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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church April 2017

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## Sundays at Valley

Adult Education Class, 9:00 a.m.  
Early Coffee in Library, 9:30 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Funday, 10:20 a.m.  
Nursery Care, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

## April

- 2** Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Communion  
Library Book Sale, 11:30 a.m.
- 9** Palm Sunday  
No adult class today  
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser  
for Youth Mission, 9:00 and  
11:00 a.m.  
Dining for Women Meeting,  
11:30 a.m.
- 13** Maundy Thursday Simple  
Supper and Worship,  
6:00 p.m.
- 16** Easter Sunday  
No adult class today  
Easter Worship, 8:00 and  
10:00 a.m.
- 23** Pastor Ben Paroulek's  
Retirement Party, 11:00 a.m.
- 30** Confirmation Sunday  
Spring Musical, 10:00 a.m.

## May

- 7** Communion  
Congregational Meeting and  
Town Hall, 11:30 a.m.



## Holy Week and Easter at Valley

### *Palm Sunday, April 9*

Worship begins as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and mark the beginning of Holy Week. Palm branches celebrate the procession. Worship centers on the gospel readings and anthem. One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected during worship.

### *Maundy Thursday, April 13*

Remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples and celebrate the Eucharist around tables in Davis Hall/Gym. A simple dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Following dinner, we will remain in Davis Hall to celebrate the Lord's Last Supper in scripture and music.

### *Good Friday, April 14*

Although we will have no service, remember Jesus' last hours and events leading to his crucifixion. This somber and contemplative time is to help us focus on the Passion of Christ and his sacrifice for us.

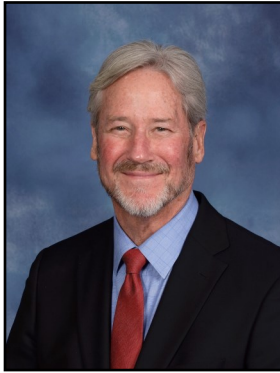
### *Easter Sunday, April 16*

On Easter morning, we will celebrate the resurrection with two services. (There will not be a Sunrise Service as in the past.)

**8:00 am and 10:00 am** services will include music from the combined Sanctuary, Youth and King's Kids Choirs, organ and trumpet. Worship will be full of "Alleluias" as we celebrate the risen Christ.



## Traveling Slowly, Carefully



Pastor Ben Paroulek

Lent is a journey that can help us bring our spiritual life into sharper focus.

Lent ends with the joyful celebration of Easter, a reminder that new life is breaking into our world with regularity. As we pause on the Lenten road and begin to anticipate Easter, I invite you to reflect on Jesus' life and ministry and how your life is connected to his. What part of your life or the world around you is God asking you to re-examine that may open the door to an encounter with God? Which roads have you left untraveled?

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth, and the life." The Way doesn't stop. Only as we continue in the Way and appreciate *the moment* do we value God's presence and live life to its fullest. It is easy enough to smile blissfully and dream of better times to come, but who wants to rush through life and to miss all the great adventures God has in store along the way?

Thomas Merton, a Christian contemplative, wrote:

"Life is this simple: We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God... we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows up everywhere, in everything - in people and in things and in nature and in events.... The only thing is that we don't let ourselves see it."

May your journey be filled with spiritual surprise and adventure!

In God's Grace,

*Ben Paroulek*



### THE MESSENGER

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### PASTOR

BEN PAROULEK

### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

## One Great Hour of Sharing April 9



On Palm Sunday, Valley will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering. The OGHS Offering is our denomination's primary means of funding the work we undertake to help those in need around the world and here at home. Sharing the love of God is done through three agencies: **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, **Presbyterian Hunger Program** and **Self-Development of People** by providing relief to those affected by both natural and human-caused disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Each of the agencies receives approximately 1/3 of the offering to help communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events, to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty, and to respond to communities affected by racism, oppression, poverty and injustice.

The special OGHS offering envelopes will remain in the pew racks for several weeks after Palm Sunday, and "late" contributions will be accepted. Additional information about the offering and these programs can be found at "[specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs)."

## Meet Valley Members



*Shirley and Len Anderson*

twins Arlo and Nova live in

In 2012 Len and Shirley truly retired and have been busy fulfilling their “bucket list”. When they are not in Florida with the grand babies, they are traveling the world. When they return to their home on Hayden Island, there are “sightings” of them at Valley, their church home and community of friends.

