
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church December 2019

Sundays at Valley

No 9:00 a.m. Sunday Adult Education
the month of December
Early Coffee Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

December

- 1** Communion
Emotional Intelligence &
Spiritual Identity Class,
11:15 a.m.
- 8** Charlotte Pistor to sing,
10:00 a.m.
Emotional Intelligence &
Spiritual Identity Class,
11:15 a.m.
- 15** Christmas Pageant, 10:00 a.m.
Kidz Mart, 11:30 a.m.
Dining for Women, 11:30 a.m.

22

29

January

- 5** Epiphany Sunday
Communion



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT VALLEY

Advent means *coming*. It's the first season of the Christian year where we wait with great anticipation for the coming of Christ. It's a season of Holy waiting: waiting for God's peace to come to earth... waiting for the light of Christ to shine... waiting for the shepherds, the angels, and the Christ child.

Advent lasts for four Sundays, leading up to Christmas Day. In worship, we'll make our way toward Christmas through the season of Advent.

We'll light the Advent candles, one more each week, as we watch for the light of Christ. We'll sing hymns celebrating the miraculous gospel story in verse and song. We'll hear the prophets' words of warning and of promise. We'll tell the stories leading to Jesus' birth. We'll wonder and marvel with the shepherds and hear the angels' announcement with great joy. We'll journey to Bethlehem in our hearts and minds, waiting for the birth of the Christ child. And then we'll celebrate Christmas: the birth of Jesus, God-with-us, Emmanuel!



Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday in Advent

We begin Advent with symbols of the season displayed in the sanctuary. The first candle of Advent will be lit as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Saturday, December 7 - Advent Fair and Community Tree Lighting

Please join us for our Advent Fair celebration at 3:00 p.m. in Davis Hall/Gym followed by a Community Tree Lighting and Carol Sing on the front lawn at 5:00 p.m. Dress for the weather. Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies will be provided! This is a great opportunity to bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent

The second candle of Advent will be lit. Charlotte Pistor to sing (see p. 10).

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent

The third candle of Advent will be lit. The Christmas Pageant will be presented during 10:00 a.m. worship. Children, youth and adult choirs will sing and dramatize the intrigue and wonders with the coming and birth of Jesus. Poinsettias will grace the sanctuary in memory and honor of loved ones.

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

The fourth candle of Advent will be lit. Please share in the Christmas Joy Offering.

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Worship will feature an impromptu Children's Nativity Tableau. (Children who would like to participate can join during the service.)

8:00 p.m. Candles and Carols with the Sanctuary Choir.

*Our Christmas celebration continues through
Epiphany Sunday, January 5 Worship.*

Mark #4 of Congregational Vitality: Empower Servant Leadership



More on this topic can be found in Pastor Jeff's past sermon by [clicking here](#), or by visiting his blog: revbinder.wordpress.com.

What does *Empower Servant Leadership* mean, exactly?

Robert Greenleaf literally wrote the book on servant leadership back in 1970 as an example and inspiration for other corporations seeking to empower their employees. The premise: in order for others to want to follow you (for you to lead), you must first be willing to serve those people and their needs. Jesus shares similar messages when he says, "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (*John 13:14*).

Another way to understand this characteristic is to apply it to our church setting. In a rather humorous way, the description in our Vital Congregations manual comes with a description of what servant leadership is clearly *not*. Servant leadership is **not** "The pastor's job; monopolized leadership; hiring the young energetic pastor; or burning out good volunteers" (I didn't write it; don't shoot the messenger). So in one way, we are to understand that servant leadership is about *every member of the church* claiming and owning their call to service and ministry here at Valley Community, and throughout the world.

So what can empowering servant leadership look like here with Valley Community? Just imagine: what would it look like if each and every person felt equipped, nurtured and called (not just our usual volunteers) to use their gifts for ministry in one way or another? What if church leadership was not so much about power, authority, or control, and more about listening, service, and transformation? How can Valley create such a climate of ministry for all of our members and friends? What would this look like?

