


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

April 2020

Sundays at Valley

Online worship at 10:00 a.m.

Visit [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/)

[ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/](#) and

click videos on the left side.

April

5 Palm Sunday
Communion

12 Easter Sunday

19 Spring Musical tentatively
rescheduled for June 14

26

May

3 Communion



I am the church, You are the church, We are the church together...

Thank you to everyone who continues to support one another and this community during this “brave new world” we find ourselves in. Many businesses and places have closed until further notice, but this is not true of our church. Our Sunday worship services will remain on-line until further notice, including our celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Our committees continue to meet and dialogue via email, phone, and video. Our church staff are all still working to continue to serve this Valley Community.

This is a wonderful reminder that our concept of “church” is being challenged in some positive, life-giving ways these days. Yes, it is a bummer that our building is currently closed to large group gatherings. But this also allows for us as Valley Community to re-imagine what church can and should look like in our current times, as well as moving forward. And what an exciting idea this is! After all, there have always been churches throughout the world that are thriving without a building of their own.

If we imagine church beyond our building, what visions come into mind for you? How can we be church today in light of the current expectations for daily living? How can we reflect Christ to our family, to our neighbors, and to our community?

On more of a pastoral note, I recognize that this is also quite a stressful time for many of us these days. Should you need anyone to speak with, feel free to contact me at your convenience. We as Valley Community want to make sure that we are continuing to be the church to you, even if that means getting creative with how we can offer care and support.

Be sure to stay up to date with our twice-a-week emails, as well as our updates via our website and social media. If you know of someone that does not use the internet, please be sure to share our updates with them when you hear them. I look forward to seeing you all in person soon, but until then, remember that we are the church together!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Red Cross Blood Drive

As Deacons, we often ask ourselves how we can best serve our congregation and the community at large. In March we hosted our quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive. It was not an easy decision to host the blood drive because of the risks associated with the coronavirus. Because of the extreme shortage of blood, we decided to take the risk and host the drive as planned. David Marquis helped me get the classrooms and waiting area ready for the Red Cross Team to arrive and the Deacons provided cookies for the “canteen” following blood donation. Our goal was to meet the recommendations of Debbie Purcell and our Coronavirus Team. To ensure the safety of the donors, the Red Cross Team took charge of the drive. Before signing in, the donors were screened, given hand sanitizer and gloves. The response was overwhelming. Some donors waited as long as two hours to donate. No one cancelled or complained because of the waiting time. Their only concern was to know if the Red Cross Team would stay until all donations were completed. The Red Cross Team stayed until 9:30 p.m. The results were well worth the risk. Their goal was to collect 31 units of blood and actually 33 units were collected and we had five first-time donors. The Red Cross said that the donations would save as many as 99 lives. In parting, the Red Cross Team thanked us for making our church available as a number of their regular locations were closed.

Jim Sandberg
Deacon Moderator

Blood Donors Needed!



Blood Donors Needed!



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
APRIL 20 FOR THE MAY ISSUE:
messenger@valleycommunity.org

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

April Birthdays

Bruce Armstrong	Pat McClean
Hayden Bach	Kay Phillips
Cathy Bernhard	Shannon Pratt
Jeff Binder	John Purcell
Neil Blair	Janae Pyle
Lily Anne Boyle	Bonnie Reeder
Dana Collins	Cheryl Rees
Marilyn Conforti	Eleanor Romanaggi
Lee Cundiff	Dan Rueff
Virginia Dockrell	Scott Russell
Helen Green	Tracy Sailors
Bob Hayes	Karen Sandberg
Richard Hegdahl	Renn Sanderman
Wendy Jenkins	Corri Sanders
Joyce Jenkins	Hayley Sherman
Grady Killian	DeWitt Sherwood
Kelsey Killian	Ed Vaughan
Ian Luehr-Sele	Eloise Zwald

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



A Note from the Finance Committee

We as a congregation are experiencing a time that is unfamiliar to most of us. While we at Valley may not be able to join together for services, fellowship, and missions as we normally would, the Finance Committee would like to prayerfully remind everyone that your giving to the church is still very much needed. Sunday services may be online only, but activities and expenses do continue.

