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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church September 2021

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## 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.

## September

**5** Communion

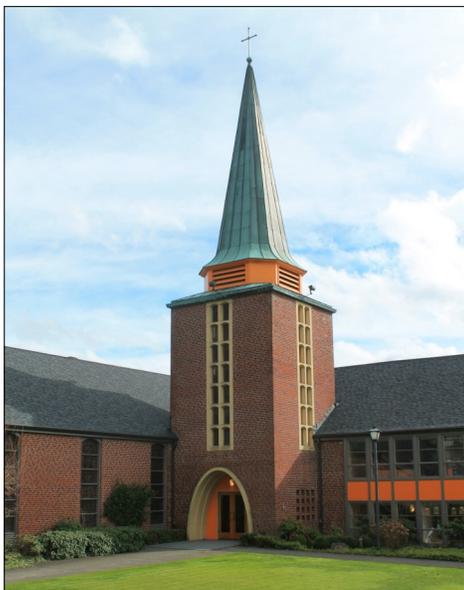
**12** Congregational Meeting,  
11:00 a.m.

**19** Blessing of the Pets/Outdoor  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Cents-Ability Offering  
Together Women Rise,  
11:30 a.m.

**26**

## October

**3** Communion



## Blessing of the Pets and More!



All furry, feathered, and scaly animal friends and their owners are invited to the annual Blessing of the Pets service on the front lawn on Sunday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m. The Oak Street Ramblers will provide special music. There will be a pet parade where people can introduce their pets and receive a blessing from Pastor Jeff. Feel free to post photos and videos of your pets on our Facebook page. Family, friends, and neighbors are invited to this time of fellowship and opportunity to thank the Lord for our animal companions past and present.

## Community Recycling Event Oct. 2

Back by popular demand, the Earth Care Team at Valley is planning our next Community Recycling Event on Saturday October 2 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The event in April was *wildly* successful and saved mountains of items from being dumped in the landfill by responsibly recycling and reusing them.

There will be several repeat community partners joining the event again; the list is currently being refined. Stay tuned for more specific information about organizations and detailed lists of accepted items in future communications, including Valley's website.

There is also a great need for helpers that day. Two hour shifts will be organized for the volunteer spots, in addition to assistance with set up and take down. When the request goes out asking for help, please raise your hand and say "I will be there. Count me in!" Valley's Earth Care Team thanks you!



**Save the date!**  
Movie night on September 18  
Outdoors in the courtyard  
Time and movie TBA



## A Pastor's Life: Pastoral Care



Rev. Jeff Binder

Here's something to think about: pastoral care doesn't always include a pastor! One of the joys of my job as your pastor is to offer pastoral care to members, friends, and acquaintances of this Valley Community. It is not always easy, but visiting with others is always ultimately fulfilling and rewarding. One of the privileges I have in this job is that families often will invite me into some of the most important parts of their lives. Some of those moments are happy: births, baptisms, marriages, etc. And still others are quite sad: divorces, illnesses, deaths, and more. In all of these occasions, I consider it a privilege to be trusted and invited into such life events and moments. Throughout the work week I am making phone calls, writing emails, personally visiting, and coordinating responses to those who desire a loving response from our faith community during a time of need in their lives.

But pastoral care is not just for pastors. In fact, it is physically impossible for one person as a pastor of a church to meet all of the pastoral needs of our entire community. On any given day there are dozens of people who need reminding of God's presence in their lives during such life moments, and so it becomes essential that the entire congregation take on the call to care for each other. Our church has formally enlisted the ministry of the Deacons to join in

the cause on this front. At any given day or time, our deacons are sending cards, making phone calls, providing hospitality, and caring for the needs of others. On top of this, there are even more small groups, members, and friends who informally offer pastoral care to those in need. Just think about it yourself: when was the last time you checked in on a neighbor, offered a helping hand, or even just listened to the thoughts of a friend or stranger? This is all pastoral care!

Pastoral care is not just for pastors; it is for the entire community of faith. Time and time again, I'm amazed at how loving this community can be toward one another and the world—this is one of the qualities that makes Valley Community who it is.

Here is my one request of you: if you are in need of care, or know anyone who might benefit from such an expression of love, please speak up and let us at the church know. It is impossible for us at the church to know all that is going on in everyone's life unless we hear from you. Especially during such times of distance and separation today, it is even more important to keep open the lines of communication so that we may be able to reach out in love.

Thank you all for allowing me the privilege of being present during such formative times. It truly is one of the best parts of being a pastor, and of being a Christian.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Please see page 4 for a pastoral announcement from Pastor Jeff.

