



Worshipping God in Christ, Welcoming all, working for justice and peace
Veradale United Church of Christ
The Messenger



"The Gift of Love" by Hal H. Hopson
Published with permission
CCLI #11038266

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love;
my words are vain;
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n
by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love
guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Words © 1972 Hope Publishing Company, 380 S
Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188

FEBRUARY
2021

Thoughts from the Pastor

As we enter into February, thoughts always lean toward love. On day a year, cards, candies, and flowers are given as tokens of our affection. However, as followers of Jesus, our practice of love is an everyday spiritual endeavor. Jesus commanded our spiritual ancestors to let go of the laws of the past (what we call the Old Testament) and to take up a new commandment. We are to love God, love our neighbor as we love ourselves, and love our enemies.

Jesus teaches that the way to love God is in prayer, worship, and action. He sought out quiet places to pray, away from the crowds and alone with his community or even alone in nature. Jesus, also, worshiped with community on every sabbath as was the custom. When we offer up prayers of gratitude, hope, and concern for all of creation, when we sing hymns of love, hope, and faith, when we gather in community to worship, listen, and learn, we have loved God.

When we love someone, we do the things that please that beloved. This is true in our relationship with God. Jesus acts with love for others because this is the way of God and he tells his followers to “go and do likewise.” When we dedicate our spiritual practice to loving the God revealed in Jesus, we respect all that God love’s — all people, all creation which includes ourselves and others. It is a love that stands up and protects the sacred lands of this country’s first people. It is a love that affirms women can have control over their own bodies. It is a love that says we need to make feeding hungry families easier not harder. It is a love that says the refugee must find a safe place with us. It is a life of practiced love, a life of compassion.

Whom are we to love? Well, God first but the paradox is that in loving God first we are moved at the same time to love our neighbor and our enemy. It is the promise or more often the experience God’s love that moves us to love our neighbor and our enemy. Through this, we act so that everyone has the basics that we want for ourselves — jobs, homes, food, and healthcare. An oddity of this way of Jesus is that when we work for these basics for our enemies shelter, food, medicine, and humane work, violence is reduced and those we call our enemies become our neighbors.

This February let us worship the God revealed in Jesus who commands us to love - not as a feeling but as a way of life. Let that love strengthen us as we celebrate Black History Month and continue in the love that will overcome systemic racism. Let us enter into Lent letting God’s love cleanse way all the doubts about how much God loves us. Let us embrace the ways we love God in our worship, prayers, and actions so that we may love our neighbor and our enemy. Let us embrace that love and know that there is no person, no part of creation, that is outside God’s love.

With blessings,
Pastor Gen

Our Black History Month Tradition

Remember, each Sunday in February, we share a story about Black History.

Let me know which Sunday you would like to speak.

February 7, _____

February 14, Marvin Wilson will tell the story of his great grandfather

February 21, _____

February 28, _____

Call or email (408)593-9556 or genheywood@gmail.com to sign up.

**Drive Through Party
Celebrating
Rosa Parks' 108 Birthday
Thursday, February 4, 2021
5 to 6 pm at
Veradale United Church of Christ
611N Progress Road
Spokane Valley, 99037**
Bring gifts for Rosa
that go to the Spokane MLK Family Center
suggested gifts
Create Winter Care Packages for Families
(place 1 item each into a Ziploc bag)
Toothpaste, Toothbrush, A pair of adult socks
Hats, Gloves, Disposable face masks
Protein bar
Also needed for the MLK pantry
brown rice, whole wheat pasta,
canned goods, toilet paper, paper towels
Hosted by Veradale UCC and
Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience



JANUARY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our **Monthly** goal is **\$8,800**. We had **\$8,058** in donations towards that goal as of **January 25th**.

We are tracking our Monthly Goal. If you have questions, email or contact the office at 926-7173.

Offerings

Please, remember offerings can be given through the church website at <https://veradaleucc.org>

There is an orange donate button on the right side of the page.

or

Send checks to Veradale UCC,
611North Progress

WEEKLY TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER WITH PASTOR GEN HEYWOOD (ZOOM)

Remember we have silent prayer every Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. Pastor Gen Heywood will hold prayers remotely on the Veradale UCC Facebook page.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING

(Anyone is welcome to attend these meeting)

Our Council Meeting will be held on Monday, **February 15th at 7:00 p.m.** through 'Go to Meeting'.