### Len and Shirley Anderson

It all began in 1964 when Len and Shirley met in senior composition at Rogers High School in Spokane, WA. This summer they will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

In 1968 they moved to Portland for Len to begin his first teaching position, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, in Portland Public Schools. Shirley was a Registered Nurse and began working at Physicians and Surgeons Hospital in northwest Portland. In 1970 they bought a Beaverton home and began attending Valley. In the mid-80’s they became Valley members, and Len taught Sunday School while Shirley served on a Pastor Nominating Committee, chaired the Personnel Committee, served as a Deacon, and continues to serve as a member of the Church Prayer Shawl Ministry.

In 1999, after 31 years, Len retired from his faculty and librarian career in the Portland Schools. He continued working as a part-time librarian, and then worked six years as a full-time manager at Tigard Public Library. In 2001, after 30 years, Shirley retired from her nursing faculty and Dean position at Portland Community College. She spent the next eleven years consulting in healthcare education.

They are proud to have two loving sons and their families. Doug and wife Jo live in Ridgefield, WA. Eric, wife Laura, 3-year-old Anya, and 5-month-old Jacksonville, FL.

## Senior Lunch April 26

Spring has sprung, and we are going to celebrate by having a garden party. Plan to join us on Wednesday, April 26 at noon for lunch, fellowship and an interesting presentation on small container gardening. We will learn how to plant the latest vegetables, flowers and succulents in beautiful containers that fit either in your home or on a small patio or balcony. What a treat to see the latest trends in gardening! We welcome everyone to Senior Lunch and encourage you to bring a friend. Can't wait to see you on, April 26!



## Adult Education Sunday 9:00 a.m.



### April 2

Addresses considerations of Luke’s gospel entitled, “The world turned upside down” - (which in modern parlance might be expressed as “the turbulence of our time.”) It contains some of the best loved passages in the Bible and raises new dimensions for our responsibilities to love our neighbors and practice forgiveness.

**April 9 Palm Sunday – NO ADULT EDUCATION CLASS**

**April 16 Easter Sunday – NO ADULT EDUCATION CLASS**

### April 23

Discusses the Biblical implications of the concept of the “Word Made Flesh” and raises questions as to what it means “to embody” the Word of God in our lives, everyday world and society.

### April 30

This chapter is entitled “Self-giving love according to the New Testament book of John,” thus expanding the New Testament spiritual message of Jesus’ crucifixion and examination of its implications.

## DFW Aids Non-profit in Peru

Dining for Women at Valley celebrates five years as a chapter! April is our anniversary. Help us celebrate by coming to our monthly meeting on Sunday, April 9 (one week earlier than usual due to Easter the following week.)

The April featured non-profit is Chicuchas Wasi in Cusco, Peru. This grant request to Dining for Women will fund the education of 112 girls who would not otherwise be in school. No other organizations provide free primary school education for rural indigenous Quechua-speaking girls like Chicuchas Wasi, including empowerment and leadership training. This grant will fund teacher salaries and the school meal project.

Dining for Women loves this project because it focuses on an underserved indigenous community in rural Cusco, Peru. By providing comprehensive, quality education, confidence building and personal development, this project is investing in the future leaders of their communities.

Join us for an educational program, a bountiful potluck lunch and the opportunity to donate to their grant request. For more information about Dining for Women at Valley please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.297.8992 or go to [diningforwomen.org](http://diningforwomen.org). See you at our meeting!

## Cascades Eco-Justice Team Plans Events

Want to go fishing? A fishing trip is planned for June 9-10 on the Warm Springs Reservation portion of the Deschutes River with Tribal Fishers. RSVP and for more information: Jenny Holmes at "[jehrestore@gmail.com](mailto:jehrestore@gmail.com)."

Spend some time at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in the Gorge. The Eco-Justice Team is sponsoring two consecutive events on September 25-26 and 26-29:

- **"Spirit: Water, Culture, and Justice in the Columbia Watershed Environmental Justice Immersion"** September 25-26.
- **"Blessing the Waters of Life: Justice and Healing for our Watersheds Conference: September 26-29** at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, Corbett, OR. The conference will focus on water issues in the context of climate change and indigenous peoples

For more information and to register, go to: [www.presbyearthcare.org/events](http://www.presbyearthcare.org/events). The registration deadline is Sept. 5, 2017.

## Presbytery of the Cascades Meeting

A Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades was held March 10-11 at the United Presbyterian Church, Albany, Oregon. Workshops and break-out sessions focused on our relationships with native Americans, including the Standing Rock protests; information about Islam and Syria, a group discussion of the book, "Waking Up White," improving communications, and the changing face of "church." The Albany and Cottage Grove Presbyterian congregations were profiled and celebrated, and work done leading to closing the Community Presbyterian Church, of Oakland, Oregon, was discussed. The Albany church was very welcoming, and their lovely traditional sanctuary was a great setting for the meeting.