### THE MESSENGER

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**PASTOR**  
JEFF BINDER

**NEWSLETTER STAFF:**  
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

## September Birthdays

Shirley Anderson	Don Giles	Steve Rees
Linda Armentrout	Richard Gold	Amy Rheingans
Wayne Boyle	Lars Hoffbeck	Ed Sanders
Tami Brester	Olivia Hoffbeck	Karen Smith
Karen Broome	Edie Leland	Jean Sowers
David Caputo	Jim McClean	Sophie Vermillion
Allison Baird Carlson	Karen Miller	Larry Yakymi
Cookie Clifford	Bob Peterson	

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



## Together Women Rise



Sierra Leone is the country where this month's featured grantee, **OneVillage Partners**, will receive September's grant money from Together Women Rise. The mission of the nonprofit organization is to be a catalyst of transformation in rural Africa.

The specific program that is being funded by a \$30,000 grant is Nurturing Opportunities for Women (NOW). This project addresses the

persistent challenges to women's financial literacy and empowerment, which are systemic and complex in Sierra Leone. The NOW Program uses an *entirely picture-based curriculum* to equip women with life skills and community development tools to take control of their financial position in the household, open a business, and engage in civic life. In addition to practical skills, participants learn communication skills to interact with spouses and male family members to achieve personal financial goals and to shift behaviors about gender roles in the home and in the community.

As always, members of Valley's Together Women Rise chapter learn eye-opening facts about life for women and girls in other areas of the world and make donations to support the work of the featured grantee to make tangible changes in their world.

Please join us for the September Together Women Rise on September 19, following worship that day, which will be an outdoor service for the Blessing of the Pets. Currently the meeting is being planned in a private home. If you are interested in being added to the evite invitation, please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.260.9464.

## Valley Produce Table

Valley's Produce Table has been overflowing so far with many sweet and savory items from members' gardens and the donation jar has been filling with donations. Thank you! All monetary donations will go to the Oregon Food Bank at the end of the growing season and will certainly help ease the way of our fellow Oregonians toward more nutritious and sustaining meals.

As the growing season peaks and the many gardens within our congregation yield the sweetest sun-kissed produce, please take a look every Sunday and see what you can gather from your plot to share on Valley's Produce Table.

For those that browse at the table discerning their selections, please give generously to the donation jar, knowing that your dollars will go far to help wipe out hunger in Oregon.



## Valley Book Group

The Valley Book Group will be meeting on Friday, September 24 to discuss *Caste* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Isabel Wilkerson. This best-selling non-fiction book compares the historical "caste systems" found in India, Nazi Germany and the U.S.A. Unless new state protocols are mandated, we will be meeting either on the patio outside the Fireside Room if the weather is warm (masking here is your choice) or in the Fireside Room if the weather is uncomfortable (here masks are required and no food is allowed). If you are not currently on the Book Group list, email Laura Sanders to have your name added to the list to get information on future book group meetings.

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Working in Haiti

The long-standing partnerships Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has maintained with help agencies in Haiti are in operation right now as Haiti struggles to recover from the August 14 devastating earthquake, quickly followed by a tropical storm. More than 2,000 lives have been lost, and many are left without shelter or any other resources. Working closely with Presbyterian World Mission, PDA's traditional partners on the scene, and ACT Alliance, PDA is responding to emergency needs such as water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency power generators, shelter, food, first aid and more.

We can contribute to PDA to help with this outreach by sending checks payable to Valley with the notation "OG100000-Haiti" on the memo line, or using the PDA button on Valley's on-line contribution page.



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](http://oga.pcusa.org/percapita)



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## Pastoral Announcement from Pastor Jeff

August 27, 2021

To the Beloved of Valley Community,

I am writing today with a variety of emotions to share with you that I am resigning as Pastor here at Valley Community Presbyterian Church. I have accepted a call to serve as an Interim Pastor with Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, West Virginia, where I expect to begin in October. This will be a time and space for me to be closer with family and friends in both Ohio and Virginia and to explore a new vocational direction as I continue to listen for God's ongoing call both personally and professionally. For those who have been part of the *Northern Exposure* community over the years, this will be my "Cicely" experience, where I will hopefully have the opportunity for respite and renewal in a small-town setting. I anticipate that my last Sunday with you all will be on September 26<sup>th</sup>, and my last day in office will be September 30<sup>th</sup>.

This has been a time of transition for many of us during these last few years. I am so grateful for all of the support and leadership from this congregation as we have navigated these uncertain times of pandemic; your fortitude and continuous support and generosity is astounding. Through all of this, Valley Community continues to be a place of welcome and love, and I am so thankful to be part of such experiences these past four years. More personally, both Julie and I have both been amazed with the outpouring of support from this community as we navigate our own personal transitions. Thank you for living into God's calling to witness time and time again with love and grace in the world.

So what happens next? Well, there are some logistical pieces that will occur. Session has voted to officially accept my resignation and for them to call a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 12 where you as the congregation will vote to officially dissolve our working relationship. In the following weeks, the Presbytery and the Committee on Ministry will work with Session to organize pastoral coverage until a transitional pastor can be hired. Through all of this, I am confident of the ongoing leadership of the Session and church leadership to move forward confidently with God's mission to our members, the community, and the world.

