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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church May 2016

## Sundays at Valley

Adult Education Class, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Funday, April 8 and 15,  
10:20 a.m.  
Open Nursery, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

## May

**1** Children's Musical,  
10:00 a.m. worship  
Pancake Breakfast for Youth  
Mission, 9:00 a.m. and again  
at 11:00 a.m.

**8** Mother's Day  
Communion  
Session Meeting with New  
Members, 11:15 a.m

**15** Pentecost Sunday  
Dining for Women Meeting,  
11:30 a.m.  
Library Book Sale, 11:30 a.m.

**22** Trinity Sunday  
Graduate Sunday

**29**

## June

**5** Communion  
Extend the Table, 11:30 a.m.

## Graduate Recognition Sunday May 22

Join us as we recognize and celebrate our graduating High School Seniors at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 22. Following Worship, let us celebrate with a cake reception during coffee fellowship upstairs in Davis Hall/Gym. All are encouraged to congratulate our amazing young people as they prepare to graduate from high school!



## Pentecost Offering May 15



Adult Volunteers and "Train a Child, Transform the World" programs) and 10% on child advocacy and children at risk. Please consider giving generously.

The Pentecost Offering is all about encouraging youth and young adults in our own congregation and around the world! Forty per cent of the offering is retained by Valley for Youth-focused ministry and for Children at risk. Sixty per cent is sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency who spends 50% on ministries with youth and young adults (Young

## Children's Musical Roars

The King's Kids Choir made us smile with their spring musical, *Rescue in the Night*. This funny rendition, written by Tom Long and Allen Pote, tells the classic roaring Bible story of "Daniel in the Lion's Den." King Darius and his wacky advisors, Astrofar, Taxalot, and Crushaflo, learn a lot from Daniel's faith. The musical on God's faithfulness was presented in worship on Sunday morning, May 1.



## Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 1 Benefitted youth mission

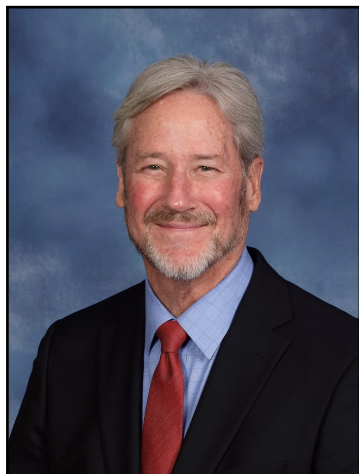


Davis Hall  
9:00- 9:50 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Noon



Thanks to all who supported the Valley Youth!

## Pastor's Letter—The Road Ahead



*Pastor Ben Paroulek*

***“We seem to be in a happy place, moving into a future that will be filled with new ministry and new challenges... thanks be to God!”***

At our last congregational meeting, it was announced that I plan to retire and Valley will be looking for a new pastor. Some of you have been curious or anxious about my plans for retirement.

I have been at Valley for more than 14 years now and have shared in our congregation's joys and sorrows, laughing and crying as we travel the road of grace. At one time or another, I have served as pastoral resource for every program area at Valley. I have tried to merge into the ministry and mission of Valley and embrace all the pastoral tasks that come with the turf. I am gaining some expertise at heating/air conditioning management and an occasional emergency toilet repair!

My presence here at Valley has been sustained by the grace of God. I still feel like I have plenty of energy and my health is excellent (insert sound of knuckles knocking on wood). But retirement eventually overtakes everyone; I am no exception. I embrace the march of time and the positive changes that lie ahead.

It may seem that Valley is a church locked in perpetual transition. In reality, Valley is not unique in its struggles; we are a lot like most other churches in this respect. We all look forward to a future with more stability and new growth... *new beginnings*. Now we seem to be in a happy place, moving into a future that will be filled with new ministry and new challenges. Our finances are solid, we have a fully pledged building renovation plan, worship remains exciting and fulfilling. Programs for children and youth embrace needs within our church and attract young people from our surrounding community. Fellowship, mission and nurture groups are more alive than ever. Thanks be to God!

As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13, “Now we see the future imperfectly, like shadows in a mirror.” The next era at Valley will hold many surprises and challenges in ministry and mission. Expect exciting things! So to quote Paul once again, “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.”

Our nominating committee is working diligently to assemble a PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) that will represent all the interests, ministries and people of Valley. The process of finding a new pastor will take about a year and, with the grace of God, I will be here during that time. I have the utmost confidence that the next pastor will lead Valley into new and challenging ministry and mission.

If you have any questions or concerns about the search process, please let me know or share your concerns with an elder. And please know that I deeply love the people of Valley and truly desire the very best future for our congregation.

