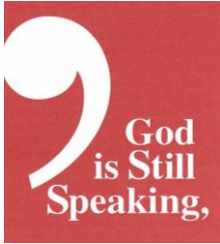


Worshipping God in Christ, Welcoming all, working for justice and peace

Veradale United Church of Christ

The Messenger



16th Century Carol for Advent

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

Sweet Savior, haste;
Come, come to earth;
Dispel the night, and show thy face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

O thou, whom nations signed for,
Whom priests and prophets long foretold,
Wilt break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long lost fold.

Shalt come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will they cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we thy God head see.

December 2019

Thoughts from the Pastor



Thoughts from the Pastor

As Advent begins, so does another Christian year. We follow the story of our faith from this time before Jesus (Advent), to his birth, teachings, suffering, death, resurrection, and through the life of the early church. During these next four weeks, we prepare to welcome Jesus anew in our lives, our homes, and our world.

The Christmas carols that started before Thanksgiving maybe great for encouraging shopping, however, they interrupt our most precious preparations — the preparing of our hearts and lives. Consider, the people living in a time before the teachings of Jesus. Consider how many times they heard the promise of a mighty king who would set the world right. Perhaps, you may have even thought of this in your own life time —“Oh, that God would just come down and make all things right.”

But, here is the odd thing about us Christians: we testify to a God who has already come down to set all things right. God comes to us on the darkest coldest night as one of us, as one with us! God comes to be with us to show **us** how to fix all the troubles in the world. We are to love, to have compassion for our neighbor and our enemy. We see the dignity in all people and seek a just relationship with all creation.

So, make room for this poor, brown, Palestinian Jew, Jesus, to be born anew in your life, the life of our church, and the life of all creation. Make room for God with us, who will challenge our expectations and whisper in our ear that we can live after the example and teachings of Jesus. God is fixing the world with us as Jesus is born again within and among us!

With blessings,

Pastor Gen

Advent Candle Lighters and their Special Messages



December 1, First Sunday in Advent - Candle of 'Hope' – Naomi Hanvey
December 8, Second Sunday in Advent – Candle of 'Peace' – Marvin
December 15, Third Sunday in Advent – Candle of 'Joy' – Helen
December 22, Fourth Sunday in Advent – Candle of 'Love' – John & Maureen Carroll
December 24, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Christ Candle – Lea Chilberg

PLUM PUDDING AND SILENT AUCTION



In the spirit of our Christmas Tradition, please join us on **Sunday, December 1st beginning at 4:00 p.m.** and enjoy a very special variety Christmas Program, including carol singing followed by scrumptious Plum Pudding treats and savory foods. Hope you are able to share in the fun and fellowship of the season with us. *Enjoy!*

****We will decorate tables on Saturday, 11/30 at 9:30 a.m.** If you signed up for a table please come set up your decorations!

Questions: Marvin Wilson at 509-218-7332 or Sammypapamw.mw@gmail.com or the office at 926-7173.

FELLOWSHIP TIME (REMINDER)

December fellowship snacks will be brought to you by those with last names starting with **K through O.** The kitchen committee will prepare coffee and juice every Sunday and will be available to direct clean-up. Questions, contact Barb Paro, Charlie Salt, Marilyn Closson, Helen Bonser or Lea Chilberg. **January: – P-Z**

FOOD BANK OFFERINGS



We will hold our **next Food Bank Offering** during worship service on **Sunday, December 29th.** Please remember to bring your food and other items for SVP and place them in the church foyer.

The commodity for the month of December is Stew / Chili

Thank you for all your deliveries this year!

‘MUSIC’ SUNDAY



On **Sunday, December 22nd during worship service at 10:30 a.m. we will have our ‘Music Program’** celebrating the **4th Sunday in Advent–‘Love’.** Plan on joining us as we enjoy the special music presented by members of the choir, bell choir and congregation.

They have all been working for months practicing traditional and new music to present to us today. Thank you all for sharing your musical talents making this a special Sunday.

DECEMBER 22nd - ‘SPECIAL OFFERING’ – THE CHRISTMAS FUND



The annual Christmas Fund Offering is one of the special offerings we collect because we are a United Church of Christ congregation. This fund provides Christmas checks to low income retired clergy and widowed spouses of clergy. It also pays some health plan insurance costs for disabled clergy, helps subsidize health plan costs for low income clergy and provides emergency grants for financial crisis in the lives of active and retired clergy. Please share generously with this important offering. Envelopes will be enclosed in your bulletin on **Sunday, December 22nd along with an information flyer.**

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Annual Christmas Fund Offering



(Remember those who serve the Church)

The annual Christmas Fund Offering will be taken on Sunday, December 22nd.