Pastor Jeff

THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR
JEFF BINDER

NEWSLETTER STAFF:
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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY
DECEMBER 20 FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE:
messenger@valleycommunity.org

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

December Birthdays

Kristi Albertson	Laura Evans
Bob Archibald	Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale
Wade Askew	Charlene Hegdahl
Claire Bedsaul	Shirley Hercher
Steve Bird	Bob Hinson
Sarah Blair	Hannah Nolen
Kjel Carlson	Donna Russell
Marilyn Connell	Linda Sanderman
Deborah DuFresne	Mary Carol Schnell
Polly Dye	Silvia Smart

Happy birthday to all those born in December! If we missed you, please contact the church office at 503.292.3537 or info@valleycommunity.org and let us know.



Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received at Valley during worship on December 22. Half of this special denomination-wide offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances, and may be prevented from having to choose between housing and food. The Assistance Program is enabled to help over 300 households with income supplements and more than 250 households with housing supplements. Shared and Emergency Grants from the Board of Pensions help the households of church workers facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

The other half of the Christmas Joy Offering supports the historic commitment of the PC(USA) to education and leadership development through three PC(USA) racial/ethnic schools and colleges – Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas; and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Our future racial ethnic church leaders are able to receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries, which Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years, to continue. Please give generously!



Mission Endowment Committee Awards Fall Grants

The Mission Endowment Committee awarded seven grants to applicants during the Fall 2019 cycle. These were approved by Valley's Session on November 12. A total of \$10,850 will be distributed to the grant recipients in early December. These grants support housing, education, medical needs, and social services here in the Portland area and around the world.

- **YWCA of Greater Portland – Domestic Violence Services**
This project works with survivors of domestic violence to secure affordable housing and provide other services so that they can become self-sufficient.
- **Willamette West Habitat for Humanity**
Support construction of homes for low income families in the Denney Gardens Neighborhood.
- **United Nations Foundation – Nothing But Nets**
Purchase bed nets to prevent mosquito bite transmission of malaria. In the last decade, malaria deaths worldwide have declined by more than half. Nearly 90 percent of people with access to a bed net use it, and an estimated 6.8 million lives have been saved from malaria since 2000.
- **Project Never Again**
This local nonprofit provides duffel bags for children entering foster care. This gives the children something they can call their own, and allows them to transport their belongings in it, rather than using a plastic garbage bag.
- **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon – Second Home**
Acquire four computers and related software for the Second Home staff. They currently use personal equipment, which does not support required confidentiality. Second Home recruits volunteer home providers to support unaccompanied students in the Beaverton School District to complete their high school education.
- **Ignite the World Ministries**
Provide solar audio bibles to locations in Mongolia, Tibet, and Bhutan.
- **Open Arms International**
Support three mobile medical camps near Eldoret, Kenya, which will serve over 16,000 people. The mission of Open Arms is to provide relief from physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering through medical expertise, education, and Christian ministry.

Members of the Mission Endowment Committee are Jan Bellis-Squires, Ernie Bootsma, Robert Hayes, Mary Kelly, David Marquis (Co-chair), and Carol Powers (Co-chair). Janet Adkins is the Mission Committee liaison.

VCPC Stewardship: In Your Own Words



Valley has been a part of my life for almost 40 years and has served as both a place of worship for our family as well as a great social connection with a caring community of friends. I have found service opportunities while being an Elder and Deacon and have enjoyed sharing with others through the Holy Nine Patch Quilters, the Prayer Shawl Knitters, Dining For Women, and the Soup Kitchen. A contribution of time and talents combined with a regular pledge keeps our church strong!

