Sundays at Valley

Adult Education, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

May

5 Communion

12 Mother's Day

19 Graduate Sunday

26 Dining for Women, 11:30 a.m.

June

2 Communion



Vital Congregations Initiative

What is it? Why do I need to know about it?

Session appointed a Vision Task Force in January to consider and recommend back to Session a plan for Valley's future in the next 10 years: How will it look? How will we do it? The task force recommended, and Session approved, that Valley participate in the new PCUSA's Vital Congregations Initiative program. The Vital Congregations Initiative was piloted during the past year in a few churches around the country and is now being rolled-out for select churches nationwide. Valley has been formally selected.

<u>The purpose of the Vital Congregations Initiative</u> is to work alongside leaders of existing congregations continually assessing, discerning and living into faithful actions that increase vitality through intentional spiritual practices that take them deeper into following Jesus Christ, so that their own lives are changed, congregations are transformed and the mission of God spreads throughout particular communities and the world.

The Vital Congregations Initiative is organized in three stages:

2019—Presbytery and Church Preparation

2020—Relationship-Building and Congregational Assessments

2021—Revitalization Initiatives

Since 12 churches in our presbytery are participating there is a level of accountability and idea sharing that an individual church would not have on its own. Other participating churches in the Presbytery of the Cascades are: First PC, Medford; Community, Redmond; Covenant, Gresham; Prineville PC, Prineville; First PC, Corvallis; Reedville PC, Aloha; Westminster, Eugene; Springwater PC, Estacada; Community PC, Yachats; Aurora PC, Aurora; and Moreland PC, Portland.

Valley has already done some work in preparing our church to participate. Pastor Jeff taught a Vital Congregations class series last summer and Pastor Jeff and the Vision Task Force just finished a four class series entitled 'Canoeing the Mountains.' The last class began the discussion on Vital Congregations. If you missed these classes don't worry! More information and ways to participate will be following in the months ahead.

During the 'Canoeing the Mountains' classes, the attendees were asked to consider themselves Valley's "Corps of Discovery" (working off the Lewis and Clark analogy in the book, <u>Canoeing the Mountains</u>) and we ask the entire church to participate in the Corps as we move forward.

What will the **program cost**? Program cost to our church will be approximately \$1,000 + travel to Denver for training. The Presbytery has given each church \$1,000 to cover cost of the training trip (airfare and group hotel rate). This is a very LOW COST program for Valley as much of the cost will be absorbed by the Presbytery.

Cont. on page 3

The Times They Are A-Changin'



Rev. Jeff Binder

Bob Dylan wrote a famous song in the early 1960s called "The Times They Are A-Changin." They certainly are! For those of you who were able to join us for our conversation on 'Canoeing the Mountains,' THANK YOU! I really appreciated the candid conversation about the changing world that we are part of today here at Valley, and I'm even more excited for what God has in store for us in the days ahead!

Two things are "changin" here that we are very excited for!

I am beginning my Doctor of Ministry program! Beginning in June, I will be taking part-time classes at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, over the next five years in a cohort called 'Leading Change' facilitated by Dr. Tod Bolsinger (who happened to be the author of 'Canoeing the Mountains'). Please keep my family in prayer as we take on this exciting adventure these next few years. Just to be clear, my ministry with Valley Community is remaining the same. My hope is that this program will strengthen our ministry here for the years to come!

Valley Community is now part of Vital Congregations (see p. 1)! Our leaders on Session met recently to officially endorse Valley's participation in the 'Vital Congregations' program organized by the PC(USA) and our presbytery. This program will run for approximately 2-3 years as our congregation will take the time and energy to listen for how God is calling us to serve in the days and years to come. This is a wonderful opportunity for us as Valley to partner with the other eleven congregations who will be participating in this program as we envision a new expression of ministry in what we can acknowledge is a new day and a new culture here in the West Slope and Raleigh Hills neighborhoods. This month, Elder Glenys Craig and I will travel to Denver for a program orientation sponsored by the denomination. Following our return, be on the lookout for more exciting announcements and opportunities to join in the conversation!



THE MESSENGER

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8060 SW BRENTWOOD ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355
503.292.3537
FAX 503.292.4272
valleycommunity.org
Email: mail@valleycommunity.org

PASTOR

JEFF BINDER

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Angela Graham
PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY
MAY 20 FOR THE JUNE ISSUE:
messenger@valleycommunity.org

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF RETAINS PERMISSION TO MODIFY SUBMISSIONS FOR CLARITY, SPACE, CONTENT AND STYLE. The next Valley Habitat build will be the morning of Saturday, June 22nd, at Denney Gardens. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, contact Chuck Falconer at chuckf@clankeith.com.



