


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church March 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.

March

7 Communion
Third Sunday in Lent

14 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Time Begins

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

28 Palm Sunday

April

4 Easter Sunday



Lent & Easter at Valley

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.

Renewed Hope with the Crocus



Rev. Jeff Binder

The crocuses have arrived. Well, really, the bulbs have been in the ground the whole time, but what a sight it is to see signs of new life in what feels like the middle of winter here in the Pacific Northwest! If you are anything like me, it's about this time of year when the rains, cold, and wintry mix begins to feel like they are dragging on. Add the pandemic restrictions on top of this, and sometimes days feel downright unbearable!



It's in times like these when noticing a crocus plant turns my thinking around for the better. Yes, we may be in the midst of winter, in the midst of some challenging days, but there is hope for brighter days ahead.

What things are you looking forward to these days? Sometimes when we are trudging through the muck of the second half of winter, it helps to write these hopes and aspirations down. What things would you write down that you are looking forward to?

Our church life will also be participating in this renewed life in the coming months. What things are you excited for in the months ahead? Are you ready to worship in person? Share a communal meal? Gather for classes and events? Serve others in mission?

When I see the crocuses, I remember it's time to start looking ahead. I'm reminded that yes, we have gone through some tough times, but we are still here, and still moving forward. It's time to start voicing our hopes and dreams once again. Soon and very soon, it will be time to make that next step. I'm excited that we can do so together as one united Valley Community!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff Binder

THE MESSENGER

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

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

March Birthdays

Janet Adkins	Zachary Graham	Ben Paroulek
Wendy Archibald	Gwenn Gregg	Addy Pratt
Raoul Bellis-Squires	Georgia Hoffbeck	Laura Sanders
Jan Bellis-Squires	Ann Johnson	Glenn Simenson
Michelle Blair	Kevin Killian	Charlene Stansbury
Pat Bryant	Sue Lanthrum	Barbara Symons
Kegan Derting	Ron Leland	Kate Towner
Gary Eaton	Kenneth Magnuson	Joann Uecker
Mark Gazeley	Gary Nelson	

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



Dining for Women on March 21



This is the last month that Dining for Women at Valley will have an article in Valley's Messenger with [that name](#).

Wait! Are you saying that there will be no further interesting messages about non-profit organizations that are lifting up girls and women in underserved areas around the world?

Are you suggesting that there will be no upcoming invitations to join Valley's chapter members for Zoom meetings on the third Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m. to learn about the great work being done around the world by these amazing organizations?

NO! Dining for Women is changing their name and the new name will be announced in early March, after the publication of this Messenger. **Do not fear!** Valley's chapter is going strong, will continue under the new name and remain dedicated to supporting the featured grantee each month to do their grass-roots work where it is needed.

Please join us on Sunday, March 21 at 11:30 a.m. on the Zoom platform to learn about and make donations to Women Advocacy Program (WAP) in Zimbabwe. Their mission is to abolish child marriage, promote the rights of women and girls, and work towards women's economic empowerment. WAP uses advocacy to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable and marginalized women and girls.

The specific program that DFW is supporting (Using Soap to Empower Girls in Zimbabwe) will train girls in two marginalized communities of Harare, Zimbabwe in soap production and sales. The girls will earn income, increase their confidence, build team spirit, and avoid child marriage.

If you would like to join the meeting and are not on the Evite list, please contact Ruthann Marquis at a number in the directory.

Mission Endowment Applications Due April 1

April first is the spring application deadline for grants from Valley's Mission Endowment Fund. The Mission Endowment Committee will meet in April to consider these applications and make recommendations to Session for grants to be awarded.

Created in 1979 by a generous gift from a member, the Mission Endowment Fund is an important part of Valley's mission program. What organizations do you know of that further the work of Christ in the world? Think about submitting an application on behalf of one of them. Consideration is given to applications which:

- address hunger, food and health needs of people around the world
- assist volunteers in the mission field
- advance denominational programs of outreach, service and proclamation
- assist secular and social organizations that aid in the care of people.