1 ADVENT – 'HOPE' 9:30 a.m. Music 10:20 a.m. Praise 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Communion & (Hope House Offering) 11:45 a.m. Fellowship 4PM-6PM PLUM PUDDING 		3 9–9:30 a.m. Prayer 4 – 5 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 p.m. Bible Study		5 1:00 p.m. Longevity Mtg. (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Choir	6 (Tentative) 9am-11am Nicolle – Baking (Kitchen)	7 3-5:30 pm Yoga in Sanctuary (Becky Myers-(ACT II Teacher)
8 ADVENT – 'PEACE' 9:30 a.m. Music 10:20 a.m. Praise 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Fellowship		10 9–9:30 a.m. Prayer 4 – 5 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 4 – 7 pm Tuesday Vigil at VUCC (Sanctuary) 7:00 p.m. Bible Study		12 10am-2pm Days for Girls at LDS on 16 th 7:00 pm Choir	13 2:45-3:45pm Healthy Snacks Program	14 9:30 a.m. Saturday Coffee Fellowship (Book & Write Christmas Cards) (Fellowship Hall)
15 ADVENT – 'JOY' 9:30 a.m. Music 10:20 a.m. Praise 10:30 a.m. Worship w/ 11:45 a.m. Fellowship 5-7 p.m. VIP Potluck-Hall (Tentative)	16 (Tentative) 4–9pm Stefanie Walters (Music & Meal) (Sanctuary & Hall) 7:00 p.m. Council	17 9–9:30 a.m. Prayer 4 – 5 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 p.m. Bible Study		19 Newsletter Articles Due for January 7:00 pm Choir		
22 ADVENT – 'LOVE' 9:30 a.m. Music 10:20 a.m. Praise 10:30 a.m. Worship - <u>Music Sunday</u> & ('Christmas Fund' - Special Offering) 11:45am. <u>Birthday Cake</u>		24 9-9:30 am Prayer 4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service w/ Traditional Nativity Play (6:30 p.m. Costumes & Practice) Cookie Potluck afterward	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas 			
29 9:30 a.m. Music 10:20 a.m. Praise 10:30 a.m. Worship w/ SVP Food Bank Offering 11:45 a.m. Fellowship	30 <div> Pastor Gen 'Out of Office' Through 1/1/2020. </div>	31 4 – 5 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	<div> Pastor Gen 'Out of Office' 12/25/2019 - 1/1/2020 </div> <div> WISHING YOU ALL A JOYFUL ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! Joyce Walker-Office Manager </div>			

Date	Liturgist	Computer Desk	Comm. Assist	Fellowship
Dec. 1	Helen Bonser	Michael Pflieger		Names – K-O
Dec. 8	Gae Ann Moffit / Joe McSwain	Christopher Daniel		Names – K-O
Dec. 15	Helen Bonser			Names – K-O
Dec. 22			<i>Music Sunday</i>	Names – K-O
Dec 24	Debbie Carlson		<i>7pm Candlelight Service</i>	Cookie Potluck
Dec. 29				Names – K-O

Saturday Coffee Fellowship

Join us for our Saturday Coffee Fellowship on **Saturday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m. at VUCC.** We will discuss the book “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee. We will write Christmas Cards to church shut-ins and former members and enjoy our goodies and drinks. We have 1 book in the church office to check out. Questions, contact the office 926-7173 or Becky Knapp at 868-9573. Bring friends along with you. Everyone is welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND NATIVITY PLAY



Join us on **Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. for Candlelight Worship and a Traditional Nativity Play.** Come at 6:30pm if you have a little person who would like to be in the Nativity play. Kids are welcome to arrive dressed as their favorite animals or as angels or shepherds for our play.

Also needed are people to help handout candles and people to help light the candles. Talk to Pastor Gen if you wish to participate in the play or help with the service. Let Gen know what you want to do!

HOPE HOUSE DONATIONS

We donated clothing, blankets, personal care and hygiene items in November. Thank you all for your generous contributions to this local mission.

Thank you to those who helped deliver and keeping their 'Wish List' current for us.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All are welcome!

Join us in the many opportunities to worship together.

DECEMBER 1st: First Sunday in Advent. Worship at 10:30 a.m. with Communion. We will light the Advent Candle of **HOPE.**

DECEMBER 8th: Second Sunday in Advent. Worship at 10:30 a.m. We will light the Advent candle of **PEACE.**

DECEMBER 15th: Third Sunday in Advent. Worship at 10:30 a.m. We will light the Advent candle of **JOY.**

DECEMBER 22nd: Fourth Sunday in Advent. Worship at 10:30 a.m. with our Music Program. We will light the Advent candle of **LOVE.** *During worship we will hold a 'special mission offering' for the 'Christmas Fund'.*

DECEMBER 24th: Christmas Eve **Candlelight Worship at 7:00 p.m. we will light the Christ Candle and present our Traditional Nativity Play.** A cookie potluck, hot cider and fellowship will follow the service in our Fellowship Hall. *Please bring cookies or finger food items to share.*

ANNUAL 2020 CONGREGATIONAL 'BUDGET' MEETING

We will hold our **Annual Congregational 'Budget' Meeting** on **Sunday, January, 26, 2020 immediately after worship service.** Please plan to attend as your voice and vote are important to our congregation and for planning the new year! Questions: Office 926-7173.