Vital Congregations (cont. from p. 1)

What's next?

Pastor Jeff Binder and Glenys Craig will to attend the first PCUSA Vital Congregations training in Denver May 6-9. Pastor Jeff has been accepted into a Doctor of Divinity program at Fuller Theological Seminary in southern California. He will work under Dr. Tod Bolsinger, author of <u>Canoeing the Mountains</u>. If you're interested in reading the book, copies are available from the church office. Pastor Jeff has also volunteered to be a Presbytery of the Cascades Administrator for the Vital Congregations Initiative. This means he will receive additional presbytery-level training which will be of value to us at Valley.

Want to learn more?

Please check out the national and presbytery level websites linked below to read more about the program. Exciting things will be coming our way in the next few years as we discern how God wants us to participate in His Mission to the World

Most of all, we ask that EACH of YOU PRAY for Valley asking God to bless us, to show us GOD'S MISSION for Valley here in our Community, and to guide us through any changes.

PCUSA Vital Congregations Initiative link: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/

Presbytery of the Cascades Vital Congregations Initiative link: https://www.cascadespresbytery.org/? s=vital+congregations+&id=m

'Canoeing the Mountains' by Tod Bolsinger, expanded version, is available to borrow from the church office. It is also available on Amazon.com for \$16.17 for a hardback edition and \$10.99 on Kindle. Multnomah County has an eBook available for checkout: https://multcolib.org/. Currently, Washington County Library does not have a copy of the book.

Valley Book Group to Meet May 24



The Valley Book Group will meet on Friday, May 24, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *Gift From the Sea*, by Ann Morrow Lindbergh. Although this book was originally published in 1955, the book discusses many of the frustrating elements women still face today: unending pressures and demands, restlessness, denial of leisure and silence and the threat to inner peace. A brief vacation at the seashore provided the author with the theme and ideas for this book. Those who enjoy visiting the coast will likely find inspiration in this classic. All are welcome to bring their own coffee and to join in the discussion of this thought-provoking book.

Produce Table



As the weather starts to warm and the days get longer, many of us start planning our gardens. If you are one of the many that enjoy growing things, please consider planting items to share with the congregation and friends at Valley's Produce Table. This might mean vegetables, fruit, flowers and/or herbs.

During the growing season the Produce Table is set up during coffee fellowship hour. Whatever comes in is there to take and the donation box collects money that goes directly to the Oregon Food Bank. Our meals are *enhanced* by the bounty on the table and others that are experiencing food insecurity in our state *get* to have a meal at their table.



Thank you for sending your check for \$35.50 for the

2019 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



Front Entry Flowers



Valley's floral calendar gives you an opportunity to remember or honor a loved one by signing up for a special date or just to provide a floral arrangement to enhance our front entry.

As summer is not far off, I would be happy to arrange local flowers that may grow in your yard. You may also bring in your own arrangement, or make a monetary donation, and I would be happy to create an arrangement of locally grown eco-friendly flowers. Please sign up on the calendar near the office and call me, Karen Acker, at 971.263.3413 if you have any questions.



Dining for Women



Dining for Women supports another amazing nonprofit in May. All across the country every DFW chapter will be learning about Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation in Afghanistan and using their donations in the collective giving circle to support their grant request. Valley's chapter will be doing the same on Sunday, May 26 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. (Please note that this is the fourth Sunday of the month.)

Razia's Ray of Hope improves the lives of young women and girls through community-based education in a rural district of Afghanistan. Built on the knowledge that education is key to positive, peaceful change for current and future generations, it provides learning and growth in a safe, nurturing environment, empowering girls and women through education and resources so that they may work toward brighter futures—in their own villages and beyond.

The project that Dining for Women is funding will train young, talented students to become midwives, which will allow them to be on the frontlines to provide essential healthcare services and education in their communities.

Plan to join us on May 26 for a bountiful and diverse potluck lunch, an inspiring educational program and the chance to donate to their grant request. Help change the world one donation at a time.

