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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church May 2020

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## Sundays at Valley

Online worship at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

click videos on the left side.

## May

3 Communion

10 Mother's Day

17 Graduate Sunday  
(please note date may change)

24

31

## June

7 Communion

## Behind the Scenes

Our worship leaders are hard at work every Sunday creating a memorable live-stream worship experience for you. The team includes sound technicians, videographers, Facebook administrators, liturgists, pianists and organists, and many more. We thank you!



*Bob Rasmussen and Steve Rees at the sound board*



*Greg Russell preparing for worship.*



*Amy Rheingans and Greg Russell rehearse before online worship.*

## New Opportunities to Be Community

If your neighborhood is anything like mine, you may have noticed some new faces walking up and down the street these past few weeks. Fear not! These strangers may actually be your neighbors; we might have just not noticed them before!

So with this moment of reflection from our normal “rat race” of our daily living, perhaps we can use this as an opportunity to observe some wonderful things that are just outside our front door.

Do you know who lives on your street or in your building? If not, a nice way of getting to know your neighbors is to simply wave and say hello as they walk by. Introduce yourself! Tell them it’s nice to see them outside enjoying our beautiful weather.

By simply saying hello, we are harkening a time before screens and internet self-sufficiency when it was important, if not necessary, to know who our neighbors were. Today we have such an opportunity to not only learn their names, but also share in our daily living together.

- Perhaps you have children who are the same age.
- Maybe you are a dog lover as well.
- We can all complain about the lack of sports in the world today!
- Let’s talk about what shows you are watching these days.

Believe it or not, this small talk may lead to discoveries of some really fascinating shared interests, passions, and larger discussion. When we take the time to learn who our neighbors are, many of the mysterious societal silos that we have put up are also mysteriously torn down. Little by little, our human interactions can help us build trust with one another, open the lines of communication that once seemed improbable, and who knows, maybe even build friendships with those who live closest to us. Don’t be afraid to wave and say hello!

Rev. Jeff Binder



### THE MESSENGER

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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.

## May Birthdays

Selma Anderson	Alisha Killian
Barry Armentrout	Ainsley Killian
Alex Blair	Ann Miller
Dylan Blair	Karen Mitchell-Yakymi
Bill Bruning	Stan Munro
Phyllis Bruning	Zeph Pratt
Nels Carlson	Elaine Rea
Birgitta Carlson	Sam Rheingans
Brad Carlson	Jacque Rheingans
Lyle Chadwick	Katherine Rinella
Amy Dee	Catherine Romanaggi
Susie Erdahl	Donna Rueff
Rita Hammack	Marcia Sanderman
Virginia Hanson	Turner Sanderman
Marilyn Hartzell	Ty Scearce
Amy Henning-Blair	Ryan Smyth
Sherrie James	Sonja Spencer
David Jimerson	Marilyn Tuffs

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





## Vital Congregations Update

Your Vital Congregations Team continues to meet during the Covid-19 “stay at home, save lives” order.

On Wednesday, April 15, Brad Carlson presented the Mark “Spirit-Inspired Worship” via Zoom. While we missed the opportunity to gather in community, we thank God for technology! To view the presentation, [click here](#) or go to the following link: <http://www.valleycommunity.org/about-valley/vital-congregations.html>. We will continue to learn and adapt during each session to provide you with the best experience we can. The date of the next Marks of a Vital Congregation “Caring Relationships” will be posted later. Blessings!

## Pentecost Offering Supports Outreach to Children, Teens, and Young Adults



**PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

On May 31, the church celebrates Pentecost, which commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.

The Pentecost Offering is one of four special offerings our denomination collects during each year. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come – children, youth, and young adults.

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering collected by Valley Community Presbyterian Church stays with our congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our church and community. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. Another twenty-five percent of our offering supports Ministries with Youth, to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God’s word. The remaining ten percent is devoted to children at risk, to improve education and provide safe havens.

Please give generously!

## Soup Kitchen Outreach Needs Help



With the sudden and untimely passing of Jini De Vries, who had faithfully coordinated volunteers to provide a meal once per month (third Thursday) at the Bud Clark Commons Transition Program, Valley is in need of a new volunteer coordinator for this important ministry to 50-60 homeless men in downtown Portland. And, more immediately, volunteers are needed to provide the meals for the months of May, July and August. For the month of April, Carol Powers and Ruthann Marquis planned, prepared and delivered a meal of lasagna, salad, bread, milk and cookies without the use of Valley’s kitchen (which is off limits during the current restrictions). As a result, the cost of the meal was more than usual, but several people had offered to help defray the expense.