Watch your email or announcements for any additional details. Email or call the office 926-7173 if you wish to contribute any information, concerns, ideas, etc. to the council. Wayne Shull, Moderator.

‘WELCOME’ TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to our two new members joining the VUCC congregation on January 31, 2021.

**Naomi Hannah Hanvey
and
Louise Marie Tajuddin**



Truthful Tuesday

We reject all forms of extremism.
We love our neighbor as ourselves.
We envision liberty and justice for all.

February 9, 2021, 5pm to 6pm

Kara Odegard

Manager of Sustainability Initiatives
at City of Spokane to speak on the
Climate Sustainability Plan
on Facebook Live and Zoom
contact genheywood@gmail.com
for more information



Share in our journey through Lent
and Easter on

Wednesday, February 17th
(TBA)

**Let Pastor Gen know if you would like
ashes sent to your home address as this
will be a virtual worship shared with
three other churches. Watch for emails
about the details.**



February 2021



	1 Groundhog Day 	2 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote)	3	4 5 – 6 pm Rosa Park's 108 Birthday Drive Thru VUCC bring gifts for MLK Family Center! (See article)	5	6
7 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship w/Communion (Remote-Zoom)	8	9 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote) Tuesday Vigil 5-6pm @ VUCC Kara Odegard 'Speaker' (Remote) (See article)	10	11	12	13 9:30 a.m. Saturday Coffee Fellowship on (Go To Meeting) 3 – 5 p.m. Mardi Bras Party Drive Thru VUCC bring donations for Hope House. (See article)
14 Valentine's Day Nurturer's Day 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote-Zoom)	15 President's Day OFFICE CLOSED  7:00 p.m. Council (Go to Meeting')	16 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote)	17  Ash Wednesday Service TBA	18 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. FLLC Meeting (Remote)	19	20
21 Lent 1 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote-Zoom)	22	23 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote) Newsletter Deadline for March	24	25	26	27
28 Lent 2 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote-Zoom)	Attend Worship Services on Facebook, ZOOM or listen on Radio Station 89.3 F.M. (from our Parking Lot) JOIN US AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY  LENT					

FEBRUARY - BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2/5 – Morian Davies - B
Robert Fuller - B
2/8 - Rosa Fawcett - B
2/9 - Pastor Gen Heywood - B
Darlene Turner - B

2/19 – Don & Jan Young - A
2/23 – Andy & Joyce Walker - A
2/25 - Glen Scott - B

Date	Worship Services	Time	Access Services <i>If 'in-person' attending, notify Pastor Gen.</i>
February 7		10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone
February 14		10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone
February 17	Ash Wednesday	TBA	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone
February 21	Lent 1	10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone
February 28	Lent 2	10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone

‘REMINDER’

CONTACT PASTOR GEN IF ATTENDING WORSHIP IN PERSON

Please be sure to call or email Pastor Gen each time you plan to attend Sunday Worship service in person. Worship will also be seen and heard on Facebook, Zoom, and Radio Daniel Station 89.3FM (from our parking lot). **Keep flexible about in-person.** We are weighing the risks on a week-to-week basis. We are practicing all COVID responsible protocols.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH ‘WORSHIP IN PERSON’ COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

Due to these requirements in keeping everyone safe and well the Worship Team is looking for a person to volunteer for one Sunday a month (5 Sundays means we would like to have 5 volunteers). **We still need 2 volunteers.** Contact

Wayne Shull. Supplies will be available.

Here is what to expect on Sundays at ‘in person’ Worship Services:

1. Enter through front door (church wings will both be closed).
2. Only the one bathroom by the front doors will be used.
3. Temperature and names will be taken at the door.
4. Masks are required (we will have masks for forgetful folk).
5. Chairs will be set at 6’ apart. Please, do not move chairs. **Those in same household family may sit together.**
6. No Bibles, Hymnals, Pens, Pencils, or Coloring Table items available during worship services. Please bring your own Bible.

Please, let Pastor Gen know if you are coming in person so that she can be certain we have enough chairs set out.
Thank you, Gen.

