
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church August 2019

Sundays at Valley

Early Coffee Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

August

4 Communion
Rev. Chuck Falconer to preach
Middle School City Camp
mission trip begins

11

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

25

September

1 Communion

Vacation Bible School a Big Success!

The 2019 VBS theme, *ROAR - Life is Wild, God is Good*, allowed kids to explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Over 45 children enjoyed a week long adventure at Valley learning Bible stories, making crafts, enjoying drama skits, activities during recreational time and so much more! (See p. 7 for VBS thank you.)



Learning songs in the sanctuary.



Recreational time was a favorite of the campers!

What does it look like to be a Christian? A Presbyterian today?



Rev. Jeff Binder

We may have an idea in our head of what being a Christian looks like. Maybe we think of the young family with the dad in the suit and the wife in the dress, the boys wearing bow ties, and the girls wearing pretty dresses.

I often wonder how people would know I'm a Christian if they didn't know I was a pastor. Is there something in my behavior that says as much? Do I talk about following Jesus? Do I carry around a Bible with me?

One way to identify a Christian may be to see them go to worship each Sunday. But many of our friends, our family members,...heck, even other church members don't make it to church on Sundays. And believe it or not, some people who come to church aren't Christians. Some would say that they come for the friendship and community, but don't necessarily consider themselves Christian.

Well, if someone asks me about my beliefs I can tell them I'm a Christian. But how often does this happen? When was the last time I talked about my faith with someone; especially someone I didn't know before? So should the random person on the street know that I'm a Christian, or is it just my friends that can know? ... And what, exactly, would I say?

Many of us are charitable people. We give money to organizations; we may even volunteer from time to time. But lots of people volunteer each day; many of the most dedicated volunteers claim no religious identity at all. What's different about Christian charity?

It seems to me that being a Christian today is not as easy to identify as it perhaps once was. So what does it look like to be a Christian today? What does it look like to be a Presbyterian today?

For me, it starts and ends with Jesus Christ. So maybe this creates a whole set of follow-up questions. Who is Jesus to us today? What does he say about what is happening the world? How do we live our lives as a reflection of his life?

What an interesting conversation to strike up with your neighbor. I would love to hear your thoughts and comments!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff



THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR

JEFF BINDER

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

ANGELA GRAHAM

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY
AUGUST 20 FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
messenger@valleycommunity.org

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

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 here, 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.



Valley Book Group to discuss Michelle Obama's book



The Valley Book Group will meet on Friday, August 23, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *Becoming*, by Michelle Obama. The best-selling book written by the former first lady details her life from humble beginnings on the South Side of Chicago to spending eight years in the White House. Raised in a close and loving family who valued education, she attended Princeton and Harvard and managed to combine her career with motherhood after she married Barack Obama. This honest memoir reflects on the challenges she overcame as well as the tremendous opportunities she enjoyed. All are welcome to bring their own coffee and to join in the discussion of this enlightening and entertaining book.

Small Groups



As we are starting up Small Groups, we are trying to gather people of similar interests together to make connections within the Valley community.

Our first gathering will be Sunday, August 25. If you enjoy history, in particular WWII history and planes of that era, come join us. We will gather after church at 11:00 a.m. in the east parking lot and carpool to Workman's Airport at 9646 South Gribble Road in Canby, OR. The hangar belongs to Lee and Sandy Cundiff. There are three WWII era planes and many artifacts to view. A light lunch will be served at noon and a short presentation with plenty of time to wander and share your stories too.

Gold star balloons will show you the driveway to take. Please RSVP to Sandy Cundiff by phone or text: 503.819.1265.

Valley Community Youth Choirs



Valley is staged to launch its Community Youth Choirs program with an intent to bring in the wider community. Singing in a choir develops friendships, builds leadership skills, and creates lasting memories. We hope that many more kids can be a part of these wonderful singing experiences by joining the Valley Community Youth Choirs. Please help spread the word! For more info, go to the choir website: valleyyouthchoirs.org. Questions? Contact Amy Rheingans at amy@valleycommunity.org.

Three levels of choir singing will be offered for kids this fall:

Cherub Choir (age 4 through 1st grade) on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45 p.m. beginning October 2

Melodia (2nd-5th grade) on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. beginning October 2

Harmonia (6th-12th grade) on Sundays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning September 22

Produce Table



As the summer season continues to open her arms wide, so too the Produce Table at Valley gets covered with more amazing offerings! Mint, blueberries, lettuce and chard are stepping out of the way for upcoming cucumbers, beets, beans and tomatoes. Each week will surely display a different canvas of delights!

As you peruse the table to select things to enhance your next meal, please donate generously to the Oregon Food Bank to help ease the food insecurity of our neighbors and fellow citizens.