Because of the current restrictions, the meal is not currently being served by the group that provides it. It is unloaded from your car and taken inside by residents of the Center. If you and a group of friends would like to prepare the meal for the upcoming months and deliver it to the Bud Clark Commons, or if you are interested in coordinating volunteers

for this ministry, please contact the church office or Connie Brenner. Valley’s Mariners groups each customarily provide the meal for at least one month of the year, and several other groups often step up to fill in for other months. If you’re part of one of these other groups, please consider volunteering for one of the upcoming months.



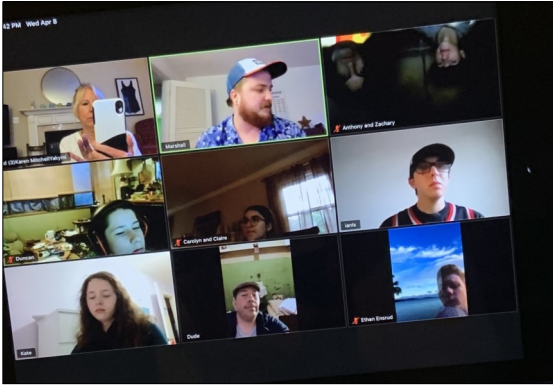
Thank you for sending your check for **\$36.50** for the **2020 Per Capita (for wider church expenses)** for each Valley member.

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

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



## Thank You from the Valley Youth!



Valley Youth meet via Zoom for youth group.

Valley Youth would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to all of you. We are so thankful for your earnest support of our mission to Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had no choice but to cancel our mission, and Valley Youth will not be serving the people of Puerto Rico this year. While we continue to hope and look forward to our next opportunity to serve abroad, we will have to wait. Until then, we pray that God will continue to guide our ministry, and we are sure that we will have ample opportunity to serve. Stay prayerful, and stay hopeful. We look forward to seeing you all face-to-face once it is safe to do so.

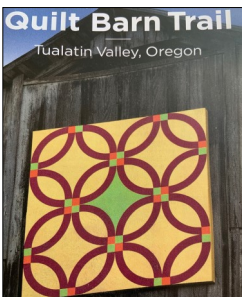
Peace of Christ be with you,  
Marshall Lauck

## Presbyterian Women's Gathering



The Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering for the Presbytery of the Cascades, scheduled for May 16 at First Presbyterian, Portland, and featuring Jane Kirkpatrick as the keynote speaker, has been canceled because of the social distancing issues. The Fall Gathering is planned for October 10 at the Church of the Siuslaw in Florence, and the topic will be Disaster Preparedness. A speaker from the U.S. Geological Survey will speak on volcano, earthquake, landslide and tsunami hazards. SAVE THE DATE!!

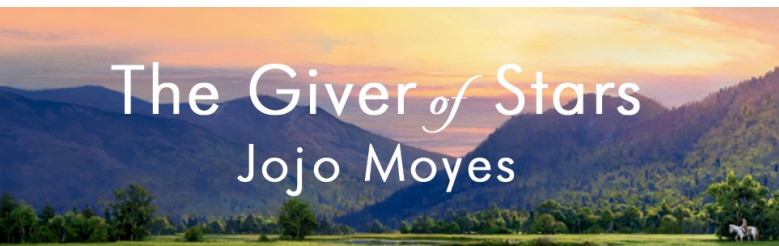
## Adult Senior Luncheon May 28



Jane Fouste, Project Leader, for the Quilt Barn Trail of Tualatin Valley, will be the speaker for our May 28 (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.

## Valley Book Group



Under normal circumstances, the Valley Book Group would be meeting on Friday, May 22, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss The Giver of Stars, written by JoJo Moyes. However, due to closures caused by the Coronavirus, we will probably be seeking another way to share this book at the same time, possibly using Zoom.

Based on a true story rooted in America's past, this novel is the breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives. If you are on the Book Group email list, you will receive further information about how we intend to meet.



