


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

February 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.

February

7 Communion
Scout Sunday
Souper Bowl of Caring

14 Transfiguration of the Lord

21 First Sunday in Lent
Dining for Women, 11:30 a.m.

28 Second Sunday in Lent

March

7 Communion
Third Sunday in Lent



Lent & Easter at Valley

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

Worship experience, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

March 28 – Palm Sunday


Livestream service, 10:00 a.m.

April 2 – Good Friday

Stations of the Cross
in-person at Valley (via sign-ups)
Times TBD

April 4 – Easter Day

Livestream service, 10:00 a.m.



Valley Community
Presbyterian Church
(503) 292-3537
www.valleycommunity.org

Go to [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/)
[ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/)
to join our online services.

New Year, New Possibilities



Rev. Jeff Binder

I'm not sure about you, but February is a bit of a weird month for me. Here we are. We have now started the new year, but things don't quite feel all that different. Yes, the days are growing longer, but it still feels like more darkness than light dominates the day. On February 2, Groundhog Day, Punxsutawney Phil may or may not see his shadow...are we really placing our hope for an end to the winter season on a groundhog?! As a Christian, I put my faith in God and not a groundhog. But I'll tell you the real reason I don't get too excited one way or another for the results of Groundhog Day. By this point in the winter, we have been battle-hardened; we are ready for anything. And by this point after a year like we have lived through, I feel like we *can* handle just about anything. Bring it on Punxsutawney Phil!

Yes, we have come to embrace the reality of winter, but oh, how we long for brighter, warmer days! Add the yearning for vaccines during this time of pandemic and the anticipation is palpable! Yes, there may be light at the end of the metaphorical tunnel, but there is still quite a bit of ways to trod. Perhaps the month of February is a time to once again take a breath, take inventory of all that has gotten us to this current place we find ourselves, and refocus on the journey ahead. Who are your fellow travelers on this segment of this adventure called life? What have we learned from the past few months of trial and tribulation? How have we grown as a community and individuals during such times? What are you looking forward to ahead?

Yes, we have been battle-hardened by this previous year, but let's also not forget that we are more than our most recent challenges—we are a people of hope. We will once again gather as community. We will once again touch and breathe freely. We will once again find warmer, brighter days ahead. Thanks, Phil, for your help, but we got this! Are you ready to move forward?

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff Binder



THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR
JEFF BINDER

NEWSLETTER STAFF:
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

February Birthdays

Sharon Baker	Norm Jacox
Grace Baker	Jeff Keim
Richard Bryant	Barbara King
Mary Collins	Kristina Kurtz
David Derting	Ben Paroulek
Ariel Derting	Phyllis Patterson
Diana Domingo-Forasté	Debbie Purcell
Nathan DuFresne	Bill Rea
Robert DuFresne	Antonio Rinella
Joy Eaton	Esta Sherwood
Marjorie Grootendorst	Don Sowers

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



Yearly Mission Giving Update for 2020

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

By *Andrea Murdoch*

I want to thank **each and every** one of you for participating in our various socially distanced projects during 2020. From the year just past, we've seen how tenuous our lives really are. In the blink of an eye we can go from "having" to "not having enough." Yet we continued to step up to the plate.

Thanks to online giving, our four main yearly collections: Joy Offering, Peace Offering, Pentecost and One Great Hour of Sharing continued, as did Cents-Ability. Though down in the amounts we received, we were still able to send funds where needed.

Here are some of the other things **YOU** have participated in: The third Thursday Soup Kitchen now being prepared in homes with delivery only to the Transition Center.

Welcome to our new Soup Kitchen coordinator, Mary Kay Rodman and a loving recognition to Jini De Vries and her many years of service.

Here's to the knitters and crocheters of the 19 Prayer Shawls made and delivered in 2020 and baby hats for the Purple Period of Crying.

