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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church July 2020

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## Sundays at Valley

Online worship at 10:00 a.m.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/> and

click videos on the left side.

## July

5 Communion

12

19

26 Rev. Chuck Falconer to preach

## August

2 Communion



## Graduate Sunday

On Sunday, June 28, three of Valley's high school graduates were honored with handmade quilts created by the Holy Nine Patch Quilters. Beautiful music was provided by Allison Kurtz, Lindsay Kurtz, and Ariel Derting with Greg Russell on the piano. It was truly a Sunday of celebration! Please continue to pray for these students as they enter the next chapter in life. We look forward to hearing their stories when they come back to visit!

*See page 7 for more photos.*



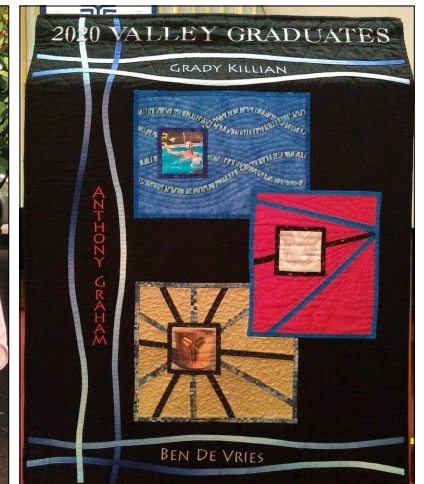
*John De Vries, Ben De Vries, and Shon De Vries.*



*Anthony Graham and Angela Graham*



*Kevin Killian, Grady Killian, and Alisha Killian.*



*Combination quilt designed and created by Marcia Sanderman.*

## Already/Not Yet

How many of us have wondered at one point or another in the previous month if a certain store or organization was open for business at this time? During these phases of re-opening according to the state and nation, we seem to be caught between two worlds; between “pandemic” and “normal”. So where are? Should we move forward toward getting back to the way we have always done things, should we remain distanced and safe, or is there something in between?

Within the world of Christianity, this conflict of place is nothing new. When referring to God’s kingdom, Jesus is attributed as stating that the kingdom is both coming and already here—so which one is it? The Twentieth Century would provide voice to this question as some would begin to describe the Kingdom of God as “Already” and “Not Yet”. Can it be both already here, and not yet fully realized?

We live in a time and place where we are experiencing the very tensions of “already/not yet”. We long to move forward towards normalcy, yet we understand that things will never quite be the same—the future has yet to reveal itself. And at the same time we can’t allow such moments to paralyze us from living our daily lives.

Belden Lane, author of “The Great Conversation” writes about this tension as he recounts the thoughts of renowned thinker Carl Jung:

*...Jung raised the great question of our time: How do we find a way “to get everything back into connection with everything else?” In struggling to find an answer, he warned, “We must resist the vice of intellectualism, and get it understood that we cannot only understand.” We have to get out of our heads and into the wilds. We have to risk ourselves to mystery. We have to love what we’re finally unable to explain. Only then will we comprehend the power of community that is already ours.*

So that’s my hope for us as well during these days of mystery and the unexplained. May we get out of our heads for a few moments each day. May we embrace the unknown, welcoming the paradox of the already/not yet world amongst us. And may we continue to live into the community that we are blessed to be part of each and every day.

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  
JULY 20 FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE:  
angie@valleycommunity.org

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

## July Birthdays

Claire Baker	Rev. Liz Leavitt
Eric Blair	Wally Phillips
Barb Bootsma	Frank Powers
Donna Carlson	Carol Powers
Emily Collins	Maria Rinella
Kaitlin Collins	Marjorie Russell
Roberta Hahn	Anne Scearce
Terry Hercher	Don Scrivens
Mary Kelly	Mary Stapleton
Michael King	Emma White
Allan Kopetz	Lee Ann Wichman

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





## New and Improved Chair Racks



“If at first you don't succeed try and try again” is credited to a near-defeated Robert the Bruce, king of Scotland, advising his troops before conquering the English at Bannockburn in 1314. In keeping with our Scottish Presbyterian tradition, Facilities has tried, and tried again, to replace the chair racks in Davis Hall, and have now succeeded.

As you may recall, after research and a funding grant, three vertical chair racks were purchased last year. Although weight-rated for our chairs, once loaded they immediately failed; armatures and casters bent under their weight. Fortunately, they were returned for a full refund.