## Bolivia Reflection and Action Trip

If you found the visit of our Bolivia Joining Hands Mission Co-worker Chenoa Stock interesting last Spring, you might be interested in a travel opportunity to Bolivia in July. On the eight-day Reflection and Action trip, participants will learn about the systemic root causes of environmental injustice in Bolivia. They will visit communities impacted by the extractive industry; experience first-hand the effects of climate change and contamination on the people and environment; converse with leaders on mining in Bolivia; examine Bolivian law and its relevance in the U.S.; and reflect on ethical and Biblical calls to care for God's Creation.

Dates of the trip are July 22-29, 2017, and the sign-up deadline is May 1. For more information or to sign up, contact Chenoa Stock, [Chenoa.stock@gmail.com](mailto:Chenoa.stock@gmail.com). Flyers about the trip are available in the church office.



Thank you for sending your check for **\$32.00** for the **2017 Per Capita (for wider church expenses)** for each Valley member.

For more information about what per capita is, and how it helps, go to:

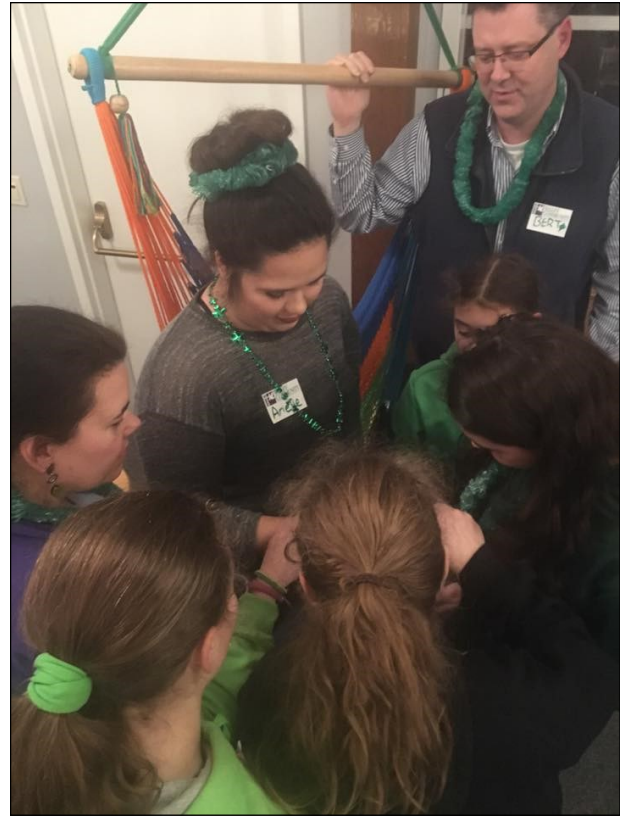
[oga.pcusa.org/percapita](http://oga.pcusa.org/percapita)



## Youth News

### Luck O' the Irish

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day in style with an all-church movie night, March 17. With the recent Youth House updates, our own youth alumna, Ashley Elisara, had the idea of a movie night to raise funds for Youth Mission. She and her sister, Arielle, helped create green treats and punch, and they co-hosted our evening. Moana was a fun, aloha-filled film for all ages. Thank you to all who came out for the fun!



### Pancakes and Pastor Ben April 9

A little-known fact about Pastor Ben is that he is a creative Pancake Artist with his sous chef/granddaughter, Avery, on a regular basis. They create animal shapes, faces, and even holiday scenes with pancake batter as their medium. This spring's Pancake Breakfast for Youth Mission will honor Pastor Ben's creativity and upcoming retirement via the pancake. Join us for the fun! All money donated will go toward this summer's Youth Mission Trips. Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday) from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-Noon (before and after Worship).

### Confirmation Sunday April 30

Our nine high school confirmands and their mentors have been all over the city, experiencing various faith communities in worship and cultural events. We have discussed faith in all aspects of life, have studied the Bible, and it is now time to honor those who have decided to be confirmed and join Valley as church members, honoring their baptismal vows. Please join us in 10:00 a.m. Worship on April 30 for this special ceremony; as an added bonus, the Children's Musical is the same day! A reception in Davis Hall/Gym will follow.



*Left: The youth lead the Time with the Young Church on Youth Sunday.*

## Children's Musical April 30

The King's Kids will present the musical, "Table for Five Thousand" in worship on Sunday, April 30, at 10:00 a.m. This musical tells the miraculous story of Jesus feeding a crowd of over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Let the voices of children inspire you!



