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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church October 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.

## October

**4** World Communion Day

**11** Earth Care Sunday

**18** Children's Sabbath  
Dining for Women, 11:30 a.m.

**25**

## November

**1** All Saints' Sunday  
Communion



## Wildfires - How You Can Help

The wildfires in the Pacific Northwest have been devastating not only to the environment, but to communities throughout Oregon. Valley is collecting donations to go towards wildfire relief. Make checks out to Valley with 'Oregon Wildfire Relief' in the memo line. We will be sending funds to trusted first-response organizations along with our PCUSA relief organizations.

You may also give directly to organizations through their websites. Some opportunities are:

- **World Central Kitchen** has opened an emergency food kitchen in Portland and is requesting volunteers to cook and deliver meals for displaced persons and the firefighters. Go to [wck.org](http://wck.org) and check out the Instagram page to learn more.
- **The Salvation Army** has established a feeding and support tent at the Clackamas Town Center and the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem. To inquire about volunteering, send an email to [Lisa.Cole@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Lisa.Cole@usw.salvationarmy.org) for the Clackamas location, and to [Jessica.Zielinski@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jessica.Zielinski@usw.salvationarmy.org) for the Salem location.
- **The Oregon Red Cross** has set up multiple disaster shelters in Clackamas and Marion counties. They are looking for volunteers to provide general staffing at the shelters; they also seek licensed health care professionals (e.g. nurses) to provide health care services at the shelters. These positions require training and may not be immediately available. If interested, go to [redcross.org/volunteertoday](http://redcross.org/volunteertoday).

Valley has enthusiastically agreed to be a site for evacuees secondary to natural disasters. Most recently wildfires in Southern Oregon threatened, and in some cases, destroyed homes, businesses and property. This devastating threat was as close as Estacada and the Salem area.

Although the immediate danger has passed as the wildfires are being contained, those that lost their homes are in need of supplies. We can help meet that need by collecting and donating the following items:

- **Bedding**, including air mattresses, sleeping bags, sheets, blankets and pillows. New/clean and gently used items preferred.
- **Towels and washcloths**. New/clean and gently used items preferred.
- **Toiletries**.
- **Diapers**.

These items will be collected on the first and third Thursdays each month during the months of October and November from 10:00-11:30 am. This is the same time that food is collected for the St. Matthew's Food Pantry in Valley's East parking lot.

If you would like to arrange an alternate drop off time, please contact Ruthann or David Marquis at numbers listed in Valley's directory.

## What Better Time than Now?



Rev. Jeff Binder

Rev. Jeff Binder

I feel like I've been putting a lot off lately.

If we were to wait until "a more convenient time" to do those things we have been putting off, would anything really get done? How many of us during this pandemic have been thinking or saying, "Well, if we just wait until things get better, then we can move ahead with our plans." This rationale is quite logical... at least it *was* when we thought most things would blow over in a matter of weeks. But here we are months later, still telling ourselves, "...just a few more weeks." Our pausing on many aspects of life are becoming yet even more obstacles toward our living our best lives in the future.

Those things that we have been putting off for a more convenient time... it's time to get moving on these plans. Yes, there are quite a few restrictions still in place. Our projects may not get done in the way we originally imagined. But believe me, there will be plenty more to do down the road as well when life does get back to "normal"; let's not allow our current opportunities to become our future inconveniences any longer!

The reality is that even if we were to push everything to a more convenient time, there will still be more to do on top of what we are already postponing. Yes, this may be an inconvenient time to celebrate a birthday, to gather as family like we would traditionally, or to complete a home project. However, there is also joy in the ability to simply say, "What better time than now," when confronting our "to do" lists and planning our special events.

*Carpe Diem* is a Latin phrase loosely translated as "Seize the day!" Perhaps we can learn and grow from this phrase in our own lives today. Seize the day! Let tomorrow take care of itself. What better time than now?