News from Gamble Library



Valerie Conner has agreed to serve as librarian following Jan Falconer's years of excellent service. If you are interested in the library and all it has to offer, please consider adding your voice to the library committee. We need good folk to create the committee so if you have a love of books, please contact Val or Amy Dee. In

addition to Val's work, Phyllis Patterson and her daughter, Jan Patterson continue their acts of kindness by returning books to shelves among other related tasks and we are grateful for their kindness.

A Note from Our Treasurer

If you are like me, when I filed my Federal income taxes for 2018 they were filed claiming the standard deduction (vs. itemized deductions) due to a change on federal tax law. Please remember, however, if you are 70 ½ years old or older and have a retirement IRA you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) and still reap tax advantages from your giving to Valley Church. This is possible because use of a QCD results in neither taxable income nor a tax deduction so your taxable income is in effect reduced by the amount you give. As a bonus, your gift may be used to satisfy part or all of the Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA.

More information is available from Valley's Business manager AmyAnn Green (amyann@valleycommunity.org, 503.292.3537).

Annual Christmas Senior Luncheon



Moonglow Barbershop Quartet to entertain at Senior Lunch.

'Tis the season to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior by gathering together to eat, sing and be merry! Please join us on, Thursday, December 12, in Armitage Hall for the annual Senior Christmas luncheon. Moonglow, a barbershop quartet that has been singing together and competing for the past three years, will entertain us with Christmas music and a sing-a-long. This quartet is part of the top 10, internationally famous, Sweet Adelines Chorus in Portland. Plan to be there to tap your toes, sing along and welcome Moonglow to Valley. The Lunch Bunch children from Valleys Preschool will greet us with a couple of Christmas carols as we gather at noon for a delicious meal. Their sweet voices have been a part of the annual Christmas luncheon for many years. Thank you Lunch Bunch kiddos! The Senior Lunch Kitchen Crew can't wait to greet

you and wish you a Merry Christmas on December 12! Lunch is \$5.00. Please RSVP to Karen Mitchell-Yakymi, 503.449.4026, yaklaka@aol.com or to Angela in the Valley church office.

Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group combines the November and December meetings due to conflicts with the holidays. That combined meeting will be held in the Fireside Room on **Friday, December 6** this year. We will be discussing F. Scott Fitzgerald's third novel, **The Great Gatsby**. Set in Jazz Age New York, this novel, published in 1925, tells the tragic story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman whom he loved in his youth. All are welcome to bring their own coffee and to join in the discussion of this classic book.

The Book Group will meet on January 24, 2020 to briefly discuss and decide on books to be read in the new year.

Let There Be LED Light!



Our church has almost **340 fluorescent** tube lights throughout offices, conference rooms, library, choir room, bell choir room, storage rooms, resource rooms, Sunday school, and preschool.

Recently, a flickering fluorescent fixture in the preschool had a failed ballast. Our supplier, Pacific Lamp Wholesale, recommended installing LED tubes not requiring a ballast. In fact, they recommended converting to LED tubes throughout the church. However, at about \$10.00 each, this was not in the facilities budget.

LED lighting

Fear not, they assured us. **Energy Trust of Oregon** currently has a commercial incentive program issuing **free** LED tubes through December. LED tubes can last eight to ten years in most cases. Ecologically, converting to LED tubes is an energy savings of almost 40%.

They explained that the LED tubes are a hybrid that allows us to install them without removing the ballasts. If a ballast eventually fails, it can easily be removed as needed. As a test we easily removed the failed ballast in the preschool and installed the LED tubes.

More good news! They will deliver new tubes and haul off old tubes to recycle, also free of charge!

If you visit the church during December and January you may see teams of Valley volunteers on stepladders changing tubes. To join a team you can contact **David Marquis, Facilities Elder, at 503.260.9055**, or you may even get a call (not everyone needs to climb a ladder).

This is a significant “feather” in our Earth Care hat. Dimmable LED tubes are not available through the ETO program so we will not be converting the 25’ high fixtures in Davis Hall at this time. Stay tuned. We are still researching improved lighting for the sanctuary and hallways.