In the past ten years, this fund has awarded grants totaling about \$200,000 to deserving applicants. No applications will be accepted after the April 1 deadline. Contact missionendowment@valleycommunity.org, or go to the church website, www.valleycommunity.org, for a Mission Endowment grant application: <http://www.valleycommunity.org/mission--service/stewardship.html#MissionEndowment>.

Why Serve? A Message from CONC

Your Church Officer Nominating Committee is at work to identify candidates to serve our church as elders and deacons. Why might you want to serve? There are as many reasons as there are people. Scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 12 that there are many gifts, but the same giver. So one reason is that this might provide an opportunity for you to use your God-given gifts and talents. Another reason could be that serving can strengthen your own faith. One committee member described how this had happened in her own life. Just becoming an elder made her more serious about her own faith journey. That said, not all are called to these ministries, and it's not always the right season in your own life to accept. It's not bad to say no. But, just maybe, God is calling you. Stop, pray, think, consider. Are you being called?



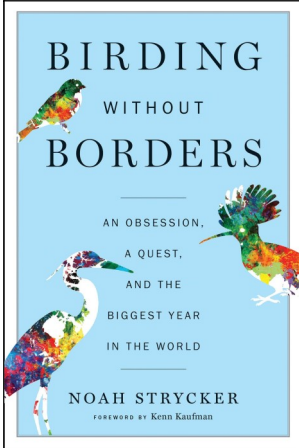
Thank you for sending your check for **\$36.50** for the **2021 Per Capita (for wider church expenses)** for each Valley member.

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 March 2021 meeting in the Fireside Room on March 26 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Birding Without Borders: An Obsession, A Quest and the Biggest Year in the World, written by Noah Strycker. However, due to closures caused by Covid19, we will again be meeting using Zoom. This non-fiction book was written in 2015, when the author set himself a lofty goal of becoming the first person to see half the world's birds in one year. For 365 days, with a backpack, binoculars, and a series of one-way tickets, he ventured across forty-one countries and all seven continents, eventually spotting 6,042 species—by far the biggest birding year on record. By pursuing the freest creatures on the planet, Noah gains a unique perspective on the world they share with us and the people in it and offers a hopeful message that even as many birds face an uncertain future, more people than ever are working to protect them. 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.

Bells to Ring on March 11 for Sacred People Sacred Planet

You will hear bells ringing on March 11th at 11:00 a.m.

This is a wake up call for everyone to heed the concerns of our planet Earth and do something about it!

March 11, 2021 is a worldwide, multi-faith day of climate action. People all over the globe are taking a stand on this day to raise awareness and to speak out on behalf of our planet and those that inhabit it.

People of faith and conscience everywhere are participating in Sacred People Sacred Planet, the biggest-ever faith-climate day of action, all at the grassroots level. We all have a moral imperative to alert everyone to the vital threat that exists for our planet and its people and to raise awareness about opportunities for renewal.

Valley will be ringing our bells in the tower for one minute at 11:00 a.m. to say to everyone that will hear them:

We **must** take action now.

We **must** prevent global temperatures from rising.

We **must** reduce global carbon emissions.

We **must** transform our way of life to one that is healthy and sustainable for ALL.

We **must** support the New Green Deal and take the steps that our country needs to take to prevent the most severe impact of a changing climate.

In places of prayer and households around the globe, we are joining together on March 11 to call for climate leadership guided by compassion, love and justice. And, just so you know, Fossil Free PCUSA and Presbyterians for Earth Care are co-sponsors for this Sacred People Sacred Planet Day of Climate Action.

What can you do?

***Ring bells** on your porches and patios. One minute at 11:00 a.m. on March 11.

***Tell your neighbors** to join in the wake up call for our Earth.

***Keep your ears and hearts open** to what scientists are saying about global warming, climate change, rising ocean temperatures, climate injustice, and the plight of climate refugees.

