


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church August 2021

Sundays at Valley

In-person worship at 10:00 a.m. and online at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/> Click videos on the left side.

August

1 Communion

8 Youth Musical, 10:00 a.m.

15 Cents-Ability Offering
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.

22 Outdoor Worship, 10:00 a.m.

29

September

5 Communion



Masks and Social Distancing at Valley

The CDC and OHA have recently recommended that everyone wear masks and social distance regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. Valley's Virus Task Force is recommending that we follow that policy while inside the church building. Here is a personal statement from Valley member, Debbie Purcell, to help people understand why masking is important:

WHY WEAR A MASK IN CHURCH?

Why will I wear a mask in the church building? Why are we recommending our entire congregation resume masking? For many people it is irritating and confusing to be asked to wear a mask again, so I will explain why it is important.

This spring we were told that if we were fully vaccinated against COVID 19 we could go without masks. On June 30 we were told that even if we were not vaccinated, masks were not mandated (but they were strongly encouraged). This was based on the data at that time which showed that it was very unlikely for vaccinated individuals to spread the virus if they got a breakthrough asymptomatic infection. Also, the rate of COVID 19 cases was declining at that time.

So why did the CDC and OHA reverse course and recommend that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks in public spaces on July 26? A huge reason is the current rapid surge of COVID 19 infections and hospitalizations, plus the fact that the delta variant accounts for 80% of the cases. The delta variant is much more contagious than the prior alpha variant, and recent studies show that a fully vaccinated individual can become infected with the delta variant and have no symptoms of COVID but still spread the virus to others. To me, this one fact is a game-changer.

It is important to understand that older individuals, especially 85 plus years old, are more susceptible to becoming infected and becoming very ill with COVID 19, even if they are fully vaccinated, because they may not produce an optimum antibody level after receiving the vaccine, and the level may further diminish over time. This data came out of a recent study of post-vaccine antibody levels from OHSU. This does not diminish the importance for all individuals, including the older ones, to receive the vaccine as the best available protection against hospitalization and death.

I love singing in church, and I love singing in our church choir and projecting my voice. Recently I have been doing so without a mask. Now that I have fully considered all the above, I no longer feel that I should be singing without a mask, unless I am outside, even though I have been fully vaccinated. I want to be protective of the older folks and young kids in our congregation who cannot yet be vaccinated.

Deborah "Debbie" Purcell MD

A Pastor's Life: Office Days



Rev. Jeff Binder

What does a pastor do at the church office? I remember having a conversation as a first-time pastor with an older, wiser, colleague in ministry. I was telling him about my first years of ordained ministry, and what my schedule looked like. Yes, I took Fridays and Saturdays off as my weekend. I was sure to take necessary time off during the day when I had scheduled evening meetings. And then I said something along the lines of, "...and I'd be so much more productive at the office if I didn't keep on getting distracted by everyone and everything going on around the church!" The older pastor looked at me with a smile and responded, "Well, perhaps those distractions are the very ministry you are being called into."

So what happens at the office Sunday through Thursday for your pastor? Well, lots of things, including plenty of e-mails, an impressive amount of meetings, some personal study time, but mostly lots of Spirit-inspired distractions! (And if you think I get distracted, just imagine how many more the rest of the office staff gets!) In all seriousness, working in the office is a time for staff to interact face-to-face; an all-too-forgotten joyful experience these days. I love to see church members and friends pop in to say hello as they are starting a new project at church, or just simply in the neighborhood. Should anyone wish to see me in person, my office door is generally always open for a life-giving distraction.

The pandemic has brought with it some new realizations for our office presence throughout the week. As many people discovered, there are certain advantages to working from home some days as well. For me, this is where I generally find the quiet space and time for my sermon preparation and creative writing (like this article). However, we as a staff understand the importance of a church office being open and available for those personal encounters (with or without an appointment!). That being said, our staff has pledged to have the office hours available just as before; however, some of the staff may be working from home on a given day. Wondering when certain people are in the office? Just reach out! In my case, I try to have regular office hours Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Even in these changing times when more and more options present themselves on how to be church in the 21st Century, I am reminded of the smile and wisdom of that pastor: sometimes our distractions in life are the very opportunities for ministry we have been called by Jesus to share in.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Please note: the church office will be closed on Fridays in August.

THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR
JEFF BINDER

NEWSLETTER STAFF:
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

August Birthdays

Karen Acker	Jeff Denson	Harry Reeder
Mary Albrecht	Arielle Elisara	Roger Rees
Paige Bedsaul	Ashley Elisara	Max Russell
Diane Benz	Anne Foster	Mike Smyth
Megan Bootsma	Lynne Fowler	Margaret Triplett
Liz Boyle	Anthony Graham	Gaylen Uecker
Roy Conner	Judy Huddleston	Ginny Vaughan
Valerie Conner	Allison Kurtz	Janice Viestenz
Katie Craig	Ruthann Marquis	
Anne De Vries	Phil Miller	

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



Together Women Rise



At our August meeting we will be learning about yet another worthy nonprofit that supports women and girls in underserved areas around the world. This month's featured grantee is DREAM in the Dominican Republic. The specific program that Together Women Rise grants funds to is Implementation of the Única Girls Empowerment Mobile Application.

The purpose of this project is to successfully implement and monitor the new Única App, for adolescent girls (ages 12 to 18) and women. The Única program seeks to dismantle traditional gender norms and develop girls' and women's skills in leadership, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication. This project will improve knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, equip women and girls with skills to make healthy decisions, and foster gender-equitable attitudes. This culturally-relevant, digital curriculum will improve accessibility across DREAM's partner communities throughout the Dominican Republic in order to shift attitudes and bring about cultural change.