Valley Youth Cookie Sale December 15



Hello Valley!

Christmas season is almost upon us, and Valley Youth has some exciting news! It’s time for our annual Cookie Sale fundraiser! Valley Youth is offering small and large cookie platters for sale, as well as individual decorated cookies, baked by a professional baker. All of the proceeds will go toward funding our international Mission Trip to Puerto Rico in June, 2020.

We are offering small platters, consisting of 18 cookies for \$15; large platters, consisting of 36 cookies for \$25; and decorated cookies \$2.

If you would like to donate cookies for the sale, please email Marshall at marshall@valleycommunity.org. The final day to donate batches of cookies will be December 14.

The Valley Youth Cookie Sale will be on December 15, after the Christmas Pageant.

Thank you,
Marshall Lauck
Director of Youth Ministries

Dining for Women to Meet December 15



Health in Kenya. The specific program is called Super-Nurses for Maternal Health. This is Kenya’s first nurse mentor training center. This project will set up a center that trains top nurses from Kenya’s public hospitals to mentor hundreds of peer nurses and sustainably improve maternal outcomes for more than 30,000 mothers and babies. The goal is to help change the culture of midwifery in Kenya and significantly improve health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Doesn’t this sound interesting? You are cordially invited to our December meeting on Sunday, December 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please bring a potluck dish to share, a curious mind and a donation to put toward Jaracaranda’s grant request.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.297.8992.

My Faith Story



By Carol Powers

Presbyterianism goes back for generations on both sides of my family. We moved to Harrisburg, PA, in 1956 and joined Pine Street Presbyterian. It's a beautiful stone neo-gothic church with magnificent stained glass windows and a wonderful pipe organ.

To say that music and the church are intertwined for me would be an understatement. My earliest memories of church are of my mom, Phylis Moffett, singing in the choir at First Presbyterian, Philadelphia. She later moved to Oregon and became a Valley member too. Mom was a voice major in college. Of course she got me involved in music. Pine Street's Minister of Music, Donald L. Clapper, was very important to my spiritual life. He was a kind, firm, extremely talented musician, and a strong Christian. I started singing in choir in 1st grade and never quit.

Pine Street had a strong Sunday School program. The department heads and many of the teachers were a consistent presence throughout my childhood. It was a school-like atmosphere, with regular attendance, study, and memorization expected. I can still recite much of what I learned there. Many of my school classmates were Jewish, and one became one of my best high school friends. Surely these friends weren't all going to hell like some of my Sunday School

teachers seemed to think. Even at a young age I decided I didn't think that wasn't true.

Science was always interesting for me. I loved high school math and science, and majored in Physics in college. In late elementary school I started reading books about genetics, DNA, continental drift, etc. and never saw a conflict between science and church. I figured God was smart enough to know how it all fit together.

I was awaiting further enlightenment.

In 1977 I moved to Portland. One of my IBM colleagues, Karen (Kruchek) Smith, learned I was Presbyterian and invited me to come to Valley. I did, and was impressed by Pastor Jim Meade, who, of course, almost immediately left. I also loved the Adult Education program. Each Wednesday evening there were interesting classes, not to mention break time with coffee and cookies. This place was hopping!

In the mid-80s I began Bethel Teacher Training here at Valley with Pastor Judy Steele as the teacher. It was two years of really serious bible study and had a major impact on my understanding of scripture.

Frank and I have belonged to the same Home Bible Study group for about 30 years. This small community has become family, and is an essential part of my ongoing spiritual growth. We've studied almost every book in the bible over the years. We're currently reading "Holy Envy" by Barbara Brown Taylor, which I highly recommend. The author talks about questions that she's working on for which she doesn't yet have answers. Here's one of mine: How can we teach kids (and adults) in a way that's real, and not so darned churchy?

I continue to await further enlightenment.