***Read the Earth Care Corner** each month in Valley's Messenger and learn about the actions that you can take, both small and big to make a difference for our planet.

***Be aware** of state and national legislation that supports actions to reverse climate change.

***And, pray** for the wisdom of our leaders and ourselves for the choices that we make now and for our future.

Earth Care Volunteer Opportunity



Join Valley's Earth Care Team at a Garden Work Party at Harmon Swim Center on Saturday, March 13 between 9:00-11:30 a.m. Like the MLK Day of Service in January, you can help spruce up the Community Garden with weeding and spreading mulch. Go to the Tualatin Parks and Recreation District website (volunteer@thprd.org) to sign up for one of the 10 available slots.



VALLEY YOUTH

March 2021

Prayer Requests

Pray for continued developments in vaccine distribution, and for a continued downward trend in new cases in our state.

Youth Group

We are holding outdoor, socially-distanced gatherings every other Sunday. We are also holding virtual game nights! Next Youth Group meeting will be March 14, following Youth Sunday.

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!



Valley Youth Hike to Pittock Mansion on February 6.

Confirmation

We're over halfway done with our Confirmation Class for our high school students! We only have three courses remaining. We're excited to continue on this trip with our Confirmands!

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday will take place March 14 and youth will be in charge of the service, providing the prayers, readings, and sermon. The Youth Bell Choir will play an anthem and special guests Thomas Rheingans and Siena Hertafeld will lead the music. Let's celebrate Valley's youth on March 14!

Winter Storm

As you have probably heard, several places in the US have been hit hard by winter storms. There are a number of people locally who still do not have power. Be praying for those affected during these cold winter months.

Prayer Shawl Ravelings

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Valley has been actively knitting shawls to offer comfort, joy and love for almost 16 years. There is an amazing group of women that donate their time and their yarn to create these most cherished shawls.

Each month knitters gather for fellowship, to hear about the shawls that were gifted and to hear thanks from those on the receiving end. Sometimes these thank yous include a donation to the Prayer Shawl fund, which supports postage and packaging supplies. Over these many years the fund has grown to a sizable amount and in February it was decided by the consensus of the knitters to donate most of the money in the Prayer Shawl account to address local food insecurity.

Since Valley has a relationship with St. Matthew's Lutheran Church the amount donated was equally split between their Food Pantry and their Backpack Program. Both programs are very active during this pandemic time and distance learning. The monies will be used by St. Matthews to make purchases from the Oregon Food Bank to supplement any donated fresh and nonperishables given to them.

Thank you to the many donors that have supported the Prayer Shawl Ministry over these years! And, thank you, wonderful knitters, for helping to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world.

Valley Youth Pie Fundraiser is Back!



Artisan pies are available! Amazing ingredients and additional handmade goodness make these a must for your holiday and a treat for your family! All natural ingredients, trans-fat free, low in added sugar, 2 crust pies are dairy free. Handmade in Salem.

Artisan pies are available in **Carmel Apple** or **Peach Raspberry**! Pie of the month - **Lemon Silk Pie** - This pie is dreamy! Real whipping cream is folded into our handmade lemon cream and placed in a hand rolled trans-fat free crust. Topped with more whipping cream makes this a beautiful, light, mild and delicious dessert. [Click here for the order form and to see other flavor options.](#)

- Fruit pie - \$15
- Cream pie - \$18
- Artisan pie - \$16
- Cobblers - \$9
- Individually Quick Frozen Fruit - \$8
- Mini pies (sold by the case only) - \$30 for a case of 6

Checks made payable to: VCPC. Please add "Pie sale" to the memo line of your check. You can also order online by clicking on the following link: <http://valley-268303.square.site/>. Orders and money are due by **March 14, 2021**. Pies will be delivered on March 30. More details to come. Please email your orders to Wendy Jenkins at www.wendy@gmail.com. Valley Youth appreciates your support!