After unsuccessfully researching further options, Roger Rees came to the rescue. Roger saw a perfect opportunity to use his skills to fabricate the racks. He customized the design to fit our chairs, used industrial gauge steel, purchased over-capacity casters, welded rather than bolted, primed and painted them. The result is three chair racks of durable, technical and aesthetic beauty.

Furthermore, Roger generously donated his time and materials to Valley. When we are once again setting up chairs in Davis Hall we will have Roger to thank each time they effortlessly glide across the floor and chairs stack easily and securely in place.

## Missing Liturgical Banners

Valley has been blessed with a Liturgical Arts Team that invested countless hours and skills creating timeless banners that enhance the liturgical seasons throughout the year.

During the current pandemic we have taken the opportunity to clean house only to discover a few liturgical banners missing even though they are stored under lock and key.

The initial discovery of these missing banners arose when looking at achieved pictures of them hanging in the sanctuary. We have known this for a few years but hoped that they would show up once a deep cleaning took place.

Here's what's missing:

- Two butterfly banners. Our beautiful butterfly banners are hung from Easter until Pentecost. They were originally created in 2006 as two sets of three overlaying sheer panels for a total of six. However, there are now only four.
- Three white branch banners. One sheer white branch panel was hung with our traditional plain white banners on June 7 to celebrate Trinity Sunday. There were originally four panels made in 2007. Only the one can be located.

If anyone recognizes or discovers these banners in an unexpected place, please bring them to the church office or call David Marquis at 503.260.9055.



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!

We celebrate with new 2020 graduates in our Valley family:

- ♦ **Maizie Dunlap**, granddaughter of Sherrie James, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. Maizie attended Valley in her early years before her family moved from Oregon.
- ♦ **Josh King**, nephew of Bert and Cheryl Hoffbeck, graduated from Sequim High School in Sequim, Washington.
- ♦ **Brian Haggard**, son of Brenda Grootendorst and Mark Haggard, grandson of Hank and Margie Grootendorst, graduated May 18, 2020 from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, with a Bachelor of Arts, Social Studies Political Sociology with Honors.
- ♦ **Douglas Cherry**, husband of Heather Roberts and son-in-law of Dick and Janet Adkins, graduated from University of Central Arkansas in Counseling.
- ♦ **Daniel Nyounai-Herrera**, son of Daniel Nyounai and Imma Herrera, graduated from Portland State University with a major in Psychology and a minor in Music.

Congratulations class of 2020!



## Non-Perishable Collection



Thank you to everyone who is participating in our “distance” non-perishable collection for St Matthew’s Food Pantry and Project Back. During the month of June, we collected over 500 pounds of food. Mark your calendar for the July 9 and 23 for drop off dates. Items will be collected between 10:00 a.m. and noon but check the Tuesday e-blast before for any updates. You can also call Andrea Murdoch at 503.860.6203 to make other drop off arrangements. Remember to bring non-expired items like chicken/tuna in a can, a bag of rice or beans, boxed pasta and sauces, peanut butter, condiments, powdered milk and baby products.

## Dining for Women



July 19 is the next Dining for Women at Valley meeting and again this month it will happen via the Zoom platform. This month we will be supporting the nonprofit organization called Restore Hope: Liberia. Their mission is to provide essential support to vulnerable children and their caregivers. In Liberia, a debilitating mental health crisis persists in a context of extreme poverty.

Fourteen years of brutal civil war, the largest Ebola epidemic in human history, and pervasive gender-based violence have resulted in widespread trauma especially in women and girls. This project will finance the training of local mental health facilitators in order to integrate Interpersonal Group Therapy, an evidence-based approach, into existing women’s economic and social empowerment initiatives.

Join us for our meeting on Sunday, July 19 at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in being a part of this meeting and are not on the regular invitation list, please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.297.8992.

## Membership Classes



Interested in learning more about Valley Community or learning about what membership entails? Please contact Glenys Craig ([g.craig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g.craig@sbcglobal.net)) as a new membership class is filling now. Classes with Pastor Jeff and an elder will be held on Zoom. All are welcome!