For example, the Session has agreed to continue paying staff of Valley through the end of April, our working assumption on when we may see a return to more normalcy. This includes the staff of our Preschool, an important mission outreach of this congregation to the immediate neighborhood. Despite the school being closed until the end of April, Session sees the continuation of support to our skilled staff of the Preschool as vital to both ensuring the Preschool reopens smoothly, and as important to the teachers and their families during this difficult time.

What can you do as a part of the Valley family? If possible, please continue to generously support Valley with your giving plans and pledges for the year. Your giving can be sent in the mail to the Church office, via direct payment from your online banking service, or online by clicking the GIVE NOW button at www.valleycommunity.org. Continued giving provides much needed flexibility to Session during these rapidly changing circumstances.

For reference, Valley's address is:

8060 SW Brentwood Street
Portland, OR 97225

With deepest gratitude for your continued support of Valley,
Your Finance Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering is scheduled to be received on April 5 or 12 (Palm Sunday or Easter). Even though we will not be meeting in person, you can still mail in your offering to the church office or visit our online giving page at <http://www.valleycommunity.org/tithes--offerings/index.html>. OGHS envelopes will be mailed to the congregation to make it easier to send in your offering.

OGHS is the principal means of funding our denomination's outreach throughout the world, including here in the U.S. It funds the Presbyterian Hunger Fund, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. All of these mission areas will be desperately in need of funds during and after the current pandemic. The COVID-19 virus is causing a lot of displacement and upheaval here in the U.S., where at least some of the funds from the offering will be used. But imagine living in a refugee camp or a favela or an area devastated by disasters such as the hurricane and earthquakes visited upon Puerto Rico and not having the knowledge or wherewithal to "self-distance" or self-quarantine, or access to products that can keep us from contracting disease. Further imagine being a healthcare worker in these conditions of squalor and extreme poverty.

So please give as generously as possible to One Great Hour of Sharing and help make a difference in the world.

Presbyterian Women



Right now the likelihood that the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Cascades will occur as scheduled on May 16 at First Presbyterian Church in Portland is uncertain. A final decision will be made during the week following Easter. In the meantime, reservations are being accepted, and checks will be held until the final decision is made. The opportunity to spend a day with other Presbyterian women and learn about "Telling Our Stories" from Jane Kirkpatrick is something to which a lot of women are looking forward to.

The Fall Gathering is scheduled for October 10 in Florence and will feature a workshop on disaster preparedness. (This presentation probably won't be the only one we are ever presented with). Also a geologist with the United States Geological Survey at the Cascade Volcano Observatory will speak about volcano, earthquake, landslide and tsunami hazards. This will be a thought-provoking and practical gathering so consider putting it on your calendar.

All women are invited to attend both meaningful gatherings!

Thanks for Stained Glass Funding



We are excited to announce that we have exceeded our fundraising goal for the stained glass preservation project! We are thankful to the Valley Foundation, Presbytery of the Cascades, and especially to many extremely generous contributions from you, our members and friends. On site work is currently scheduled for August. Facilities will provide updates as the project progresses.



Mission Endowment Applications Due April 1

April first is the spring application deadline for grants from Valley's Mission Endowment Fund. The Mission Endowment Committee will meet in April to consider these applications and make recommendations to Session for grants to be awarded.

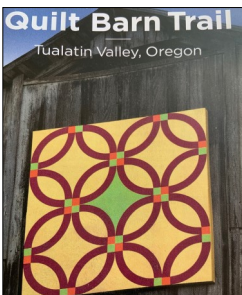
Created in 1979 by a generous gift from a member, the Mission Endowment Fund is an important part of Valley's mission program. What organizations do you know of that further the work of Christ in the world? Think about submitting an application on behalf of one of them. Consideration is given to applications which:

- address hunger, food and health needs of people around the world
- assist volunteers in the mission field
- advance denominational programs of outreach, service and proclamation
- assist secular and social organizations that aid in the care of people.

