



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

# Veradale United Church of Christ

## *The Messenger*



From the altar at St. Gertrude's Monastery, Easter 2021.

1 I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

3 I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Tho' the night around me be falling;  
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

## ***Thoughts from the Pastor***

Our Lenten Journey is moving ever closer to Holy Week, the oldest of our Christian celebrations and the most sacred time in the Christian year. As the early church gathered, these 40+ days before Easter were set aside to carefully examine how we are living in our relationship with God and our neighbors.

This Lent, we have shared a series we called, “How Shall We Communicate with the Religious Right?” This title developed when Wayne and I talked after our study on the Book of the Revelation and Barbara Rossing’s book “The Rapture Exposed.” Wayne pondered if there was a way we could create a lenten series about how understand our radicalized neighbors and family members. I told him about Tracy Simmons’ amazing Ted Talk and thought we could create a series on the subject for Lent. We wanted to make it part of our worship, a risk as we have never done a lenten series in this manner. After much consideration, Wayne and I determined this was something we needed to do as a whole church family. We took the idea to the Worship Team, and the series was developed.

On the first Sunday in Lent, Naomi told us a powerful and moving story of her journey in Christian school from kindergarten through college. She described how she later discovered truths that had been hidden. Her testimony of transformation was powerful and humbling. The second week we heard about the life and experiences of Mel White as told to us by Wayne Shull. He gave us seven guidelines of how to look within ourselves as we talk with our radicalized neighbors and family members. That same Sunday, Scotty Patton gave a summary of the small and dense book “Bad Faith: Race and the Rise of the Religious Right,” by Randall Balmer. Many of us read this little book in preparation for this series. The third Sunday, we heard from Ryan Stollar and his experience of how the religious right took over the home schooling programs and the dangers this has created. He spoke of Children’s Liberation Theology and will have a book out next year. On the fourth Sunday in Lent, Tracy Simmons of Spokane Faith and Values shared the critically important characteristic of healthy groups — the ability to ask any question without fear. She told us the very personal experience of being raised in a cult and gave tools we can use when talking with family members and neighbors who are part of cult-like groups. On the fifth Sunday in Lent, April 3, Cassy Benefield will share her story and insights as an Evangelical. Sunday, April 10, will be Palm Sunday where we share the celebration considering the way the crowd got Jesus’ message wrong. On Good Friday, April 15, we will participate in a multichurch worship. More news on that is yet to come. April 16, we will have our community egg hunt and will decorate the church for Easter. Then it will be April 17. Easter Sunrise Service starts at 6am in front of the church and the all family worship service at 10:30am. What a season!

Many of the presentations for Lent have been added to our church website Veradale [UCC.org](http://UCC.org). Many thanks to Justin and Naomi Hanvey for all the work on this site!

May the insights and tools gained in this lenten journey strengthen our practice of following the way of Jesus. May new life be experienced in our relationships with God and with our neighbors!

With blessings,  
Pastor Gen

## HOPE HOUSE

If anyone wishes to donate items to Hope House VUCC can start receiving donations at the church. Place items in the bins under the coat rack in the foyer. We will be sure donations get delivered. Thank you for supporting this local mission.

Hope House is not accepting donations at their door. **But they can be left at Crosswalk properly marked for Hope House.**

Contact the church at [veradaleucc@gmail.com](mailto:veradaleucc@gmail.com) or 509-926-7173 if you have questions.

*These donations can be dropped at the church before or after church on Sundays or from 10am – 1:30pm Monday – Thursday.*

Socks	Soap	<b>or</b> See ' <u>Wish List</u> '
Underwear	Cough Drops	on the Church
Sugar	Razors	Bulletin Board &
Creamer	Hair Ties	foyer table.
Hair Conditioner	Coffee	

## BELL CHOIR



We have started Bell Choir. If you are interested in being a 'ding-a-ling' (Bell Choir) please contact Naomi who is leading this year. **Bell Choir Practices are after worship each Sunday as scheduled or announced.** More participants are always welcome.

## TUESDAY MORNING SILENT PRAYER



Remember to take a moment for silent prayer where ever you are or join us on Facebook from 9-9:30 a.m.

