


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church May 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.

May

2 Communion

9

16 Graduate Sunday
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.

23 Confirmation Sunday

30

June

6 Communion



Community Recycling Event a Success!



In celebration of God's creation and in an effort to keep recyclable and reusable items out of the landfills, Valley's Earth Care Team sponsored a Community Recycling Event on April 17 in the church's TriMet lot. **AND WHAT A CELEBRATION IT WAS!!!**

The team knew that it would be a busier event than the inaugural event in September 2019 because more community sponsors were there, which would have inspired more guests to participate. We had no idea how busy the event would be!

Here is a recap:

- During the 4 hour event over 440 cars came through! This is 7X the guests that we welcomed in 2019!
- Interstate All Battery Center accepted 1200 pounds of batteries that will be responsibly recycled.
- Computer Drive Connection totally jam packed their 26 foot truck with electronic items to be recycled and reused.
- Agilyx and hearty volunteers accepted enough styrofoam to make at least 15 pickup truck loads to their Tigard location.
- Community Warehouse filled about half of their 26 foot truck with quality furniture and home goods that will go to families in need.
- Love Inc. accepted enough bedding and bath linens to fill half of the Youth House garage. These will go to families in need in Tigard, Tualatin and Sherwood.
- Ridwell accepted plastic film, flexifoam and both usable and unusable textiles that resulted in at least three completely filled service vans full.
- The Youth collected more bags of returnable cans and bottles than were counted (probably around 20.)
- Usable athletic shoes were collected for local agencies that will distribute them: they filled 24 filled packing cartons!
- Non-perishable food donations were collected and added up to over 700#!!!! AND, a collection jar for the CROP walk to end world hunger was generously filled with over \$900 in donations!

WHEW!

Thank you to all of the volunteers (You know who you are) and thank you for supporting and spreading the word about this event. Valley Community Presbyterian Church did LOTS of good on Saturday, April 17, both for the good of the community and our dear planet Earth!!

See photos on pages 9 and 10.

When Will Things Get Back to “Normal”?



Rev. Jeff Binder

...I've been asking myself that same question quite a bit these past few months. The short answer is that no one really knows when things will get back to normal, or perhaps if they ever will.

“What about church?”

Well, what would happen if things don't go back to normal, or at least as we remember them?

Now that we offer live stream worship, what will inspire people to show up for in-person worship?

Now that people meet via Zoom, will we need to gather in the evenings for committees and small groups?

With ongoing restrictions and guidelines for children and youth events, how will these ministries adapt?

The reality is that the world will continue to adapt and evolve following this pandemic much like it has over the past year. As the adage goes, “The only constant in life is change.”

But here are some things that will remain the same when the time comes for us to return...

- ◆ Triune God will continue to be worshiped and praised each and every week through Spirit-inspired worship in our beautiful sanctuary.
- ◆ Our tradition of wonderful music will continue to be celebrated with offerings for just about everyone with a variety of genres and styles.
- ◆ We will be surrounded by our loving sisters and brothers in Christ, many of whom we have known for a long time, and many of whom we may meet for the first time.
- ◆ Children and youth of our own, as well as the larger community, will continue to be nurtured as they are taught about God's love for each of them.
- ◆ Christ's love for the world will continue to be shared through our ongoing mission opportunities where each of us have an opportunity to participate as the hands and feet of Christ.

Our community leaders, staff, and officers will continue to listen for how God calls us in the days, months, and years ahead. Sure, things may never go back to normal, but I am excited how God continues to call us forward, courageously united, to realize God's kingdom together!

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
MAY 20 FOR THE JUNE ISSUE:
angie@valleycommunity.org

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

May Birthdays

Selma Anderson	Amy Dee	Elaine Rea
Barry Armentrout	Susie Erdahl	Sam Rheingans
Alex Blair	Marilyn Hartzell	Jacque Rheingans
Dylan Blair	Amy Henning	Katherine Rinella
Mollie Bootsma	Sherrie James	Donna Rueff
Bill Bruning	David Jimerson	Brian Russell
Phyllis Bruning	Alisha Killian	Marcia Sanderman
Nels Carlson	Ainsley Killian	Ty Scearce
Birgitta Carlson	Ann Miller	Sonja Spencer
Brad Carlson	Karen Mitchell-Yakymi	Marilyn Tuffs
Lyle Chadwick	Stan Munro	
David Collier	Zep Pratt	

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



Together Women Rise



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

The program in May will support TERREWODE in Uganda, which is a Reintegration Program for Obstetric Fistula Survivors.