In the past ten years, this fund has awarded grants totaling about \$200,000 to deserving applicants. No applications will be accepted after the April 1 deadline. Contact missionendowment@valleycommunity.org, or go to the church website for a grant application:

<http://www.valleycommunity.org/mission--service/stewardship.html#MissionEndowment>.

Adult Senior Luncheon



Jane Fouste, Project Leader, for the Quilt Barn Trail of Tualatin Valley, will be the speaker for our April 23 (date may change) Senior Lunch. Handmade quilts serve many purposes, they tell the story of a family's history, they serve as cherished heirlooms, and they're perfect for wrapping up on a cold, rainy day. The Tualatin Valley celebrates the heritage of quilts with large wooden quilt blocks displayed on barns, and businesses. As the, project leader, Jane will share her knowledge of the, Quilt Barn Trail, how it began, who designs each quilt block, how the barns and buildings are chosen to receive a quilt and who paints the quilts.

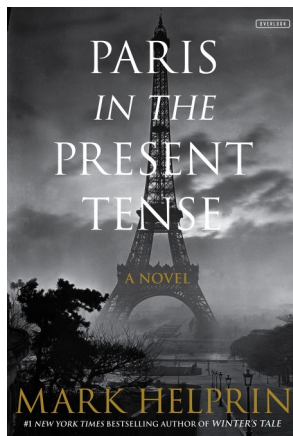
The luncheon begins at noon, costs \$5.00, and is a wonderful time for fellowship, friendship and fabulous food! Friends are always welcome.

Story of Kindness

David Jimerson recently heard a great story: There was a lady standing in line at the checkout counter and the clerk said "Ma'am, have you found everything you need?" She said, "I couldn't find any bread." The man behind her in line heard what she said and he said "Ma'am there is bread in my cart, you are welcome to have it." She said "thank you" and took the loaf of bread. He said "If there is anything else in my cart that you need, please help yourself."

While a lot of people are being greedy during this trying time, there are still wonderful and generous folks out there who help share the love of God!

Valley Book Group



Under normal circumstances, the Valley Book Group would be meeting on Friday, April 24 in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *Paris in the Present Tense*, by Mark Helprin. However, due to closures caused by the Coronavirus, we will probably be seeking another way to share this book, possibly using Zoom. The book takes place in a present-day Paris caught between violent unrest and its well-known, inescapable glories. Seventy-four-year-old Jules Lacour must find a balance between his strong obligations to the past and the attractions and beauties of life and love in the present. This book has been described in one review as "a soaring achievement, a deep, dizzying look at a life through the purifying lenses of art and memory." If you are on the Book Group email list, you will receive further information about how we intend to meet.

Valley Community Youth Choirs

Like all programs at Valley, the choirs and musical groups are on hold, with high hopes of re-starting at the beginning of May. The Youth Musical, previously slated for April 19, has been rescheduled to Sunday, June 14. In the meantime, everybody is practicing the songs and lines so we can be ready when the time comes. More information on other new event dates, such as the spring choir concert, will be forthcoming as the situation becomes clear.

As a special treat, some of the kids are preparing songs to share during Valley's livestream worship services. The Hoffbeck Trio (Olivia, Georgia, and Lars) will sing "Song of Hope" on Easter Sunday.



Above: Valley Youth Choir members play a musical game during choir rehearsal.



Right: Playing the piano during choir rehearsal.

PARENTS... BE SURE TO SAVE THESE DATES!

KIDS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. on May 15, and June 19!

Movie, pizza, fruit, and refreshments. Fun crafts and structured game time in our gym. Ages: *3 1/2 years of age through 5th grade.

*Age 3 1/2 requirements: potty-trained, can take simple instruction, comfortable with others while away from parent/guardian.

Cost: \$10 per child or \$25 max for three or more siblings in the same household (cash or check only please).

RSVP is required. Please indicate the following information:

Parent/Guardian name, phone, child's name and age. Send information to Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministry: donna@valleycommunity.org, text 503.442.9551, or call the church office at 503.292.3537 ext. 135.