Zoom was a wonderful way that we continued to connect. It allowed Dining for Women, now in it's eighth year, to continue to meet each month where over \$29,000 has been given by this group to empower women and children of the world.

We learned how to distance collect and help around the Portland area. Over 2,200 pounds of food went to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry with volunteer duties still happening every Wednesday night, coordinated by Janet Adkins.

The Reverse Advent Calendar was just shared with the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet of the Good Roots Church in SE Portland.

Second Home put out a call for Christmas gifts for their students and many families stepped up with donations as well as a \$600 donation from the Pentecost Offering.

Our Children's Ministry had a spring and fall "drive through" outreach to local families in place of our Easter Egg Hunt and Fall Festival. VBS, over the summer months, provided "Family Filled Fun-Bags" put together by Donna Carlson, Bev Hubbard and various Valley Youth. Some of these youth went on to write letters to our home-bound seniors and help out at the Sunshine Pantry stocking shelves and food boxes to hand out.

Nine families participated in SOLV to collect trash along our beaches, and the first and third Thursday Styrofoam collections in our back-parking lot earned us points toward our becoming an Earth Care Congregation in March.

Our Cub Scout Pack 592 collected 600 lbs. of food by putting out fliers in the neighborhood and going back for the donations which were given to a local food bank.

The Valley Library sent two boxes of books to a small congregation in the Houston, Texas area with plans to donate more books to Eastern Europe as soon as details can be worked out.

We sent three High School Seniors off with quilts lovingly made for them.

Twice each year we distribute \$10,000 to applicants through the Mission Endowment Grant.

Last spring, Presbytery had the \$1000 Challenge Grant to which we stepped up to and sent a total \$5,800 to Beaverton's School District Emergency Relief Fund helping with Covid related assistance.

Our on-going support of the Presbyterian Disaster Relief programs enabled funds this past summer to go towards our own state's wildfires and the subsequent collection of household items for the victims. These were eventually donated locally to LOVE INC, as southern Oregon was overwhelmed with supplies.

We've continued to donate pints of blood to the Red Cross and drive for Meals-On-Wheels as they need us

The virtual Salvation Army Giving Tree and the hundreds of masks sewn and distributed are other areas where we assisted.

Sadly, a few of our treasured events were placed on hold during this pandemic: The CROP Walk, Mission Market, Bread for the World Bake Sale, Eye glass/Hearing aid collections, Produce Table, the monthly Cents-ability offering, the yearly VBS Mission opportunity and home building for Habitat for Humanity..... BUT remember: WE do continue to be the hands and feet of Christ. Look, we are a Vital Congregation! Your Mission Committee wishes to thank you for your on-going and generous giving.



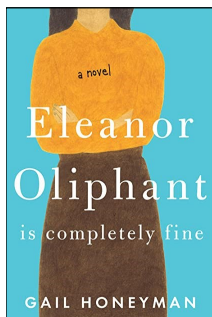
Thank you for sending your check for **\$36.50** for the
2021 Per Capita (for wider church expenses) for each Valley member.

For more information about what per capita is, and how it helps, go to:

oga.pcusa.org/percapita



Valley Book Group



Under normal circumstances, the Valley Book Group would be holding their February 2021 meeting in the Fireside Room on February 26 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, written by Gail Honeyman. However, due to closures caused by Covid19, we will again be meeting using Zoom. This novel is a prize-winning debut novel that tells the story of a woman who struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she is thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully organized life, where she avoids social interactions on weekends with frozen pizza, vodka and phone chats with Mummy. Everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic man from her office. If you have not attended in the past, but would like to join us for the discussion, 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.

Donate Journals!

In conjunction with Write Around Portland, Beaverton City Library is hosting a journal drive to support writing workshops held in Oregon Correctional Facilities. Write Around Portland is a local non-profit that offers free writing workshops to adults and youth who have limited access to community writing events and classes.