Although not a topic of conversation among first world populations, those that acquire fistulas around the globe deal with this trauma long after the difficult birth during which it occurred.

Terrewode addresses the social consequences of fistula: the discrimination, stigma, shaming, social isolation, high rates of divorce, and abandonment. Economically, women with fistula are pushed deeper into poverty as they experience workforce discrimination and increased costs for health and hygiene needs. The reintegration program through Terrewode that follows the surgical repair of fistula allows for new beginnings, and the restoration of dignity, purpose and confidence. Educating the community on the risk factors for obstetric fistula is gradually creating cultural shifts and improving overall maternal health in Uganda.

Please join us on Sunday May 16 at 11:30 a.m. to learn more about Together Women Rise and how their selection for this month's grantee project will help promote gender equality for the affected women in Uganda.

Currently we are meeting on the Zoom platform, however, we may try to meet in person in May in a safe, open-air location near church. More on that later.

If you are interested in joining our meeting and are not already on the contact list for an invitation, please contact Ruthann Marquis.

Valley's 2021 Easter Egg Drive-Thru Event



This year's traditional Easter Egg Festival was not a viable option due to the lingering pandemic, so as a safe option, Donna Carlson – our Children's Director formulized a plan with the help of our Children's Nurture Committee to organize an Easter Egg I-Spy Drive-Thru Adventure! Families could then celebrate in having some Easter fun together, but in the safety of their own vehicles! They were asked to mask up as they slowly drove through while having fun I-Spying all the Golden Easter Eggs which were hidden in their viewing site!

Vehicles entered through Valley's back-alley and were greeted by all our wonderful volunteers who were stationed at their decorated canopies along the way. At each canopy stop, every child was given a cellophane tied Easter bag containing a few filled plastic Eggs and some extra Easter goodies which were graciously filled by our own Valley Youth! At their last canopy stop, the kids were awarded with a nice size Easter Bag filled with bible activities, crafts and other surprises tucked inside for participating in our Easter Egg Drive-Thru I-Spy Adventure! When asked how did you hear about the event? Most parents responded... Facebook, Nextdoor.com or they saw our posters throughout different areas. The families were so appreciative of everything we did.

A VERY special thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who generously shared their time and energy with us to make this event possible! To those who stuffed our Easter bags and Easter Eggs, to those setting up the canopies and decorating the alley way. To all the ones who decorated up your Easter canopy and greeted all our guests throughout the event and those in costume too! Thank you again for making this Easter so special for the kids and their families in our community. 91 Easter bags were handed out to children of all ages during this event with eight more bags given out to other families afterwards! You all just gave a new meaning to the word – "Volunteering!" May you be blessed a hundred fold!

If you didn't have a chance to come by, you can view Valley's Easter Egg Drive-Thru Event by using the following video link: <https://www.magisto.com/video/IVMXOF5XBWwyVRJpYw?l=vsm&o=w&c=c>. I'd like to give a shout out to the ones who seemed to dodge the cameras so well! Diane Bentz, Lynn Fowler, Evan Martin, and Brad Carlson! I look forward to seeing you all again next year. Enjoy the video!



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



White Easter Dossal

Easter was celebrated on April 4 in remembrance of Christ's resurrection. The sanctuary paraments were changed to white for the 50 days of Easter, which will end on Pentecost.

This year a new white chancel dossal was created to hang behind the cross in honor and fond memory of Jini DeVries. Karen Sandberg and Fran Searce cut and sewed the 40 yards of fabric required. They also oversaw the installation team of Karen and Larry Yakymi, Steve Reese, Carol Powers, and Ruthann and David Marquis. The dossal material was gathered on a rod and hoisted over 25 feet using preinstalled ropes and pulleys. Special thanks to Larry for climbing to the cross-arm and positioning the dossal behind the cross. Butterfly banners, white paraments and commemorative lilies were added.

At the end of May, following Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, June will return to Ordinary Time with the green dossal and paraments.





