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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church June 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.

## June

7 Communion

14

21 Father's Day

28 Graduate Sunday

## July

5 Communion



## Congratulations 2020 Graduates!

On June 28, we will have the opportunity to honor our graduating class of 2020 as they end one stage of life and begin their journey to the next. Three of Valley's high school graduates, Ben De Vries, Anthony Graham, and Grady Killian, will receive a special gift from the Holy Nine Patch Quilters. Celebrate with us during Sunday online worship where we will be able to give all graduates our blessings and well wishes.

- **Ben De Vries** is graduating from Lakeridge High School. He is the son of Shon and Anne De Vries and grandson of John and Jini De Vries. At Lakeridge, he played football (three year letterman as kicker and All Three Rivers Leagues), baseball his freshman year, and golf his junior year. Ben's favorite high school memory was making it to the third round of the state football playoffs after beating Beaverton and Aloha his senior year. His favorite subjects were math and ceramics. Ben plans on attending Montana State University in Bozeman, MT in August with an interest in Marketing and Photography. He also plans to walk on as a kicker at MSU and work with their sports equipment staff. Ben's role model is his brother, Tim De Vries, who paved the way and taught him how to succeed. Summer plans include training as a kicker and working to raise money for school, hiking, taking pictures, flying his drone, and having fun with friends. Ben fondly recalls Valley's Easter egg hunts as a kid and Valley's Vacation Bible School with his grandma, Jini De Vries.

- **Anthony Graham** is graduating from Aloha High School. He is the son of Angela and Michael Graham. He played the bass clarinet for four years in the Symphonic Band, and enjoyed filmmaking and theater. Anthony's favorite school subjects were AGS Algebra, Geometry, and Stats. His favorite high school memories are working in theater and filmmaking, scripting the acts and videos. Anthony plans on first attending Portland Community College then transferring to Portland State University with an interest in mathematics. His role models are his mom, who he says works hard for the community and the family, as well as Mark Hamill, his all-time favorite actor who puts amazing effort into all his works. Summer plans include working and traveling to Eastern Oregon to visit family. Anthony looks forward to learning to live life and take on more responsibilities as an adult. His favorite Valley memories are the annual pancake breakfast as well as the youth mission trip to Los Angeles.

- **Grady Killian** is graduating from Southridge High School. He is the son of Kevin and Alisha Killian. He played Water Polo for Southridge and Tualatin Hills and was on the swimming team. Grady's favorite school subject was Physics. His favorite high school memory was winning a water polo game at home against Beaverton his junior year. He plans on attending Oregon State University with an interest in General Engineering. When he leaves, he will miss an entire community of people that he has grown up around and who have prayed over him his entire life. His role model is Richard Feynman, a Theoretical Physicist who worked on the A-bomb and changed the way Physics is taught. Summer plans include working as a lifeguard when quarantine is lifted. He looks forward to the opportunity to grow on his own and find God in different aspects of life. His favorite Valley memories are the lock-ins and "kids only" youth groups.

*More Valley family graduates on page 4.*

## Getting Back to “Normal”?

“So...when are we getting back to normal?”

This question seems to be on the top of people’s minds these days. And the response may depend on who you ask. Some people say that we’ll all be back to normal living in a couple of weeks. Others say that we will *never* be back to normal. My guess is that the majority of people understand that the answer lies somewhere in between these two extreme responses. Yes, there will come a day when this virus will be better controlled by the wonders of medicine, much like so many other previous viruses in our world. But how do people simply go back to business as usual after experiencing such a life-altering experience as a global pandemic?

So my pastoral message for you this month is more in the form of a question: what is “normal” anyways? Our yearning to go back to the good old days is completely natural, understandable, and *human*. In fact, we’re not alone. Adam and Eve had to figure things out after being kicked out of the Garden of Eden. Noah and his family found themselves in an ark, and no firm plans for what happened next. Moses and the Israelites argued... and argued... and argued about whether it was better to go back to Egypt, or keep on moving forward in an unfamiliar wilderness. The Apostles didn’t know quite what to do following the ascension of Jesus leading up to Pentecost. For people of faith, the idea of “normal” has always been a fleeting notion. Perhaps one lesson from our scriptures is that God prepares us for anything *but* normal living.