Valley's Christmas Pageant



On December 15 at 10:00 a.m. worship, Valley will present its annual Christmas Pageant. The Valley Youth Choirs and the Sanctuary Choir will sing, in addition to several carols for the congregation to sing. The Christmas story will be presented through movement, sign language, song,

narration. Feast your eyes on beautiful costumes and enjoy the Christmas ambience in the sanctuary. This is a wonderful service to share with neighbors and friends.

Salvation Army Giving Tree

The Salvation Army Giving Tree is located in the front entryway. Valley is helping a family of six. A father (59), mother (32), and four children (boys ages 10, 8, 5 1/2, and 3 1/2). The family struggles to make ends meet at times and would greatly appreciate assistance for the holidays. Please take a tag and bring the *unwrapped* item (along with the tag) to be placed under the tree by 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9. Your generosity will ensure this family will have a very merry Christmas!



Valley Christian Preschool Stuffed Animal Christmas Outreach 2019



Valley Christian Preschool will be supporting the **Ronald McDonald House of Portland** again this Christmas season by sponsoring a stuffed animal collection. We invite the members of Valley Community Presbyterian Church to join us in this effort by donating a new, unwrapped stuffed animal to be given as a gift to a child staying at Ronald McDonald House! Please consider bringing a new stuffed animal with you to Advent Fair on Saturday,



December 7, to brighten a child's day. There will be a stuffed animal collection bin located in the gym. Donation bins will also be located in Valley's Preschool wing through Tuesday, December 17.

The Ronald McDonald House is a wonderful organization that serves families by providing a "home away from home" for families with severely ill children, so these families can stay together and focus on healing while receiving medical treatment. Ronald McDonald House also provides specialty medical services and care for these children during their stay.

Our preschool students enjoy the opportunity to pick out a special stuffed animal for another child. Pastor Jeff will provide a brief service for the preschool students and families on Monday and Tuesday mornings, December 16 and 17 to bless these stuffed animals and send prayers for the children receiving these gifts.

Thank you for sharing this holiday season!

Anne Searce

Director – Valley Christian Preschool

Kids' Night Out a Big Success!



We had another great turn out for Kids' Night Out (KNO) in November with 34 children attending! The kids loved the fact we had lots of youth helpers who gave their time and energy into making this such a fun night for them. Thank you Youth! I would like to extend my appreciation to Andrea Murdoch, Diana Domingo-Forasté, Brad Carlson, and Amy Rheingans for your faithfulness in making this month's KNO possible. We had fun helping them make turkey masks, decorating cookies. Then some fun parachute play and

other fun games in the gym. The older kids enjoyed some basketball time and best of all... dinner and downtime watching Toy Story 4.

Thank you all!

Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministry

December 20 Kids' Night Out

Friday, December 20 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. featuring "The Polar Express!" Would YOU prayerfully consider being a volunteer to help assist us with the children? This outreach to our surrounding communities would not be possible without having our wonderful volunteers. If interested, we'd love to have you. Please contact: Donna Carlson, *Director of Children's Ministry* at the church office: 503.292.3537 ext. 135, text: 503.442.9551, or by email: donna@valleycommunity.org. **Thank you!**

Kidz Mart is here!

Hey Kids and Teens: Plan to drop by Room 16 on the following dates to purchase great gifts for your parents, grandparents, siblings and friends at incredibly low prices. Kidz Mart will be open for your shopping pleasure:

- Wednesday, December 11 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (children and youth only)
- Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (children and youth only)
- Sunday, December 15 after 10:00 a.m. worship until 1:00 p.m. (children, youth and *ADULTS*)

Wednesday Night Live Dec. 4



At 6:00 p.m., after Cherubs (ages four - first grade) and Melodia (second - fifth grade) choir groups finish up, children ages four through fifth grade are invited to

dinner with their friends (at no charge) by our own Chef Roy Connor! Dinner will be followed by some fun games and activity time lead by Donna Carlson – Valley's Children's Ministry Director. Have your child join us the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The kids love having a bit of down time with their friends while making new ones. Any parents with kids in choir can just let your Choir Director know your intentions that you will be picking your child up in Davis Hall (gym) following our Wednesday Night Live event. For parents of children not in choir, feel free to register when you arrive. We look forward to seeing you there!