In God's Grace,

*Ben Paroulek*

*Many thanks to Pastor Ben for his continued leadership and shepherding guidance as we move into the future. Thanks be to God, indeed!*

### THE MESSENGER

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### PASTOR

BEN PAROULEK

### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY  
MAY 15 FOR THE JUNE ISSUE:  
[messenger@valleycommunity.org](mailto:messenger@valleycommunity.org)

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF RETAINS  
PERMISSION TO MODIFY SUBMISSIONS  
FOR CLARITY, SPACE, CONTENT AND  
STYLE.

## Be A Part of Something BIG!



Our beautiful city of Portland is hosting Presbyterians from all over for General Assembly June 18-25.

Have you ever wanted to...

- Be a greeter at the airport for out-of-town guests?
- Help staff welcome bags for GA attendees?
- Sing in a massive choir during GA Worship?

If so, sign up here: [www.gaportland.com](http://www.gaportland.com)

You can sign up as an individual or pair up with a friend for a time slot.

- **As a volunteer, you will receive these gifts:**
  - Free early registration to attend GA (a \$95 value)
  - A volunteer name badge (*same access as a GA Observer badge*)
  - Access to attend all Worship services, committee meetings, business meetings (plenary) and the Exhibit Hall.

Join us for the fun and fellowship!

## Session Highlights

### Regular meeting, April 12, 2016

- **Finance:** Session approved \$1,500 to Mission to increase Presbytery Partnership Giving from \$6,000 to \$7,500 and approved an additional \$1,750 for Youth Ministries for Triennium conference funds.
- **Christian Nurture for Youth:** Session approved a pancake breakfast on May 1, a standard annual fundraiser for Youth Missions.
- **Building:** Session approved the following security changes: 1) Post building hours on front and east doors, 2) Repair doors that don't lock securely and service locking mechanisms, 3) Use existing security alarm system when appropriate, 4) Unlock only the east door during business hours and unlock front door only for Preschool drop off and pickup, 5) Utilize the current auto-lock/keycard system for after-hours use of building.

## Finance Report

Congregational giving remained strong for the first quarter of 2016.

Contributions to our general mission were slightly ahead of plan, and giving to *the Building in Christ* campaign remained robust, totaling \$47,390 January through March.

Thank you for continuing your financial support for the mission and programs of Valley.

*Frank Powers, Treasurer*

## Elders, Deacons and PNC to be Elected

CONC (Church Officer Nominating Committee) thanks all church members who have stepped forward and volunteered or who have said yes to our request for your services on Deacons, Session and the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee).

A Congregational meeting will be announced soon so that the nominees can be presented for your approval. Those members will be installed during the June 12 worship service. In filling the PNC, our committee has followed a formula to choose members that will represent **all age groups** of our congregation. It will be their task to find a new pastor who will lead our entire congregation into Valley's future.



Thank you for sending your check for **\$30.00** for the **2016 Per Capita (for wider church expenses)** for each Valley member. For more information about what per capita is, and how it helps, go to: [oga.pcusa.org/percapita](http://oga.pcusa.org/percapita)



## Summer Fun At Valley

Four camps, two youth trips, a baseball game and a whole bunch of fun to be had. Join us as a camper, a family, or as a volunteer. YOU make Valley summers epic!

Register online or in the church office:  
[valleycommunity.org](http://valleycommunity.org) — Summer



*Learn and perform a musical in a week!*

**When?** June 20-24 (Monday-Friday) from 9:00am-3:00pm + 10:00am Worship on June 26

**Who?** For Rising 2nd-7th graders with rising 8th grade Apprentice opportunity

**Cost?** \$175 for rising 2nd-7th graders; scholarships available. 8th Grade Apprentices are only \$75.

Campers will learn and practice acting, singing, choreography, and stagecraft, as well as studying the Bible story at the heart of the musical. Additional activities will include a talent show, fun-time in our gymnasium, making new friends (of course), a field trip to perform our musical at Courtyard Village Retirement Home on Friday, June 24, plus presenting the musical in Worship on June 26!

**\*\*New this year\*\*** 8<sup>th</sup> grade Apprentices – Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have a distinctive role at Music & Drama Camp. They will both help with certain aspects of the camp as well as getting to be fully in the musical. Cost for 8<sup>th</sup> graders is only \$75.

