
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church November 2020

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.

November

1 All Saints' Sunday
Communion
Daylight Saving Time ends

8 Kirkin' o' the Tartans

15 Dedication Sunday
Dining for Women, 11:30 a.m.

22 Christ the King Sunday

29 First Sunday of Advent

December

6 Second Sunday of Advent
Communion



Children's Sabbath, a Great Day for All!

This year's Children's Sabbath was held on Sunday, October 18. It is a very special Sunday where Valley kids help provide music, prayers and more. A Bible presentation for second graders was also part of this very special day. Visit our YouTube channel to watch the entire worship service.



Some young Children's Sabbath participants,



The Sanderman Family led the music on Children's Sabbath.

Thankfulness Can Be Contagious



Rev. Jeff Binder

It's very easy to be critical and cynical these days. I like to think that I have developed the art of being critical to new levels; my wife may begrudgingly attest to this talent. I used to think it was an important skill to have an eye for critique; after all, it is important not to be taken advantage of by others, to hold people accountable to their actions, and to strive for greatness in our daily living. But here's the thing I've also realized: the benefit does not normally outweigh the cost. Sure, perhaps you were able to get that discount offered by the restaurant for an unsatisfactory meal, but is it really worth living with such an attitude throughout the rest of one's life? How can one really enjoy something if we are constantly looking for ways to criticize?

Juxtapose this attitude of criticism with that of being thankful. I was once asked to record in a journal five things I was thankful for in the day; it felt unnatural and hard to come by on that first day. However, what I came to realize was that I was going through pretty much the same daily reality as I was before; now I was just focusing on the positives rather than the negatives. In short, my attitude and perspective was slowly changing.

And this got me thinking about all those people who seemed happier than I was. The reality was that they were experiencing all of the same stuff I was. They could just have easily complained about things; however, they just tended to focus on being appreciative for the positive things in the world, instead of focusing on the negative.

I still wrestle with critical thinking; it's hard to shake at times. But I also recognize that being thankful for what life presents is also a contagious attitude. Sometimes it's merely a matter of perspective and our decision on what to focus on.

So how about we try focusing on thankfulness this month? What new possibilities might present themselves with our new mindset? What simple things in life can bring about true thanksgiving? How can thankfulness heal and restore relationships in our lives today?

The world can do with a little thankfulness these days, and this is one contagious thing I'm willing to spread happily!

Pastor Jeff Binder

THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR
JEFF BINDER

NEWSLETTER STAFF:
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

November Birthdays

Dick Adkins	Taryn Dee
Courtney Bird	Nathan Graham
Craig Blair	Aaron Jenkins
Faith Bridges	Ruthanne Keim
Eric Browning	Kim Hyeyeon
Nick Browning	Jamie Martchenke
Annika Carlson	Holly Rea
Christine Danner	David Sanderman
Shon De Vries	Dorothy Schumacher

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



Blessed to be a Blessing

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you... and you will be a blessing” ~ Genesis 12:2

Recently, while looking through old Bible study material, I ran into the Bethel Bible Study notebook for the class I took at Valley many years ago. “Blessed to be a Blessing” was one of the recurring themes of its Old Testament studies. That got me to thinking about how your financial partnership with our church allows us to bless others in our local community (and around the world, for that that matter). For example, your giving meant that we had the financial resources to quickly respond to wildfire relief needs – First to Australia last year, and then more recently to communities here in Oregon. Of course you already know your giving supports the myriad of ministries at our church.

Soon you will receive a pledge card in the mail. I ask that you “think generosity” when you return it. The COVID situation this year has forced Valley to take a different approach to receiving your 2021 pledges. For example, since we are not meeting for worship, there will be an opportunity to drop your pledge off in drive-by fashion, 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., after the livestream service on Dedication Sunday, November 15. And, for the technology-minded, we will have a link on our Valley Community webpage whereby your pledge can be submitted electronically. Of course, you can still mail the pledge card back to us.

Thank you for your generosity,
Frank Powers, Treasurer

Christmas Joy Offering Coming Soon



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received next month at Christmas, and focuses on the needs of church leaders of the past, present and future, as well as education and leadership development of future Christian leaders at racial/ethnic schools and colleges. This offering recognizes that church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. Half of the Christmas Joy Offering honors the

faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need of financial assistance to support them through life’s challenging circumstances. Many church workers spend their working years in small, rural churches in which they don’t have the opportunity to amass financial resources for retirement.

