by Gary Chapman & Chris Fabry.

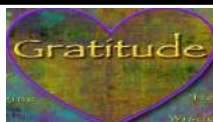
It produces a historical line age of Jesus Christ from Abraham through David to Joseph (Mary’s husband). As the authors searched scriptures, they found God’s grace in the lives of Jesus’ lineage; people with faults and sins just like people of today. It showed that God’s grace is not about doing everything right, but that it is a gift from God. As you read it you will hear a call of grace, laughter of grace, and you will be overtaken by grace and know the extraordinary grace that comes from loving Jesus. This book also comes with a Bible Study if you would like to get more in depth with the lessons to be learned.

“Just Ask Me” is a Mission driven ministry that will be offered on Sunday’s before and after each service - There is a weekly focus. Please drop by the Welcome Center information desk to find out more.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

John and I would like to thank you all so very much for the kind words, cards, memorials and prayers that we received after the loss of our only son, Raymond. We are heartbroken to say the least, but we are on the path of healing through the Lord’s love and your kindness and prayers. Thank you Pastor Mike for the wonderful service and eulogy. It was beautiful and so many of Ray’s friends in attendance thought it was a perfect way to celebrate Ray’s life. To Marilyn the Memorial Team; the reception was perfect. Andy, thank you for helping with the videos, lights and the tech stuff. Lori thank you for your help with the signs and bulletin. Pat & Mary Jane; the lap quilt is beautiful and I use it daily. It comforts me to wrap myself in my Grandmother’s patches and the love from you both. Prayer Warriors, thank you and please keep us in your prayers. Only with help from daily prayers and the Lord will we be able to move forward. I love and miss you all so much and was grateful to see those of you who were able to make it to the service. Your hugs and outpouring of love meant so much and went a very long way in comforting us in this horrific time. Ray is laid to rest in our family plot in Post Falls next to his paternal grandparents. One day, John and I will be resting there too.

We know that our darling boy is in Jesus’ arms waiting for us.
With Love, Tina-Marie & John Schultz



From Our Pastor, Mike Graef

Dear Valley Methodist Friends,

I’d like to spend these minutes together sharing a happy letter I wrote to a Christian Leader in our community, (and a new friend of mine) Anthony Carollo – the Director of the Greater Spokane Association of Evangelicals (GSAE). I had just gotten back from GSAE’s “P.I.E.” event (People Invested in Education; Loving Kids Loving Schools), and – at Anthony Carollo’s request – filled him in a little on what Spokane Valley UMC is doing to support the parent-teacher-staff community of Broadway Elementary School. More and more, the Spirit of God is uniting churches of all denominations to support institutions, sacred and secular, which meet human need. For us it’s just great human to human contact, making new friends, participating with our whole hearts in what God’s Prevenient Grace is doing.

Join me in thanking our dynamic Mission and Service Team. Thanks to these folks, our church is now connected to a whole ecumenical network of churches-loving-schools throughout the Valley. Maybe some of you are like me, and didn’t know some of these wonderful connections our church has with this important school in our community? Here’s the letter.

Easter Season blessings to you all the year through. I’m grateful to be,

Your Pastor, Mike

“Dear Anthony, It began about four years ago, when our Church was participating in the annual summer Saturday event, coming out of the vision of Eastpoint’s Pastor Matt King, of a day of service, throughout all of Spokane Valley and also all of Spokane. In our second year we requested Broadway Elementary as our site, and just had a great day there.

From that experience began the much broader involvement that our church has today. We ourselves are probable the biggest beneficiary of our friendship with the Principal, teachers, staff, parents and kids. We have been revitalized tremendously by bringing our mission home, being more involved right here in our neighborhood, where God is blessing and loving people in so many tangible ways.

Hope this is an encouragement to all the churches doing this work. We have a lot to learn, and much room to grow. We’re humbled by what a lot of the other churches are doing. But God has raised up a great team here too. Here is a snapshot of how this has unfolded so far:

There are 8 primary ways that we come alongside of the school, as a friend in the neighborhood.

First we support the teachers luncheons that are held during parent-conference season twice a year. We provide food and anything they need to have a great time of fellowship – a place for teachers to rest and recharge their batteries. We’ve done six of these already.

Second, about three years ago, we moved our church’s Halloween event “Trunk or Treat” over to Broadway Elementary School. We provide all of the treats that are passed out to the Broadway School community of family and friends. We’re able to recruit 15 plus cars from our own congregation, which means open trunks, filled with the seasonal fun of a great “Trunk or Treat” event. Spokane Valley United Methodist Church is responsible for that event.

Third, in the Christmas season, our church supports Broadway Elementary’s “Ornament Night”. School families come to the school to decorate Christmas tree ornaments. This past year we provided 900 cookies, and 20 volunteers, plus our youth stood at the gift shop, and helped people there. We also take pictures, and bring lots of candy canes to hand out. (Personally I had a great experience at the school just before Christmas. We were invited by one of the teachers to come in and sing Christmas songs with the kids. So I brought my guitar – and for an hour or so, groups of 6 kids came one group at a time over to where I was singing and playing, and they all joined me. We had a great singalong. It was super fun, and I think the teacher felt very supported in what she was trying to do with that event. It was a really fantastic day.)