**Counselors** – Students entering high school or college may inquire about serving as a camp counselor.



*Calling anyone who wants to CREATE and EXPLORE various forms of art!*

**When?** July 11-15 from 9:00am-12:00pm

**Who?** Rising 1st-6th graders

**Cost?** \$75, with scholarships available

Each day will be a fun and creative learning adventure as campers rotate through three classes: Music, Drama, and Visual Art.

Classes are engaging, hands-on, and playful. A recess and snack break will be included. Please send your child with a snack each day.

A creative week for rising 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. Depending upon final enrollment, we may be able to offer space for rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Campers will be grouped by age.



*How do we become global citizens?  
 Can we learn and serve God while still having fun??*

**YES!** Camp: Mission is an exciting, all-day

camp. The mornings will be focused on local and global mission projects with Valley's Deacons.

The kids will learn about God's people in their neighborhoods and across the globe, and we'll all put our heads together to figure out how Jesus calls us to help others. The afternoons will be full of exciting field trips, games and lost of fun!

**When?** July 25-29 from 9:00am-4:30pm

**Who?** Kids ages 7-12

**Cost?** \$125/camper, max of \$300/household (includes field trips, daily snacks and lunch on Monday and Friday)



**Valley goes to a baseball game!  
 Friday, July 8**

All ages, no prior baseball knowledge required!

Reserve your tickets by June 8 by contacting Laurel Cluthe.

## Valley Kids Events in May

- Sunday, May 1: Worship + Children's Musical
- Sunday, May 8: Worship + Sunday Funday
- Sunday, May 15: Worship + Sunday Funday Party
- Sunday, May 22: Worship + Special Activity
- Sunday, May 29: Worship + Special Activity



Register Today! 

## Live Boldly! A Fresh, New VBS



Summer is about new experiences-- exploring, learning, and making tons of memories.

This summer, we are offering 3 nights of Family Fun VBS, learning how to ... **LIVE BOLDLY—FULLY LIVING AS GOD CREATED YOU TO BE, WITHOUT FEAR.**

### TOGETHER, we will all...

- Eat dinner (no cooking or clean-up!)
  - Experience Bible stories in real-life ways
  - Play hilarious games
  - Serve God's people through three hands-on mission projects
  - Worship and sing together
- It's like camp for everyone!

*When?* July 12-14 (Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday evenings) from 5:30-8:00pm

*Who?* All families! Kids of all ages and their parents/guardians begin with dinner. Everyone 4 years old and older stays for the activities, and loving childcare is provided for Infants-3 year olds. Friends/guests are welcome!  
*Cost?* Register as a Family/Household--\$45 includes 3 nights of dinner & activities; optional: \$5/person for hip "Live Boldly" t-shirt.  
**\*\*Register online today!\*\***

## Special Requests for Summer

Serving in children's and youth ministry means random tasks and activities are always on the horizon...never a dull moment! If you have **one of the following items or talents** you'd be willing to lend to your church this summer, please let Laurel Cluthe know. Thanks!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as a Prayer Partner for the mission trip youth participants (a simple daily prayer)</li> <li>• Email/write to Laurel a story of how you faced a fear (with God's help) that she can share with the youth</li> <li>• Provide a casserole or group meal for Summer Family Nights (VBS)</li> <li>• Provide a smile and willing hands to serve dinner at Summer Family Nights (VBS)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflatable baby pools</li> <li>• Slip 'n slides</li> <li>• RV or Camper (for Roy &amp; Valerie Conner on the mission trip)</li> <li>• Pool noodles</li> <li>• Twister game</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



## Valley Christian Preschool



Valley Christian Preschool welcomes children ages 2-5 years.

**Enrollment is underway for Fall 2016!**

Contact Kristina Kurtz at 503.292.3537 or [kristina@valleycommunity.org](mailto:kristina@valleycommunity.org) for more information.

Join us!

## May 15 Library Book Sale

Come to Davis Hall on Sunday, May 15 at 9 or 11:30 a.m. for an excellent opportunity to buy books for all ages as well as videos or DVDs. The funds raised are used to buy materials and/or equipment for our church library.

If you have any books, videos, or DVDs you would like to donate, leave them in the library or church office marked "Book Sale Donation."



## Team Valley and CROP



Team Valley stepped up with financial support for the Church World Service CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) Walk this spring. CROP will use 75% of this money to help people around the world. Their motto is "Fighting hunger and poverty. Promoting peace and justice."

Team Valley Pres is still taking online donations to meet our Grocery Receipt Challenge. Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/portlandor> and search for Team Valley Pres. Thank you for your support.

## Habitat Build Day June 11



**Bring your hammer! Valley will participate in a Habitat Build on Saturday, June 11.** Volunteers must be 16 years or older. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Chuck Falconer, [503-645-3318](tel:503-645-3318) or [chuckf@clankeith.com](mailto:chuckf@clankeith.com).