Children's Ministry Gives Out "Lent in a Bag"



Children's Ministry put together "Lent in a Bag" which were given out to 50+ families this year! If you missed out, please contact Donna, donna@valleycommunity.org, or text: 503.442.9551. Each bag contains 6 small items to be used as symbols to focus individually, as a couple, family or group meditations and conversations during the Season of Lent. There are questions intended to start conversation, ideas for experiential moments, and scripture verses are included as well. Our gift to you this Lenten season!

Valley Notes

Opportunities

Northern Exposure is back!

Gather online Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. to watch a 45-minute episode and then spend a few moments afterward for discussion.

Wednesday, **March 3** and **March**

10. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88433570836?pwd=MnVTd0NGeXJHMzJmZHHlSjRlRWZzZmZz09#success>. Meeting ID: 884 3357 0836; Passcode: 673535; Dial: +1 669 900 6833.

BottleDrop bags are available

outside the East entrance. No need to wait in line! Scan the bar code on the bag at the drop off area at BottleDrop and the door will unlock in order for you to place the bag inside. Thank you for supporting our youth!

As we journey through Lent,

please use this devotional material to help in your progress toward the cross: http://act.bread.org/site/DocServer/2021_Lenten_Prayers_for_an_End_to_Hunger.pdf?ga=2.150900214.1722565278.1612818697-1933161951.1612818697.

Order Lilies for Easter: Lilies will grace the sanctuary on Easter. If you would like to order a lily in honor or memory of a loved one, you may make a donation of \$15 for each lily ordered. Please indicate "lilies" in the check memo line with the name you wish to honor. Donations and names must be in to the church office by Monday, March 29.

Prayers

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

Kathy Martchenke, Chuck Miller, Judy Chadwick

We pray for those who mourn:

- Gaylen Uecker and family on the death of his sister, Joan Uecker, on January 31, 2021.

Earth Care Corner

I have been enjoying the book by Jane Fonda - What Can I Do? My Path from Climate Despair to Action along with the Earth Team at Valley. I especially enjoyed the chapter, "Women and Climate Change". I wanted to share with you some facts from this chapter and things that we can do to help support climate change.

Did you know?

- Climate change makes women's work harder globally? For example, with reduced water sources women need to walk further to retrieve water for their families.
- In climate crisis areas there is an increase in sexual violence and domestic violence.
- Older women make up the largest group of climate change activists. Look at Jane Fonda at 83!
- Women in India are moving towards cleaner energy by using solar power for cooking stoves which has saved their forests.
- Greta Thunberg, an 18 year old Swedish environmental activist, is a prime example of how young people can make a difference.
- The vast majority of farmers around the world are women.
- Top ways to reduce carbon in the atmosphere found that educating young girls and empowering women was one of the most effective climate solutions.
- Jane points out that we need to advance gender balance in this work. For example, the shareholders and decision makers about climate change tend to be men in most cultures.

How Can I Help?

- Join the activities that Valley's Earth Care Team plans or join a team at your place of work.
- As a male you can help free up time that the women in your life dedicate towards daily activities to spend that time actively engaging in climate change.
- Join Sister Song, Forward Together or 1 Billion Rising.
- Educate yourself about the disproportionate number of indigenous women who go missing and are murdered near fossil fuel extraction or fracking sites.
- Donate to grass roots agencies like Women's Earth Alliance, Women's Earth, Climate Action International, Sierra Club, African We Do, Honor the Earth.
- Encourage women to vote!
- Get familiar with the Green New Deal by reading greennewdealgroup.org

The time is now! I am so grateful that the tide is changing and the U.S. is reengaging with the world on this crisis.

Amy Henning
Earth Care Team Member

THE MESSENGER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Deacons' Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, March 17, 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Up to three people may be helped
with each pint of blood collected!

A side benefit of donating is that all donors will be tested for
Covid-19 antibodies as part of their donation.



Contact Karen Miller, plmkmm@comcast.net or
Jim Sandberg, jim.sandberg@comcast.net, for more information.