FRED MEYER’S ‘COMMUNITY REWARDS’ PROGRAM (Remember to Sign Up Online)

VUCC continues as a 501-c3 Non-Profit organization that will receive funds each time someone uses their Rewards Card from Fred Meyer’s. Please use the ‘link’ to participate in the program by linking your Rewards Card at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You need to use this **NPO** number **LN110** to link to the VUCC organization.

VUCC has received a contribution from the Rewards from 5 households of **\$31.49** for **Quarter 4, 2020.**

If you have questions, contact the office at 926-7173.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have your information and articles to the office by **Tuesday, February 23rd for our March issue.** Let’s continue to get our information out into the church and surrounding communities.

If you need help with your article contact me by phone or **email** and I will be glad to assist you.
Office: 926-7173 or **preferably at email**
veradaleucc@gmail.com. Thanks, Joyce

SATURDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Our meeting will be **Saturday, February 13th at 9:30 a.m. through 'Go-to-Meeting'**. We will be discussing *"American Dirt"* by Jeanine Cummins, a novel about families escaping the cartels in Mexico and Central America by riding the rails and walking to the US.

New to GoToMeeting? Install app:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/168492205>

Join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<http://global.gotomeeting.com/join/168492205>

You can dial in using your phone:

+1 (646) 749-3122 / Access code: 168-492-205

Let me know if you have questions.

Blessings from Becky

In March we will discuss "The Buy Nothing Get Everything Plan" by Liesl Clark.

Invite friends to join us remotely!

2020 GIVING STATEMENTS

All those who have given monetary donations or contributions (of all types) to VUCC during 2020 should have received by individual email or postal mail a **VUCC 'Giving Statement'** showing your donation/contribution amounts for your records. The emailed file is in (.pdf) read-only format.

If you need a hard copy of your Giving Statement, please let me know. Notify me by email (veradaleucc@gmail.com) if possible which I can access from work or home and respond the quickest to any requests or questions. If you did not receive a Statement and need one let me know your email or postal address. Thank you, Joyce Walker

2021 PLEDGE CARDS AVAILABLE



Pledges are coming in for 2021 and are greatly appreciated as we plan for the coming year. There are blank Pledge Cards on the foyer table outside the sanctuary along with related letters from our VUCC Council. **If you need the card mailed or emailed to you let me know.** Fill out the Pledge Card and return it to the office by mail or place it in the Sunday offering plate. **You may also email or call in your Pledge at 926-7173 or veradaleucc@gmail.com.**

Happy Valentine's Day & Nurturer's Day



VOLUNTEER CLEANING OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for volunteer(s) to help with cleaning a few areas of the church. If you are able to help with any of these listed below, please contact Pastor Gen or office, veradaleucc@gmail.com.

- *Vacuuming the Sanctuary – Empty Garbage.
 - *Dust Mopping and/or Sweeping non-carpeted floors in south and main foyers & hallway. Empty garbage.
 - *Clean Main Bathroom-Sink, toilet, floor, garbage.
 - *Spiderweb Cleaning
- Put garbage into larger Kitchen Garbage Can.**



MARDI BRAS
Drive Thru Party
Saturday, Feb 13, 3 to 5pm
611N Progress Road, Spokane Valley
First hour hosted by Veradale UCC and
second hour hosted by Eastside Gladiators.
Festive cupcakes given out as a thank you for participating.
Donations go to Hope House which needs:
NEW socks, bras, undies, hair ties,
Femine hygiene products (tampons, pads, etc.)
Sugar, coffee, breakfast cereal, cough drops
Bus passes, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, soap,
Checks made out to Volunteers of America or cash is great too!



We celebrate all those with January Birthdays.

Wish we could be together in fellowship with all of you! Hope your Birthdays were wonderful!

Stay Healthy and Safe!

**From: Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery
Thank You Letter to VUCC
For Donations from our 'Baby Shower for Baby
Jesus' in January**

1/21/2021

Dear,

On behalf of the Vanessa Behan, I extend my gratitude for your recent in-kind gift of diapers, wipes, new clothes, new toys, children's masks, and misc. pantry items.

Generous supporters like you are so important in helping Vanessa Behan follow through with our mission of keeping children safe and strengthening the families of our community.