"NEW" Mother's Day - May Layette Drive

The date is coming and we mothers know that feeling of excitement and joy. We've decorated the newborn's room and have purchased clothes and blankets, pacifiers, rattles and bottles; all in anticipation of the "NEW" life we are bringing into this world. Not all mothers have experienced this joy, however. The women of the Letty Owings Center, all of whom are in the early stages of drug addiction recovery, have never had a Baby Shower and most have never been to one. They've been "ordered" by the court to stay "clean and sober" until the birth of the baby and have come to the LOC by way of jail. Most of them don't want to be here.... they don't know how to "handle life on life's terms." But the Letty Owings Center, now going into it's 30th year, is here to help guide these women into a NEW life too; with GED and life skills training, parenting and self-esteem classes, job placement and sober housing after completion. This journey starts with the birth of their NEW BABY and we at Valley Church and Valley Christian Preschool have offered to help by providing layette items. New items for babies, newborn to three months, may be placed in the marked bin by the Fireside Room. All items: diapers, rattles, baby bath, Boppy, carriers, blankets, onesies, bibs, strollers, etc. should be new. Clothing may be gently worn, but only in size newborn - three months. Come see what we've collected during coffee fellowship during the month of May. Thank you, from your Valley Mission Team and Valley Christian Preschool Mission coordinator, Sarah Woodward.

























PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Valley Christian Preschool registration is now open for the 2019-2020 school year for students ages 2-5 years. Contact Anne Scearce at (503) 292-3537 x146 or at anne@valleycommunity.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

Valley Christian Preschool is a ministry of Valley Community Presbyterian Church, which has served families in the Raleigh Hills and greater West Slope area for more than fifty years.

We welcome students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, and religious background.

Congratulations to Valley Family Graduates

Celebrate with new graduates in our Valley family:

- Arielle Elisara, daughter of Tracy Sailors, is graduating from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Film with a Business minor.
- Scott D. Russell, son of Greg and Donna Russell, is graduating from Oregon State University on June 15. He will earn a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science/Cyber Security. His ROTC commissioning ceremony as a second lieutenant into the Air Force will also be that same day.
- Jack FitzGerald Labuhn, grandson of Polly Dye, is graduating from Sunset High School in June.
- **Tim De Vries,** grandson of John and Jini De Vries, is graduating from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles on May 11. He will earn a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.
- Jaron Farrier, grandson of Marilyn Farrier, is graduating from Beaverton High School.
- **Sophia Scearce**, daughter of David and Anne Scearce, is graduating on May 18 from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Spanish.
- Ty Scearce, son of David and Anne Scearce, is graduating from Jesuit High School on June 2.

Youth News



It's time for some May flowers! Shout out to everyone who came to the Pancake Breakfast. It really does make a difference and I hope you all got your fill of pancakes! There are a few things to keep your eye out for in May. If you ordered plants, they will be available Sunday, May 5 for pickup in the lower parking lot (the Tri-Met lot) from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. Next big news, come to Graduate Sunday May 19! We have many seniors graduating and we would like to honor all of them so be sure to show some love to Grace Baker, Eric Blair, Liz Boyle, Ariel Derting, Maia Elliott, Zeph Pratt, Antonio Rinella, Eleanor Romanaggi and Ty Scearce. Let's wish them well as they step into their next adventure and let them know they can always come home!

Left: Preston and members of the Valley Youth Group.

Kids Night Out

A Children's Ministry event for kids ages 3 1/2 years (potty-trained) through and including 5th grade!

Our dinner, movie, games, crafts and activities are all built around a fun theme!

Date: May 17, 2019 Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per child, or maximum of \$25.00 for three or more siblings.



Dinner Included! Cheese pizzas &/or Pepperoni pizza. Fruit and refreshments. Gluten free cheese pizza available upon request. No charge for 5th graders and older who would like to be our helpers! Join in the fun as well!

Please RSVP if possible, <u>but</u> not mandatory. You can always register when you arrive. E-mail: Donna@valleycommunity.org.

Any questions, or inquiries? Contact: Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministries, phone: (503) 292-3537 ext.135, message only: (503) 442-9551.



Thank you to Preston Russell for his time spent ministering to our youth! We wish him luck as he moves on to a new job and new adventures in life! We will miss you!

Community Easter Egg Hunt and Earth Day Fair

Valley held its First Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt and Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April 20, on our front lawn. Photos and the web posting of videos say it all! Conservative estimates show about 170 people attending and about 70 children running in the egg hunts. Children ran in four separate Egg Hunts with groups for 0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7+, and a second egg hunt heat for kids who arrived later and missed our initial egg hunt. A carnival of kids' games, a bouncy house, and a temporary tattoo parlor were ready for kids to play in after the egg hunt. Kids and adults ran (hopped) in sack races.