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



My Faith Story



By Greg Russell

I believe in the God of infinities. A God who allows humans an infinite number of choices (free will), but at the same time, ultimately steers the results of these human choices into God's will. Too often, humans, as finite creatures, imagine and even demand a finite God by putting God and religion into a box. My faith story started with a solid Presbyterian foundation and then slowly, little by little, I have expanded my understanding of the love and power of God.

One of my favorite scripture verses is *Micah 6:8*, "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." To me this means to put one's faith in God and act accordingly.

My core beliefs align strongly to our Presbyterian theology. I was raised a Presbyterian and attended Sunnyvale First Presbyterian Church from when I was four years old until I left for college at 18. My earliest religious memories were the Sunday church services, especially the sermons. Even as a young child I had a passion for Sunday worship.

As a child, my greatest religious influencer was my grandmother. She didn't attend church, but she was very religious. She talked with God every day, talked about God every day, had a very joyous soul, and was very caring and loving to everyone she met. It challenged me that she did not attend church on Sundays like a "good" Christian should.

In Junior High School, my best friend and I used to criticize Christians for not living lives that being a Christian demanded. It challenged me to understand why most Christians didn't even seem interested in trying to live up to the ideals being preached every Sunday.

My first major exposure to non-Presbyterian worship and religion experience occurred when I was 17 years old. I played the piano for a Baptist "Come to Jesus" revival tour. I was shocked by the radical differences of this Baptist worship experience from my relatively stoic Presbyterian church:

I was stunned that the Baptist Sermons were continually interrupted by impromptu testimonies from the congregation – worship was definitely not "decent and in order"!

I was highly skeptical that a one-time "Come to Jesus" confession during the revival would have a lasting impact. "My" religion was a slow and steady focus on being a Christian. How could this flashy and very emotional one-time event compare?

In college I met and married my first wife who was Catholic. It was a mixed experience for me dealing with the Catholic church for ten years. My most frustrating religious experience was at the Catholic church where we wanted to be married. Since I wasn't a Catholic, the local priest refused to allow me to get married there. He never asked if I would consider converting and didn't care that I was actually baptized in the Catholic church and planned to attend that church on a weekly basis. He put the love of God into a box. I faced similar prejudices when I worked with Mormons in Utah where some viewed me as a heathen for not following "the true faith."

When I married Donna, we attended a United Methodist church in California, and Valley Community once we moved to Oregon. I've had many wonderful and challenging experiences at both churches, which have helped me with my faith journey. The biggest challenge I had at Valley was initially feeling like an outsider when we first started attending. It was not until we became active in some of the small group ministries that we felt we were "part of the church family." I feel that small group ministries at Valley are one of our key strengths.

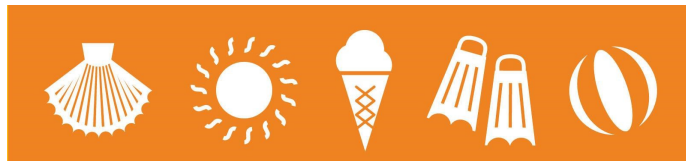
My theology today strongly matches our Presbyterian beliefs and is very similar to my theology when I was young, but hopefully I can appreciate and better allow for the infiniteness of God.

Valley Youth Beach Day

Valley Youth are invited to a Beach Day! On August 21 our middle and high school youth will be loading up the van and heading over to the coast for a day of fun and games in Manzanita. We need to get a head count, so please RSVP to Marshall at marshall@valleycommunity.org by Thursday, August 15. Don't miss out on our last hurrah before the new school year!

See you there!

Marshall Lauck | Director of Youth Ministry



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2019 - What does thankfulness mean?

I'm sure at least everyone has heard this question at least once in their life. My idea of thankfulness has hit an all-time high here at Valley! Our VBS was a success because the children who attended learned everlasting and important truths from His Word that will stay with them for a lifetime. When life is unfair...God is good! When Life is scary... God is good! When life changes...God is good! When life is sad...God is good! When life is good...GOD IS GOOD!

Vacation Bible School is not an easy feat to pull off. There are so many parts that need to be in sync with one another to keep day to day operations running smoothly. With LOTS of little ones, while a truly joyful thing, it can be a lot to handle and take care of. Yet, concerns were very rarely in my sights with the leaders' help in the planning, preparation and following through with their part in this amazing journey. I mentioned at our volunteer meeting, "For those that really don't know what your spiritual gift(s) are, I guarantee after VBS is over – you will!"

