


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church January 2021

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.

January

3 Communion
Epiphany Sunday

10 Baptism of the Lord

17 Second Sunday after Epiphany
Dining for Women, 11:30 a.m.

24 Third Sunday after Epiphany

31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February

7 Communion
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



Thank you Rev. Chuck Falconer!



Rev. Chuck Falconer

where we will bless Chuck and honor his countless contributions to our community.

Reverend Charles F. Falconer began his career in 1962 as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Brownsville, Oregon. After three years, he moved to Community Presbyterian Church in Pilot Rock, Oregon where he served as Pastor for five years. Then, Chuck returned to the Portland area where he called Bethany Presbyterian Church home for the longest tenure of his career shepherding that congregation for ten years. Chuck's career includes intervals of service at the Presbytery of the Cascades, San Francisco Theological Seminary, and as a temporary and interim pastor at various churches throughout Oregon. Chuck's vocational calling resulted in considerable involvement with numerous boards, committees and charities at the regional and national levels; most notably, his dedication to Sheldon Jackson College and his beloved Habitat for Humanity.

Chuck's work often allowed for travel and he enjoyed attending General Assembly in various locales across North America including Kansas, Florida and British Columbia. Chuck also became a "Road Scholar" and with that group made visits to South Dakota and the Sierras along with treks to Ireland and Scandinavia. His explorations extend from multiple cruises to excursions to Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland and Wales. Such extensive travels explain Chuck's ease and readiness with his wonderful camera and we have all appreciated the way in which he has recorded the events here in our Valley home.

We wish the best for Chuck and his wife, Jan, in these coming years and will remain grateful for the extensive service provided to this community. Most of all, we are thankful for the promise that he will not go far.

THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU



New Year, New Possibilities



Rev. Jeff Binder

Many of us have been waiting for the year 2020 to end thinking that with it, perhaps we will see an end to a very challenging episode in our communal life. Well, how do you feel now? For some of us, we simply needed a new calendar year to take some action steps toward a brighter year ahead. For some others, simply thinking about this new year has provided a much needed mental and emotional breath of fresh air that we have so badly desired.

So will this be the year to beat all previous years, or will we experience more of the same? Perhaps the reality of the situation may lie somewhere in between. But don't let that distract us from the hope that naturally comes with each new year, regardless of whether we have been navigating a pandemic or not. There are many reasons to be thankful that we have come thus far; there are many reasons to believe that, to borrow the words from the band Counting Crows, "...maybe this year will be better than the last."

One thing our Vital Congregations task force has been discussing recently is how our community as a whole, our neighborhood, has been moving forward through the holiday season and into the new year, just as we all have adapted in one way or another. What has been different about this year than last? What have you observed that you, or your family, or perhaps other families are doing that signals a new day, a new year, has arrived? Perhaps as we open our eyes to our neighbors around us this time of year, we may realize that we have so much that unites us in the days and year ahead. Yes, I see bright days ahead, and I look forward to realizing and celebrating such days together with you in community!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff Binder



THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR
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NEWSLETTER STAFF:
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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY
JANUARY 20 FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE:
angie@valleycommunity.org

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

January Birthdays

Len Anderson	Jan Falconer	James Price
Julie Binder	Martha Gazeley	Taylor Rawlings
Sarah Boyle	Eben Jenkins	Thomas Rheingans
Jacqueline Bridges	Don Kelly	Jim Sandberg
Duncan Brown	David Lee	Kimberly Scott
Will Browning	Geri Mitchell	Kerrie Standlee
Dane Carlson	Andrea Murdoch	Fan Standlee
Dean Cartmill	Dan Murphy	Chad Teed
Glenys Craig	Marah Murphy	Joyce Thomas
Andy Dee	Serena Nelson	Macy Vermillion
Chuck Falconer	Suzanne Paroulek	Scott Vernon

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



Christmas Joy Offering Still Being Collected



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

On Christmas Eve, the Christmas Joy Offering was received at Presbyterian churches across our nation. This special offering commemorates the perfect gift we've all been given in Jesus, who brings God and humanity closer together. One of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." During these past months, many of us haven't been together in person, but we have continued to be together in spirit and in faith. God has been

with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.

Fifty percent of our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become leaders in their communities, and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

The other fifty percent of our gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs, like a pastor who was enabled to purchase a specialized scooter that allowed him to continue his ministry while living with multiple sclerosis.