We as a people have suffered plagues, natural disasters, wars, and economic recession (just to name a few), and we have not only survived, but we have become stronger *through* it. Friends, whether you want to call it “getting back to normal” or not, we are moving forward. **As Christians, we place hope in a God who loves us intimately, who cares for our best interests, and who strives to bring justice, grace, and love to this world, no matter how upside down it gets at times.**

Valley Community will continue to live into our calling to serve as the hands and feet of Christ for our members, our neighborhood, and the world each and every day no matter how *abnormal* things get.

In a strange way, perhaps it is helpful to think that we were actually *made* for such a time as this, and God has plans for us to prosper and thrive not only in the days to come, but with each and every day that we experience.

If you are hurting, we are here for you. If you are lonely, we are your listening ears. If you are beaten down and not sure how to move forward, we will lift you up. Valley Community, we are the church, here today, when things are normal or not!

In Christ,



### 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  
JUNE 20 FOR THE JULY ISSUE:  
angie@valleycommunity.org

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

## June Birthdays

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Annabel Bednarz | Pepper McGranahan |
| Pat Bird        | Linda Munro       |
| William Bird    | Dick Page         |
| Dylan Bird      | Janet Patterson   |
| Ernie Bootsma   | Pat Peterson      |
| Maggie Bootsma  | Hannah Pyle       |
| Amelia Cardoza  | Dan Rinella       |
| Sam Connell     | Greg Russell      |
| Kay Hope Gold   | Fran Scearce      |
| Elise Jenkins   | David Scearce     |
| Ida Lairson     | Sophia Scearce    |
| Beth Lavey      | Katie Simenson    |
| Sue Magnuson    | Joyce Wood        |
| David Marquis   |                   |

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



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



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

On May 31, we celebrated Pentecost, which commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church, and received the Pentecost Offering. But it's not too late to contribute to this year's Pentecost Offering!

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. 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. Triennium is one of the recipients of this portion of the offering. The remaining ten percent is devoted to children at risk, to improve education and provide safe havens.

Please give generously!

## Session Hunger Relief Challenge



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented job loss and resulting hunger right here in our community. The need is great. Valley's Session has a plan to help!

In early May the Presbytery of the Cascades sent each church a check for \$1,000 with instructions to multiply these funds and distribute them for COVID relief before the end of July. Your session members have already added to this seed gift, and as of this writing we have \$1,700, with more expected.

Now we challenge you, the families of our congregation, to prayerfully consider whether you can continue to multiply the gift. We are asking each person/family to discuss this and decide what you might be able to do. Could you hold a bake sale? Could you reach out to your social

network? Perhaps you would just make a donation.

We will send the funds we raise to the Beaverton School District (BSD) to support their programs for COVID-19 hunger relief. Due to the pandemic they plan to operate food programs throughout the summer, not just until the end of the school year.

Some of our own members have been impacted by this crisis. If this is you, please know that Valley's staff and session pray for you. Pastor Jeff is available and would love to talk with you if you reach out.

This effort is complementary to our work with the Food Pantry at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, which will continue. This pantry supports individuals cleared for services through Care to Share. BSD programs are open to all who need temporary assistance to acquire sufficient food.

Please contribute by June 26, so that we can send Valley's gift in early July. You can donate on our web site, or send checks to the church office with "Community Hunger Relief" in the memo line. These contributions will go 100% toward the project.