The other half of the Christmas Joy Offering supports the historic commitment of the PC(USA) to education and leadership development through three PC(USA) racial/ethnic schools and colleges. Our future racial ethnic church leaders are able to receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Your Christmas Joy Offering gifts allow these ministries, which Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years, to continue. Please plan ahead to be able to support this offering generously!



Daylight Saving Time Ends

on Sunday, November 1.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour
before you go to bed Saturday night.



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



You Are Invited to a Stained Glass Gallery Tour!

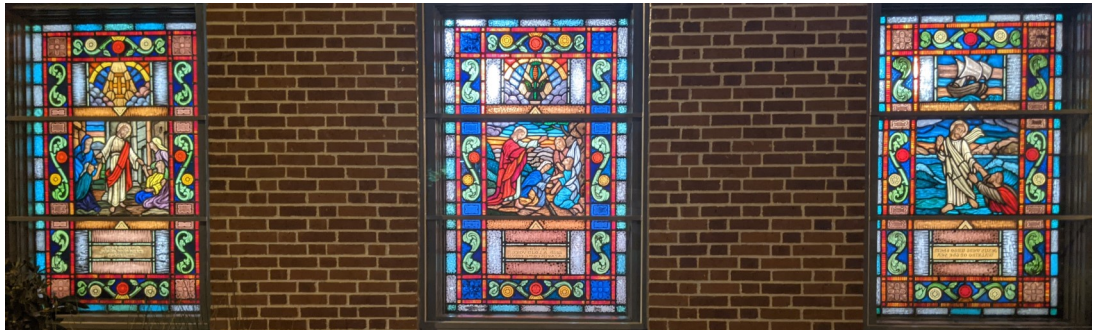


Welcome to an intimate self-guided gallery tour of “The Gospel in Glass,” our beautiful stained glass windows. Up close and in person you will learn and appreciate more about their meanings, their history, and our recent restoration project. As you walk through the gallery, their scripture passages and descriptions will be displayed next to each window.

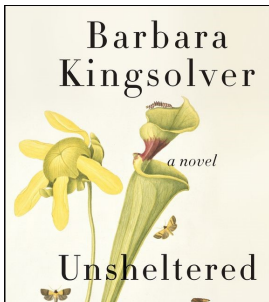
This visit will be structured like a museum exhibit. Reserved entry times will be offered to allow for healthy distancing. You will have up to an hour to appreciate the scriptures and symbolic images in each window, or simply enjoy visiting the sanctuary again in person.

Scheduled dates are Monday, November 9, Wednesday, November 11, and Saturday, November 14. If these dates fill up, we plan to add more during the following week. Entry times will start at 1:00 p.m. and run through 4:00 p.m.

You can register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4DAFAC2FAAF85-stained> or by calling or emailing Angie in the church office. Masks are required and other distancing protocols will be in place to ensure a safe and healthy visit.



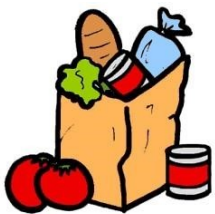
Valley Book Group



Under normal circumstances, the Valley Book Group would be holding their combined November/December meeting in the Fireside Room on December 4 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Unsheltered, written by Barbara Kingsolver. However, due to closures caused by Covid19, we will again be meeting using Zoom. One review of this novel describes it as “brilliantly executed and compulsively listenable. This is the story of two families, in two centuries, as they navigate the challenges of surviving a world in the throes of major cultural shifts. In this mesmerizing story told in alternating chapters, Willa and Thatcher come to realize that though the future is uncertain, even unnerving, shelter can be found in the bonds of kindred—whether family or friends—and in the strength of the human spirit.” 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. The January meeting is devoted to selecting the books for 2021. Recommendations for good books are being collected by Pat Bryant (bear_pat@msn.com) and Kathy Ems (rkems@comcast.net), so if you have recommendations, contact one of them by December 15, 2020. They will send participants a list of recommended books with a brief description of each book prior to the January meeting.

Distance Food Collection



Distance food collection the first and third Thursday of each month, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. We are meeting up in the back parking lot of Valley. All non-perishable, non-expired, store bought foods are being collected. You can donate fruits (apples/cuties), peanut butter, baby products, snacks for school aged kiddos, Ramen noodles and Cup o' noodles, five pound flour or sugar, one pound rice/beans. These items will be delivered to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Canyon Rd. where they hand out food to approximately 12-15 families on each distribution day. Thank you to all who have donated & helped this cause.

