

Worshipping God in Christ, Welcoming all, working for justice and peace

Veradale United Church of Christ

The Messenger

The Garden Song

By David Mallett

Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground

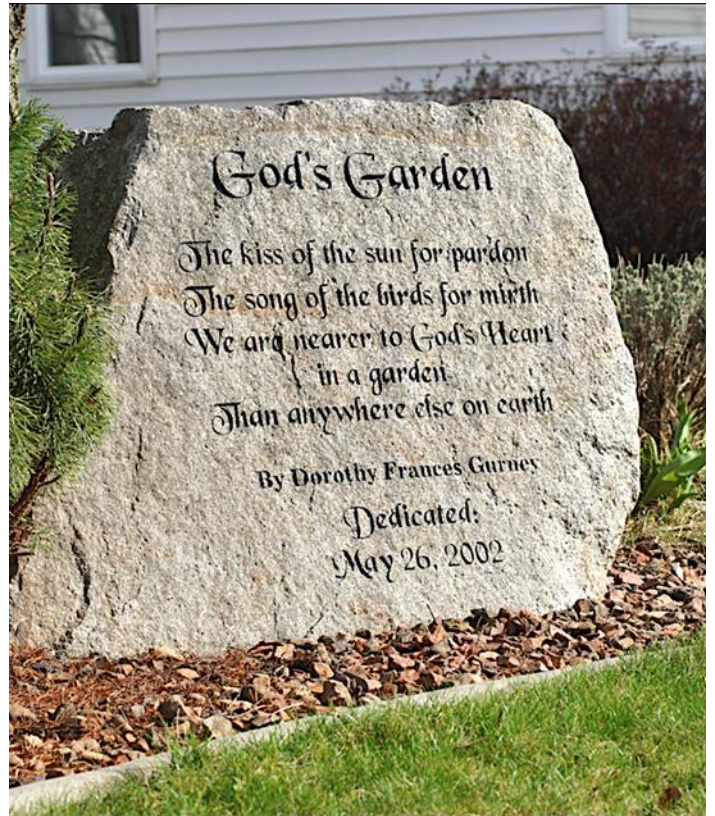
Inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
'Till the rain comes tumblin' down

Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones
Man is made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own
'Cause the time is close at hand

Grain for grain, sun and rain
Find my way in Nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain
To the music from the land

Plant your rows straight and long
Temper them with prayer and song
Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her loving care

An old crow watching hungrily
From his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free
As that feathered thief up there



MAY 2021

Thoughts from the Pastor

Often it is said that we must suffer before we can fully understand the suffering of another. While that is sometimes true, it is also true that this way of Jesus is a practice of living aware. We are to practice helping our world be one where everyone is treated the way we want for ourselves.

During the Easter season, the lectionary reading of Acts 8:26-46 told the story of an Ethiopian man who read the prophet Isaiah out loud and was overheard by the apostle Phillip. Moved to talk with the man, Phillip told the story of Jesus who declared all people as accepted by God, without exceptions. This was huge. In those days, it was not his black skin that separated the Ethiopian from others -- it was the condition of his body. As a eunuch, he was likely made a slave and castrated as a child. In this way, he was made "safe" for service to the royals, particularly in service of the royal women. Even though he served the queen, he was shut out from the religious rituals of society. He was told that he could never be close to God because of the condition of his body, a condition that was forced upon him.

As Phillip and the Ethiopian talked, the man challenged Phillip's teaching. If this Jesus really said there was nothing to keep him from God, what was to prevent him from being baptized and fully part of the way of Jesus?

Phillip considered the question and responded that in Jesus he was whole, a huge testimony to the counter cultural nature of this way of Jesus. The Ethiopian man, a slave and a eunuch, was baptized into the way of Jesus and recognized as having no separation from God.

Phillip did not know what it was like to be an Ethiopian or a eunuch. What he knew was the power of belonging and could share that good news. This May, as we see the flowering trees, the greening fields, and the growing of gardens, consider this way of Jesus where everyone belongs, no exceptions. We can break forth to love our neighbor as ourselves in acts of compassion and justice. Instead of responding out of pain and sorrow, let us turn to the beauty of our faith and remind everyone, in Jesus, all fully belong – no exceptions.

With blessings,
Pastor Gen

THANK YOU FROM JULIE BOYD

So much thanks to Marvin Wilson, Jan and Don Young, Maureen Carroll, Jeanne Salisbury, Marilyn Closson, Mark Boyd, and Karla McNeilly for helping with the Easter bags. You donated your time, energy and finances to brighten 50 families lives on Easter Sunday. The bags were decorated beautifully and filled with a handmade bunny, great activities, eggs, toys, and yummy Easter candy. Thank you.

It was a pleasure to be part of the Veradale church in action. This shows the church can be a vital resource to the community and our neighbors have built a strong connection with us.

I'm proud to say I'm a member of Veradale UCC. Thanks

WEEKLY TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER WITH PASTOR GEN HEYWOOD

(Facebook)

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.

MAY COUNCIL MEETING

(Anyone is welcome to attend these meeting)

Our Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. in person at VUCC and through 'ZOOM'.

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.