## Dining for Women



### EDUCATE THE CHILDREN NEPAL

Dining for Women at Valley will hold its second virtual meeting to learn about the May featured grantee called Educate the Children. Their grant request will fund a sustainable project that enables the marginalized Nepali women to improve food security, nutrition, and household incomes through training in horticulture and livestock management and through assistance with kitchen gardens.

Our vibrant, eight year old chapter of Dining for Women looks forward to meeting in person when we can do so safely. In the meantime we will use the Zoom platform to say hello and learn how we can help change the world, especially for the women of Nepal, one “virtual” meal at a time.

Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 a.m. If you are new to DFW and would like to be invited to this meeting, please contact Ruthann Marquis at [dracmarq@comcast.net](mailto:dracmarq@comcast.net).

## Valley's Produce Table



Welcome to the 2020 growing season! The warm spring days have offered great inspiration to those of us that like to play in the dirt and for those of us with extra “at home” time on our hands. If you haven’t thought about your own garden and what you might be able to grow to share on Valley’s Produce Table, the time is ripe!

Each year for many years Valley members and friends have brought their offerings to the Produce Table, which is set up during coffee hour. Others “shop” the available produce and offer a monetary donation that goes to the Oregon Food Bank. This past growing season Valley sent a check to the OFB for \$325.00. Thank you, one and all!

These days, as we are advised to stay home and save lives, the Oregon Food Bank is still busy and truthfully, busier than ever, helping reduce the food insecurity in our state by providing wholesome food for those in need.

So, 1.) please consider growing some produce, flowers, or herbs to bring to the Produce Table this summer and fall. 2.) Please give generously when you shop the table. 3.) Please consider helping the OFB with your own monetary gift now during these tough times for many in our state.

### PARENTS... BE SURE TO SAVE THESE DATES!

#### KIDS' NIGHT OUT

**Friday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. on May 15 (date may change), 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](mailto: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.

## Upgraded North Stairs to Gym Reopen



Although we have been distanced from church, it has not stopped the completion of essential projects when the work can be done with appropriate social distancing. While you've been gone, progress continues.

Over the last many years, anyone using the north staircase/fire escape from Davis Hall (gym) couldn't help but notice the disintegrating concrete stair treads with exposed rusting rebar. Although sound, they were "scary" to use and an eyesore.

As part of the Property Improvement Committee's (PIC) work, it was proposed to raze the complete structure and rebuild it from the ground up. This carried a steep price tag. Due to the expense, and other PIC higher priorities, the project was suspended.

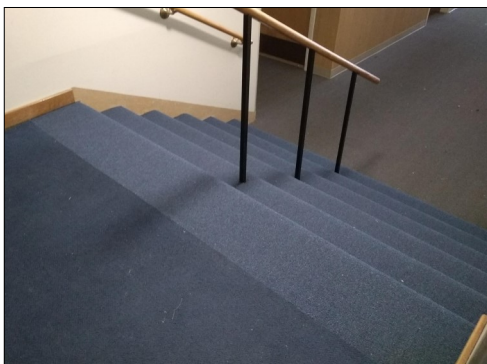
Recently, a structural engineer certified the steel frame, foundation, and stringers in sound condition; only the stair treads and handrails needed replacement. This was at approximately a fourth the cost and within available project funding.

As a result, the steel frame has been completely prepped, primed, and painted. New steel-plate traction-treads were fabricated, powder-coated, and welded to the frame's stringers. (We also discovered the old treads were not spaced evenly). New hand rails, custom fabricated to match the south exit stairs and to current building

code, have been powder-coated and welded in place.

Even though you may never use these stairs, we invite you to take a climb to the top landing. You will find it no longer "scary", and mighty good-looking too. The view from up there is also nice.

## Renewed East Hall Stairs



Another essential project has been completed with appropriate social distancing.