Valley's Earth Care Team will also be on hand to accept Styrofoam products to be recycled. Items include: Styrofoam blocks, clean trays, clean food containers, #6 plastic utensils, cups, clamshells, CD cases. Please no packing peanuts.

Small Group Opportunity

Job & the Holiday Blues

Facilitator: Pastor Jeff

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., on Zoom, all ages



A lot of emotions show up around the holidays. While many people wish to highlight the happiness of the holidays, there are also quite a bit of moments of grief and sadness that accompany such times.

The story of Job is a story asking an age-old question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” In this small group we’ll explore Job’s story, ask questions of God’s presence and nature in this book, and share our own experiences, both good and bad, around the holiday season.

This small group meets on Wednesdays over Zoom for seven weeks beginning November 4 and ends on December 16. Each participant will be expected to read approximately six chapters from the Book of Job each week before we gather (Just one chapter a day!). All ages are welcome, and this event is open to the public--come as you are!

Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m., chapters 1-6

Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m., chapters 7-12

Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m., chapters 13-18

Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m., chapters 19-24

Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m., chapters 25-30

Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m., chapters 31-36

Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m., chapters 37-42

Discussion topics:

Suffering: Where is God?

Lament: Praying Honestly

Friends & Support of Loved Ones

Hope & Faith

Grief

God’s Nature

Redemption & Restoration

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88019381756?pwd=QjRvWUE0bTN4dXlwVGcrMnFyeEpudz09>
Questions/Comments, contact Pastor Jeff: 503.292.3537; jeff@valleycommunity.org.

Dining for Women



Please join us on November 15 for our Dining for Women at Valley meeting. We meet on the Zoom platform and learn about the featured nonprofit chosen to benefit from their successful grant application. This month we virtually travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support the organization called **Resolve Network**. The specific program that is being supported is [Share the Seeds](#).

Resolve Network is unique in its very successful approach to reintegrating former female child soldiers from combatants to peace builders. They step in where the international community has failed because of official policies that favor men, unconscious bias, and prevailing conditions.

This project works with these former women combatants and communities to first demobilize the combatants, offer services, training and support to reintegrate them, and then make them change agents in peace building. Resolve Network’s work demonstrates the importance of having the women themselves be part of the process and be the decision makers and influencers of their own destiny.

One of the *many* great things about Dining for Women is learning about other parts of the world that are far away from our Portland home, what life changing situations that our sisters around the world are facing and how far our US dollars go to make positive and life affirming changes in their lives and in their communities. Join us on Sunday, November 15 at 11:30 a.m. to learn more about this amazing organization. If you are not on our evite list and would like to join the call, please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.297.8992.

Thank You, Thank You!



An abundant thank you goes to all of the Valley members and friends who brought household goods to the church to help ease the way of those that were evacuated due to fires in Oregon. There were stacks of towels and washcloths, sheet sets, pillows and many different kinds of hygiene items that filled the tables in Room 17.

However, all of the agencies helping the victims of fire that were called already had what was needed for the evacuees. This was great, but where did our collected goods go?

Most of the items ended up being brought to Love, Inc. (In the Name of Christ) in Tigard. The items went to families in need in Sherwood, Tualatin and Tigard. The role of Love INC is not to replace the Church but to help churches distribute their skills, gifts, resources, and love to communities in need – In the Name of Christ.

Their need is **great** and **constant!** During the month of November, Valley will continue collecting household goods. This month we are asking for **kitchen items**, such as plates, flatware/cutlery, glasses, mugs, mixing bowls, pots/pans, towels and potholders, sheet pans, Pyrex casseroles, spatulas/ladles/stirring spoons, measuring cups/spoons, Rubbermaid containers, etc. Please look around your kitchen and see what duplicates you might have that could be put to immediate use.

Collections times will be the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the East parking lot between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. in the morning. This is the same time when food is collected for the St. Matthew's Food Pantry and Styrofoam/#6 plastic is collected to be taken to Agilyx.