This year we are experiencing a significant increase in the need for our services. As we look to the horizon, we know we must increase our ability to care for more children than ever before. Please know that your generosity plays an important part in helping care for more than 5,000 little ones each year, as well as the help and support their families need to become better parents.

We simply cannot do this without whole-hearted supporters like you. Together we can change the lives of even more children.

We deeply appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

Amy Knapton Vega, MS
Executive Director

HOPE HOUSE 'WISH LIST'

**(Every donation gives a woman hope!)
(Our giving at least thru February 2021)**

Please hold your VUCC donations at home or contact Hope House (535-3155) to see if they are excepting donations at this time. We will resume our VUCC Collections once we are meeting again at the church.



Socks	Soap
Underwear	Cough Drops
Sugar	Razors
Creamer	Hair Ties
Peanut Butter	Coffee
Tampons	Toilet Paper
Blankets	Milk
Bus Passes	Butter
Shampoo	Breakfast
Cereal	
Conditioner	Ladies
Clothing	
Dog Food & Biscuits	Bras

Prayers of concern for

Prayers for Gae Ann's family as Covid has come to Scott, Shannon, and Aspen's wider family. Scott's daughter who is pregnant has Covid. Please, keep her and all mom's like her in prayer.

Prayers for Barbara Paro and the family as she grieves the death of her daughter.

Prayers for Diane Jeffers. Her granddaughter was hospitalized due to having seizures.

Continued prayers are needed for Helen Bonser, Walter Wilson, Linda Pruitt, Mike Franklin and family, Jessa Lewis who was taken to the hospital due to Covid, and all struggling with broken hearts.

Prayers for the sustaining of Naomi's studio - for the health and safety of her students, staff, and herself, and for the financial solvency of the studio as a business. Things are going to get very tight this spring unless they get more financial relief. Blessings to her as she applies for the second round of PPP forgivable loans.

Prayers for Tom H. and Raymond N, for their healing.



**SPOKANE VALLEY
FOOD BANK DONATIONS
(Our giving at least thru February 2021)**

Please hold your VUCC donations at home or contact SVP at 927-1153 to see if they are excepting donations at this time. We will resume our VUCC Collections once we are meeting again at the church.

You may drop off items 8am-4pm (M-F) at 10814 E. Broadway or Mail money to SVP, PO Box 141360, Spokane Valley, WA. 99214.

Please, contact SVP directly to arrange dropping off food. **SVP: 927-1153**

2021 - SEASON OF LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

(Remote and/or In-Person – Depending on COVID Restrictions at the time)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th: Ash Wednesday Four Church Worship watch email for time

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21: Lent 1 Worship 10:30 a.m. Gen. 9:8-17, Mk 1:9-15, Kingdom is Near (Communion)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28: Lent 2 Worship 10:30 a.m. Mark 8:31 – 38, Suffering

SUNDAY, MARCH 7: Lent 3 Worship 10:30 a.m. John 2:13-22, Cleansing the Temple (Communion)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14: Lent 4 Worship 10:30 a.m. John 3:14-21, God so Loved the World

(Turn clocks back 1 hour before bed on Saturday, 3/13!)

SUNDAY, MARCH 25: Lent 5 Worship 10:30 a.m. Genesis 14:17-20, Hebrews 5:5-10, Melchizedek

SUNDAY, MARCH 28: Palm Sunday, Worship 10:30 a.m. Mark 14:1-15:47, Praise and Passion

HOLY WEEK: Monday, March 29th – Saturday, April 3rd.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1: Maundy Thursday – Virtual Last Supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by Tenebrae.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2: Last Words of Jesus 2:30pm to 3pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4: Sunrise Service 6:10 a.m. All Family Service 10:30 a.m.

Area faith leaders call for people to stand united against violence

As Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho, we reach out to our fellow citizens to stand united against the violence that took place at the United States Capitol on Jan. 6. We call upon all Republican and Democratic public servants, politicians, and religious authorities to courageously speak out and condemn this attack on democracy and its institutions.

Our nation's healing requires that all those involved, regardless of their office, religion, or skin color, stand before a court of law to be held accountable for their actions. This includes [former] President Trump, the 12 Republican Senators and 126 Republican Representatives who enabled him, and the thousands in the mob who caused harm, terror, and destruction. Find your elected officials at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> and contact them.