## Summer Activities

### Music & Drama Camp

June 26-30, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

This awesome experience is for rising 2nd-8th graders. Campers learn a musical during the week and perform it at a retirement home at the end of the week and in worship on Sunday, July 2, at 10:00 a.m.. Find more information and register for camps at [valleycommunity.org](http://valleycommunity.org) or contact Amy Rheingans at [amyreingans@comcast.net](mailto:amyreingans@comcast.net).

### Arts Exploration Camp

July 17-21, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

This camp, for rising 1st-5th graders, is during the same week as our VBS program, making it possible for kids to have a full day of camp at Valley. Campers are grouped by age and take classes in music, art, and drama each day. Find more information and register for camps at [valleycommunity.org](http://valleycommunity.org) or contact Amy Rheingans at [amyreingans@comcast.net](mailto:amyreingans@comcast.net).



*Left: A beautiful quilt, handcrafted by Donna Russell, was presented to Amy Rheingans as a thank you for her many years of directing the children's and youth choirs.*



*Right: Games were played in the gym during a recent Kids' Night Out.*



## Library Book Group

**April 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room:** The book for discussion is *Evicted: Poverty and profit in the American city* by Matthew Desmond. The author takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge.

From Harvard sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond, a landmark work of scholarship and reportage that will forever change the way we look at poverty in America.

All are welcome, and we especially welcome new people to join in the lively and fun discussions. Just bring your own coffee!

## Valley Scrapbook



*The Sanctuary Choir, along with a guest orchestra, performed “Requiem in D Minor” by Gabriel Fauré.*



*Top right: Many homemade dishes were brought to the recent congregational potluck luncheon.*

*Above and right: Food, fun, and fellowship were abound at the congregational luncheon.*



## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**Order Lilies for Easter** in honor or memory of a loved one. You may make a donation of \$15.00 for each lily ordered. Please indicate "lilies" on your check with the name you wish to honor, and place the envelope in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Donations and names must be in the office by Monday, April 10.

### CROP Walk 2017 April 30:

Church World Services' 2.8 miles: that's how far the walk on Sunday, April 30 is. But women and children walk that far or further each and every day for water or to sell their crops. We walk to help families through the outreach of Church World Services (CWS) who use 75% of the donations to provide water, medicines and food around the world; the remaining 25% gathered stays in Portland going to help our hungry and needy. This year marks Team Valley's fourth walk, and our church goal is \$1,000.00. Please stop by our table during Coffee Hour or sign up at: [www.crophungerwalk.org/portlandor](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/portlandor) and search for Team Valley Pres. Thanks for your support. Team Captain, Andrea Murdoch/Mission Committee.

**Looking for a way to help others?** Valley's Meals on Wheels team needs a couple substitute drivers to fill in once in a while. We are responsible for the third Monday of the month, driving from the Elsie Stuhr Center in Beaverton. Call Marilyn Tuffs for details.



### Thanks

**Thank you to all** who participated in the Christmas 2016 Reverse Advent Calendar. If you were at church on February 12, you saw all the wonderfully wrapped boxes. These even included a mystery donation of bedding and warm clothes! After Worship was over, we carried all the donations to the back door and Bill Kruchek 'hauled' them to Good Roots Food Pantry & Clothes Closet in southeast Portland. We are blessed and it is a blessing to share with others. Thank you again!

**To Valley Family and Friends:** Many thanks for your prayers, cards, visits, and sustenance. Your support and God's healing power have provided my recovery from a broken hip and I am soon to be back on two feet.

Gratefully, Jini De Vries

Jan and Raoul Bellis-Squires would like to thank the congregation for the many expressions of condolences after the passing of Jan's mom, Connie Nielson.

### Prayers

**We pray for those with health concerns:** Jack Rytel (Greg and Roxanne Specht's grandson)

**We pray for those who mourn:** Family and friends of Becky Hatcher who died February 2, 2017.

Dorothy Wiley and family on the death of Dorothy's husband, John Wiley, on March 18, 2017.