Note: Choir participation is not at all mandatory at all to be in our fun Wednesday Night Live program for ages four through fifth grade. Although, Amy Rheingans, the Youth's Professional Choir Director, would surely love to have your child involved! For more information pertaining to all the choir programs for youth and children, please visit: valleyyouthchoirs.org. For ages four through twelfth grade.

Reverse Advent Calendar 2019

Please help Valley support the Grass Roots Food Pantry of SE Portland. This year you may again collect items to donate to this pantry on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2020. Stop by during coffee fellowship after 10:00 a.m. worship to pick up a calendar or watch the e-blast for weekly collection ideas. Thank you for your support.

~ Your Mission Committee

Save the Date!

Presbyterian Women of Cascades Presbytery will gather at First Presbyterian Church, Portland, on Saturday, May 16, for the Annual PW Spring Gathering. The theme of the Gathering is "Telling our Stories", and the keynote speaker will be Jane Kirkpatrick, author of many historical novels about Pacific Northwest History.

Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI)



Thank you to the 178 people who participated in our October 27 Vital Congregations Survey! We had 133 individuals respond to the essay questions. We appreciate your participation, prayer and input.

While the results are tallied, your VCI Team is working on a January 26 Vital Congregations Kick-Off Service. Join us for survey results. We will celebrate and learn about our two year Vital Congregations Initiative. Come learn more!

Your Vital Congregations Initiative Taskforce members are:

Michelle Blair, Tyler Rawlings, Liz Brown, Greg Russell, Polly Dye, Glenys Craig and Pastor Jeff Binder



Valley Youth are Pleased to Announce:
2020 Vision: Puerto Rico Mission

Serving with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Summer of 2020

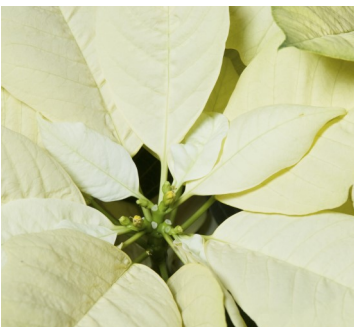
More info to come!

Mission Market Thank You

Thanks so much to all of you for supporting Valley's annual Mission Market 2019. With your generous contributions we raised just over \$800.00 for the mission projects represented. Special thanks to the volunteers and table hosts who dedicated their time to these valuable mission efforts, including: Jini De Vries, Janet Adkins, Connie Brenner, Jan and Chuck Falconer, Christine Danner, Andrea Murdoch, Project Back and the Valley Youth. Look for the Mission Market again in November 2020. We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers.

~ Your Mission Committee.

Poinsettias to Grace the Sanctuary



Poinsettias will enhance the sanctuary chancel on the 3rd Sunday of Advent and Christmas in memory and honor of our loved ones. If you wish to participate, please provide the name of the honoree and a donation of \$15.00 noted to "VCPC Flower Fund" in an envelope, and place it in the offering plate, or deliver it to the church office by Sunday, December 22. Honorees' names will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Participants may take their poinsettias home after Christmas Eve services.



Thank you for sending your check for **\$36.50** for the
2020 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



Valley Scrapbook



Will Beattie, piper, plays for an audience at the Mission Market.



Former Valley Youth, Hannah Nolen, describes her recent mission work in Scotland at an adult education class.



A front entry display dedicated to longtime member, Anne Foster.



One of the many displays at the Mission Market.



Celtic dancers join the Sanctuary Choir at the front of the sanctuary during Kirkin' o' the Tartan Sunday.



The children enjoying a meal and movie at Kids' Night Out.