If you have a composition book, journal or notebook to donate, please bring them to the east parking lot on the first or third Thursdays when nonperishable food and Styrofoam is collected between 10:00-11:30 a.m. Contact Ruthann Marquis if you want to arrange a pick up or drop off.



Dining for Women February 21



During our February meeting of Dining for Women we will learn more about the plight of young girls in Bangladesh. The featured grantee this month is Stand Up for the Poor and the specific program that is being sponsored is Girls Education Program: Girls Health and Safety Training.

A little background might help. In Bangladesh, girls in poverty are considered second-class citizens, destined only for child marriage and domestic servitude. This means hundreds of thousands of girls across Bangladesh drop out of school early and are forced into illegal child marriages, some as early as age 13. These girls are often uneducated about sanitation and hygiene issues. They tend not to have positive teaching about their body and feminine health issues, and they tend not to have an adequate sense of safe behaviors to avoid exploitation and abuse.

This project offers age-appropriate teaching and training on optimal health, safety, well-being, and the importance of staying in school. Girls also learn about body autonomy and existing laws surrounding child abuse, child marriage, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, and spousal rape. This is a new reality for girls and women built on affirmation of their value, worth, and importance to their families and societies, and it allows them to flourish and thrive.

Please join us on Sunday, February 21, at 11:30 a.m. following worship to learn more about this worthy nonprofit organization, to experience fellowship with like-minded members (albeit on a screen!) and donate to their grant request. If you would like to be added to the evite list, please contact Ruthann Marquis at numbers listed in the directory.

Zooming Together



Technology has been a saving grace during these pandemic times. While not the same as meeting face to face it has allowed many Valley get-togethers and meetings to continue virtually. Session, the Board of Deacons, Wednesday Men's Bible Study, the monthly book group, and many others are meeting online. While we all look forward eagerly to an end to physical isolation, it's clear that meeting virtually will be part of our future for at least the next several months.

The church has a Zoom Pro account that allows meetings of any length! Free Zoom accounts are limited to 40 minutes. Use of this account is available for any church-related event, such as committee meetings, bible studies, Mariners events, and education. Also, there are several Valley members who have Zoom Pro accounts and are willing to assist you if you're just learning the ropes of hosting online meetings. We can also help by setting up test meetings if there are people who are not yet familiar with using Zoom.

Please contact Angie in the church office if you'd like additional information.

VALLEY YOUTH

February 2021

Prayer Requests

Pray for continued developments in vaccine distribution, and for our students as they are poised to return to school via the new order from Gov. Kate Brown.

Youth Group

We are holding outdoor, socially-distanced gatherings every other Sunday. We are also holding virtual game nights!

BottleDrop Bags

We have blue bags for BottleDrop available outside of the east entrance to the church! They are available for pickup whenever. Just fill it up, and drop it off at the drop door at your nearest BottleDrop!

Follow Our Blog!

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



Confirmation

Confirmation continues to move forward, and we're over half-way done! Pray for our confirmands as they weigh the decision to officially join the church.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Valley Youth will be holding a collection after church on February 7 in honor of Souper Bowl Sunday!

Stop by after the service!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Valley Scrapbook



Socially distanced bell choir is currently happening for our youth (with some parent participation!). Family groups are spaced apart from each other and each family group gets a group of bells. It's a fun challenge as each player ends up having to do extra parts to make the whole song work! The group will perform during the livestream on Youth Sunday which is March 14.



The display case in Valley's east hallway is always beautifully decorated thanks to Barbara Symons.



Valley's Earth Care Team volunteered at Bethany Lake as part of the nationwide Day of Service in honor and celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) Day. Volunteers helped weed and mulch the community gardens.



Above: David Marquis dropping off Styrofoam at Agilyx recycling center.



Youth enjoyed some fresh air at the park during a recent Valley youth group meeting.