Approved Monthly Council Meeting Minutes are posted on the Church Website and Bulletin Board in the Hallway.

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 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.

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

APRIL FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our Monthly goal is \$8,800. We had \$4,512 in donations towards that goal as of April 26th.

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,
611 North Progress

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE



We are having a **Mother's Day Basket Raffle of 3 wonderful Baskets!** Tickets are being sold now with the Basket winners announced on Sunday, May 9th. Tickets are being sold through the Longevity committee at **\$2.00 each**. You can contact the church through email at: veradaleucc@gmail.com or church website: veradaleucc.org; using the 'Contact Us' tab and we will make arrangements for you to get your ticket(s).

Take a chance and win a wonderful basket!!

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser and VUCC missions and ministries.

If you have questions, contact Marvin Wilson at 509-218-7332.

Longevity Committee

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



MAY 2021



						1 PNCUCC Conference
2 PNCUCC Conference 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Worship w/PNCUCC (Remote-Zoom)	3 10:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Work Day (All are Welcome!)	4 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote)	5	6	7	8 9:30 a.m. Saturday Coffee Fellowship (Outdoors) <u>See article</u>
9 Mother's Day All <u>Nurturer's Day</u> 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote-Zoom) Raffle Basket Winners Drawing	10	11 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote) 5-6pm @ VUCC Truthful Tuesday	12 Submit FLLC Art Contest Poster by today! (See article)	13	14	15 10:00 a.m. –Noon Photography Workshop at VUCC (See article)
16 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote-Zoom)	17 9:00 a.m. Piano Tuner- Tom Kuntz 7:00 p.m. Council In-Person & Zoom	18 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote)	19	20 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. FLLC Meeting (Remote)	21	22
23 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote-Zoom)	24  <u>Deadline for June</u>	25 9-9:25 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen (Remote)	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote-Zoom)	31 Memorial Day  OFFICE CLOSED	WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY EVERYONE IS WELCOME! IN-PERSON WITH LIMITED SEATING AND DISTANCING OR ON FACEBOOK AND ZOOM. <u>FOLLOWING COVID REGULATIONS</u>				

Date	Worship Services	Time	Access Services <i>If 'in-person' attending, notify Pastor Gen.</i>
May 2	On Zoom with Conference	10:00 a.m.	Join at church or remote
May 9	Mother's Day (Raffle)	10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote
May 16		10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote
May 23		10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote
May 30		10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote

‘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. Pastor Gen: cell: 1-408-593-9556 or home: 509-919-3768

‘N-SID-SEN’ OPPORTUNITIES! INFORMATION FROM MARK BOYD-MANAGING DIRECTOR

After much scrutiny, prayer, and research it has been decided that we will be able to offer a different version of camp for 2021. After reviewing what other camps across the country did that worked, we believe we have a set of protocols that will provide the best safety for both campers and staff. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

All Opportunities are Thursday-Monday
Please know space is limited for all opportunities.

We will be offering the following opportunities for you to come home to the lake:

Families at Camp rentals. This opportunity will allow a single family currently residing together to rent a lodge or cabin for their private use. Campers are responsible for their own meals. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

Family Escapes at N-Sid-Sen. This is like Families at Camp; however, it includes meals. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

Program Family Camps. This is a United Church of Christ program for families to come and participate in worship, games, discussion, and service opportunities. There are 3 different dates for these camps. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

Sr High Camp. This is a smaller social distanced program that will include worship, games, discussion, and service opportunities. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

Jr High Camp. This is a smaller social distanced program that will include worship, games, discussion, and service opportunities. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

Class of 2020 Camp. This is for those folks who graduated High School in 2020 and were not able to attend camp. This event will include worship, games, discussion, and service opportunities. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer Kid's Camp or Intermediate Camp this year.

Registration will open no later than March 31st.

All folks attending any N-Sid-Sen event will be required to follow all COVID-19 safety protocols as long as Covid-19 remains a safety concern. (check out our website for more information www.n-sid-sen.org)

Mark Boyd
Managing Director



Mark Boyd
Managing Director N-Sid-Sen Camp & Retreat Center, Pacific NW Conference United Church of Christ
509 919 3768 | 509 919 3768 | mark@n-sid-sen.org

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



On the 3rd Saturday each month Photography Workshop will be held with Pastor Gen Heywood from 10am to Noon at 611 N. Progress Road, Spokane Valley (Veradale United Church of Christ).

We will wear masks and meet in the large hall so we can keep distance. We will stream on Zoom if anyone is interest.

From 10:00am until about 10:45am we will go over camera settings and functions. This will include how to format the SD cards, set the anti-shake, use flexible spot metering, using timers, and manual focus, and work in Manual Mode. From 10:45am until about noon we will share three of your best images from this last year. We will talk about the possibility of some aurora activity, telephoto work with birds as well as macro work with wildflowers.

You are welcome to come to all or part of the workshop.

Are you interested? Do you want to be on Zoom or in person? Do you want to be on the Photography Workshop Mailing List? Let me know.

Have your camera, charged batteries, and a tripod if you have it.