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)



## Congratulations 2020 Graduates! (cont. from page 1)

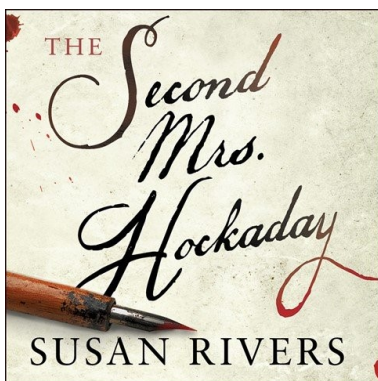
We celebrate with new 2020 graduates in our Valley family:

- ◆ **Jack Binzer**, grandson of Wally and Kay Phillips, is graduating from Grant High School.
- ◆ **Caitlyn Bernhard**, granddaughter of Cathy Bernhard, is graduating from high school in Springfield, Missouri. She has received a scholarship to attend John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland this fall.
- ◆ **Donna Russell** is graduating from Chemeketa Community College Wine Studies Program in Salem, Oregon with an AS Degree in Applied Science in Viticulture and Winemaking. She is graduating with honors (phi beta kappa) with a 3.96 GPA and has been commuting to Salem to attend school part time since 2012.
- ◆ **Taryn Dee**, daughter of Andy and Amy Dee, is graduating from A.T. Still University with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree and will begin her residency as a surgeon at the University of Illinois—Chicago, Mt. Sinai in June.
- ◆ **Ashley F. Elisara**, is graduating from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Science in Communications.
- ◆ **Sarah Blair**, daughter of Neil and Michelle Blair, is graduating from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California.
- ◆ **Ken Cavanaugh**, son of Dennis Cavanaugh and Rebecca Gardner, is graduating from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.
- ◆ **Cole Cavanaugh**, son of Dennis Cavanaugh and Rebecca Gardner, is graduating from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.
- ◆ **Emilia Smart-Denson**, daughter of Jeff Denson and Silvia Smart, is graduating from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York.
- ◆ **Jayn Bernard**, granddaughter of Bob and Kathy Bach and cousin of Hayden Bach, is graduating with a 3.7 GPA from Molalla High School. She studied tap dancing for many years and is an accomplished artist who has won many art awards. She is a member of the National Art Honors Society and will be attending Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon and majoring in Emerging Media and Digital Art.
- ◆ **Jason Simenson**, son of Glenn and Katie Simenson, is graduating from Beaverton High School and will be attending University of Idaho in the fall.
- ◆ **Amber Lee**, daughter of Corri Sanders Lee and granddaughter of Ed and Laura Sanders, is graduating from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.
- ◆ **Julia Harbolt**, granddaughter of Phil and Karen Miller, is graduating from Azusa Pacific University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN).

Congratulations class of 2020! If you have a graduate in your family that you want recognized, submit the information to [angie@valleycommunity.org](mailto:angie@valleycommunity.org) to be included in future Messenger editions.



## Valley Book Group



Under normal circumstances, the Valley Book Group would be meeting on Friday, June 26, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss The Second Mrs. Hockaday, written by Susan Rivers. However, due to closures caused by the Coronavirus, we will be meeting using Zoom.

This novel is a love story, a story of racial divide, and a story of the South as it fell in the Civil War. The second Mrs. Hockaday, who is left to run a large farm and raise a child although she is only a teenager herself, reveals how her generation—and the next—began to see their world anew. If you have not attended in the past, but would like to join us, contact Laura Sanders to have your name added to the list. If you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive further information about how to attend the Zoom meeting.



## Congratulations to Our Preschool Graduates!



Valley Christian Preschool plans to celebrate the graduation of our 33 students from both of our 4 year-old Dragonfly classrooms on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m.-Noon in Valley's back parking lot. This will be a drive-through celebration. These preschool graduates with their families will navigate their cars through Valley's parking lot with three stops along their way; first stop to receive their graduation cap, then they will receive a homemade scrapbook made by their teacher, Miss Susie Erdahl, and final stop will be to receive their preschool graduation certificate and get a photo. Our students will enjoy this entire celebration from the safety and comfort of their car! All of the preschool teachers and staff plan to attend and cheer on our graduates. Eight preschool families are scheduled to attend this drive-through graduation each half hour.