Upcoming Livestream Services at Valley

Don't miss these significant livestream services Valley Church has planned for the rest of 2020:

- ◆ All Saints' Sunday (November 1)
On All Saints' Sunday, we celebrate Valley members and friends who have died during the past year.
- ◆ Kirkin' o' the Tartans (November 8)
Join us as we celebrate the Presbyterian church's Scottish heritage.
- ◆ Dedication Sunday (November 15)
In addition to a special livestream service on Stewardship Sunday, you will have the opportunity to drop off your pledge cards in a drive-through drop off after worship in the East parking lot of the church, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Christ the King Sunday (November 22)
- ◆ Advent Sundays
Advent Sundays this year are: November 29, December 6, 13, and 20.
Please contact Greg Russell (gregmruss@gmail.com) if your family or group is interested in lighting the advent candles in person during one of the Advent Sundays.
- ◆ Christmas Eve Service (December 24, 5:00 p.m.)
We will hold a single livestream candlelight service at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.
Please contact Greg Russell (gregmruss@gmail.com) if your family or group is interested in lighting the Christmas candle in person during this service.

ALL
SAINTS'
SUNDAY



VALLEY YOUTH

November 2020

Movie Nights

Valley Youth has started hosting outdoor movie nights! Students are welcome to join us on November 7 at 6:00 p.m. for our next event!

Youth Group

We're meeting in person again! Middle and high school students, join us on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. See the church calendar for more details, or visit our blog.

BottleDrop Bags

BottleDrop bags are now available at the East entrance to the church. Fill them up and drop them off at your nearest BottleDrop location. We appreciate your generosity!

Follow Our Blog!

Subscribe to our blog, valleyyouth.org, for regular updates on who we are and what we're doing!



Confirmation

On October 18, we began Confirmation Classes with an insightful lesson on reading the Bible analytically from none other than the Rev. Jeff Binder himself! We continue our classes on November 1 with Rev. Chuck Falconer spearheading the first part of a three part series on the Trinity.

We are so excited to start this journey with our high school students!

We are SO thankful...

For all of our students. We're grateful that we can meet in person responsibly, and that we're grateful for the safety of everyone in Valley Youth. We are all looking forward to what next year has in store for us.

"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 106:1 ESV

Valley Scrapbook



The youth group carving pumpkins while socially distant.



A recent youth group meeting included decorating pumpkins.



Ruthann Marquis, Pastor Jeff, and Connie Brenner brave the wilds of the jungle on Earth Care Sunday,



Raoul Bellis-Squires led the music during the livestream service on Earth Care Sunday,



Donna Carlson (r) with Children Sabbath participants.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Beautiful persimmons have been picked and are available! Since there is no Produce Table this year, if you would like a bag of Fuyu persimmons, please contact Ruthann or David Marquis at the numbers in Valley's directory.

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.

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:

Michael Herberger, Virginia Vaughan, Christine Danner, Kim Veenhuis

We pray for those who mourn:
- Ginny Vaughan and family on the death of her husband, Ed Vaughan on October 1, 2020.



Earth Care Corner

These are excellent Eco-Tip ideas shared from Jeanne Roy at the Earth Leadership Center.

Weatherizing Your Home

Why we care...

Saying goodbye to summer can be hard, but it can also be an expensive and wasteful season. Burning fossil fuels to heat your home accounts for about 40% of home energy use. Loss of this heat costs you money and contributes to climate change. Cracks and holes in floors, walls, and ceilings are where most heat escapes, followed closely by spaces around doors and windows.

Simple, positive change...

- Conduct a do-it-yourself audit. Plugging air leaks with caulk or stripping materials is the first step in weatherizing. It will reduce energy costs and make your home more comfortable.
- Select a certified energy assessor from the State of Oregon website to evaluate your home and receive an energy score with recommended improvements.
- For a more customized report, contact a contractor to do a walk through and give you a bid.
- Get several references and contact them to learn if they were satisfied with the work.
- Check contractor's ratings by the Oregon Better Business Bureau.
- Make sure the contractor uses a calibrated blower door and either does thermographic inspections or hires another company to conduct one.
- Carry out the recommendations that make sense to you. One factor may be how many years before your investment is repaid through utility savings.
- If you choose to do the work yourself:
- To detect and seal air leaks, see Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audits.
- For a comprehensive guide with photos for attics and basements see A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Energy Star Home Sealing and Insulating with Energy Star.

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org

Your Earth Care Team at Valley

PS: Styrofoam items and #6 plastic items are being collected on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month. During October two pickup truck loads of these items were taken to Agilyx in Tigard instead of going into the landfill. Thank you!

THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Worship with us on Sundays!



While we may not worship in person, everyone is invited to worship on-line. All are invited to attend our adapted live-stream Sunday worship at 10:00 am on the [Valley Community Presbyterian Church Facebook page](#).



You can also watch the previously recorded services on our YouTube page. [Visit Valley's YouTube page by clicking here.](#)