Fourth, we support Broadway Elementary’s Carnival. This year we provided 40 cakes and 20 volunteers to make sure that event was everything it could be.

Fifth, we send volunteers over to the school for “Play Day”.

Sixth, money. We budget \$500 per year of church mission budget money to give the school. This year Broadway bought earphones needed for testing kids with that money. We also provide gift cards to give to needy families so they can provide for their kids – coats, shoes, whatever they need.

Seventh, there are volunteers from our church in the classrooms on a weekly basis. Reading to kids, helping in many ways.

Eighth, we support a Broadway Elem project – by collecting used ink cartridges, a fund-raising program for their student council.

Glory to God! They’re in our hearts, and our prayers. We’ve really fallen in love with Broadway Elementary.

Thanks for all you do. Christ is Risen! Blessed Easter to you.”

Kid's & Youth Page



Welcoming and Caring

Assignments for May

- May 7th - Bloomsday - no coffee hour
- May 14th - Welcoming & Caring
- May 21st - Trustees
- May 28th - Mission & Service

Coffee Hour directions are posted in the kitchen and on the Welcome Center information wall.

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



You can send your prayer requests to the prayer team leader Margie Collin at (509) 922-8371.



Each Youth will get 1 point for each day. If they do the entire week, they will get an additional 10 points for a total of 15 points!

MAY Schedule:

- 05/03 **NO DEEPER**
- 05/07 **BLOOMSDAY - No Sunday School/One Service @ 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**
UMY 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 05/10 **DEEPER @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- 05/14 **MOTHER'S DAY**
No Sunday School - go to church with your Mom
No UMY - spend this time with your Mom
- 05/17 **DEEPER @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- 05/19 **CARNIVAL at Broadway Elementary from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**
- 05/21 **Sunday School for Junior & Senior High @ 9:00 a.m.**
UMY 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. MANITO PARK bring a sack lunch
- 05/22 **GRADUATE INFO DUE TO KYRA!**
- 05/24 **DEEPER @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- 05/28 **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - BE SAFE**
No Sunday School for Junior & Senior High
No UMY
CONVO @ UPS Tacoma
- 05/31 **DEEPER @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Mission Corner

Cinnamon Roll Sale May 21*

Benefiting our Covenant Relationship with Katherine Parker Cinnamon Rolls will be available following both services.



Broadway Elementary Teachers Luncheon

A big thank you to the soup, salad, and cookie makers and to the serving crew!! A Thank You card from the teachers at Broadway in on the table in the Mission Corner in the Welcome Center. This is the sixth luncheon we have served. Our next one will be November 16. Consider helping next time. It is greatly appreciated by all the teachers!



Broadway Carnival - May 19th - 5-8pm

We are needing 20 volunteers to help with this event that night and 40 cake makers. On May 7th and 14th you can sign up to help. If you can make a decorated cake, you will be given a cake mix and pan with cover. Cakes will need to be brought to the church the morning of May 19th. Last year our cakes went quickly at the cake walk and the Broadway PTO greatly appreciated our help.



The morning of June 13th is Broadway Play Day

Sign up to help will be at the Just Ask Me desk on May 28th and June 4th. You will need to acquire a background check through Central Valley School District to help with this event. You will not through need to do this to help with another event at Broadway Elementary on this same morning. We will be helping Broadway Teachers get their rooms ready for summer vacation. What a wonderful opportunity to spend a few hours helping both the children and teachers!



Hearth Homes Paper Product Drive

May 7 & 14

At the top of the list is always paper towels and toilet paper. They also continue to need sun screen, canned fruit (no applesauce), canned vegetables and tampons.



One Service -

Sunday May 7th at 11 a.m. Kids Zone Sunday School will be in room 210.

Mother's Day -

The children will be handing out a gift to all the Mother's after both services.

Spend Your Bible Bucks....

We are having our Bible Buck Sunday, **May 28th**, from 10:20 a.m. - 10:40 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 located.

Vacation Bible School will be July 17th thru the 21st 9 a.m. to Noon.

Then please join us Sunday July 23rd for one service at 10 a.m. with the children singing a song they learned during VBS. Followed by fellowship and lite lunch.
Sign up to help with Maker Fun Factory Created by God Built for a Purpose Vacation Bible School Today! Please talk to Stephanie Fisher.

Kids Zone -

The children need your help! We need Sunday School teachers for the summer months to be able to have Sunday School. Also substitute teachers during the school year. Please see Stephanie Fisher.

In life we are either adding or subtracting. Be an addition....nurture a child today.

May Schedule

- 5/07 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Nursery
11:00 a.m. Kids Zone
- 5/14 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Nursery
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Kids Zone
Happy Mother's Day
- 5/21 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Nursery
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Kids Zone
- 5/28 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Nursery
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Kids Zone
10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. Bible Bucks