Youth Group Meeting Dates:

May 16 and May 23, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

(dates are tentative due to the need to schedule volunteers to lead each group meeting)

Youth Calendar:

Graduate Sunday, May 16

Confirmation Sunday, May 23

Summer Youth Trips:

High School - July 27-29. White Water Rafting Trip in Maupin, OR. Two nights of camping and rafting down the beautiful Deschutes river.

Middle School - August 9-11. Oregon Coast Beach Trip! Sun, sand, s'mores and lots of fun! We will stay at Roger and Cheryl Rees' beach home across from Beverly Beach.

More details soon on both trips. Questions? Contact Karen at yaklaka@aol.com.

Congratulations 2021 Graduates!

On May 16, we will have the opportunity to honor our graduating class of 2021 as they end one stage of life and begin their journey to the next. Six of Valley's high school graduates, Jacque Rheingans, Olivia Hoffbeck, Kate Towner, Dylan Blair, Justin Lee, and Troy Green, will receive a special gift from the Holy Nine Patch Quilters. Celebrate with us during Sunday worship where we will be able to give all graduates our blessings and well wishes.

Here are some more 2021 graduates of Valley friends and families:

- ◆ Carson Kopetz is graduating from Lincoln High School and will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall. He is the son of Chase and Kim Kopetz.
- ◆ Elizabeth "Lizzy" Gazeley is graduating from Whitman College in May. She will have a major in Environmental Politics and a minor in Music. (Fun fact - her interest in trained singing began with Amy at Valley!) She is the granddaughter of Rich Page.
- ◆ Paige Edwards is graduating from Sammamish High School in Bellevue, WA and will be attending University of California in San Diego. She is the granddaughter of Marilyn Farrier.



Prayer Shawl Ministry Celebrates 16 Years!



The month of May holds a special anniversary at Valley. The Prayer Shawl Ministry celebrates 16 years of making and giving special handmade tangible cloaks of love to those experiencing both times of emotional and physical need, as well as occasions filled with joy.

Valley's Prayer Shawl Ministry has faithfully been led by Marilyn Tuffs and Ruthann Marquis for these past 16 years and as many as 30 knitters and crocheters have shared their time, their talents and their yarn to produce over 1,000 colorful shawls that have graced the shoulders of our church's members and friends, both near and far.

With a closet full of prayer shawls, please know that this ministry area would love to share one with anyone that could benefit from the warm and loving hug that these shawls offer. Please contact Ruthann Marquis or the church office to let us know how we can get one to that special someone in your life.

Second Home Gift Baskets



Easter Gift Baskets put together for Second Home students.

We want to send a huge thank you for your generous contributions and support of Annika Carlson's Valley Confirmation project.

The Second Home staff delivered our spring gift baskets to seven very appreciative students just before Easter. For at least one of these students, this was the first Easter basket they had ever received.

With your donations, we were able to give each student a Target gift card in the amount of \$115.00, a gift card to Olive Garden, sunglasses and many Easter treats. We hope that each student felt important and cared for. Thank you again for your support and your gift for these students!

With sincere gratitude,
Annika Carlson
Anne Scarce

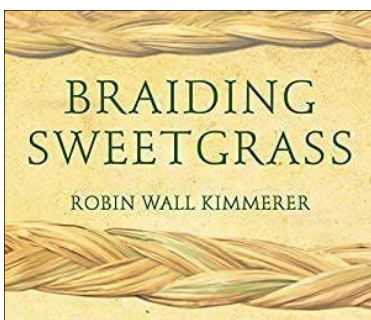


Baskets were filled with goodies!

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Valley Book Group



As they have doing since the COVID shutdown, the Valley Book Group will be meeting via Zoom on the fourth Friday of the month. On May 28, the meeting will be held at 10:00 to discuss Braiding Sweetgrass - Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants, written by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This non-fiction work captures the reverence between Native Americans and the earth, a relationship that our world still needs to survive. If you have not attended in the past but would like to join us on this journey of celebration of our reciprocal interaction with our environment, 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.

Online Gala for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon



On May 19 at 7:00 p.m., Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will present an on-line gala titled “Light in the Tunnel: Stories of hope and resilience from Oregon’s faith community.” This free event focuses on simple stories of people helping one another, the remarkable stories of Oregonians living their values and serving their neighbors. The event will inspire and encourage while offering the opportunity to financially support the ongoing work of EMO in direct service programs, advocacy, education and unity building. EMO’s “Ecumenists of the Year,” Randy and Edith Woodley, will be honored.