We are very proud of all our Dragonfly students who are flying on to new schools next year. We send them along with all of our love and prayers!

Photos from this festive celebration to come in the July Messenger update!

## Kids' Night In a Success!

Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministries, put together spring-themed goody bags that included unique crafts and other fun surprises for Valley and neighborhood families. The next Kids' Night In will occur on Friday, June 26, where families can pick up their goodie bags to enjoy at home.



*Donna Carlson and Bev Hubbard in front of the church with the bags that were handed out for Kids' Night In.*

## Spring Musical Memories

Normally the children's spring musical happens this time of year. While we have postponed this year's musical until it's safe to get together, here are some fun memories from the 2012 musical, Acorns to Oaks. Fun to note that those who are seniors now were in 4th grade in 2012!



## Grief Ministry



Deacons are responsible for the Grief Ministry for members of Valley Church. This program is in addition to the personal attention from Pastor Jeff. A member of the Board of Deacons distributes a series of booklets about grief and mourning. The booklets, “Journeying Through Grief”, have been obtained from Stephen Ministries and will be sent to the recipient over a period of one year. The recipient will also receive a sympathy card from the Deacons.

The first booklet “A Time to Grieve” and a cover letter are sent approximately three weeks after the death of a loved one. The second booklet, “Experiencing Grief”, is sent at three months; the third booklet, “Finding Hope and Healing”, at six months; and the fourth booklet, “Rebuilding and Remembering”, is sent at eleven months. A personalized letter is mailed with every booklet. Each of the four booklets focuses on the feelings and issues the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in his or her grief.

The Deacons will facilitate a memorial reception when requested.

## Mission Endowment Committee Awards Spring 2020 Grants

The Mission Endowment Committee has awarded six grants totaling \$12,750 for Spring 2020. These were approved by Valley’s Session on May 12. These grants support housing, education, medical needs, and social services here in the Portland area and around the world.

- **St. Matthews Lutheran Church SCAT - \$3,500:** We are excited to partner with St. Matthews SCAT so that they can add personal hygiene and household cleaning items to their pantry. These items are not readily available to many of their families and are not covered by SNAP funds, which are limited solely to food. Expected benefits are improved health, and increased social acceptance at school and at work.
- **Impact NW - \$2,500:** Directly support two Portland families by addressing their immediate need for safe, secure shelter and providing case management, including tools, resources, and referrals leading to long-term sustainable housing.
- **Seeds of Learning - \$2,400:** This grant sponsors four university students in Nicaragua. Valley has been involved with Seeds of Learning for many years, both through Mission Endowment and as a High School Mission Trip partner.
- **Interserve – Jesse Montes Family - \$2,000:** Jesse Montes grew up at Valley. We’ve supported his teaching ministry in Asia for several years. Their family is now permanently relocating back to Canada to support educational needs of their children.
- **Corvallis Sister Cities Association - \$1,550:** Provide furnishings, including desks, chairs, and a whiteboard, for a new first grade classroom at PS #14 in Uzhhorad, Ukraine. We have supported this school, which serves a low income Roma population, for multiple projects in the past.
- **Ignite the World Ministries - \$800:** Provide eight bicycles to allow Ignite the World evangelists in India to cover more ground in a day. Their work is in remote villages. Many are familiar with this organization because of past grants for solar powered e-Bibles.

Members of the Mission Endowment Committee are Jan Bellis-Squires, Ernie Bootsma, Robert Hayes, Pam Kessinger, and Carol Powers (Chair). Janet Adkins is the Mission Committee liaison.

## Dining for Women



Dining for Women at Valley has successfully done its last two monthly meetings virtually, as we will again in June. This month we will be learning about an organization in Kenya that focuses on cervical cancer prevention. Their name is CureCervicalCancer. The grant that DFW will give them will reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in Kisumu, Kenya, by training healthcare professionals,

screening and treating women, and establishing 11 permanent “See & Treat” clinics and one mobile clinic.