It is not too late to give! Please join in supporting these vital ministries. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Love Inc. Update



Valley once again out of its abundance gave generously! During the Autumn months we collected various items that were delivered to Love Inc. (Love In the Name of Christ) in Tigard. Originally the request for items were to be directed to those that were evacuated because of fires around our state. We were told that that need had been met. Instead, the towels, bedding and hygiene supplies that were collected were donated to Love Inc. Each and every item was gratefully received!

In learning more about what they do and wanting to support their efforts to support those in need in the Tigard, Tualatin and Sherwood areas we also collected kitchen goods and cleaning supplies. Again, a bounty of goods and supplies were brought to their Tigard office. Thank you!

Please stay tuned for more collections this coming year, to be conveniently set up on the first and third Thursdays when non-perishable foods are collected for St. Matthew's Food Pantry by the Mission Committee and Styrofoam is collected by the Earth Care Team.

Dining for Women



Dining for Women at Valley jumps right into the New Year with ready support for January's featured grantee. We travel to Burkina Faso, virtually (of course!), to learn about the BARKA Foundation. They empower the people of Burkina Faso to thrive by partnering with communities to break the poverty cycle – permanently. BARKA's work focuses on Water, Women, and Agriculture.

This project empowers women by breaking the silence around menstruation and providing them with a sustainable, cost-effective menstrual hygiene solution that is ideal for low-income, water-stressed countries like Burkina Faso. It also allows women to pursue their educational and economic goals and become fully-participating members of their community.

Plan to join our Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m. to learn more about this groundbreaking nonprofit. If you would like to be added to the Evite list, please contact Ruthann Marquis.



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



Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group will be meeting on Friday, January 22, at 10:00 a.m. using Zoom. Our January meeting traditionally gives members a chance to select books that will be read in the new year. During the past several months, Pat Bryant and Kathy Ems have been compiling a list of recommended books provided by members. The list of these books along with a brief description of each of them will be available to members of the group so that they can vote on the ones they would like to read for discussion in the coming months. If you have not attended in the past, but would like to join us and learn more about the books under consideration, contact Laura Sanders to have your name added to the contact list. If you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive further information about how to attend the Zoom meeting.

Vital Congregations

- ◆ Tell us what was most profound about Christmas this year? What three things did you notice?
- ◆ What did you notice about how your neighborhood celebrated. How was it the same/different from past years? What did you find most impactful?
- ◆ What tugged at your heart? What stood out as most important?
- ◆ Do you have an image or phrase that best describes your experience?

Think about these things and if you'd like to share them with us and the congregation, please reply to: vitalvalleypres@gmail.com.

Happy New Year!
Your Vital Congregations Team

Reverse Advent Calendar



For the past several years Valley Community has paired with the Good Roots Church of SE Portland ~ Food and Clothing Pantry by collecting items with the Reverse Advent Calendar. Instead of 'opening the door for a treat' you place a gift into a bag or box through Epiphany (January 6, 2021). On January 7 we will donate our 'gifts' during the first Thursday 10:00-11:30 a.m. time. [Click here for the link to the calendar](#) which has suggestions of items to collect. You can also find the link on our website under the Resources & Links page. You may, of course, put anything you choose into your box. Have fun and happy new year!

Habitat for Humanity

Chuck Falconer will be retiring from his duties for Habitat for Humanity. If you would be willing to serve on the Valley Mission Committee, recruit volunteers to help build Habitat homes, or represent Valley on the Habitat Faith Relations Team, please let Chuck know at chuckf@clankeith.com or call 503.645.3318.

Valley Mission Recap



As I prepare for the 2020 recap of Valley's mission and giving address in January, I realize as we social distances that I didn't keep up with everyone's donating/giving activities. If you and/or your group participated in anything that helped people, places, or things (i.e.: SOLV, or the Red Cross Blood Drives), please send me an email: avanmur@comcast.net.

Thanks bunches,
Andrea Murdoch.

VALLEY YOUTH

January 2021

Prayer Requests

Continue to pray for our youth as they continue to attend school virtually. Pray that we all stay connected and feel less isolated.

Youth Group

We will hopefully be able to resume meeting in person soon! We've got our eyes on socially distanced January meetings!

BottleDrop Bags

Thank you for all of your BottleDrop contributions! Grab a blue bag outside of the East entrance and bring it in to BottleDrop when it is full!

Follow Our Blog!

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



Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Valley Youth wishes you all the best, and we hope that you had a very happy, fulfilling holiday season!

Confirmation

Confirmation will resume on January 17. Our next lesson will be on developing spiritual practices. We look forward to seeing our confirmands and mentors again!

Cases...

