

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

Veradale United Church of Christ

The Messenger



“Though we do not know the time of year when Jesus was born, we do know that Israel, at any time of year, was not the windy, frozen scene the opening stanza of this hymn depicts. Nevertheless, the world was not a friendly place for Jesus even though the thermometer was above freezing. The middle stanzas describe the contrast between the glory of heaven from which Jesus came and the poor reality of the earth He came to save. The final stanza is a commitment that, in recognition of that sacrifice, we will devote ourselves to God. from https://hymnary.org/text/in_the_bleak_midwinter

“In the Bleak Midwinter” Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen
Snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter
Long, long ago
Angels and Arc Angels
May have traveled there
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air
But only his Mother

In her maiden bliss
Worshiped the beloved
With a kiss
What can I give him?
Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd
I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man
I would do my part
But what I can I give him
Give him my heart
Give him my heart

December 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR:

A blessed Advent season to all! We have so much joy to be a community of followers of the way of Jesus. Thank you for being part of this joy. Yes, the world is in suffering from climate change, violence, religious extremism, and dangerous divisions. We need our community more than ever!

The second Sunday in Advent, December 5, Communion Sunday, we light the candle of peace which gets its light from the candle of hope. On the third Sunday in Advent, December 12, our Play Sunday, the candle of joy receives its light from peace. On the fourth Sunday in Advent, our music Sunday, December 19, the candle of joy lights the candle of love which will light the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. Only after the lighting of the Christ candle have we actually entered into the season of Christmas.

On December 12, please, try Zoom if you cannot be in person. We will **not** be on Facebook on December 12. We have a fun play to share.

Here are directions from Scotty

Since some of you may not have used Zoom, here is a little how-to.

To sign onto Zoom, you need to have the Zoom app installed on your computer or smartphone.

- Once this is done, signing onto Zoom is super easy!
- The quality is a little better, both audio and video.
- We can see each other, and you can turn on your camera, or keep it off if you prefer.

Download the App:

- Smartphone: go to the App Store (iPhone) or Play Store (Android) and search for/install the *Zoom Cloud Meetings* app
- Mac and Windows OS:

o Goto <https://zoom.us/>

o Click the link *SIGN UP, IT'S FREE* o Choose the free personal plan o Download and install

Once you have the app installed, you open it and create a *username* and *password*. Usually you can have your phone or computer remember them. Then, when you want to join a meeting, just open the app, and click *Join* (in the Home tab). Then enter the *meeting ID*, and then the password, until you are in the meeting.

Here is a little hint: in the place where you enter the number, you see there is a little down arrow on the right – tap on it to see your recent meetings by name. If you would like to do this but need help getting started, you can let Pastor Gen or Scotty know, and we will help set you up (email Scotty at scottyp333@yahoo.com). You can also check out how-to videos on the Zoom website or on YouTube.

With gratitude and blessing,

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 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 – 1pm Monday – Friday.

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

BELL CHOIR



We would like to start Bell Choir again. If you are interested in being a ‘ding-a-ling’ (Bell Choir) please contact Naomi Hanvey who will lead this year or the office. Bell Choir usually performs for special or holiday worship services and as scheduled throughout the year.

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.

Our monthly Fridays for this program will vary. We plan to offer snacks one Friday each month working around the elementary school schedule for early release days, teacher's development days and holidays. We will send out notification to let everyone know what Friday each month in the future is scheduled for this program.

Thank you for your Pledges. The council will begin working on the 2022 Proposed Budget to be presented at the **January 30, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting.**

DECEMBER COUNCIL



Our Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, December 20th 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.

Wavne Shull. Moderator.

SPOKANE VALLEY

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

(Our giving at least thru December 2021)
Please hold your VUCC food 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 again in the future.

ANNUAL 2022 CONGREGATIONAL ‘BUDGET’ MEETING

We will hold our meeting on **Sunday, January 30, 2022 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: 926-7173 or talk to a council member or Wayne Shull, Council Moderator.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY




FRIDAY

SATURDAY



December 2021



<p>WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY EVERYONE IS WELCOME! IN-PERSON WITH LIMITED SEATING AND DISTANCING <u>OR ON FACEBOOK AND ZOOM or RADIO</u> 89.3 F.M. (FROM THE PARKING LOT.) FOLLOWING CURRENT COVID REGULATIONS</p>		1	2	3	4	
		4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7-8 p.m. Bible Study In-person & ZOOM		12:00 Noon Photography Workshop Field Trip 'Eagles' at Beauty Bay, Idaho	5-7 p.m. Marsilius Flumo Book Event (Fellowship Hall)	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Advent - Peace 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Remote & 'OPEN')		9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen	4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7-8 p.m. Bible Study In-person & ZOOM		2:50-3:30 p.m. After School Snack Program (out front)	9:30 a.m. VUCC Book Group (Fellowship Hall)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Advent - Joy 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship and Christmas Play (Remote & 'OPEN')		9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen Tim Leadingham-B	4-5pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7-8 p.m. Bible Study In-person & ZOOM	9:00-11:30 am FLLC Meeting Kaye Hult & Al Torres-A		10:00 – Noon Photography Workshop at VUCC
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Advent – Love 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship Music Sunday (Remote & 'OPEN')	7:00 p.m. Council Meeting  Articles due for January	9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen First day of Winter		Betty Prescott-B	7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service and <u>Traditional Nativity Play</u>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:30 -11:30 a.m. Worship (Remote & 'OPEN') <u>Last date for donations counting towards the 2021 year.</u>	Financial Books for 2021 are closed.	9-9:30 a.m. Prayer-Pastor Gen			Have a safe New Year's Eve.	All Poinsettia plant donations will be distributed equally between PNCUCC Missions: NIN OGHS and Christmas Fund 

Date	Advent Candles/Thoughts, etc.	Time	Access Services <i>Or Contact Pastor Gen if attending in person!</i>
December 5	Advent – Peace – Cherall Anne	10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote
December 12	Advent – Joy – John C. & Christmas Play	10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote
December 19	Advent – Love – Don/Jan & Music Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote
December 24	Christ Candle - Naomi Candlelight Worship Service & Nativity Play	Friday - 7:00 p.m.	Join at church or remote
December 26		10:30 a.m.	Join at church or remote

‘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



Hi Friends,

We plan to meet at Veradale United Church of Christ in the fellowship hall at 9:30 AM on the second Saturday of the month.

Books to discuss are:

December 11 – *The Little Old Lady Behaving Badly* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg. There are a copy copies in the Spokane County Library system, but there may be a waiting list.

January 8 – *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. Library has many copies but get your name on the list soon.

February 12 – *A Son’s Promise* by Marsilius Flumo, who many of us know because he has been a participant at VUCC for many years. Spokane County Library system has 3 copies at this time. Happy Reading!

END OF YEAR OFFERINGS PROCESSING NOTIFICATION

Last donations/offerings for 2021 will be by **Sunday, December 26th** this year in order to have all 2021 offerings accounted for in the current tax year.

Please have your **offerings** (all types) for 2021 completed **by Sunday, December 26th**. *If you are mailing your donation, please mail early enough for VUCC to receive them in the mailbox by 12/26.*

Any donations after that date will be counted towards 2022; including PayPal because we cannot deposit or process PayPal until January 3, 2022.

Questions: Call the Office at 926-7173 or talk to Diane Smith, Treasurer.

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.

Next FIELD TRIP: “Eagles,” Friday, December 3, noon until we get too cold at Beauty Bay, Idaho. Bring Camera, charged Batteries & SD Card with extra room.

Thanks,

Pastor Gen
(408) 593-9556

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Everyone is welcome!

December 5th: Second Sunday of Advent.
Worship at 10:30 a.m. We will light the
candle of Peace. Cherall Anne will give
thoughts related to Peace.

December 12th: Third Sunday of Advent.
Worship at 10:30 a.m. We will light the
candle of Joy. John C. will give thoughts
related to Joy. **Our Christmas Play will
be presented during worship service.**

December 19th: Fourth Sunday of Advent.
Worship at 10:30 a.m. We will light the
candle of Love. Don and Jan will give
thoughts related to Love. **This is our
Music Sunday.**

**Friday, December 24th: Worship at 7:00
p.m.** We will light the Christ Candle in the
center of the Advent Wreath. Naomi will
give thoughts related to the Christ Candle.
**Our Nativity Play will be presented
during worship service.**

We wish you all



NOVEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our **Monthly goal is \$8,800.** We had **\$11,250** in
donations towards that goal as of November 30th.

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

We pray for:

- All those sick from covid-19. Help all the researchers and scientists trying to help us get ahead of the omicron variant.
- The victims, their families, and the entire community of Waukesha after a driver crashed his car into a Christmas parade killing and injuring many.
- Sally who continues to seek information and healing.
- Kathy as she will have a procedure on her heart.
- Lea as she heals from the biopsy and determines what her next steps will be.
- Kim, Lea's daughter as she undergoes chemo therapy.
- Marshall as he recovers from a broken leg.
- Naomi as she continues to seek healing for her hip.
- Genevieve Fawcett as she has returned home and continues to seek ways to manage her mental health.
- Ahmaud Arbery's family at the conviction of Gregory McMichael, Travis McMichael and William "Roddie" Bryan Jr.
- Sam as she seeks a job that uses her skills.
- Marsilius as he celebrates the release of his first book on Dec 4 at our church.
- The refugees joining our community that they may find a safe and peace-filled home.
- Our camp N-Sid-Sen and Mark and Julie during this time when it is still difficult to gather safely.
- Our church as we plan for our 2022 budget .
- Our nation as divisions continue to harm us all because of a lack of agreement on what truth is.
- Our planet, may all world governments take the unpopular and necessary steps to save our planet from the worst of climate change effects.