Thanks,
Pastor Gen
(408) 593-9556



HAPPY ALL NURTURER'S DAY!

HAPPY Mother's Day!

mum mama mommy
BEAUTIFUL
unconditional love
creative **UNSELFISH**
LOVE U LOVE U LOVE U
BELIEVES
life patient **GENTLE**
compassionate
NURTURING
strength **DEVOTED**

SATURDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Our meeting will be **Saturday, May 8th at 9:30 a.m.** We will be discussing "*The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*" by **Charlie Mackesy**. This is a short story with lots of pithy philosophical ideas written in an interesting style. **We will meet outside at the church,** with a back-up of the fellowship hall if weather is bad and if inside is an option under current Covid restrictions. **Zoom will be our last resort.**

Let me know if you have questions. An email will be sent out prior to the meeting as a reminder.

Blessings from Becky

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84484741101?pwd=NGdmSWJRc0tHVXV1OFNoQTIWV1U4dz09>

Meeting ID: 844 8474 1101
Passcode: 432044

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,84484741101#,,, *432044# US (Tacoma)
+16699009128,,84484741101#,,, *432044# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 844 8474 1101

Passcode: 432044

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84484741101?pwd=NGdmSWJRc0tHVXV1OFNoQTIWV1U4dz09>

CELEBRATE!

We **celebrate all those with April Birthdays.**
Wish we could be together in fellowship with all of you! Hope your Birthdays were wonderful!
Stay Healthy and Safe!

LONGEVITY COMMITTEE

Upcoming Events being planned for 2021. For June more details and announcements (TBD) and will follow.

Mother's Day – Three Raffle Baskets. Winners drawn on Sunday, May 9th. **Tickets on sale now!**

Father's Day in June – 'Drive Thru' Chile Dog Cook-off.

'WELCOME' VIDEO CLIPS

We continue to create these short 'Welcome' Video clips to play prior to our worship services each week.

If you are interested in participating in any of these videos please contact Pastor Gen so she can schedule a time with you to create the video. These can be in-person or with you in your car.

Gen: 1-408-593-9556 or genheywood@att.net

2021 PLEDGE CARDS AVAILABLE



Pledges continue to come in for 2021 and are greatly appreciated. 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.**

Prayers List

Wayne as he continues his recovery from knee surgery.
Helen Bonser as she gets strengthening therapy.
Don Young healing from a sore back.
Marilyn who has Covid.
Walter, Marvin's Dad as he struggles with good and bad days.
Marvin's friend Terri who has several health issues.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

We will have another 'Work Day' on Monday, May 3rd starting at 10:00 a.m.

You are invited to join us in designing, preparing and renewing our church's memorial garden. Please contact Don or Jan Young to share your ideas or questions:
979-0228 (Don),
979-0224 (Jan), youngdcyoung@gamil.com.

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donate towards the renewal of the Memorial Garden please identify the donation as such. You may mail your donation to the church or put it in the offering plant or office.



Art to Open the Heart!

As we grieve the violence against Temple Beth Shalom, the murders of the Asian women and their coworkers in Georgia, and the shoppers in Colorado, Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho have been working on a plan to lift up our common humanity while breaking through apathy and helplessness.

We were looking for something in addition to vigils, statements, and legislation that would reach into the hearts of our communities. Our art contest is part of that plan. This is more than a onetime event as we need many ways to experience our shared humanity. "This contest will be followed by a short story contest and, later, a photojournalistic contest.

For this art contest, Judges are looking for a singular graphic, color image that can be put in the windows of businesses and homes, on social media, on signs, merchandise, and other media to share the message that we "**Celebrate Curiosity.**"

The contest rules say: "A well-crafted image will convey a visual expression of the people of Eastern Washington and North Idaho's commitment to Celebrate Curiosity through solidarity, inclusion, advocacy, accountability, and truth. It is a bold statement that all people, all religious and non-religious people, all those whose ancestors were the first on these lands and those new here, all genders, skin tones, sexual identities, and differing abilities are connected, respected, supported, and valued."

Email FLLConscience@gmail.com for the rules and how to enter the contest. The Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho (FLLC) is a gathering of many groups that began in support of the Poor Peoples Campaign. They seek to be a moral voice in our region. **See more on Facebook at:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Leaders-and-Leaders-of-Conscience-Eastern-Washington-and-North-Idaho-2065038930200180>

HOPE HOUSE 'WISH LIST'

(Every donation gives a woman hope!)

(Our giving at least thru May 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



SPOKANE VALLEY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

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**

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Shannon Davies-B – 5/12
 Andy Walker-B – 5/14
 Daniel Walker-B – 5/17
 Jack McPeck-B – 5/21
 Stephanie & Tammy Pepper-A – 5/26
 Al & Polly Komarek-A – 5/29
 Gloria Colvecchio-B – 5/29
 Tammy Rock-Pepper-B – 5/30

EASTER EGG TREAT BAG 'DRIVE THRU' AT VUCC APRIL 4, 2021





THREE MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE BASKETS – WINNERS DRAWN ON MAY 9TH



St. Gertrude's Monastery where I took images – Gen



More Pictures by Gen Heywood while on vacation

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

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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.