Valley Youth had a... strange December. Our plans were disrupted by a surge in cases that hit Washington County, as it hit much of the US. Pray that the distribution of the vaccine is efficient, and reaches those most in need first.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”

Hebrews 11:1

Valley Scrapbook



The Starfish Mariner group met for a Christmas Zoom get-together.



*Christmas Eve livestream participants:
(Clockwise) The Hoffbeck family; The Russell Family; The Rheingans Family; The AV Team.*



Valley Notes

Opportunities

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign officially kicked off with pledge cards being mailed out to Valley members and friends. If you have not received a pledge card, please contact the church office or fill out your pledge card by following this link: <https://www.jotform.com/assign/202816913814052/cHZybnhFVGMxVXgyRG5FendYL3N1VmJNaGRaVElCaExXbnV2cFd0Q3IyZ0pXSmdJUUFiR0xINVZtODIHNtcwUjJ4alpOOUJHYWlhaFRHV2tyYytTU2c9PQ>

Kidney needed! I am aware of someone in the Portland area that is in dire need of a kidney. As a living kidney donor, I know how vibrantly my friend Judy has been living for the past 11 years because of my kidney donation. If you or anyone you know has ever thought about being a living donor and might consider helping a 59 year old woman to live longer, please contact Ruthann Marquis. Please prayerfully consider this gift of life.

Did you miss the Christmas Eve video montage? Donna Carlson, Children's Ministry Director, put together a montage of photos, past and present, for our Christmas Eve online service. [Click here to watch!](#)

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Alexis and Ian Wolf, Roberta Danner, Christine Danner

We pray for those who mourn:

- Sue Derting and family on the death of her mother, Doris Christianson, who died Sunday, December 13, 2020.

- Family and friends of Terry Hercher who died Friday, December 25, 2020. A memorial service will be held virtually on January 10.

Earth Care Corner

Welcome to the New Year! 2021 holds great promise and here are some resolutions you can make to take care of our wonderful, God-given planet Earth! The following are some suggestions from EarthDay.org that were borrowed from their website.

1. Go Plant Based. Animal agriculture has an enormous impact on climate change, contributing as much greenhouse gases as every car, plane, train, and ship on Earth. Going plant-based is one of the most powerful ways to reduce our personal carbon footprints (or food-print, as it can be called.) Not ready to go all the way? Just start with one meal, or go plant-based for one day a week, like meatless Mondays.

2. Skip the Car. We know this doesn't work for everyone, but where and when you can, skip the car and walk, bike or take public transportation instead. You'll get some good (free!) exercise, while taking a huge bite out of your personal carbon footprint. For every mile you don't drive, you reduce your carbon footprint by one pound. Bonus points if you're lugging bags of groceries home on your walk.

3. Compost. Compost. Compost. Food waste greatly contributes to climate change. Think about it - when you toss food in the trash, you're wasting all the resources that it took to grow, harvest and ship that food.

Food sits in a landfill over a 100-year period, producing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that is 34 times more potent than carbon dioxide. If food waste were a country, it would be the world's third-largest emitter after the U.S. and China. *Not sure how to compost?* There are Master Gardeners among Valley's membership. We are pretty sure that these volunteers would be happy to share some tips.

4. Recycle and do it right. We know, recycling is not a silver bullet solution to our problems. But if you're going to recycle, at least do it right.

Look for an upcoming Recycling 101 presentation on Zoom later this month to get a refresher course on recycling right!

5. Skip the Single-use Plastic Bag. Did you know that those convenient plastic grocery bags are only used for an average of 15-20 minutes? Meanwhile they have a lifespan of 500-1,000 years in the landfill. Suddenly that convenience is looking very inconvenient for our planet... Just stick a reusable bag in your purse or backpack, or stash one in your car. It's that simple. Many of the grocery stores are letting us use our own bags these days. To take this step to the next level, see if you can go a whole day without plastic. It's much harder than you might think, but it gives you an illuminating view at just how bad our plastic problem is, while identifying key places to consider cutting plastics from your life.

Best wishes for an earth healthy New Year!
Valley's Earth Care Team



THE MESSENGER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Happy
NEW YEAR!

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"
SAYS THE LORD.
"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD
AND NOT FOR DISASTER,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."
JEREMIAH 29:11

A festive graphic for New Year's. The top half features the text "Happy NEW YEAR!" in a large, white, cursive font, set against a background of purple and white fireworks. The bottom half features a Bible verse in a purple, serif font, set against a background of gold and white fireworks. The entire graphic is framed by a thick orange border.