Register at [“emoregon.org/event/spring-event”](http://emoregon.org/event/spring-event). For answers to questions, contact emo@emoregon.org or call 503.221.1054

Pentecost Offering Supports Outreach to Children, Teens, and Young Adults



On May 23 the church celebrates Pentecost, which commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. The Pentecost Offering is one of four special offerings our denomination collects during each year. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, we are

nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come – children, youth, and young adults.

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. This foundation helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering collected by Valley Community Presbyterian Church stays with our congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our church and community. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. Another twenty-five percent of our offering supports Ministries with Youth, to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God’s word. The remaining ten percent is devoted to children at risk, to improve education and provide safe havens. Please give generously!

Valley’s Easter Basket Donation to New Narratives

Thank you to all our Valley members and friends who helped bake cookies for our Easter Basket donation to four of the New Narratives Residences. And thank you to those who said they would bake, but couldn’t this time around. We collected and assembled four goodie baskets for the residents to share in the joy of Easter. Each basket contained activities, candy and cookies to decorate.

Thanks again,
Andrea & Christine



Note from St. Matthew Lutheran Pantry



Please thank your congregation for your wonderful food drive donations to the Saint Matthew Lutheran Pantry. Since January your food drives have brought in 2585 lbs. of food. This is such an amazing gift! All the food will go to help low income families and people who have lost jobs in our community.

We are so grateful to have Valley Community Church as a partner church in our food ministry. Between 200 and 225 families receive food each month from the pantry. We have 5 one hour drive-in pantries each week, and we deliver to 12 shut-in families each week. Valley helps serve at 2 or 3 pantries each month as well as delivering food from your food drives. We also support the backpack food program for low income students at Raleigh Park Elementary School. This program started up again in January with 16 families. Teachers and other volunteers delivered to the families during school closures.

You are a vital part of our community's food ministry, and we appreciate all that you are doing to help our neighbors.

Thank you!

Carolyn Schell
Senior food buyer
St. Matthew Lutheran Pantry

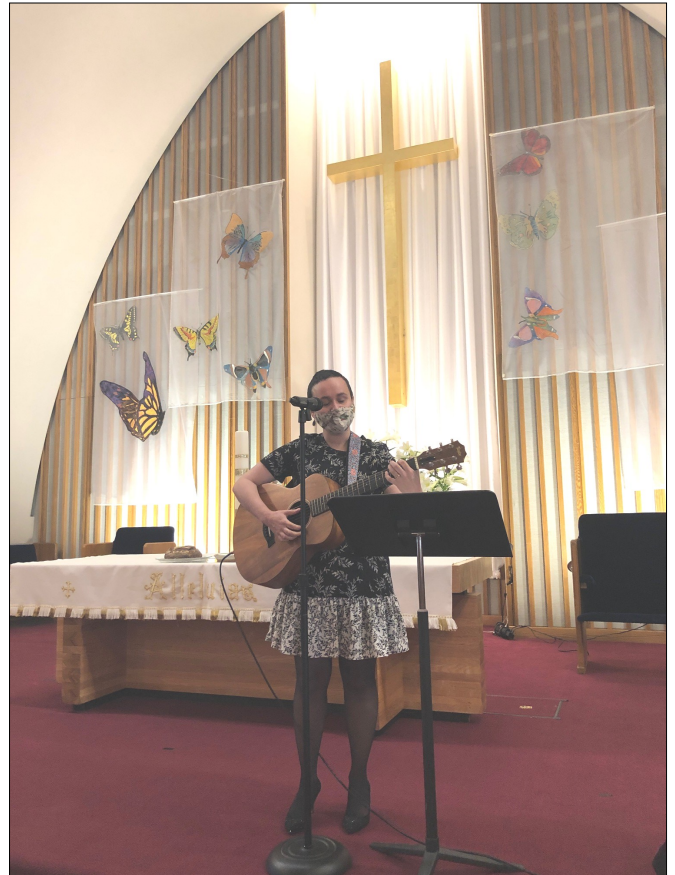
CROP Walk 2021



Thanks to all who walked on April 25 or made donations to Church World Services! We've collected \$1,409 towards our \$1,500 pledge... 91% of the way there! This site will remain open for a few more weeks: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/team-valley-presbyterian-portland-or>. The coronavirus is collapsing country economies all over the world, this is one small way we can help globally with 75% of what we collected going out into the world and 25% staying right here in the Portland area. Let's beat our goal!