VBS "LIFT-OFF" KICK OFF EVENT

Saturday, June 6 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Up, Up, and Away! This spellbinding special event starts out with a special guest from Mad Science who will introduce the children to the principles of air and pressure by launching their own hot air balloon in celebration of VBS "Lift Off" coming up in July! Come and get a sneak peek of what's to come. We will have an Early Bird VBS registration table, fun craft, light snacks, goodie bags and then some!

VBS IN JULY

"LIFT OFF! SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH GOD!"

Registration information to follow mid-May 2020

July 13-17, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for preschool-5th grade!

Cost: \$55 per child or \$135 for three or more siblings in the same household.

Preschoolers must be 3 1/2 years old by July 12, potty-trained, able to take simple instructions, comfortable and easily communicate with adults while away from parent or guardian. 5th graders: those entering 5th grade August 2020.

Vital Congregations Initiates Vital Conversations

On February 16, the Valley Vital Congregations Revitalization Initiative launched the first of what was to be a seven week series. These gatherings happened on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons and were roughly an hour in length. It was an opportunity for folks to gather and dig a little deeper into the themes and topics involved in each mark.

Week 1: Amy Dee led us through *Acts 2:42-47* and the idea of Lifelong Discipleship Formation. Asking the question: What do you think of when you hear the word VITAL?

Week 2: Valerie Connor facilitated a look at Intentional Authentic Evangelism with the help of *John 4:1-41*. Is it possible to spread the Good News without being “Jesus Freaks”?

Week 3: Connie Brenner discussed *Romans 12:1-21* and *Matthew 25* while challenging us to discuss Outward Incarnation Focus. As a passionate member of the missions committee, this was her prime topic of choice.

Week 4: Carolyn & Ken Stennett guided a conversation related to Empowered Servant Leadership using *John 13:1-20*. What are the characteristics of a good leader? What does Servant Leadership even mean?

Week 5: All groups of 25 or more were banned from gathering in the State of Oregon, so we had to postpone.

So now what?

These conversations were insightful, delightful, and challenging. They opened the doors of conversation for folks who may not usually interact, creating a safe space to learn and grow and express and ponder. These conversations should continue, and not just by finishing the series. These conversations are important. These gatherings are important. They have shown how interconnected these topics and ideas are; why the VCI logo is a flower with each petal connecting back to the center - the teachings of Christ.

What have you learned?
How have these conversations affected you?
What would you like to see in the coming weeks?
What do you want us to know?

There are three presenters standing by with the three remaining marks ready to guide and question and challenge—stay tuned.

There is talk of taking these conversations to the web and continuing the series online after Easter. There is talk of reinstituting the series in person once it is safe to do so. Maybe both? Currently, videos of weeks 2-4 can be accessed online at <https://www.valleycommunity.org/about-valley/vital-congregations.html>

We want to hear from you and we want the conversations to continue. If you have thoughts to share you are welcome to email vitalvalleypres@gmail.com, contact Pastor Jeff or any member of the task force at any time, or send a handwritten note to the church office.

With Gratitude,
Vital Congregations Task Force
Glenys Craig, Greg Russell, Jeff Binder, Lizz Brown, Michelle Blair, Polly Dye, Taylor Rawlings



Holy Week and Easter at Valley

April 5 – Palm Sunday 10 am

Worship with us via livestreaming at 10am as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and mark the beginning of Holy Week.

April 9 – Maundy Thursday 6 pm

Join us via a livestreaming 6pm service as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples in scripture and music.

April 10 – Good Friday 6 pm

At 6pm we will livestream a program that includes organized prayer, Scripture reading, and music. This somber and contemplative time is to help us focus on the Passion of Christ and his sacrifice for us.

April 12 – Easter Sunday 10 am

On Easter morning, we will celebrate the resurrection at our 10 am livestreaming worship service. Our service will include music from the organ and trumpet. Worship will be full of "Alleluias" as we celebrate the risen Christ! Please invite friends and family to join online!