## AFTER SCHOOL HEALTHY SNACK PROGRAM



We continue the After School Healthy Snacks Program **once a month on a Friday as scheduled.** We would like to have VUCC volunteers to help pass out the snacks **in front of the church** to Progress Elementary School students (outside) as they get out of school. We will set up and get **organized with our supplies (snacks, drinks) at 2:50 p.m.** and give out the items **until around 3:30 p.m.** The kids get out of school at 3:15 p.m. which is when we will begin giving the snacks out.

If members can help, please contact Karla McNeilly at (509) 638-8540 or Jerry Brines at (509) 954-9319. The school knows we will be out there on scheduled Fridays! **Everyone helping should wear a mask.** If you do not have one the church has them available.

## APRIL COUNCIL

### Meeting

Our Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m. 'in person'.** Watch your email or any announcements for more information. Email or call the office 926-7173 if you wish to contribute information, concerns, ideas, etc. to the council.

Wayne Shull, Moderator.

## SPOKANE VALLEY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

**(Our giving at least a April 2022**  
***Please hold your VUCC food donations at home or contact SVP at 927-1153 to see if they are excepting donations at this time.*** Mary Sandoval donated **44 lbs.** of items in the name of VUCC in March.



## Scott Patton

Text from Scott's speech Reflections on Randall Baumer's book: Bad Faith: Race and the Rise of the Religious Right presented on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> is available on our VUCC Website at:

[www.veradaleucc.org](http://www.veradaleucc.org)



# April 2022



Attend Worship Services in-person on Facebook, ZOOM or listen on Radio Station 89.3 F.M. (from our Parking Lot)

All are invited to join us as we continue our Lenten Journey followed by Palm Sunday and Holy Week

<p>3 <b>LENT 5</b></p> <p>10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship with Communion Guest: Cassy Benafield <u>(Remote &amp; 'OPEN')</u></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7-8 p.m. Bible Study In-person &amp; ZOOM <b>(Paul's Letter to the Philippians)</b></p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>1-3 p.m. Memorial Service (Sanctuary &amp; Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>9</p> <p>9:30 a.m. VUCC Book Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>10 Palm Sunday</p> <p>10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship w/ <i>New Members Celebration</i> <u>(Remote &amp; 'OPEN')</u></p> <p><b>Holy Week Begins</b></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7-8 p.m. Bible Study In-person &amp; ZOOM <b>(Song of Songs)</b></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b> Multi Church Evening Service <u>(TBD)</u></p> <p>2:50-3:30 p.m. After School Snack Program (out front)</p> <p>Fill Easter Eggs (Marvin Leader)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 – Noon Photography Workshop at VUCC</p> <p>Easter Decorating</p> <p>1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt, Bake &amp; Craft Sale at VUCC</p>
<p>17 Easter Sunday <b>Sunrise Service- 6 am</b></p> <p><b>All Family Service – 10:30 a.m.</b> <u>(Remote &amp; 'OPEN')</u></p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen</p> <p><b>Articles due for May</b></p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting (Hall)</p> <p>4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7-8 p.m. Bible Study In-person &amp; ZOOM <b>(Song of Songs)</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00–11:30 am FLLC Meeting</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>22</p> <p>A Vigil for the Healing of the Earth 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. St John's Cathedral (on South Patio) <u>(see flyer)</u></p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship w/Guest: Jessica Zimmerle <u>(Remote &amp; 'OPEN')</u></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7-8 p.m. Bible Study In-person &amp; ZOOM <b>(Song of Songs)</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Annual PNCUCC Conference 4/29-5/1 1pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Annual PNCUCC Conference 4/29-5/1 1pm</p>

## ‘REMINDER’

### Keep flexible about how we worship

We are worshipping in person as most of us are fully vaccinated. We are wearing masks. Please, keep flexible about this. We will continue Facebook, Zoom, and Radio Daniel Station 89.3FM (from our parking lot) as part of our regular worship life. We are weighing the risks and practicing all COVID responsible protocols. Call Pastor Gen with any concerns or questions: cell: 1-408-593-9556 or home: 509-919-3768

## VUCC BOOK GROUP



We meet at VUCC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall in person and on ZOOM.