DREAM sought the participation of youth in developing the audio and video content for their mobile app to be accessed by a diverse audience using different modalities. The topics and information covered are current, timely, and at times include taboo topics that communities find hard to discuss openly. In the present climate of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a safe space for girls to learn and interact privately and independently.

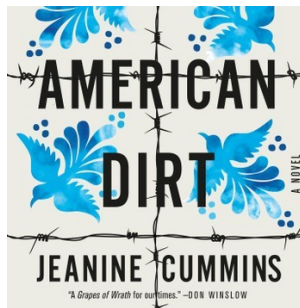
Come join us in-person on Sunday August 15 at 11:30 a.m. following worship to learn more about DREAM and how your donations contribute to the efforts that Together Women Rise makes toward gender equity.

Valley Produce Table

This summer's Produce Table is off to a good start! Crispy green things have covered the table and generous donations have filled the jar. August is certain to be a great growing month so please share some of the goodies from your garden. All monetary donations go to the Oregon Food Bank to ease food insecurity for our fellow Oregonians, so even if you don't find something on the table feel free to drop in a bill or two—it all goes toward good.

Also, if you have clean plastic bags that can be used at the table for members and friends to take their produce home, that would be appreciated. That can certainly be a way to re-use them and avoid the "single use plastic syndrome."

Book Group to Meet July 23



The Valley Book Group meets in the Fireside Room on the fourth Friday of the month. On August 27, 2021, the meeting will be held at 10:00 to discuss American Dirt, written by Jeanine Cummings. This novel tells the story of the arduous journey of a mother and son who are fleeing the violence of Central America. Their goal is reaching America via Mexico. If you have not attended in the past but would like to

join us in the discussion of this disturbing novel based on the real life experience of migrants, 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.



Valley Youth News

Summer fun hanging out with friends! Save these dates!

Monday, August 9-11 - Middle School beach trip at the Rees' home in Beverly Beach. Beach B-Attitudes, surf, sand, s'mores, and lots of fun!

August youth hike - Date to be announced. Plan to spend some fellowship time outdoors with flora, fauna, and friends. Check your emails and texts for details coming in the near future.



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 Sanctuary Choir to Resume



Plans are well underway for the resumption of the Valley Sanctuary Choir. If you have been attending the service, or watching the livestream, you have already seen our new vocal leader and Assistant Music Director, Siena Hertafeld. Siena will be conducting the choir and Thomas Rheingans, Music Director, will be serving as the pianist/organist for the choir. While we will maintain some of the choir's old favorites, we plan to do a significant amount of new music, including traditional, classical, spirituals, gospel, and contemporary Christian music.

We will resume practice Thursday, September 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. First choir performance will be Kick-off Sunday, September 12! It will be an exciting time to join together in song and a great time to welcome in new members to the choir. Contact Thomas Rheingans at thomas@valleycommunity.org for more information or to join the choir!

High School Youth Trip

Valley's High School youth enjoyed a White Water Rafting Trip in Maupin, OR in July. They camped and rafted down the beautiful Deschutes River. Even Pastor Jeff joined them for one of their rafting excursions:



Valley Notes

Opportunities

First and Third Thursday Non-Perishable and Syrofoam Collection: Mark your calendars for August 5 and 19 when you will find Andrea Murdoch in the back parking lot from 10:00-11:30 a.m. collecting food for the St. Matthew's Food Pantry. Items needed are cereal, school snacks, frozen chicken pieces, fresh fruit and veggies, snack drinks... we are gearing up for the start of the school year. Smaller sizes are always better than large/giant items. Thank you for your contributions, so far this year we have collected over 3,200 lbs of food! See you Thursday!

Cents-Ability Offering will be collected on August 15 during our Sunday, 10:00 a.m. service. Your change goes to help Care to Share here in Washington County and the PCUSA hunger programs. Thank you for your support!

The Habitat Faith Relations Committee has begun meeting and Valley needs someone to be on this committee. If you would like to serve on this committee, contact Chuck Falconer at chuckf@clankeith.com or 503.645.3318 and he will tell you who to contact to take part.

Save the date! Jane Kirkpatrick will speak at the Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering on October 16, 2021. Details will be provided later for this exciting opportunity.

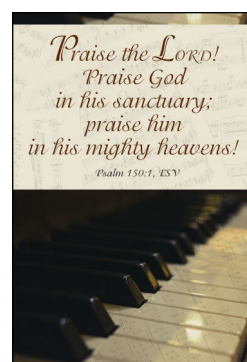
Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:
Helen Green, Judy David-Hope

We pray for those who mourn:
- Anne Foster and family of Brian Foster who died July 2, 2021. A memorial service will be held in September. More info to come.

Steinway Piano Moved to Chancel

Valley's beautiful Steinway grand piano has been moved up to the chancel area and has received new hammers and a tune up. Come to in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. or watch online as Music Director, Thomas Rheingans, along with Assistant Music Director, Siena Hertafeld, fill the sanctuary with beautiful music.



Above and right: Professional piano movers carefully loaded the Steinway onto a dolly and pushed it up a ramp to its current location on the Chancel.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Outdoor Worship at Valley on August 22!



The Oak Street Ramblers, will be coming to Valley for an outdoor service on
Sunday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m.



Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy bluegrass music on the front lawn.
Invite your friends and neighbors to worship and fellowship with us!