Our Earth Day Fair had education and demonstration booths for Mason Bees, Recycling, Mad Earth Science, Native Pollinators, and Imperfect Produce. Kids went home with baby pea plants and looked at earth worms. We had two master gardeners, a master recycler and an experienced Mason Bee grower on site to talk to parents.

Thank you to:

- Our Youth. Over 750 eggs were stuffed with candy and our game booths staffed.
- Thank you to our Earth Day participants from Valley. What a talented group of people attend our church! Tye Woods Mason Bees, Liz Brown Mad Earth Science, Valerie Conner Master Gardener, Ruthann Marquis Master Recycler, Julie Binder Master Gardener.
- Thank you to Roy Conner for the bagels, schmears, popcorn and drinks served outside. You are our caterer extraordinaire!
- Thank you to Bob Rasmussen for providing and operating the sound system and for finding and testing a new, portable speaker and mic for Valley.
- Thank you to ALL who came and helped set up and take down. A special thanks to David Marquis who spent hours with us during set up and take down. He also manned the Friday Stations of the Cross Vigil and decorated the sanctuary for Easter.
- A special thanks to Valley's Children Ministries Committee for spearheading the event and a HUGE thank you to Donna Carlson who spent hundreds of hours on this event.
- Thank you to the Membership Committee for being "all hands on deck" for this event and for planning the Earth Day Fair!
- Thank you to Anne Scearce for her support of this event and for being a big communication conduit to the preschool families.
 - Thank you to Greg Russell for taking high level drone video and photos of the event.
- Thank you to Pastor Jeff Binder for his support and enthusiasm for trying new events with no guarantee of success. We appreciate you!



Children preparing to 'find' Easter eggs during the Easter egg hunt.



Right: Pastor Jeff is ready to win the potato sack race!

Community Easter Egg Hunt cont.



There were many booths with activities for all ages available at the community event..



Children were able to learn about gardening as part of the Earth Day Celebration.





Some of Valley's youth helping with the carnival games.



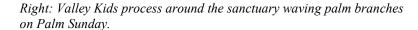


An aerial view of the community event taken by a member's drone plane.

Holy Week at Valley



Above: The Sanctuary Choir sings on Palm Sunday.







Luke Smith sang during the Maundy Thursday worship service.



Above and below: Maundy Thursday consisted of a simple meal followed by a short service in Davis Hall.



Easter Sunday at Valley



The Jenkins family enjoying fellowship time with Laura Sanders.



Above: Sophie colors an Easter Egg at the craft table after Easter worship.

Right: The Sanctuary, King's Kids, and Cherub Choirs combine to sing the anthem during the Easter worship service.



T

Lizz Brown wore her beautiful Easter hat on Easter Sunday.

Cellelina!



Valley Notes

Opportunities Director of Youth Ministries:

We are seeking an adult with experience and/or training in youth ministry to coordinate multiple aspects of our Youth Ministry Program for Middle School, High School, and College students in collaboration with a Pastor, a group of Youth Advisors, and the Christian Nurture for Youth Committee. This is a 20 hour/week position. Contact the church office if you are interested!

Save the date! Vacation Bible School is July 8-12. Registration details to follow. Would you like to be a part of all the fun? We would love to have you! Volunteer spots are available. Contact Donna Carlson at donna@valleycommunity.org if you are able to help out!

We are seeking a new librarian for out fabulous Gamble Library. Please contact the church office with questions or for details.

Thank You

This is a belated but very sincere thank you to all those who donated books to The Assistance League of Greater Portland's book drive. Many children in grades one through five who do not have their own books at home have benefitted from your generosity. We really appreciate it and thank you again.

Pat Bird

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Liz Mitchell, Geri Mitchell, Virginia Johnson, Judy Chadwick

We pray for those who mourn:

- Lee Cundiff and family of his mother, Pat Cundiff.

Earth Care Corner

Did you know.....

That there are ways to use less plastic wrap? Since this is a single use item and goes into the landfill after being tossed in your garbage bin, it is good to know that there are alternatives.

- 1. A "go-to" favorite. Use shower caps to cover that casserole or plate. These are the thin plastic ones you get when you stay in a hotel or a hairstylist would use (called processing caps.) They can be rewashed and reused many times before they need to be thrown away.
- 2. Waxed fabric pieces. There are several companies that make these. Bee's Wrap (pictured below) is just one option. Some are available at Trader Joe's.