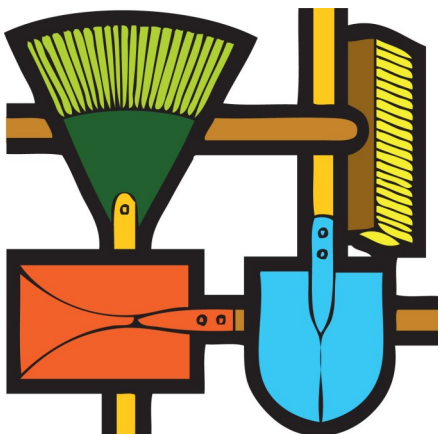
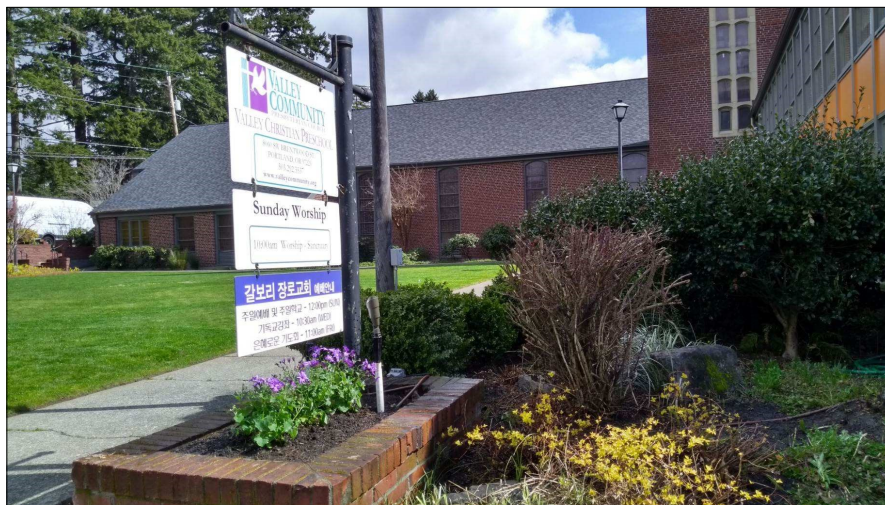
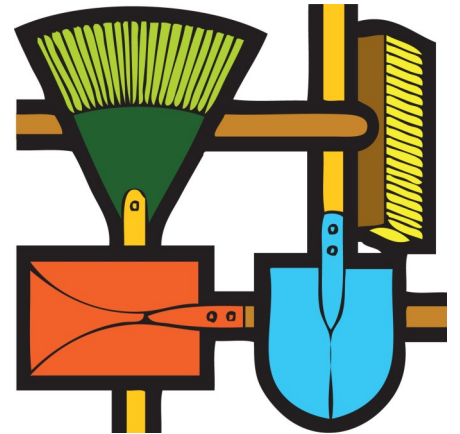


**Valley Community
Presbyterian Church**
(503) 292-3537
www.valleycommunity.org

Enjoy Our Landscape

Valley is keeping the night-lights on, the blinds open, and continuing projects wherever possible. We are closed for preschool, meetings and worship, but we still offer open space to our community: our church grounds. We have budgeted professional landscapers to maintain the plantings, gardens and lawns this year. What a difference it's making as Spring has arrived!

If you get a chance to drive by, we hope you will notice the difference. Join our church neighbors (from a social distance) and enjoy strolling our sidewalks, walking their dogs, and short-cutting through our driveway and parking lot. This occurs more now than ever since daily walks are encouraged for mental and physical health. We hope that Valley's grounds and landscaping can be a sanctuary to enhance that experience.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Easter lilies will still grace the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday during our online worship service. If you would like to donate towards our flower fund in honor or memory of a love one, please mail your \$15 check to the church office. Indicate "lilies" on your check with the name(s) you wish to honor. Donations and names must be in the office or postmarked by Monday, April 6. The names will be listed in the online bulletin as well as in the e-blast.

The Food Pantry (SCAT) at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is part of the Oregon Food Bank. Because of the current COVID-19 situation, workers must be under 60 years of age. Our upcoming pantries are Wednesdays, April 15, 22, and 29, 6:15-7:30 p.m. Please contact Janet Adkins at lo.adkins@gmail.com.

The next Valley Habitat Build will be Saturday morning, May 9. For more information, contact Chuck Falconer.