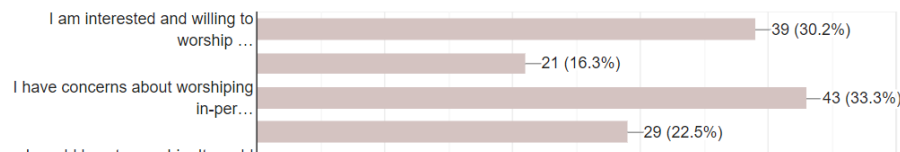
# Valley Community Re-Opening Survey Responses

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our on-line survey as we seek to “take the pulse” of the congregation during this discernment of re-opening the Valley Community church building. Both our Virus Task Force and Session will continue to review this information as we discuss re-opening measures for our building and programs. Here is just a snapshot of what some of you are thinking these days. Please note that as of June 29, we had 129 responses.

## Question 1:

Currently, if Valley Community were to open once again to in-person worship, there would be a variety of requirements and restrictions (limiting number of participants, physical distancing, use of face coverings, etc.). How likely are you to attend worship with these requirements?

129 responses

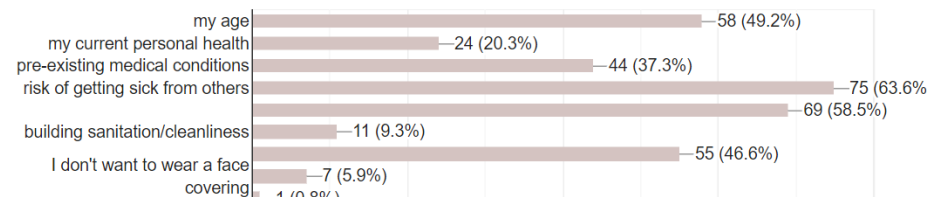


It looks like most people have concerns with returning to in-person worship, and await further details related to our re-opening procedures.

## Question 2:

Should you have reservations about returning to worship at this time, what factors play a role in your decision-making?

118 responses



When asking what factors play into our decision making process about returning to in-person events, the majority of people are concerned with either getting sick, or unknowingly getting others sick. The age of our members is also a large concern; most of our members being over the age of 65, and thus considered as “at risk” by the state. Finally, the logistical challenge of maintaining physical distance also received high scores.

## Question 3: How do you feel about participating in small group gatherings (committees, Bible Studies, etc.) at church again in person?

Over 90 people responded to this survey, and here is a summary of the remarks:

- *I would welcome the opportunity to participate in small group gatherings, providing physical distance can be maintained*
- *Not ready unless it's outside*
- *will participate when feeling safe to do so*
- *Not ready yet*
- *I prefer meeting remotely*
- *At this time, and until a vaccine is available, I am not interested.*
- *I believe this can be done safely with use of large spaces like the gym, well-spaced chairs, and face coverings worn by everyone in the building.*
- *The risks of a spreading pandemic are still too high to warrant in-person meetings.*

Overall, the remarks represent a variety of responses, including the willingness to gather with appropriate distancing measures, while some will continue to prefer gathering remotely over the internet.

*Continued on p. 6*

## Re-Opening Survey Responses (cont. from page 5)

### Question 4: What excites you about returning to Valley Community in person once again?

It's important to remain hopeful and optimistic about the future, and here are just a few reminders...

- *Being in our beautiful sanctuary to worship with other believers*
- *I want to see people! I want to sing loud! I want it to be joyful and spirit filled! Better than a family reunion. Smiles! Hugs! I want unified hearts, hands, and voices!*
- *Church is much more interesting in person versus watching on the livestream; I would like to resume meeting in community and seeing other congregants.*
- *I feel that while it is possible to serve the Lord without attending services, I also believe that being active in a local church is important as I believe we need the interaction and moral support, and accountability of fellow Christians is very important to spiritual growth.*

- *Hugging, singing and rejoicing together—coffee hour!*

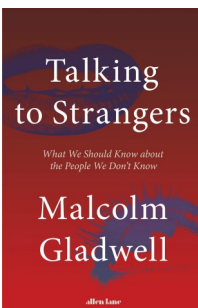
The Valley Community is enthusiastic about getting together again when it is safe to do so!

### Question 5: Are there any additional comments or questions that you have for the Virus Task Force and Session when making decisions on our re-opening process?

Here are a few other comments from our responses...