Valley Youth help serve dinner at Kids' Night Out.

Valley Notes

Opportunities

Christmas Model Train Open

House: Sunday, December 15, 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Shannon Pratt's home, 6677 SW Bancroft Way. Food and beverages provided. Bring family and friends, all are welcome!

You may turn your 2020 pledge card in to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sundays. Thank you!

Please use

Smile.Amazon.com for your holiday online shopping and select Valley Community Presbyterian Church as the non-profit to receive your shopping credit. There is no cost to you.

iSing Choir and The West Side Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Stephen Galván, presents *Where Angels Tread*, featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Argento's *The Masque of Angels Suite* on Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Valley's sanctuary. This is a free event! However, if you choose to make a donation, 100% of the collected offerings will go to Gifted Wishes, a local organization creating moments that matter for hospice patients and their families. Please plan on arriving early as seating is limited. Enjoy choral music while supporting local non-profit organizations!

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Sabina George, Shannon Pratt, Ben Smith (son of Lee and Sandy Cundiff)

We pray for those who mourn:
- Friends and family of Beverly Helmer who died November 8, 2019.

Earth Care Corner

Here are some eco-friendly ideas to ponder as the holiday season swiftly creeps up on us all! As the website EarthEasy states, Christmas doesn't have to be a burden on the planet. With a little effort and imagination, we can reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season.

- * Buy less. Not all gifts have to be store bought. Shorten your shopping list both for people and numbers of gifts, and agree to put a limit on spending.
- * Buy smart. Look for locally-made gifts. Choose gifts made from recycled materials. Give battery-free gifts. Avoid toys that promote violence. Be okay with "re-gifting."
- * Connect with nature. Go on a family bird count or take a nature hike. Participate in a nature restoration activity. Decorate a tree for the birds.
- * Lower the impact of holiday lighting. Reduce the size of the outdoor lighting displays. Use LED lights both inside and outside for Christmas tree lighting. Turn off those lights at bedtime.
- * Choose a live tree. They can be used for 2-3 years, especially if you purchase a small tree in a large pot that can then be planted somewhere special in your yard after that.
- * Make homemade cards. Last year's calendar or a child's artwork are good places to start.
- * Find alternatives to wrapping paper. Avoid glossy foil or metallic paper. Reuse gift wrap whenever you can. Use tape sparingly. Use a cloth bag or even pages from the funny paper.
- * Reuse/Recycle. This includes gift packing materials and wrap/ribbon/bows, as well as old electronics and Christmas trees.

Merry Christmas and an Eco-Friendly New Year
from Valley's Earth Care Team!

Produce Table

Every coin and bill added up in a big way for Produce Table donations. Over the 2019 growing season, Valley members and friends showed their gratitude for the wonderful produce brought in every week: the total amount collected was \$325.03. That is the amount of the check that our church is sending to the Oregon Food Bank to help ease the way of others around our state that deal on a daily basis with food insecurity. Thank you everyone!