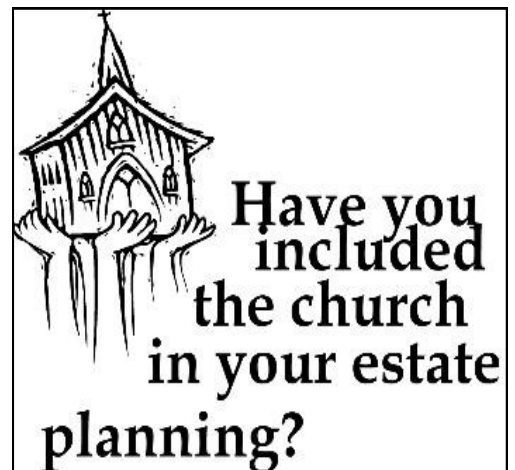
Family and friends of Jim Wasenmiller.

## Session Minutes

March 14, 2017

Stated Session Meeting

- **Approved a pancake breakfast** on April 9 with proceeds to benefit youth mission.
- **Approved a movie night** for March 17 with proceeds to benefit youth mission.
- **The special offering** received on Youth Sunday raised \$671 for youth mission.
- **The first MOPS** (Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers) open house was held. Five moms attended, some of whom were interested in becoming involved with the church. Another session will be held soon.
- **New Members:** Carolyn Reed and Brett Baker were accepted as Valley members via reaffirmation of faith on February 12, 2017. Welcome!
- **Called a congregational meeting** for Sunday, May 7, immediately following worship, for the purpose of electing church officers. May 21 was chosen as the date for ordination and installation.
- **The Valley Foundation** has approved a grant request for funds to purchase 350 copies of the Glory to God hymnal. They will be ordered for use in Worship.





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p><b>2 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00a Adult Education 9:15a Confirmation Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship <b>10:00a Worship</b> 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Library Book Sale 4:15a New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p><b>3</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 6:30p PDX Highland Games 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592</p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:00a Staff Meeting 10:15a Tai Chi Class 1:00p Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30p Mission Committee 6:00p Wolf Den Meeting 6:00p Christian Nurture for Children and Youth Meeting 7:00p Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p><b>5</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir 6:30p Bear Den Meeting 6:30p Youth Group Night 7:00p Personnel Committee</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6:30p Webelos Den Meeting 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>7</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Youth Mission 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:15a Confirmation Class 9:30a Palm Procession Prep. 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship <b>10:00a Worship</b> 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Youth Mission 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Dining for Women Meeting 4:15p New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p><b>10</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Finance Committee 7:30p Scouts Pack 592</p>	<p><b>11</b> 10:00a Staff Meeting 10:15a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Women's Bible Study <b>7:00p Session</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 5:00p King's Kids Choir</p>	<p><b>13 Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00p Youth Group Night <b>6:00p Maundy Thursday Simple Supper</b> 6:30p Cub Scout Pack 592 <b>6:30p Maundy Thursday Worship</b> 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>14</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group</p>	<p><b>15 "The Messenger" Newsletter Articles Due</b></p>
<p><b>16 Easter Sunday</b> <b>8:00a Easter Worship</b> 9:00a Choir Family Breakfast 9:20a Egg Hunt <b>10:00a Easter Worship</b> 11:00a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p><b>17</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 10:00a Meals on Wheels 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 6:00p PIC Meeting 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592</p>	<p><b>18</b> 10:00a Staff Meeting 10:15a Tai Chi Class <b>7:00p Deacons Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 5:00p King's Kids Choir 5:30p Neighbor Night 6:30p Cub Scout Lion Den 6:30p Youth Group Night</p>	<p><b>20</b> 8:00a Soup Kitchen 5:00p Music Selection Team 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>21</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b> 9:00a Adult Education 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship <b>10:00a Worship</b> 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Coffee Fellowship and Ben's Retirement Reception 4:15p New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p><b>24</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 11:30a Century Club 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592</p>	<p><b>25</b> 10:00a Staff Meeting 10:15a Tai Chi Class 6:30p Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>26</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 5:00p King's Kids Choir</p>	<p><b>27</b> 6:30p Scouts Pack 592 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>28</b> 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 10:00a Gamble Library Book Group</p>	<p><b>29</b> 9:00a Musical Dress Rehearsal</p>
<p><b>30</b> 9:00a Adult Education 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:15a Confirmation Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship <b>10:00a Worship-Spring Musical</b> 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 4:15a New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>						

**April 2017**

## THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



## Join us as we celebrate Pastor Ben Paroulek's retirement!

There will be a special time of  
recognition during 10:00 a.m. worship  
on **Sunday, April 23**  
followed by a reception in  
Davis Hall/Gym.

We will be collecting cards and letters for Ben and will give them to him at the reception. Please send these to the church marked "Ben's Retirement" or bring them on the 23rd and we will have baskets set out for that purpose.

Help us wish Ben and his family Godspeed on their next chapter!