- *Even when we do re-open, I think folks will trickle back. It would be great if the livestream continued so those that choose (or need) to worship from home can.*
- *My opinion is that the Church should reopen for regular worship services and other events as soon as legally allowed. Those congregants who are not yet comfortable attending services in person can continue to stay home and watch the livestream.*
- *I think it would be wise to take time opening back up. Until there is a vaccination, a lot of members will still be at high risk. I'm enjoying online services and Zoom meetings from home where it's safe.*
- *Please let us know if we can contribute health protection measures such as purchasing of face coverings, disinfecting products (wipes or spray), and hand sanitizer. Tina Teed*
- *Love to open up the library.*
- *Thank you for investing the time to help Valley create a reopening plan! I fully trust the committee to develop a thoughtful approach. And of course everyone, as individuals, can make their own decision about when and how to return after the church is open again. Thank you.*
- *Weather permitting, might we try an outdoor service?*
- *Please do not rush this process. The church does not require walls, it's within us. Stay healthy and Holy.*

## Valley Book Group



Under normal circumstances, the Valley Book Group would be meeting on Friday, July 24, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Talking To Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know, written by Malcolm Gladwell. However, due to closures caused by the Coronavirus, we will again be meeting using Zoom. This non-fiction best-seller offers a powerful examination of our interactions with strangers and why they often go wrong. Since we often don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world. Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. 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.

If you like to plan ahead in your reading, the Valley Book Group has chosen a list of books for the remainder of the calendar year. In August, the book is Pieces of Happiness by Anne Ostby; September is The Ghost Map, by Steven Johnson; October is The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett; and the November/December book is Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver.





## Graduate Sunday (cont. from page 1)



*Sue Derting completed the quilt that Jini De Vries began for her grandson, Ben.*



*Fran Scearce made Anthony Graham's beautiful quilt.*



*Amazing work on Grady Killian's quilt by Karen Sandberg,*



*The graduates stand with their families as they receive a blessing from Valley Youth Director, Marshall Lauck.*



# Valley Scrapbook



*Behind the scenes camera and audio/visual crew on Sunday morning.*



*Four strong men helped carry a new chair rack to the gym. See p. 3.*



*A thank you from a Valley Christian Preschool graduate's family.*



*Canopies set up on the front lawn of the church for June's Kids' Night In. See back page for information about July's event.*



*Preschool teachers as they prepare for the graduating 4's class to drive through the parking lot.*



## Congratulations to Our Preschool Graduates!



On Saturday, June 13, the preschool team came together to celebrate our 33 students graduating from our 4-year-old Dragonfly class. We celebrated with a drive-through graduation event held in Valley's back parking lot. The event featured a little bit of rain with lots of fun music, bubbles and cheerful, waving teachers added in! Each student received a graduation cap, a graduation certificate and was able to get a couple of photos with their teachers from the safety of their vehicle. Our Lead 4s Teacher, Miss Susie Erdahl, presented each student with a very special gift; a custom memory book from their final year of preschool.

Our school year came to an abrupt end in early March, but we are thrilled that we were all able to come together in a unique way to celebrate our 2019-2020 graduating class. Of the 33 students graduating this year, 27 students attended the event. Congratulations and Godspeed to all our Dragonfly students! We are so proud and send our love and prayers along with each one of you.

VCP has an amazing team of nurturing and talented teachers who are ready to do whatever it takes to start school again in the fall. We can't wait to see our students back at school!



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# VALLEY YOUTH

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## COVID-19 Update

Valley Youth has gone digital! We're meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom until we can meet together in person again. Throughout Phase One, the Youth House will remain closed, and we will keep everyone posted with Phase Two updates.

## Netflix Party

Until we can all meet again, we will also be hosting virtual movie nights using the Chrome extension, Netflix Party, on a bi-weekly basis. Our launch date having been June 20, our next movie night will be July 11.

## Follow Our Blog!

Subscribe to our blog, [valleyyouth.org](http://valleyyouth.org), for regular updates on who we are and what we're doing!



## Congrats, Class of 2020!

Valley Youth would like to recognize our high school graduates, Anthony Graham, Grady Killian, and Ben De Vries! They have reached a monumental milestone, and we are so excited to see what they do next. Continue to celebrate them and keep them in your prayers as they move on to PCC, OSU, and MSU (Montana).

## Bottle Drop

Valley Youth is extremely appreciative of all of your donations through Bottle Drop. Your choice to deposit bottles and cans for us, instead of taking advantage of the program for yourself, is extremely helpful as we look to future service trips and retreats. If you would like to begin supporting VY in this way, you can find our Bottle Drop donation bags at the East entrance to the church. We ask that you don't return them filled to the church. After you fill them up, please turn them in to your nearest Bottle Drop location.



## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**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

**Hunger Challenge: Thank you!** Last month we challenged the congregation to multiply a \$1,000 grant from our Presbytery for COVID-19 relief... and you accepted the challenge with flying colors! As of June 30, we have a preliminary amount of \$5,320! A final total will be announced in upcoming e-blasts.

**Thank you to those who participated in the Blood Drive:** The Red Cross Blood Drive held at Valley on June 24, collected the goal of 31 units of blood. That has the potential of saving up to 93 lives! Our next drive is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23.

### Prayers

*We pray for those with health concerns:*  
Judy Chadwick, Helen Green, Mikie Doolittle

*We pray for those who mourn:*  
- Margie Grootendorst and family of Hank Grootendorst who died June 7, 2020.

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](#)

## Earth Care Corner

It is July and Plastic Free July kicks off for its tenth year this year. Plastic Free July is an opportunity to look closely at how much plastic we are using in our everyday life, what impact it has on the earth and what we can do to reduce the ways that we use plastic.

AVOID LANDFILL WASTE, REDUCE YOUR ECO-FOOTPRINT, PROTECT THE OCEAN. [PLASTICFREEJULY.ORG](https://plasticfreejuly.org)

Valley members and friends, if you are interested in taking the Pesky Plastic quiz go to [plasticfree.org](https://plasticfree.org). It will get you thinking about where all the plastics are in your life!

Here are things to avoid and how to avoid them:

### WHAT TO AVOID

Fill your bin with plastics for 'recycling'

Pre-packed fruit and veggies

Lightweight plastic bags

Pre-packed meat or fish

Takeaway drink straws

Takeaway coffee cups

Takeaway utensils and containers

Bottled water

Bottled soft drinks

Bin liners (or 'reusing' plastic shopping bags)

Plastic food wrap for leftovers and sandwiches

Littering: cigarette butts, balloons

### HOW TO AVOID IT

Avoid as much plastic packaging as you can.

Choose loose products (skip the plastic bag or put in a reusable bag).

Remember your reusable shopping bags or use a cardboard box.

Shop at the deli counter or butcher or fishmonger for paper wrapped cuts or BYO reusable container.

Refuse plastic straws (or opt for a paper straw if they have them). BYO reusable straw.

Bring your reusable cup or sit and enjoy a real cup.

Support vendors offering compostable alternatives (bamboo or card), BYO reusables or sit and enjoy 'dine-in'.

Fill a reusable bottle from the tap.

Reduce the amount (helps your health), or make your own with a soda maker/ carbonator or choose glass bottles (and recycle).

Have a sealed container for 'wet' scraps and compost or freeze until bin day. Line the kitchen bin with paper.

Use a reusable lunch box to store food, store food in containers or use beeswax wraps.

Dispose of cigarette butts in the bin (they are plastic and wash into the ocean environment) Avoid releasing balloons (what goes up, must come down).

Your Valley Earth Care Team

## THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

# SUMMERTIME FAMILY FILLED FUN-BAGS!

This is our gift to you! R.S.V.P. to [donna@valleycommunity.org](mailto:donna@valleycommunity.org) soon!  
Pick up dates are July 24 and 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

### When is this happening?

Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Be sure to R.S.V.P. to Donna Carlson at [donna@valleycommunity.org](mailto:donna@valleycommunity.org) to pick up your family filled fun bag!

### Pick up location

Valley Community Presbyterian Church: 8060 SW Brentwood Street, Portland, OR 97225.  
We will have a brightly colored canopy set up on the front lawn where you can pick up your bag(s).

### Is this safe?

All our craft items, activities, and surprises tucked inside have been put together with no more than two healthy volunteers in a large disinfected room using strict safety protocols by wearing masks and gloves. The bags are then left sitting on two long tables for at least four days before the pick up date. The tables are then placed outside for you only to touch and take.

### What is this all about?

Relative to the Governor's orders, we are refraining from having Vacation Bible School as well as our monthly "Kids' Night Out" events for your own safety and that of others. In its place, we are providing you with our "Summertime Family Filled Fun-Bags" to enjoy in the comfort of your own home, out camping, or in your backyard!

### Does it cost me anything?

There is absolutely no cost to you. During these unprecedented times, this is simply our gift to you and your family. We want you to know that you are missed here at Valley and we are keeping you and your loved ones in our ongoing thoughts and prayers. We are providing the necessary materials to help spend some quality time together.