## Got Produce?

The produce table at Valley will open anytime anyone has something to share! Contact Ruthann Marquis when your Spring garden is beginning to yield, and the table will be set up for "business."



## Welcoming New Members: Kent and Beth Busch



Kent was born in Hillsboro, Oregon, son of the Washington Co. Sheriff and the secretary of the President of Pacific University. He attended Oregon State University and joined Sigma Chi Fraternity. Kent then taught in Hillsboro as a fifth and sixth grade specialist before he was hired in Beaverton as a librarian and media specialist. Kent served as an elder at the newly built Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro.

Beth was raised in New Mexico and Texas. While in high school, she moved with her family to California and then to Spokane, where she graduated from Whitworth College. Beth followed her parents to Beaverton, where she taught primary grades for 31 years. Beth joined Valley Church after college and taught Sunday School for several years. Kent and Beth met teaching and married later at Valley Church.

Beth and Kent both love traveling, working in their yard and entertaining friends and family. Kent has two children and six grandchildren, and Beth and Kent have loved baby-sitting for them. Last fall they enjoyed a river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest, and have made several trips to Hawaii and the Southwest. Beth's great-grandfather, William Bloys, was a Presbyterian minister in the little town of Davis, Texas. He began the Bloys Camp Meeting, which has grown in its 126 year history to host the ranchers and others from all over the world.

Kent and Beth now live in Beaverton right across the street from Jim and Karen Sandberg, whom they met when teaching their two children. Beth and Kent are very pleased to find a loving and friendly church home at Valley and hope to find ways of being of service to the church.

# Valley Notes

## Thanks for Being God's Church

Thank you to all who have volunteered in the office, particularly in the last two weeks.

*"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your prayers, cards, calls, emails and well-wishes during my recent tests and surgeries...and for the beautiful, comforting prayer shawl. It is so uplifting to have such a friendly, caring, faithful church family surround us as you have with your love." -Rich & Kay Gold*

## Opportunities To Serve

**Flowers:** "Your flower gift provides a mean, God's beauty to be seen."  
*Sign up in the church office to provide fresh flowers for our welcome area.*

**Graduation!** Please send names and schools of graduates in your family to messenger@valleycommunity.org or call the church office to be included in the next issue of The Messenger.

**Produce Table:** As you are planning your summer gardens, please consider planting some extra seeds and veggie plants so that you can bring their bounty to the Valley Produce Table. All monetary donations go to the Oregon Food Bank and help feed hungry in our own state. Thank you!

**Graham Family:** Handwritten cards, meals/gift cards or a monetary gift to cover additional family expenses are all greatly appreciated. Please mail or drop off cards or donations to the church office, or sign up to provide a meal through Valley's Mission page on the church website. Thank you.

**Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly national meeting in Portland June 18-25:** On Sunday, June 19 Valley welcomes a group of GA commissioners for worship and lunch. Contact Chuck Falconer or Ben Paroulek to see how you can help on that day.

## Prayers

**We pray for those with health concerns:** Frank Noonan, Kim Diestler

**We pray for those who mourn:** Jini DeVries and family on the death of Jini's brother-in-law, Willard Rink  
Angie Graham and Family on the death of Michael Graham  
Jan Conklin and Family on the death of Dick Conklin

## A Missionary Came To Town!



Chenoa Stock, Presbyterian Mission Partner in Bolivia, was guest preacher at Valley on Sunday, April 10. She is shown here (second from Left) with Valley members who participated in mission trips to Bolivia several years ago, including Connie Brenner, Donna Russell and Beth Hurd.



Chenoa teaches the Valley Kids the song "Cristo es Mi Super Heroe," which translates to "Christ is my super hero," complete with hand motions. The children loved it.

# THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
8060 SW BRENTWOOD ST.  
PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

## Dining For Women May 15



Dining for Women will “travel” to Northern Tanzania to learn about *African People & Wildlife Fund (APW)*, a non-profit that works in 19 Maasai communities. They focus on environmental conservation and sustainable livelihood strategies that promote poverty alleviation. Join us!

*Fireside Room*  
11:30 a.m.  
Potluck lunch

## Graduate Sunday Sunday, May 22



Join us as we recognize and celebrate our graduating High School Seniors at 10:00 a.m. worship. Reception following.

## Pentecost Sunday and Offering



The Pentecost Offering will be received on Sunday, May 15 during 10:00 a.m. worship.

**Wear red to worship!**