Thank you for your love and support. My time here as your pastor has been a true privilege. Each week I have been invited back to share God's words of hope and love with you in worship. Everyday families and individuals have invited me into their lives to share in moments and seasons of joy and sadness. The staff of this congregation is joy-filled and works and serves as a loving team. We have blessed animals, lit Christmas trees, welcomed the community into our lives and doors as we celebrated the turning of the seasons, laughed, cried, and worshiped the God of hope and resurrection. Thank you for inviting me into this family; it has truly been home to me.

While our formal time together is ending, I covet your prayers and support as I make this next transition in ministry, as I will likewise continue to pray for this community especially during this time of transition. You may experience this news just as I share it: with a variety of emotional responses, perhaps questions, and maybe some insights. I welcome conversation during my final weeks of ministry with you.

This is a moment for the Valley Community to step up once again, just as it has time and time again in its long history of ministry and mission. I have no doubt this will be the case: God to lead this congregation as children of the Covenant, each and every member of Valley Community as the loving hands and feet of Christ for the world.

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

## Season of Peace Begins September 5



Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), this month-long pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for all. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, imagination, and education. You can sign up to receive daily reflections on “A Season of Peace” that will be delivered to your inbox at “[www.pcusa.org/subscribe](http://www.pcusa.org/subscribe)”.

The Season of Peace culminates in the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering that will be received at Valley on October 3, which is World Communion Sunday. Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity. On World Communion Sunday we celebrate that Christ’s peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the communion table, in God’s house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God, with active peacemakers here at home and around the world. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith – a witness to what it means for us to be the Church together.

Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering our church is extending Christ’s peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world.

### Women’s Bible Study

Women’s Bible Study to go hybrid! It’s been difficult to know how to plan for the Women’s Bible study going forward, but apparently Valley is acquiring the technology to do a hybrid version – those who wish to meet in person can do so while sharing screens with those who’d prefer to stay home and participate via Zoom. The first step we need to take is to order the study books. This year’s study is “What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus.” Most of the names of Jesus’ progenitors listed in the first chapter of Matthew are those of his male ancestors. But there are five women listed. Why? And what can their stories tell us of what important contributions they made to Jesus’ heritage? The study books are \$10 each. Please call the church office before September 11 if you want one ordered for you. The study will begin during the second week of October, probably the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

### Siena Wins Songwriting Contest



Siena Hertafeld

On August 9, the Wisconsin-based Great River Folk Festival announced the winners of its annual songwriting contest, and our own Siena Hertafeld took the top spot. Siena (whose stage name is Siena Christie) received first place for her Celtic-inspired country-folk song “Dear Northland,” which she released earlier this year on her Bandcamp website. Siena has been singing and writing songs since she was a child, and while she has received

previous awards and recognition for her songs, this is her first time winning first place in a songwriting contest. She will travel to Lacrosse, WI to perform her piece at the 2022 Great River Folk Festival. To hear the song and other music by Siena, you can visit her Bandcamp website at [SienaChristie.bandcamp.com](https://SienaChristie.bandcamp.com).



### Gamble Library Re-opening



Valley’s Gamble Library will be officially re-opening after Labor Day, on Sunday, September 12. We’ll be open each Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Early Bird Coffee will come back, too, when pandemic procedures allow.

For 54 years, Valley’s library has been a wonderful resource for our congregation. It opened in 1967 with the completion of the east wing addition. The original collection belonged to Pastor Bill Gamble and was donated to Valley by him.

Today we have many different types of books, and also a collection of DVD’s. Yes, there are plenty of Bibles and books to help with bible study and growing in Christian faith. And there are also biographies, adult fiction, other non-fiction, and books for kids, both fiction and non-fiction.

Since spring your Library Committee has been busily working to inventory the collection, find missing books, and clean and organize both the library and the library office. One book that was returned had been checked out since 2008! It’s never too late to check your shelves to see if you can beat this date. It’s true that very little has been added to the collection recently. We hope to remedy that during the next year. But, as Ann Patchett reminds us, “Any book you haven’t read is still a new book.” We’re looking forward to seeing you soon in our library!