Pastor Jeff Binder

### THE MESSENGER

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**PASTOR**  
JEFF BINDER

**NEWSLETTER STAFF:**  
ANGELA GRAHAM

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY  
OCTOBER 20 FOR THE NOVEMBER  
ISSUE:  
angie@valleycommunity.org

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

## October Birthdays

Claudia Askew	Tim Kurtz
Marie Bird	Lindsay Kurtz
Sophia Bird	Diane Meyer
Connie Brenner	Pat Nelson
Judy Chadwick	Yvonne Rees
Sue Derting	Mary Kay Rodman
Angie Graham	Marian Romanaggi
Bev Hubbard	Jennifer VanDitti

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



## Valley Community Youth Choirs Begin



*"As long as we live there is never enough singing." Martin Luther*

Singing is a balm for the soul. Whether you need to calm down, pep up, rejoice, grieve, pray, let out your frustrations, or just jam, there is song for that. During these times of pandemic, it's not the easiest thing to sing in a group, but with modern technology, we are doing it. **Valley Community Youth Choirs** is offering choir for Pre-K through 12th grade as follows:

- ♪ **Cherub Choir** - Weekly Choir video will be released every Wednesday beginning 10/7
- ♪ **Melodia (2nd-5th)** - Zoom Choir on Wednesdays 5:00-5:45 beginning 10/7
- ♪ **Armonia (6th-12th)** - Zoom Choir on Sundays 11:30-12:30 beginning 9/20

If you know a child who would like to join a zoom choir or receive a weekly choir video, please have them contact program director, Amy Rheingans at [amy@valleycommunity.org](mailto:amy@valleycommunity.org). Weekly videos or zoom links will be e-mailed. All programs are being offered free of charge at this time.

## Presbyterian Women to Meet Virtually October 10



Because of the social distancing being practiced in many of our Cascades Presbytery churches, the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held virtually by Zoom on October 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The topic is: "Disaster Preparedness: Are you ready? Were you ready?" A donation for the Fall Gathering will be sent to disaster recovery in the Pacific Northwest. Click this link for how to access the program. You will also need to send your e-mail address or cell phone number to Rebecca Jewel so she can send you the link to the Zoom meeting a day or two before the Gathering. The Gathering will not be an all-day event, but should last 1-2 hours. [Click here for the Presbyterian Women fall gathering flyer.](#)

## Peace and Global Witness Offering October 4



On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the communion table, in God's house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God, with active peacemakers here at home and around the world. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith – a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. We celebrate the truth found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians, "May the God of peace give you peace at all times in all ways."

Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays with our local congregations for work in our local communities, 25% is retained by mid-councils (Presbyteries and Synods) to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. Half of this offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterian mission partners across the globe. Checks for the offering can be sent to the church office, or contributions can be made on-line on Valley's website giving page.



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)



## September's Dr. Seuss Family Fun Bags Are Still Available!



A BIG thank you to our volunteers who made this event possible! Diane Benz, Bev Hubbard, Cheryl and Lars Hoffbeck as well as Terri and Macy Vermillion. Volunteering your time to help put the Family Fun Bags together is very much appreciated! With parents reorganizing their time with the school year starting up, less bags were handed out over the weekend. However, this has not stopped parents from contacting us to pick up their bag(s) at another time. We know your time is precious, so if you'd like, we are more than happy to do a door dash delivery during the week. Just e-mail or text our Children's Ministry Director Donna Carlson at [donna@valleycommunity.org](mailto:donna@valleycommunity.org), or text 503.442.9551.

## Back to School Blessing a Success

On September 27, during our Sunday worship hour online, we had our "Back to School Blessing" (formerly called "Blessing of the Backpacks") for those in Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, college, Tech/Ed schools and all our educators too! Thank you to all the families that sent in their photos to be a part of this. Donna, our Children's Ministry Director, led us in prayer followed by a special "Back to School" video montage. If you would like to watch the video, click on the link:

<https://www.magisto.com/album/video/ficqRVZSAGyqNychHDmEwCXt2?l=vsm&o=w&c=e>



*Donna Carlson in front of some of the backpacks that were blessed during the "Back to School" blessing.*

## CHILDREN'S SABBATH: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18



We are in need of readers and acolytes for our Children's Sabbath coming up soon!

Please contact Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministry at [donna@valleycommunity.org](mailto:donna@valleycommunity.org) or text 503.442.9551.

## Save the Date!

Saturday, October 31: 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
for our 'Community Fall Festival Greet & Treat' (from a distance) drive through event!