Although not a typical health care concern for women in the developed world, cervical cancer claims the lives of over 300,000 women every year. With early detection and prevention, it is nearly 100 percent preventable, yet every day it claims the lives of eight women in Kenya.

Please join us on June 14 at 11:30 a.m. for our Zoom meeting. If you are not on DFW at Valley’s regular list and would like to be including in the invitation to this meeting, please contact Ruthann Marquis at [dracmarq@comcast.net](mailto:dracmarq@comcast.net).

## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**Gardens are starting to sprout** as springtime is beginning to roll toward summer. Valley's Produce Table will look very different this year than it has in the past. Keep growing things and stay tuned for how we might be able to share our garden goodies in the future and continue to support the work of the Oregon Food Bank.

**Small Groups:** As the phases of "openings" for the Covid virus begin to be put into action; we are planning Small Group happenings for you! Keep an eye out for future announcements! It will be time to renew our friendships and build new ones in our Valley Community. Any ideas you might like, call Sandy Cundiff.

**Do you love technology?** Then being part of the Valley A/V team is for you! With the recent expansion of our Sunday service to Facebook livestreaming, we are looking for more motivated folks to join the team. Please contact Steve Rees or Greg Russell for more information.

### Thank You

Thank you everyone who joined in celebrating my special birthday! I was amazed at all the lovely cards, emails, phone calls, and flowers. In spite of the lack of hugs, I felt the love! You're wonderful friends.

~ Marilyn Tuffs

### Prayers

*We pray for those with health concerns:*

Richard Gold, Jan Bellis-Squires, Hildegard Pistor, Robin Squires

*We pray for those on the front line:*

- Dr. Scott Marquis

*We pray for those who mourn:*

- Joy Eaton, her Aunt Betty, and family of Bruce Hargreaves

- Family and friends of Travis Turner

- Pat Judy and family on the death of her husband, John Judy

## Earth Care Corner

These days are challenging for everyone and everything, including the Earth. As we deal on a daily basis with the Covid-19 Pandemic in our world we cannot lose sight of taking care of our planet.

When we go to the grocery store (masked and gloved) we must use the plastic produce bags and the store's paper bags (or their plastic bags if they run out of the paper bags, which has been happening!) and our reusable bags cannot be used. That is, UNLESS we want to bag our own groceries, being the only one touching them, THEN we can use our personal reusable bags. This is certainly an option!

At this present time we cannot bring our own coffee mug to our favorite drive thru. The clean disposable ones provided by that business must be used. REMEMBER, however, that if the lid of that takeaway beverage has a 6 in the triangle it can be recycled at Agilyx in Tigard (as can other styrofoam items.) REMEMBER, also, that lids and straw can be refused. If they are not needed, don't take them!

Even farmers' markets need to bag produce that we are purchasing in plastic bags as our items are selected by their staff and passed along in a bin to the cashier. It is a no-touch experience!

It might be a while before all of this changes into our "new normal" and no one knows what that is going to look like. In the meantime, whenever it is possible, be kind to our Mother Earth and make choices that are the least impactful on our planet's health.

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!

Washington County has been approved to enter into phase one of reopening. Here are Valley's guidelines and policies (also found on the website) approved by Session and in effect on Monday, June 1:

- [Facility Occupancy and Social Distancing Policy](#)
- [Church Office Guidelines](#)

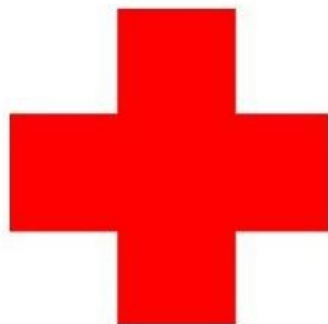
THE MESSENGER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



# American Red Cross

*Together, we can save a life*

The Red Cross Blood Drive  
Wednesday, June 24 from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Contact Jim Sandberg for more information or to sign up.