November Birthdays

FRED MEYER'S 'COMMUNITY REWARDS' PROGRAM

Several people at VUCC have participated in this Community Rewards Program for a couple of years now. We receive money each quarter as you shop! If you shop at Fred Meyer's please sign up for this program by getting a 'Rewards' Card and linking it to VUCC using our Organization # **LN110**. **IT IS EASY TO DO!**

Instructions are available from the office on how to get started with this worth while program helping VUCC earn money from Fred Meyer's as you shop.

Thank you shoppers!

END OF YEAR OFFERINGS PROCESSING NOTIFICATION



We will be **closing the financial books** by **December 24th** this year in order to have all 2019 offerings accounted for in the current tax year.

Please have your **offerings** (all types) for 2019 completed **by Tuesday, December 24th**.

Any donations after that date will be counted towards 2020 because we can not deposit them until January 2, 2020. Questions contact the office at 926-7173 or talk to Diane Smith, Treasurer.

THE ADVENT WREATH A PRACTICE OF PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Celebrate Advent at home by making an Advent Wreath. There are instructions for making the wreath and when to light the candles with related scripture readings and prayers for each week and Christmas Eve.

You may pick up a hardcopy instruction sheet on the foyer table outside the sanctuary.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our **Monthly goal is \$8,300**. We had **\$5,005** towards that goal as of **November 25th**.

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

Tim Leadingham – B	Dec. 14
Kay Hult & Al Torres – A	Dec. 16
Ron & Trudy Lambert – A	Dec. 20
Betty Prescott – B	Dec. 23
Bob & Darlene Turner – A	Dec. 27

Celebrate!

2020 PLEDGE CARDS ARE AVAILABLE



Pledges are coming in for 2020 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. Fill out the Pledge Card and return it to the office by mail or place it in the Sunday offering plate. If you have questions, contact the office at 926-7173.

DAYS FOR GIRLS SEWING EVENTS

Our last 2019 meeting will be on Thursday, December 12th from 10am – 2pm at the LDS on 16th. Next to Evergreen Middle School.

There are several from VUCC who help with this volunteer effort sewing (and other project processes) providing washable personal hygiene items for kits for girls and women in need around the world.

Questions: Contact the church office at 926-7173.

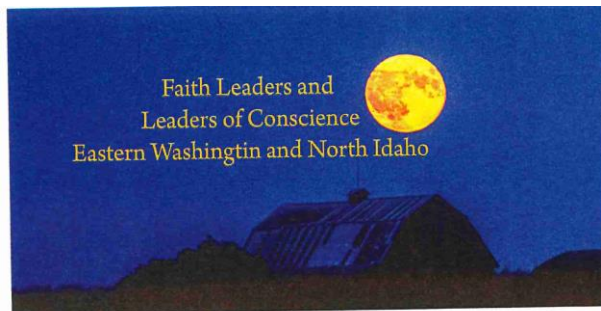
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

>>> Monthly
Newsletter

Please have your information and articles to the office by Thursday,

December 19th. Office hours are 9:30am – 12:30pm Monday through Friday at veradaleucc@gmail.com.

Remember January starts a brand new year full of exciting things at VUCC so let's get our information out into the church and surrounding



A coalition of leaders working to overcome racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation.

We are a diverse group of faith and non-faith leaders, join in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of the Beloved Community. We model unity in the work of overcoming poverty, racism, the war economy, and ecological devastation. All within our coalition are leaders of groups concerned with one or more of these four areas. For leaders uncomfortable with the inclusions of women, trans-people, people of different spiritual practices, this could be a change to grow.

Our Fundamental Principles are at: <https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/index.php/fundamental-principles/>
For more information: email Gen at genheywood@att.net or follow us on Facebook.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Stephanie Pepper had cancer surgery on Tuesday, November 19th. Prayers for a speedy recovery.

Katie Krauss who is recovering from recent surgery.

Linda Pruitt for adjustment to health challenges.

Bobbie Nicole still recovering from her hospital stay and continued effects. Also for car repairs.

FROM PASTOR GEN FOR GIFTS AND MONIES

Pastor Gen received many cards with money and also money put on the Money Tree at the 30th Anniversary of her Ordination Celebration.

The \$270.00 is already being used on maintenance for her car. Thanks for keeping her going.



NOVEMBER PICTURES



'Work Day' at VUCC Cleaning Church and Yard on November 2nd



Maureen-Cleaning on Work Day



Rev. Mike Denton, PNW Conference Minister, Guest on Generosity Sunday



Veradale at the Faith Action Network (FAN) Dinner



Pastor Gen & FLLC Receive Reward from FAN for work of FLLC



Choir at Pastor Gen's 30th Anniversary of her Ordination



Bell Choir at Pastor Gen's 30th Anniversary of her Ordination



Guests at Pastor Gen's 30th Anniversary of her Ordination Reception



Pastor Gen's 30th Anniversary of her Ordination on November 17th

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

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

It has been a fantastic year working with everyone at VUCC. Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday season and a Safe and Happy New Year! Good Wishes to you all,
Joyce Walker-Office Manager

Merry
Christmas

Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.