3. Food Huggers. These are silicone rounds that come in a variety of sizes that fit over produce ends to keep them fresh.



These are just some examples. Once you know there are alternatives to plastic wrap and keep your eyes open when you shop, you will see many options to replace this single use item. Happy saving the planet!

Adult Education in May

All are welcome to attend Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.!

Chuck Falconer will be teaching a Sunday morning adult class on "Who Are These Presbyterians?" beginning May 5. This six week class will begin with a brief survey of Presbyterian history from biblical times to the present. Next will be a discussion of the characteristics and theological foundations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This will be followed by an overview of Presbyterian polity, the way Presbyterians govern themselves, and Presbyterian worship basics. Finally, the class will consider how Presbyterians should live in light of Presbyterian history, theology, and polity.

May 5 - Presbyterian history.

May 12 and 19 - The theological foundations of Presbyterianism.

May 26 - Presbyterian church government.

June 2 - Presbyterian worship.

June 9 - How should we live in light of these things?

					7:3up Boy Scouts 592	12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship
		6:00p Pack 592 Meeting 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	6:00p Youth Service Night	4:00p Girl Scout Troop	7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Troop 592	11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Dining for Women
	31 8:00a Women's Aerobics	30	29 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics	28 10:15a Tai Chi Class 12:00p Staff Meeting	27 Church Office Closed - Memorial Day	26 9:00a Adult Education Class 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Worship
		7:15p Sanctuary Choir	6:00p Youth Group	7:00p Deacons Meeting	7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Troop 592 7:30p Boy Scouts 592	12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship 7:00p Scout Venture Crew
	10:00a Gamble Library Book Group	5:30p Faber Institute Night School for Deeper Learning 6:00p Pack 592 Meeting		12:00p Staff Meeting	Articles Due 10:00a Meals on Wheels	9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship
25	24 8:00a Women's Aerobics	23	22 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics	21 10:15a Tai Chi Class	20 "The Messenger" Newsletter	19 Graduate Sunday 9:00a Adult Education Class
	5:30p Kids' Night Out	7:15p Sanctuary Choir	6:00p Youth Group	6:00p Cub Scout Den 6:00p Pack 592 Den 2 7:00p Session Committee	7:30p Boy Scout Troop 7:30p Boy Scout Troop 7:30p Troop 592 Parent Meeting	11:30a Youth Choir Rehearsal 12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship
		2:00p Mission Endowment Investment Comm.		11:00a Women's Bible Study 12:00p Staff Meeting	6:00p VCP Board 6:30p Cub Scout Den 7:00p Finance Committee	9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship
18 9:00a Spring Officer Retreat	17 8:00a Women's Aerobics	16 8:00a Soup Kitchen	15 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics	14 10:15a Tai Chi Class	ಪ	12 Mother's Day 9:00a Adult Education Class
			6:00p Youth Group	4:00p Girl Scout Troop 6:30p Christian Nurture for Children and Youth	7:30p Boy Scout Troop 7:30p PDX Highland Games	12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship
		6:30p Bear Den Pack 592 7:15p Sanctuary Choir		12:00p Staff Meeting 2:00p Prayer Shawl	7:00p Troop 592	11:00a Conrec reliowship 11:00a Congregational Meeting 11:30a Membership Committee 11:30a Youth Choir Rehearsal
1	10 8:00a Women's Aerobics	ဖ	8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 9:00a Personnel Committee	7 10:15a Tai Chi Class 11:30a PEO Meeting	6	5 9:00a Adult Education Class 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Worship
			Party			
5:00p Navigators/ Clippers Cinco De Mayo		6:30p Cub Scout Meeting 7:00p High School Youth 7:00p PDX Vox 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	5:00p King's Kids 6:00p Preston's Farewell		may 2019	
4	3 8:00a Women's Aerobics	2	1 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics			
Saturday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday

THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME DATED MATERIAL

"Aladdin and the Magic Lamp" Musical Camp

June 24-28, 2019, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. daily



Musical Theater camp for youth who will finish 1st-7th grades in June. Campers will perform the 30-minute musical twice on June 28: first at Courtyard Village retirement home at 1:30 p.m., and later in Valley's sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Friends and family are invited.

Go to: http://www.valleycommunity.org/children/index.html for registration information.