Charlotte Pistor to Sing December 8



Charlotte Pistor, daughter of longtime Valley members Walter and Hildegard Pistor, has been invited to sing with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Skyview Auditorium. General admission tickets cost \$40. Senior discounted tickets are \$36. For more information about the concert, go to vancouversymphony.org. Charlotte and her brother, David, grew up at Valley and she will be returning to sing the anthem and offertory during 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 8.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 First Sunday of Advent 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:15a Emotional Intelligence & Spiritual Identity Class 11:30a Armonia Choir 11:30a Membership Committee 12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 12:30p Pageant Rehearsal 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship	2 10:00a Mission Comm. 6:00p Scouts 12301 6:30p Scout Troop 5592 7:00p Scout Troop 592 7:30p PDX Highland Games 7:30p Troop 5591	3 10:00a Women's Bible Study 12:00p Staff Meeting 1:00p Brice Hammack Memorial Clean Day 2:00p Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00p Girl Scout Troop Session Comm. 4:00p PDX Highland Games 6:30p Christian Nurture for Children Meeting 7:00p Christian Nurture for Youth Meeting	4 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a TOPS Meeting 10:00a Calvary Bible Study 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p Melodia Choir 6:00p Wednesday Night Live 6:00p Youth Group	5 5:00p Scout Leadership Meeting 6:00p Scouts Den 592 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	6 10:00a Valley Book Group 10:30a Calvary Prayer Meeting 7:30p iSing Choir Winter Choral Concert	7 3:00p Advent Fair 5:00p Christmas Tree Lighting 7:30p iSing Choir Winter Choral Concert
8 Second Sunday of Advent 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Emotional Intelligence & Spiritual Identity Class 11:30a Armonia Choir 11:30p Communication Committee 12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 12:30p Pageant Rehearsal 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship	9 6:30p Scout Troop 5592 7:00p Finance Committee 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Boy Scouts 592 7:30p Troop 5591	10 11:30a PEO Meeting 12:00p Staff Meeting 6:30p Cub Scout Den 6:30p Weebelos Den 592 7:00p Session	11 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a TOPS Meeting 10:00a Calvary Bible Study 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p Melodia Choir 6:00p Youth Group	12 12:00p Senior Luncheon 6:30p Pack 592 Parent Mtg. 6:30p Sunset Trail BSA District Meeting 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	13 10:30a Calvary Prayer Meeting	14 9:30a Pageant Rehearsal
15 Third Sunday of Advent 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship-Christmas Pageant 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Emotional Intelligence & Spiritual Identity Class 11:30a Dining for Women 12:00p Calvary Korean Worship 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship 5:30p Cub Scout Pack 592 7:00p Scout Jamboree Committee	16 10:00a Meals on Wheels 6:00p Girl Scouts 12301 6:30p Scout Troop 5591 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Boy Scouts 592 7:30p Troop 5591	17 12:00p Staff Meeting 4:00p Girl Scout Troop 5:30p Facilities Committee 6:30p Cub Scout Pack 592 7:00p Deacons Ministry	18 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a TOPS Meeting 10:00a Calvary Bible Study 2:00p Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p Melodia Choir 6:00p Youth Group 6:30p Vital Congregations Task Force 7:00p Scout Committee	19 8:00a Soup Kitchen 4:00p Worship and Music Committee 5:00p Music Selection Team 6:00p Pack 592 Meeting 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	20 "The Messenger" Newsletter Articles Due 10:30a Calvary Prayer Meeting 5:30p Kids' Night Out	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:00p Calvary Korean Worship 12:30p Armonia Choir 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship	23 6:30p Scout Troop 5591 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Scout Troop 592 7:30p Troop 5591	24 Christmas Eve 3:00p Christmas Eve Worship 8:00p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day - Church Building Closed	26 Church Office Closed 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	27 Church Office Closed 10:30a Calvary Prayer Meeting	28
29 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:00p Calvary Korean Worship 12:30p Armonia Choir 1:00p Calvary Korean Fellowship	30 6:30p Scout Troop 5591 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Scout Troop 592 7:30p Troop 5591	31				

December 2019

THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
Advent Fair
Tree Lighting & Carol Sing
Saturday, December 7
3:00-5:30 p.m.

Advent Fair - 3:00-5:00 pm in Davis Hall/Gym
Crafts for all ages and abilities.
Make an ornament for our outdoor tree.
Pizza from 4:00-5:00 pm (free will offering)

Tree Lighting and Carol Sing - Front Lawn
Tree will be lit at 5:00 pm and a carol sing
will immediately follow. Hot chocolate and
cookies provided.

More info: valleycommunity.org

DEACONS' RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Wednesday,
December 18,
2:00-7:00 p.m.**



**Up to three people
may be helped with
each pint of blood
collected. Please help
if you can.
Contact Jim Sandberg
or Karen Miller for
more information.**