**April 9** – “*News of the World*” by Paulette Jiles. It’s another historical novel about an elderly widower and Civil War Veteran who, in 1870, was offered \$50 to deliver a 10 year old orphaned girl to relatives 400 miles away. The story was made into a movie that starred Tom Hanks. Books and movie are both available at Valley Library.

**May 14** – “*Sweetness of Water*” by Nathan Harris. It is a historical novel which was a pick by Opera’s Book Club and on Barack Obama’s list of favorite books. I haven’t read it, but I’m looking forward to it.

**June 11** – We will discuss the book, “*The Last Bookshop in London*”.

Happy Reading! **Becky**

### Ryan L. Stollar

Text from Ryan’s speech “The Bible, Like Homeschooling, Can Radicalize or Liberate” presented on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> is available on our VUCC Website.

at  
[www.veradaleucc.org](http://www.veradaleucc.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 meet in the sanctuary so we can keep distance and stream on Zoom if anyone is interest.

From 10:00am until about 10:45am we will review three of your best images and consider lighting, composition, and how it is interesting. From 10:45am until about noon we will share. We will talk about capturing images of birds, especially eagles.

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.

Thanks,

Pastor Gen  
(408) 593-9556



**See Sign-up Sheet in the sanctuary for Bake & Craft Sale Items**

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY



Join us in-person, or remote as we celebrate **New members** joining our congregation on **Sunday on April 10<sup>th</sup> during Palm Sunday Worship Service.**

If you are interested in becoming a member of VUCC or have questions talk to Pastor Gen.

## MARCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our **Monthly goal is \$8,800.** We had **\$6,105** in donations towards that goal as of March 31st.

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 Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99037  
*If you are attending in person on Sundays, offering will be a part of the worship service. Thank you!*

## Keeping in Prayer



### With gratitude for:

Lea's continued recovery.  
Our little community of faith, prayer, and compassion.  
Those who have offered of their time, talent, and treasure for the many needs of our church.  
Baby Karl's good health.

### With concern for:

All those suffering in body, mind, and soul.  
All those who seek to solve problems with violence.  
Marshall as he recovers from knee surgery.  
Ginny Foote as her knee surgery has been postpone.  
Another in our community having surgery Thursday, April 7.  
The people of Ukraine and the World as the Russian military continues to wage war against their country.  
For the Russian people who are forced to take this action and for those who have done this for greed, power, personal ego, and wealth.  
Teachers and students in our public schools that they may teach and learn verifiable, fact based science and history.  
Our church as we practice the way of Jesus.  
Our country as divisions continue to fracture our democracy.

All living things as climate change brings deadly consequences.

## APRIL - BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4/1 – Jack & Bonnie McPeck - A  
Ron Jensen – B  
4/5 – Al Komarek - B  
4/10 – Don Young - B

4/18 – Mary Sandoval - B  
4/24 - Jerry Brines - B  
4/29 - Barbara Paro - B



Ash Wednesday 2022



Ash Wednesday Pray Symbols & Burning of 2021 Palms for ashes



Longevity Committee planning Eggstravaganza



Organizing Cloth Closet Begins



3<sup>rd</sup> Day working on the Closet and still smiling!



An array of beautiful colored Cloths

## Early Bird Deadline-April 15<sup>th</sup>!



### PNC Women's Retreat

"Who Do You Say I AM"

May 13-15, 2022

Join the women of the Pacific Northwest Conference at N-Sid-Sen for a weekend of faith, fellowship and fun. You are invited to set aside intentional time for renewing yourselves both individually and collectively. We will engage in creativity, dance the labyrinth, and listen deeply to Spirit in our midst. There will be space for laughter and tears and all that is in between. Come ready for soul play.

Your facilitators for the weekend are Sharry Nyberg & Rev. Bobbi Virta.

*\*This retreat is open to all who identify as women.*

In the tree of life who do you say that I AM? Calling all Women\* from far and near to reclaim our name and identity as women of faith.