Dozens of incredible faithful men, women, fifth graders and youth volunteered their time, energy, and talents to make sure that everything ran smoothly. We had teachers, youth shepherds, helpers, leaders, even a few mascots. Our lion and giraffe jumped in to sing and play ROAR with the kids. Many who escorted the children around the church all week created special bonds getting to know each child in their own way. We watched as these children made new friends and enjoyed being with their helpers who they looked up to. Our fifth graders and older youth absolutely shined! They truly helped serve and demonstrate what Christ's love is all about. What a meaningful way to discover and practice the joy of service. A BIG thank you goes out to them. Our leaders worked so hard with Announcements, Sing and Play Roar Music and Safari Celebration time, ROAR Recreation, Skits and Drama, Missions, Hungry Herd Café, Imagination Station-Craft time, and our Wild Bible Adventures. Each leader planned their days with such fun-filled inspiring activities that suited all ages as they gave it their all to give each child an incredible week. More importantly, everything was shown and taught with Christ's love. We can be so proud of our church body!

We also had a few adults who were wonderfully "just there." They did not have a designated assignment, but merely "filled the gap" as necessary, going where they were needed. VBS is no doubt quite the undertaking, and it is always a good practice in humility to confront the fact that no one can do this alone without the prayers of the people along with the encouragement, love and support of the church family to make it all possible.

This year's VBS mission outreach far surpassed our goal in leaps and bounds for World Vision's "Operation Kid-to-Kid." We found that each \$10 donation went towards providing nutrition and medical well visits for moms and their babies in Zambia for the first 1,000 days of life as well as health education for the parents. It was such a given choice since our mission leader was a pediatrician herself and knew firsthand the conditions in Africa. She did such an amazing job as the children enjoyed learning about Africa, health, nutrition and giving. They discovered that joy comes from sharing with others - rather than being motivated by a reward. The total donations collected this year so far total \$1,241.49. Praise God!

I cannot fully express all the gratitude that I have for everyone who made VBS possible. Each of the 47 children and their parents who graced our church felt so special and wanted. The time given to them was an experience not soon forgotten – nor with those that made it possible. Thank you for your support, thank you for your incredible endurance and thank you for your time and many talents. For some - thank you for being willing to try something new, and for our younger helpers, you were up so early each day when there's no school, but vacation bible school! You came and continued to greet each child with a smile, how awesome!

An endless thanks go out for those who helped promote VBS, decorated, and created such an awesome stage presence! From preparing snacks to feeding the children. For leading music, drama, and skits. For all the fun games, and showing them Christ's love in missions. For being so crafty – sticky fingers and all! For sharing such awesome and inspiring Bible stories which were truly brought to life. For taking lots of photos (and I mean LOTS!). For donating to the cause big time. For making slideshows and all the technology that went into it. For loving the children and putting Band-Aids on boo-boos, making sure the group stayed together, and yes... many potty-runs! Above all, showing the love of Christ in everything you said and did. He knows who you are. May you be blessed as I have been.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. He said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mathew 18:1-4)

As written in *Mathew 25:23*, "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'" Now be sure to take a nice long nap! You've earned it!

In His Grace,

Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministries

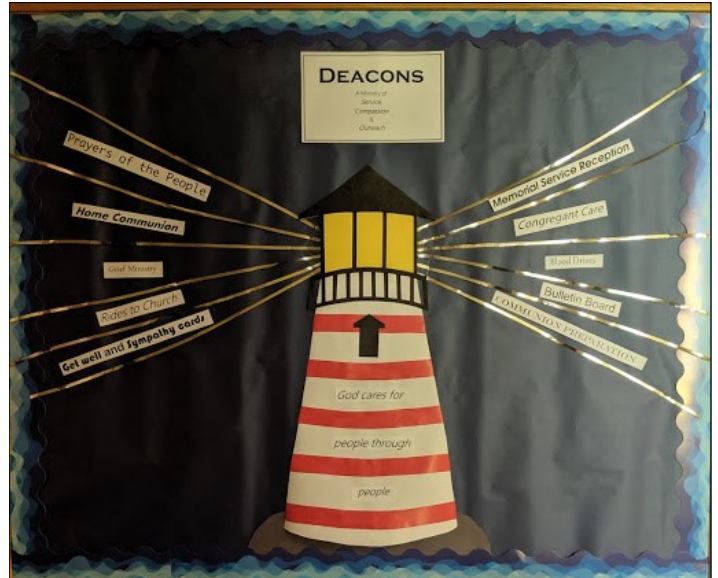
Vacation Bible School 2019



Valley Scrapbook



Fourth of July pride at Valley.



Take a look at the Deacons board by the fireside room. It lists some of the many areas that Valley Deacons serve.

A lot has been happening around Valley!



Left: An Eagle Scout project will spruce up the courtyard.

Bottom left: Fixing the light in the gym.

Below and right: A pulley system was installed before hanging the green dossal in the sanctuary.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

It is summer time and the choir will not sing in worship during August. We will be having our wonderful soloists provide solo anthem music during those months. Also, we will resume our tradition of replacing the prelude with a "hymn-sing." Arrive a little early for church with a hymn number in mind. David Jimerson will be collecting hymn numbers before worship.