Different Canopies will be set up and decorated based on a certain theme as vehicles creep by to view yours! We will have a Surprise Goodie Treat bag handed out to all the kiddos at the end of this special drive-through event. In order to make this event happen – We need YOU! Here's what we're looking for:

- Join in the fun! Display and decorate your own themed canopy in costume as a couple, a family or on your own? (nothing scary please)
- Can you or someone you know do a quick optical illusion trick?
- Are you a Juggler? i.e. ability to keep several objects in the air at any one time? Sorry – no sharp objects.
- Love Bubbles? We need a Bubble Machine Attendant.
- Other Volunteers Needed: Bag Fillers, Set-up crew, Clean-up Crew. Safety crew; help managing the flow of traffic in and out of our back alley and east parking lot.
- Note: social distancing will be in place at all times, temperature check prior to event and masks required at all times. Gloves and masks required for handing out our Treat Bags to the public. Additional paperwork specifying the COVID-19 requirements that need to be followed will be given to all volunteers in advance.

Email Donna Carlson, Children's Ministry Directory, at [donna@valleycommunity.org](mailto:donna@valleycommunity.org) or text 503.442.9551.

## Something's "fishy" with the "Fish Window"



*Left: This panel is noticeably dull because the painted side is incorrectly facing outward.*



*Right: Inside this is not detectable with the light shining through it.*

*"Come after me and I will make you fishers of men" (Mark 1:17)*

This has been the message in the east stained glass transept window since it was installed in 1968. However, have you ever noticed anything unusual about this window? During the initial research and inspection last summer, it was discovered the center panel, depicting Jesus beckoning to the disciples, was originally installed backward.

*How could this happen?*

Each window is made up of rectangular panels: three in the short transept windows, six in the tall nave windows. Each panel is constructed separately at the artisan's workshop. For protection, the unpainted shiny side of the colored glass faces outward, and the painted dull side faces inward. Light shining through looks the same from either side. As the panels were assembled at the church, the middle panel was installed incorrectly with the painted side facing outward.

*Why wasn't this noticed?*

No doubt this hadn't been discovered since the exterior, tinted, irregular glass made it undetectable; the new clear glass made it obvious. Fortunately it was not harmed as a result.

*How was it corrected?*

During the Bovard restoration, the top two panels were removed. Their craftsman turned the panel around, soldered it to the adjoining panels and re-installed them. The 52 year error was finally corrected.

*Are there more?*

There are often unique anomalies in artistic creations since they are made by hand. Some are intentional at the artist's discretion and others are due to human oversight. For these reasons you may notice a variety of these inconsistencies.

*We found several; can you?*



*Left: The Bovard craftsman removed, reversed and correctly soldered the panels together again.*



*Right: After 52 years, the window is now correctly installed as it was originally intended.*

## Vote!



It is hard to escape the fact that this is an election year. And although all elections are important, since this is a presidential election it is an especially important one. For many of us at Valley voting is one expression of our civic duty and our right as a US citizen. It doesn't matter to us if it is a local election or a national election, we get out and vote. Or at least, I hope we do!

### Let our voices be heard!

Did you know that to register to vote in Oregon, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of Oregon
- At least 16 years old?

Since 2016 residents in Oregon are automatically registered when they apply for, renew or replace a drivers' license, ID card or permit at the state Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division. If a youth is not yet 18 years of age, they can still register to vote but will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after their 18th birthday. Several of our Youth are in this prime age group. If you have a young person in your family or social circle, encourage them to register to vote! They have until October 13 to do so and can do it online at [sos.oregon.gov](https://sos.oregon.gov).

On the other end of the age spectrum, do all of the elders that we know have the help that they need to get their ballot turned in on time? Do they need help to read the ballot? Do they need a steady hand to fill in the spots on the ballot? Do they need someone to find it among the papers and magazines in a pile? Do they need transportation to a library or other official ballot collection spot to turn in their ballot?

Voters receive an official ballot to complete and insert a security envelope, which is placed in the ballot return envelope and signed by the voter. Oregon is one of several states that provides prepaid postage on the outer envelope. It doesn't even need a stamp and gets treated like first class mail. Your ballot can either be mailed or dropped off at an official drop box location. Oregon has the most convenient voting system in the country. Since adopting vote-by-mail, Oregon consistently ranks as a national leader in voter turnout.

Registered voters receive a ballot two to three weeks before an election, giving time to research issues or candidates. Students attending an out-of-state college or voters that are traveling during an election can still receive a ballot. They can request an Absentee Ballot and return it to the county elections office.

### Ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Let us all vote and be counted!  
Ruthann Marquis

## Dining for Women to Meet October 18



We Zoom to Kenya this month to learn about the featured grantee **Global Fund for Widows**. This nonprofit empowers widows and female heads of households to overcome poverty in developing countries through skills-based training, micro-finance, and the establishment of Widows' Savings and Loan Associations.

Did you know that of the 285 million widows in the developing world, 115 million live in abject poverty? This project offers widows in Kenya economic opportunity, financial literacy, access to capital, knowledge, and health care. This project will also train and certify women as community paralegals to assist other women as they negotiate their futures as widows.

Dining for Women loves this project! It focuses on vulnerable poor widows in Kenya who are facing exploitation, disinheritance, and unstable futures. Kenya has ratified gender equality legislation, but widows continue to be impacted by lack of information and harmful traditional practices. By providing knowledge, legal, economic, and social support, the Global Fund for Widows is working to get Kenya's widows to claim their rightful place in Kenyan society.

Plan to join DFW at Valley on Sunday October 18 following worship at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom, in the comfort of your own home. If you are not on the regular evite list and would like to attend this meeting, please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.297.8992.

## Produce Table to Help Oregon Food Bank



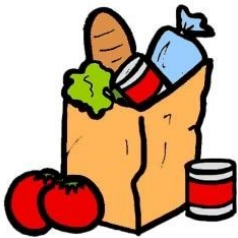
Typically during the month of October the Produce Table during fellowship time after worship would be covered to the edges with the abundance of garden gleanings. The donation jar would be on its way to being filled with bills and a few coins. All those donations would be gathered at the end of the growing season and sent as a check to the Oregon Food Bank, often over \$300 each year.

There is no actual Produce Table this year! This makes me so very sad! Over the years I have coordinated this and with the wisdom of our late friend Glori Rodman set out a donation jar for the Oregon Food Bank. It has always been a delight to see Valley members hover over the table and fill their bags with some colorful delights that will enhance their next meal and with their donations, help someone else **have** a next meal.

In our abundance, will you consider making a donation to the Oregon Food Bank in honor of our virtual Valley Produce Table? This can easily be done online ([give.oregonfoodbank.org](http://give.oregonfoodbank.org)) on their website or by sending them a check (7900 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Drive, Portland 97211.)

Thank you for the years of your support of this community outreach!

## Non-Perishable Food and Styrofoam Collection



Thank you to all who have 'dropped by' to drop off food for the St. Matthew's Food Pantry. The need is great and for a while, it will only get greater. Every first and third Thursday since May, we have been collecting food, baby supplies, animal supplies and toiletries for the local families in need. To date we have collected 1200 pounds of food! Way to go Valley! Moving forward, St Matthew's has asked us not to bring toiletries as they were awarded funding and now have a LARGE supply of these items. But non-perishables will always be needed so we will continue to meet up on the first and third Thursday, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Please share this info with neighbors and friends!

Beginning October 1, Valley welcomes the Valley Earth Care Team who will also be in the East/back parking lot on the first and third Thursday of every month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. to collect:

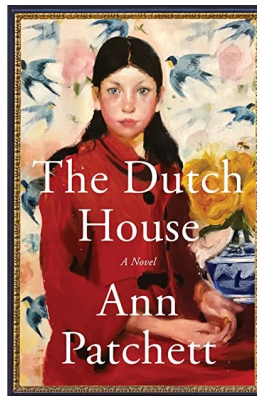
- Styrofoam blocks
- Clean trays
- Clean food containers
- #6 plastic utensils
- Cups
- Clamshells
- CD cases
- PLEASE NO PEANUTS

## Build a Home Frame a Future



Join Willamette West Habitat for a  
virtual event,  
October 27 at 8:00 a.m.  
Go to [habitatwest.org](http://habitatwest.org)

## Valley Book Group



Under normal circumstances (which we hope will return soon!), the Valley Book Group would be meeting on Friday, October 23, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss The Dutch House, written by Ann Patchett. However, due to closures caused by Covid19, we will again be meeting using Zoom. Set over the course of five decades, this novel is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past.

The story begins at the end of the Second World War when Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

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.