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



MUSIC SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 19th 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 (ding-a-lings) and congregation.

Shall We Officially Join FAN?

FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

Our Council is 100% in favor of us joining and wants to offer the congregation an opportunity to discuss and vote on our church becoming an official member of the Faith Action Network. This is more about sharing the joy of claiming what we already practice.

Our membership in FAN places our church name on a list with over 160 other houses of faith so that we stand together on legislative needs concerning social justice and our climate crisis.

Financially, we are asked to participate as we are able. This might be through the attending of the annual dinner or by taking a special collection or by making FAN a regular part of our budget. We choose what best suits our situation.

So, you are invited to share the joy of claiming our solidarity with the work of FAN at our Sunday, January 30, 2022 Annual meeting that follows our worship service.

**The Annual Meeting of Veradale
UCC Membership will be on
January 30, 2022, immediately
after worship, in person
and on Zoom**

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY



Join us on Friday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. for Candlelight Worship and a Traditional Nativity Play. Want to take Part?

A Christmas Eve Play based on Luke 2:1-20

A Glimpse at the Script

Narrator: In those days Caesar Augustus ... He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Shepherd 1: This is a terrible time. The Romans beat down upon us. How can the priest speak of a God?

Shepherd 2: How could God allow such hardship? Look there, a young family and the woman is large with child. These are the worst of all days.

song

Narrator: While the shepherds ... the shepherds had visitors.

Head Angel 1: "Don't be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

song

Shepherd 1: "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

song

Narrator: They ... approached by Joseph.

Shepherd 2: I'm sorry to intrude. We were sent by... you won't believe this....

Joseph: Oh, I am very certain I would... Come in... Mary is resting.... I will bring Jesus to you.

song

Narrator: Joseph ... shepherd wondered aloud...

Shepherd 2: The world is different tonight. The Romans still oppress us. The hardships are all around us. And tonight, I feel God is with us,...

all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

How or Why We do that?

We are starting a new series. What are you interested in knowing about? Ask questions and we will be talking about them as part of our Sunday morning worship where we will hear from people about how or why we do that? *Samples:* *How to run the Dishwasher, how do you pick a sermon and put it together, how are songs selected and by whom?*

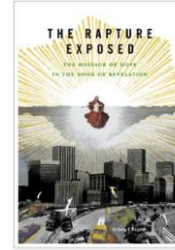
POINSETTIA DONATIONS



We have silk poinsettias purchased through the years by your generous donations. Last year we began a new way to honor our loved ones. If you would like to make a Christmas Dedication, you can give the names and number of poinsettias to be dedicated (**suggested donation of \$15.00 for each dedication**). All donations go to the PNCUCC Missions (OGHS, NIN & Christmas Fund equally). The dedication information will be put on a tag attached to the plant(s) which can become an ornament for your tree. ***Pick up the tags on or after Sunday, December 19.***

Please email, mail, phone the church or put your donation and/or dedication information in the offering plate during worship. You can also donate through the church Website 'Donate' button. **Indicate the donation is for Plant or Poinsettia.**

The Book of the Revelation to John Wednesdays 7 to 8pm.



We continue our Bible Study about the Book of Revelation each **Wednesday, 7 to 8pm through December 15th.** We meet in the VUCC Sanctuary and on ZOOM. This is led by Pastor Gen Heywood. Join us!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82586610296?pwd=OVM1aUhkVXhRd1E3SnFLMkdnUkhjQT09>

COATS FOR KIDS FOR 'SVP' AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES



As a local Mission of VUCC we will continue collecting **Children's Coats along with Hats, Gloves, Scarves and School Supplies** for Spokane Valley Partners (SVP). Karla McNeilly will deliver these items periodically as they are brought to the church. Please place them in the grocery basket in the foyer or hang them on the foyer coat rack at the left end.

If you have any questions, contact Karla at 509-638-8540 (cell) or the church office at 509-926-7173 or veradaleucc@gmail.com.

Please, consider how you are called to give of your time, talent, or treasure. Needed:

**Bathrooms cleaned
Floors washed**

Funds to pay our obligations

BLESSING BOX

As we reach out to our neighbors through the Blessing Box we are starting to fill it with **winter** items. If you are able, please donate hats, gloves/mittens, warm socks or scarfs to help fill the Box. *Each item should be put into a plastic zip lock bag to keep sanitized and to prevent them from getting wet.* You can bring items to the church 10am-1pm M-F or Sundays.

If you have questions, contact Maureen Carroll or the office.

OFFERINGS OF TIME AND TALENT



Decorating for Advent & Christmas



Nativity Scenes in the Sanctuary



Clearing out the Garden Compost Pile and Trimming Cleaning Up the Area.

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

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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.