Furthermore, we must challenge the media outlets that wittingly and unwittingly repeated the extremists' and the [former] President's lies. Their audiences

sincerely believed that the election was stolen. This moved citizens to violence. Our nation will continue to be devastated if we tolerate the further repetition of unsubstantiated accusations and assertions. At the same time, we recognize the reporters who put their lives in danger to provide accurate coverage.

To heal our nation, a full investigation into why the capital police were left unable to maintain order must be made and those responsible must be held accountable. Noting that the police presence was far more substantial during the March for Science, the Women's March, and all Black Lives Matters events, we seek answers to the questions about the role of the [former] President and law makers in the lack of security. Further, we join with all people of conscience in recognizing that systemic racism played a major role as did the cultural tolerance of radicalized "Christian" whites. We must face this and commit ourselves to the dismantling of systemic racism and religious extremism of every kind.

Wherever you live and work, let that be the place where you are the change. Join with us, as people of all spiritual practices and political parties, in strengthening our democracy. Demand verifiable facts from ourselves, every leader, and all media outlets. Contact those in power and demand that we refocus ourselves and our nation on the common good which begins with holding accountable those who were part of the attack.

The Rev. Gen Heywood, Convener, Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

The Rev. Scott Starbuck, Ph.D., pastor, and The Rev. Pamela Starbuck, Manito Presbyterian Church
Naghmana Sherazi, Chair, Muslims for Community, Action & Support
Lynne H. Williams, MD for Baraka Sufi community

The Rev. Joan Broeckling, One Peace, Many Paths

The Rev. Debra L. Conklin, St. Paul's and Liberty Park United Methodist Churches and The Grove Community

William Aal, Principal Associate
Tools for Change
Pam Silverstein MD
member of the Jewish community
Don Young, Life Deacon, and Jan Young, Music Minister, Veradale UCC
The Rev. Heather Tadlock
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Patrick T. McCormick, S.T.D.
Professor of Religious Studies
Lani DeLong, RN, Retired
The Rev. Rick Matters
Episcopal Priest
Sr. Pat Millen, OSF,
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Luke Lavin, Director of Mission and Ministry, Gonzaga University
Diana Koorkanian-Sauders, Board President Congregation Emanu-El
The Rev. Paul Benz and
Elise DeGooyer, co-directors,
Faith Action Network
The Rev. Jim CastroLang
Board Member, Faith Action Network
Larry A. Weiser, member of the Jewish Community

LETTER SIZE PAPER ONATIONS (8 1/2" x 11")

If anyone would like to donate Letter Size (8.5" x 11" white copy paper that would be great. Brightness (#20) Package of (500) sheets of multipurpose bright white paper. We are running a bit low. We should get stocked up again. Call or email us if you need to make arrangement to drop off at VUCC.

Thank you to those who already donated some paper in January. Greatly appreciated! Joyce

926-7173 or veradaleucc@gmail.com

'BLESSING' BOX

We are reaching out in new ways to those in need. Our **Blessing box** is continuing to be filled with items. **Take what you need, add what you can.** In January we donated socks, hats, mittens/gloves and jackets to Progress Elementary School for their children in need. Thank you for supporting this outreach.

Questions: Office - 926-7173

JANUARY 2021 PICTURES



'Baby Shower for Baby Jesus' Donations for Venessa Behan Crisis Nursery – January 3, 2021



Continued donations in the 'Blessing' Box for those in need.



**VERADALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
611 N. PROGRESS ROAD
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99037**

The Messenger published Monthly
Vol. 33 Published Monthly No. 2 / February 2021

Ministers: People of the Church
Pastor: Genavieve (Gen) Heywood
Office Manager: Joyce Walker
Music Director: Wayne Shull
Phone: (509) 926-7173
Email: veradaleucc@gmail.com
Website: veradaleucc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/Veradaleucc



Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Join us on Zoom, Facebook & (Radio 89.3- from the Parking Lot) and open for 'in person' attendees by contacting Pastor Gen prior to each Sunday date per Covid-19 safety regulations of arrangement of chairs and spacing.