*We celebrated the baptism of Tye and Joyce Wood's granddaughter, Elizabeth, during a recent livestream service.*



*Marianne proudly holds her daughter, baby Elizabeth, at her baptism.*



*Sophia Scarce sang the anthem while her dad, David Scarce played percussion.*



*Youth Ministry Director, Marshall Lauck, got reacquainted with and welcomed new Middle Schoolers to the Valley Youth program. High Schoolers met a few hours afterwards for a socially distanced get together to visit and get to know the new members.*



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# VALLEY YOUTH

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October 2020

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## Confirmation

Confirmation will begin on October 4 with an orientation class. High schoolers, get signed up before we meet!

## Movie Nights

Our next movie night will take place the weekend of October 10. Hope for good weather so we can do an outdoor movie night with a projector!

## Follow Our Blog!

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



## School Kick-Off

God is good! The rain cleaned the air enough for us to hold our School Kick-Off event for middle and high school. We had our first in-person gathering in about six months on the courtyard outside of the youth house. It was awesome seeing everyone's faces again! (Well, we could only see about half of everyone's face, but it was still great!)

We can't wait to see everyone again!

## Church Officers



Church officers were installed and some were also ordained at a recent livestream service.

Top row: Deacons Amy Henning-Blair, Christine Danner, and Bev Hubbard.

Left and right: Elders Greg Russell and Dylan Blair.

Bottom row: Deacons Cathy Bernhard, Charlene Stansbury, and Angela Graham.



## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**Due to the pandemic**, Daily Family Devotional will be unable to print and ship their weekly devotionals for the fourth quarter of 2020. It is their intention to return to production for the first quarter of 2021. Until then, they are offering devotionals for October/November/December in PDF form. [Click here for the link.](#)

**The Cents-Ability Offering** is still being received by checks sent in the mail or through our online giving page on Valley's website. These offerings help support Care to Share. Please give generously!

**The VTF and Session** have approved the use of outside spaces at Valley including the courtyard, parking lots, and patio. If you are interested in using a space for a meeting, please contact Angie in the church office, [angie@valleycommunity.org](mailto:angie@valleycommunity.org).

**BottleDrop bags** are available by the East entrance of the church for people to pick up. Support Valley Youth by picking up a BottleDrop bag, filling it, and turning it in at your nearest BottleDrop location. No need to empty the contents, simply drop the bag off at BottleDrop. Thank you for your support!

### Prayers

*We pray for those with health concerns:*

Lenore Hay, Carole Bettencourt, Richard Gold, Roberta Danner

*We pray for those who mourn:*

- Polly Dye and family on the death of her brother, John FitzGerald, on August 28, 2020.

- Bland Simmons and family on the death of his wife, Beverly Simmons, on August 19, 2020.

- Friends and family of Virginia Hanson who died September 21, 2020.

## Earth Care Corner

Did you know.....

...that you can plant cover crops in the Fall to nourish your soil until the Spring?

An article from the website [gardeningknowhow.com](http://gardeningknowhow.com) shares great information on this topic. For many the end of the growing season means looking out at an empty garden space and dreaming of the bounty of green things that will grow there in the Spring and Summer. Instead one could look out at a carpet of green manure.

“Nitrogen fixing cover crops are much like sponges that soak up nitrogen as well as other nutrients that might otherwise be lost to weeds or washed away by rain and snow melt. Even non-nitrogen fixing plants will help to ensure that many of the nutrients in the soil can be returned to the soil when the plants are tilled under in the spring.

Cover crops are also a wonderful way to help maintain and even improve the condition of your soil. While planted, cover crops prevent erosion by holding the top soil in place. They also help reduce soil compaction and help the beneficial organisms in the soil, like worms and bacteria, to flourish. When the cover crops are worked back into the soil, the organic material they provide increases how well the soil can hold onto water and nutrients.

Lastly, when you plant a cover crop, you are growing plants that can compete with weeds and other undesirable plants that would like to take up residence in your garden while it is empty. As many gardeners can speak to, often a vegetable garden left empty over the winter will be filled with cold hardy weeds come mid-spring. Cover crops help to prevent this.”

Read more at Gardening Know How: Cold Weather Cover Crops – When And Where To Plant Cover Crops <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/vegetables/vgen/cover-crops-garden.htm>.

Cheers to keeping our Earth green and thriving,  
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

# All Saints' Sunday November 1



On Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints' Day. Members and friends who have died during the past year, since November 1, 2019, will be honored during 10:00 a.m. livestream worship. Please provide names of family and friends you wish to commemorate to the church office by Sunday, October 25.