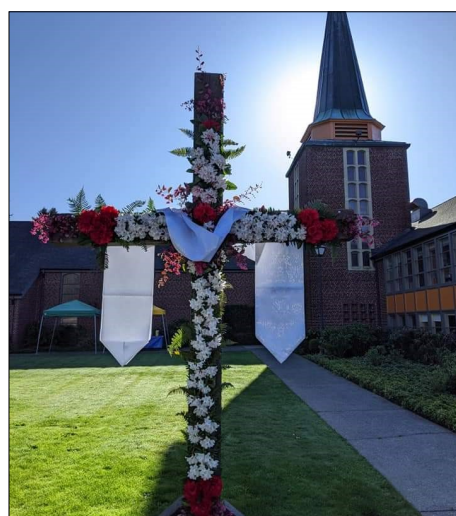
The last time you walked the East hall stairs they were exposed concrete. You may recall, the rubber stair treads were breaking apart and had to be replaced. As simple as this sounded, it became a major project since there was asbestos-based mastic holding them in place.

A licensed asbestos abatement team was required to remove, scrape, and seal the steps. This was a complex and expensive project requiring DEQ testing and final approval.

Our Facilities Committee and Session agreed that carpet was the least expensive, safest, and most attractive solution. The existing adjoining carpets were both discontinued which complicated the final decision. Installation was

postponed until Preschool Spring break, which happened earlier than expected due to the pandemic.

When you return to Valley you will finally be greeted by new and improved upgrade to these well-used stairs.



*A cross (created by Gary Moen) stood on the front lawn of Valley on Good Friday (left photo) and Easter Sunday (right photo). Center photo: the sanctuary decorated for Easter.*

## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**Do you have a 2020 graduate in your family?** Send the information to [angie@valleycommunity.org](mailto:angie@valleycommunity.org) to be included in upcoming Messenger issues.

**Face masks:** Donna Russell is making 100% cotton face masks that tie, no elastic, and are pre-washed and pre-shrunk. If you need a mask, send her an email or text and she will make sure you receive one! Donation gladly accepted, but not required. Donna's cell: 503.351.8553, or email: [CarolineVineyard@gmail.com](mailto:CarolineVineyard@gmail.com).

**Finley-Sunset Hills Memorial Park** staff understands people may not want to venture out to visit their loved ones' memorials, so they are offering to take a picture of a loved ones' grave or niche and will email it to those who would find it healing. Contact Shannan Speicher, General Manager, at the office, 503.292.6654, or by email, [Shannan.Speicher@Dignitymemorial.com](mailto:Shannan.Speicher@Dignitymemorial.com).

### Prayers

*We pray for those with health concerns:*

Sonja Kester, Kathy Martchenke, Rita Hammack, Kent Busch

*We pray for those on the front line:*

- Chris, a doctor in Chicago  
- Dr. Erin Farrier Edwards

*We pray for those who mourn:*  
- Friends and family of Boyd and Melva Ludwig.

- Terry Hercher and family on the death of Terry's wife, Shirley Hercher, on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

- Selma Anderson, her daughter Louise Huegli-Werner, and family of Dr. Richard Werner who died April 9, 2020.

- Family and friends of Patty Gazeley who died April 29, 2020.

## Earth Care Corner

A simple message from Valley's Earth Care Team:



## Stay Connected

- Valley's staff is here for you! If you need to contact our staff, their email is their first name [@valleycommunity.org](mailto:@valleycommunity.org) (no spaces). You can also email [info@valleycommunity.org](mailto:info@valleycommunity.org). All contact information is located on our website. Hover over the "About Valley" tab and click on "Who We Are." [You can also click here.](#)
- Our church directory is available online. Click on the button on the front page of our website, [www.valleycommunity.org](http://www.valleycommunity.org), that says, "Online Church Directory." Email [info@valleycommunity.org](mailto:info@valleycommunity.org) to obtain the password.
- Along with our online worship services, we have online giving opportunities as well. In addition to mailing in cash or checks, you can also give through Valley's website. Look for the "[Give Now](#)" button on our home page. Thank you for your continued support during these uncertain times. Your contributions help Valley's staff and ministries continue their work locally as well as globally.
- Are you receiving our weekly Tuesday and Friday e-blasts and monthly e-Messenger? If not, you can sign up by filling out the form on our website ([green box at the bottom right of our front page](#)). Stay connected!

## THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



The Red Cross Blood Drive held at Valley on April 20 was a huge success thanks to all who were involved!

There were 27 donors (nine first time donors) with 24 units collected.  
That is a potential of 72 lives saved!

Valley will be hosting another drive on  
Thursday, May 7, 1:30-7:30 p.m.

Due to an amazing response, the drive is full. Thank you!

Stay tuned for more information about our next drive on Wednesday, June 24.