Online giving available: In addition to placing cash or checks in the offering plates, you can give through Valley's website. Look for the "Give Now" button on our home page.

Notices

Tai Chi will take a break during the summer months, July and August. Informal class will resume again in September.

Please note: The church office will be closed Fridays in August.

As the office is closed on Fridays in August, the production of the bulletin will be bumped up by a day. Please have announcements in to angie@valleycommunity.org by Wednesday of the week you would like it in the bulletin. The announcements will also go in the e-blast.

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Ginger DeMars, Estella Massingill, Kay Hudlett (Anne Scearce's mom), Sue Derting, Pat Bryant, Silva Kephart.

We pray for those who mourn:
- Christena Keller and family of Harpel W. Keller.

Earth Care Corner

Did you know...

That many of us have absolutely *no doubts* that we are recycling correctly? That many of us think that if we recycle "*more*" it is more important that recycling "*right*?"

To help address some of the most confusing things about recycling Metro and local government partners in the greater Portland area have created and just introduced the community resource **Recycle or Not**. They are working to reduce waste and protect the environment by sharing information about how to recycle right.

Some items are creating confusion for recyclers in the greater Portland, Oregon, area. If you recycle at home, there is now a great resource to make sure you're recycling right. It won't take long to look at it and learn, *and* it will make a huge difference for the environment.

Go to recycleornot.org and see the list of the most common 30 items that are not only confusing but frequently put in the wrong place. You will also find a copy of this pictured list on the Earth Care Corner bulletin board in between the display case and the library near the east exit. Check it out!



Dining for Women

Every year 6,000 women die in Uganda due to entirely treatable complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Three out of four of these deaths can be attributed to the delay in deciding to seek skilled maternity and newborn care, accessing this care once the decision is made, or receiving quality care once a health facility is reached.

Please come to the Dining for Women at Valley meeting on Sunday, August 18 to learn about how one nonprofit organization is reducing these numbers.

This month's featured nonprofit is Brick by Brick Partners. They create partnerships that improve education, health, and economic opportunity in East Africa. The specific grant request will fund the Mama Rescue Project, which provides transportation for laboring women to access health facilities and emergency obstetric care. This reduces major obstetric complications, which are significant causes of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality.

Join us for a sustaining potluck lunch, an exhilarating program on this group's project and the opportunity to donate to their grant request and change the world, one meal at a time. We meet in the Fireside Room at 11:30 a.m.

Building Use Orientation August 17



A building use orientation meeting will be held Saturday, August 17 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. for all who use the church building for meetings or events. In order to continue to use the facility, a representative from each group must attend this meeting. If you are unable to do so, please contact the church office, 503.292.3537 or mail@valleycommunity.org, to inquire about a separate orientation time.

August 2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>4 Middle School City Camp Trip 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Membership Committee</p>	<p>5 Middle School City Camp 1:30p Mission Committee 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Troop 592 Parent Meeting 7:30p Boy Scout Troop 7:30p PDX Highland Games Comm.</p>	<p>6 Middle School City Camp 6:30p Christian Nurture for Children Meeting</p>	<p>7 Middle School City Camp 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>8 Middle School City Camp 6:00p Facilities Committee</p>	<p>9 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Clippers Meeting 11:30p Communication Committee 12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship</p>	<p>12 7:00p Finance Comm. 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Troop 592 Parent Meeting 7:30p Boy Scouts 592</p>	<p>13 7:00p Session</p>	<p>14 Office Closed - Staff Retreat 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>15 8:00a Soup Kitchen 4:00p Worship and Music 5:00p Music Selection Team</p>	<p>16 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>17 10:00a Building Use Orientation</p>
<p>18 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Dining for Women 12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship 7:00p Scout Venture Crew</p>	<p>19 10:00a Meals on Wheels 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Troop 592 Parent Meeting 7:30p Boy Scouts 592</p>	<p>20 "The Messenger" Newsletter Articles Due 12:00p Staff Meeting 6:30p Christian Nurture for Youth Meeting 7:00p Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>21 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 9:39a All Day Youth Beach Trip</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00a Gamble Library Book Group</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship 2:00p Scout Troop 592</p>	<p>26 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Scout Troop 592 7:00p Troop 592 Parent Meeting</p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed until noon 8:30a VCP First Aid/CPR Training</p>	<p>28 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>31</p>

THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

A colorful illustration on a teal background featuring a brown and white dog, a yellow and green parrot perched on a wooden stand, a grey cat, a goldfish in a blue bowl, and a green and brown turtle.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

September 15
at 10:00 a.m.
on the front lawn

Bring your pets and enjoy
free fair-trade coffee and
snacks!

Open to the community!