Above: Thomas Rheingans, our new Director of Music Ministries, plays the grand piano during a recent worship service.



Right: Assistant to the Director of Music Ministries, Siena Hertafeld, leads the hymns during Sunday services.

Community Recycling Event (see p. 1)



Community Recycling Event (see p. 1)



Valley Notes

Opportunities

First and Third Thursday Non-Perishable and Styrofoam

Collection: Drop off your non-perishable food items along with your Styrofoam to be recycled on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Visit valleycommunity.org for more info.

Graduates in your family this Spring? Send the information to angie@valleycommunity.org or contact the church office, 503.292.3537, to be included in upcoming Messenger issues.

Sign up for our weekly e-blasts and monthly e-Messenger! You can sign up in the green box found in the bottom right corner of the front page of our website. Once you add your email address, you will begin to receive our Tuesday and Friday e-blast updates, which includes the sign up link to our in-person worship services, as well as the e-Messenger, our monthly newsletter.

Thank you

I wanted to send a special thank you to the Valley Community Choir members who blessed my new husband and I with such a wonderful gift! When travel restrictions are lifted, we would like to use the gift towards a honeymoon in Japan! Jardin and I have been so blessed by your love and support. I miss singing with you all on Sunday mornings and pray that you all stay healthy and well. For those who missed the livestream ceremony, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/HShLlBd393o>.

Much love and thanks,
Grace Skinner

Prayers

We pray for those who mourn:
- Carol Lind and family on the death of her husband, Bob Lind, on April 7, 2021.



Earth Care Corner

For May, I'd like to reflect on the chapter "Water and Climate" from Jane Fonda's book "What Can I Do? My Path from Climate Despair to Action." This element of our environment is basic to all life. Evidence of water, either current or ancient supplies, is the principal element that our space exploration teams are interested in identifying on other planets because its presence indicates that life is, or once was, possible.

Billions of people globally currently lack access to safe and clean water, and climate change will worsen that situation. The Northern Triangle in Latin America (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) is experiencing decades-long drought affecting the ability of indigenous people to sustain subsistence farming and forcing them into poverty in cities and to the U.S. border. Elsewhere in the world climate change is having similar effects, causing "climate refugees" in the thousands.

Currently, industrial and agricultural pollution and fracking use up water that can't be recovered for human consumption, and that risk the purity of aquifers. The U.N. estimates that half of our planet will lack access to clean water by 2050, and eighty percent of U.S. water managers anticipate water shortages by 2023.

Our water infrastructure is not built to handle the floods and droughts we're seeing. There's been depletion of groundwater in the southern Great Plains and the Southwest U.S., and intense rainfall and flooding in other areas overloads the water systems and causes sewage spills. Algal blooms in the Great Lakes and Florida lakes from fertilizer runoff give off toxins that poison those bodies of water.

What Can We Do?

- Avoid bottled water and ban its sale in public facilities. Plastic bottles of water contain many more microplastics than tap water, and use lots of petroleum products to transport them. Watch a YouTube video at "[youtube.com/watch?v=Se12y9hSOM0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se12y9hSOM0)"
- Protect wetlands
- Study "Blue Communities Projects" to protect and promote water as a human right and a public trust.

Connie Brenner
Earth Care Team Member



THE MESSENGER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Join us for in-person Sunday worship!

We are pleased to announce that Session has approved in-person Sunday worship for a maximum of 40 people each week. We will continue to livestream our Sunday worship on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/>.

Each week, congregants can reserve a seat by registering for that Sunday's worship service through the link found in our Tuesday and Friday eblasts. Sign up on the front page of our website to receive our weekly eblasts.

Registration will open each Tuesday at noon and end Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or until the 40 slots are filled. Sign ups are first come, first served. Social distancing will be maintained and masks will be required the entire time the congregants are in the church building. For those needing wheelchair seating, it must be requested at the time of registration by adding a comment to your online registration or by mentioning it when calling.