**Friday Check-in:** 4-6 pm

**Friday Dinner:** 6:30 pm

**Sunday Departure:** by 11 am

**LODGING:** Choose to stay in one of our Lodges which sleep 2-4 per room or in one of our more rustic cabins which sleep up to 8. Register EARLY for your first choice.

**MEALS:** Leave the cooking and dishes to us! The food at N-Sid-Sen gets rave reviews from youth and adults alike. With advance notice, we can provide tasty options for those requiring Dairy-Free, Gluten-Free, Vegetarian and Vegan diets. Notice required with registration.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Please don't let finances prevent you from attending this event. Contact your church and N-Sid-Sen for information about financial assistance.

**COST:** Lodge Accommodations - \$160

Cabin Accommodations - \$140

**Price includes:** Two nights lodging in heated accommodations, five meals, program activities and supplies.

**Early Bird:** Register by Friday, April 15 and save \$10.

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, April 29

Register online at [www.n-sid-sen.org](http://www.n-sid-sen.org).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- All N-Sid-Sen staff are fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID 19.
- All participants and leaders are also required to be fully vaccinated and boosted.



N-Sid-Sen is a camp and retreat center of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

38395 S Hwy 97, Harrison, ID 83833  
facebook.com/NSIDSEN

[www.n-sid-sen.org](http://www.n-sid-sen.org)

208.689.3489  
mark@n-sid-sen.org

## Wednesdays 7 to 8pm.



Join us each Wednesday from 7-8 pm for a Study of Song of Songs.

We meet in the VUCC Sanctuary and on ZOOM. This is led by Pastor Gen Heywood. Join us!

Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82586610296?pwd=OVM1aUhkVXhRd1E3SnFLMkdUkhjQT09>

## APRIL SCHEDULE

**April 3: Lent 5: "Life as an Evangelical" Guest: Cassy Benefield, Reporter with Spokane Faith and Values, Scripture: TBA**

**April 10: Palm Sunday: "The Crowd Gets It Wrong" Pastor Gen, Luke 19:18-40, Luke 23:1-49**

**April 15: Good Friday – will be with two other churches in the evening. More information to come.**

**April 17: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6 am around the fire pit near the front doors  
Easter Family Service at 10:30 a.m.  
Bring flowers to place on the cross or use flowers provided during the service.**

**April 22, Friday, Earth Day "Vigil for the Healing of the Earth" 4:30pm at St. John's Cathedral**

**April 24:  
First Sunday, after Easter, Special Guest  
Jessica Zimmerle, Earth Ministry/ Washington  
Interfaith Power and Light.**



Stephanie & Sue Organizing Cloths & Candles

# Time to do Something about...

A photojournalistic contest to tell a story in 5 to 10 images with written text demonstrating what needs to change.

Middle School, High School, and Adult categories

Send in entries before December 31, 2022

**Top prize \$150**

**One Runner Up prize of \$100**

in each age group

Sponsored by

**Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience  
of Eastern Washington and North Idaho**

Contact Rev. Gen Heywood at  
[FLLConscience@gmail.com](mailto:FLLConscience@gmail.com) for more information



Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho invite you to join us on

**Earth Day, April 22, 2022**

**4:30pm to 5:30pm**

**at St. John's Cathedral South Patio**

127 E 12th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202

**"A Vigil for the Healing of the Earth"**

Listen to those affected by ecological devastation.

Connect with others who  
are active in healing the Earth.

In partnership with: The Hope for Creation Conference, St. John's Cathedral, Veradale United Church of Christ, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Silver Valley Community Resource Center, Responsible Growth NE Washington, Solar Acres Farm, Spokane Riverkeeper, Sustainability Action Plan Spokane, The Fig Tree, St Paul's and Liberty Park United Methodist Churches, Congregation Emanu-El, Temple Beth Shalom, Spokane Jewish Coalition for Social Justice, Tools for Change, NEW STORY/Spokane, Faith Action Network, WA Partners for Social Change, Baha'i Faith, The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, Episcopal Creation Care Working Group, and more.

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

The Messenger published Monthly  
Vol. 34 Published Monthly No. 4 / April 2022

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**Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

***(‘ZOOM’ and Facebook) 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.***