Styrofoam is collected every first and third Thursday of the month as well as non-perishable food items like peanut butter, jelly, canned meat/tuna, school snacks, etc. Drop off your items in the East/back parking lot 10:00-11:30 a.m. Styrofoam items we are collecting are:

- Styrofoam blocks
- Clean trays
- Clean food containers
- #6 plastic, specifically clean utensils, cups, and clamshells
- CD cases
- PLEASE NO PEANUTS

Valley Notes

Congregational Meeting

The congregation's annual meeting has been called for Sunday, February 21, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. livestream worship service. Business includes voting to approve the Terms of Call for Pastor Jeff as well as budget information for 2021. Watch for the Zoom link in upcoming eblasts.

Opportunities

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.

The Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC) is currently seeking candidates to serve as deacons and elders. Contact the church office if this may be a fit for you or if you are interested in discussing these roles further with a member of CONC.

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns in the past month:

Geri Mitchell, John Conner, Brian Foster, John De Vries

We pray for those who mourn:
- Julie Noonan and family on the death of her mother, Jocelyn Gay, on December 24, 2020.

- Family and friends of Virginia Grubb who died January 24, 2021.



Earth Care Corner

There is a climate crisis going on! Scientists have been telling us this for some time now and we are running out of time before irreparable damage is done to our planet Earth.

One of the first acts of leadership that our 46th President Joe Biden did was to sign an executive order to rejoin the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Among the many issues that our Nation faces climate change is right up there near the top.

Valley's Earth Care Team is reading Jane Fonda's recent book entitled What Can I Do? My Path from Climate Despair to Action. It is an interesting and informative read that illustrates what is happening to each of the components of our earth and offers suggestions for action to save each of those components.

I especially learned so much from the chapter on oceans:

- I learned of giant sea turtles that die of starvation because of balls of plastic fill their stomachs and prevent them from being able to digest food. I had already seen pictures of turtles with plastic straws stuck up their noses.
- I learned that fish are slowly moving toward cooler waters at the poles to escape the warmer ocean temperatures, so that they can breathe and because their world is now uninhabitable.
- I learned that the gender of sea turtles depends on the temperature of the egg. Due to warming seas practically all of the sea turtles in Florida are being born female. That means no reproduction!
- I learned how important whales are in their vital role in fighting climate change. Throughout their lives, even after they die, they are taking carbon out of the lower atmosphere.
- I learned that farm raised fish are carnivores and that, for example, it takes about five pounds of ground up wild fish to produce one pound of farmed salmon.
- I learned that big fishing boats use ground trawlers that drag their big nets on rollers that destroy the ocean floor habitats and that about one-third of the catch is being thrown overboard, because it is bycatch and not the intended/desired fish.

I also learned some good news about organizations like Greenpeace, Surfrider, and Oceana, as well as a website called Seafoodwatch.org.

Climate change is real! There is a crisis going on and we can all do our part to help save our planet. I learned a lot by reading this one chapter. And now, I hope that you know more, too.

Ruthann Marquis
Earth Care Team leader



THE MESSENGER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Northern Exposure is Back!

(as long as technology cooperates...)

Are you running out of Netflix shows at this point in the pandemic? Wishing for a show that brings us back to better days when life was simpler? Do you share a fondness for melted cheese and warm beverages during the cold of the winter months?

All are invited to join us on zoom for our annual visit to Cicely, Alaska, where we meet up with the townspeople of one of the greatest television shows of the 1990's, *Northern Exposure*! We will gather on-line Wednesdays at 7PM to watch a 45-minute episode, and then spend a few moments afterward discussing some of the religious/spiritual themes that it presents for us today.

Join us each week at the following zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88433570836?
pwd=MnVTd0NGeXJHMzJmZHhISWRWZzZMZZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88433570836?pwd=MnVTd0NGeXJHMzJmZHhISWRWZzZMZZ09)

Gathering dates:

Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.

*On Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m., all are invited
for an online Ash Wednesday worship experience.*

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

Questions/comments, contact Pastor Jeff Binder.