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Silva Kephart, Mary Helen Trevino, Estella Massingill, Glen and Jeanette Nichol, Terri Vermillion's family: Brian, Jen and Michael.

We pray for those who mourn:
- Christena Keller and family of Grant Campbell

- Sarah Boyle and family on the death of Sarah's mother, Marianne Jones.

- Lizz Brown and the Robinson family on the death of Lizz's friend Isaac Robinson.

- The De Vries family and friends on the death of Jini De Vries on Sunday, March 29, 2020.

Earth Care Corner

Did you know.....



that Valley Community Presbyterian Church has become an Earth Care Congregation through PCUSA? This is such **good news** as Valley's Earth Care Team successfully collected well over the 100 points needed for our initial application from the good work that our congregation already has in place and is adding to our commitment to care for God's creation. This is only the start of what we hope to do within our church walls and out in the community. Stay tuned for more ways that you can participate in keeping our earth home healthy and thriving!

On a **not so good news** note, Valley's Second Community Recycling Event has been cancelled for the scheduled date of Saturday, April 18. We hope to reschedule it in the future when public gathering is safe and welcomed. In the meantime, as you have extra time and are inspired to clean and declutter, save your styrofoam and plastic #6, your usable household goods, your electronic items, your plastic bags, your batteries and light bulbs, your used clothing and your cans/bottles. They will be collected at our next Community Recycling Event.

April 22 is **Earth Day** and this year marks its 50th anniversary! Although many events that were planned to celebrate this occasion are now being cancelled, one way to honor the earth and learn more about issues facing it is to go to earthday.org and take some quizzes (located at the bottom of the Earth Day 2020 page.) What you will learn about whale conservation, protecting our species, climate change, oceans and plastic pollution, environmental legacy, deforestation and biodiversity and clean energy will *inspire* you in many ways!

Valley's Earth Care Team

Dining for Women

This month Valley's Dining for Women chapter will be dining in, as the April meeting will be cancelled. However, the nonprofit that has been chosen to receive their grant still is in need of donations. Valley's DFW chapter and friends, please consider making your donation either on line at www.diningforwomen.org or sending a check to chapter leader Ruthann Marquis (7675 SW Miner Way PDX 97225) and she will send it on to DFW headquarters.

This month's featured grantee is Africa Development Promise in Uganda and their mission is to drive collective action of rural entrepreneurial women to advance sustainable business and economic independence in African communities.

African Development Promise (ADP) seeks to expand, professionalize and modernize mushroom cultivation as a means of enhancing women's income and, subsequently, their overall wellbeing. To achieve this, the project aims to add impoverished women to a mushroom growing group called the Epaphroditus cooperative. Mushroom cultivation has grown in popularity among rural women because mushrooms are nutritious, fast-growing, space-efficient, and provide a steady source of income. Once served only as a delicacy at traditional ceremonies among certain tribes, over the past two decades Uganda has pushed an aggressive HIV/AIDS educational outreach program that recommends, among other things, mushrooms as a source of nutrients for children with measles and people living with HIV/AIDS. (Oyster mushrooms are high in protein, fiber, and iron, and contain zinc, potassium, and other essential vitamins.) I didn't know this; did you?

In this time of global food insecurity, this is a great way to help one nonprofit lift up those in need.

THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

April 5 – Palm Sunday 10 am

Worship with us via livestreaming at 10am as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and mark the beginning of Holy Week.

April 9 – Maundy Thursday 6 pm

Join us via a livestreaming 6pm service as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples in scripture and music.

April 10 – Good Friday 6 pm

At 6pm we will livestream a program that includes organized prayer, Scripture reading, and music. This somber and contemplative time is to help us focus on the Passion of Christ and his sacrifice for us.

April 12 – Easter Sunday 10 am

On Easter morning, we will celebrate the resurrection at our 10 am livestreaming worship service. Our service will include music from the organ and trumpet. Worship will be full of "Alleluias" as we celebrate the risen Christ! Please invite friends and family to join online!

**Visit www.valleycommunity.org
for the latest information.**