## Choirs for Children and Youth

Plans for children/youth choirs this fall are proceeding with safety precautions in place. The schedule will be as follows:

**Armonía (6th-12th grades)**  
Sundays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
beginning September 19  
Armitage Hall

**Cherubs (4 years-1st grade)**  
Wednesdays 5:00-5:45 p.m.  
beginning October 6  
Room 15

**Melodía (2nd-5th grades)**  
Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
beginning October 6  
Armitage Hall

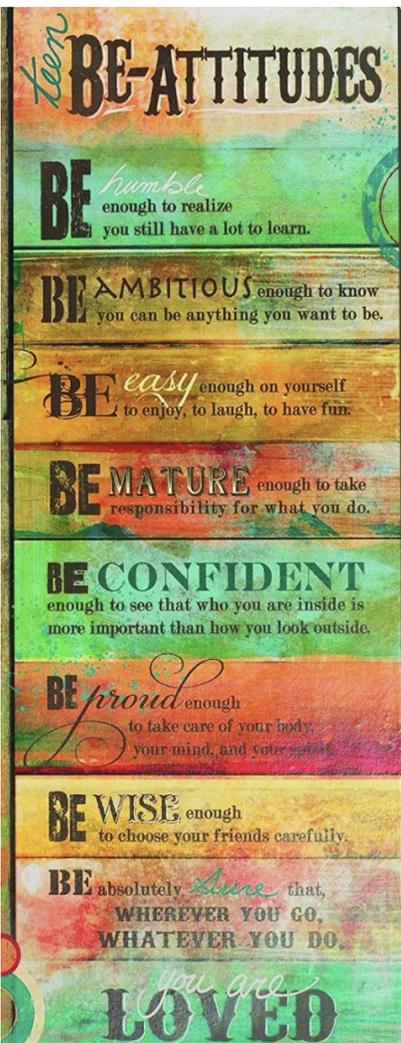
There will be many layers of safety precautions in place for choirs. All singers need to wear masks as well as adults who remain in the building. Singers will maintain three feet distance from each other. We will not sing for more than 30 minutes in one location. Doors and windows will be open to enhance air circulation. Both Melodía and Armonía will spend a portion of rehearsals in the choir room in order to maintain the 30-minute rule. Cherubs will remain in one room.

We recognize the ever-changing situation with COVID-19 and will adjust if necessary. Those who would like to join in later in the year should go ahead and register and just join when you/your child feels ready.

Registration can be completed at [valleyyouthchoirs.org](http://valleyyouthchoirs.org).

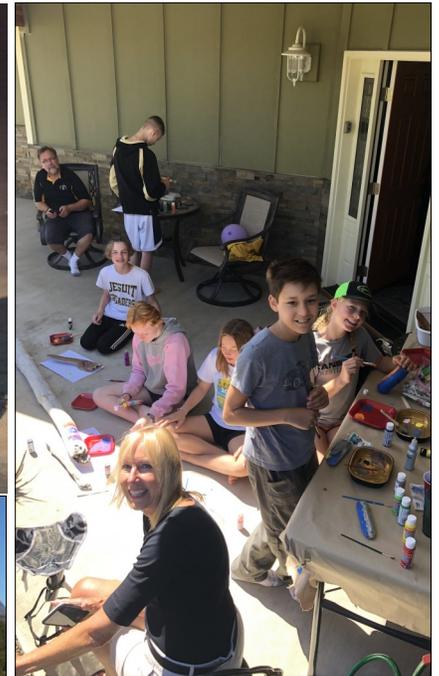
Please contact program director, Amy Rheingans, at [amy@valleycommunity.org](mailto:amy@valleycommunity.org) with any questions.

## Middle School Youth Learned the Teen Be-Attitudes



The Valley middle school youth group spent three sun filled days exploring the Oregon Coast. Our days were filled with great adventures, sandcastle building, hiking, jump waves, painting rocks and driftwood, competitive games of ping pong and corn hole! Watching the sun set, relaxing in the hot tub, perfectly roasted marshmallows for s'mores and lots of laughter filled our evenings.

On a blanket on the beach we discussed the Beatitudes. Teen Be-Attitudes are what we strive to live everyday. Check out the teen Be-Attitudes to the left.



A BIG thank you to Roger and Cheryl Rees who were gracious hosts as the middle school youth stayed at their home in Beverly Beach. A special thank you to youth leaders, Trent Sele and Karen Mitchell-Yakymi, for watching over our youth during this fun, bonding experience!



## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

#### Mission Endowment

**Applications Due October 1:** The Mission Committee meets in October and May to consider applications requesting funds for mission work. Committee members review applications from both organizations and individuals. Contact [missionendowment@valleycommunity.org](mailto:missionendowment@valleycommunity.org) or go to our website for a grant application.

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals** will resume Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Music Director, Thomas Rheingans, at [thomas@valleycommunity.org](mailto:thomas@valleycommunity.org) for more information or to sign up.

**Consider Joining Team Avery** to fundraise to help find a cure for childhood bone cancers. All you have to do is walk 37 miles over the month of September. Sam Day Foundation's 37-Day Challenge is the chosen organization. [Click here for the sign up link and date/time details of the kick-off on Sep. 11.](#)

### Prayers

*We pray for those with health concerns:*

Diane Koopman, Kathleen Hudlett, Richard Gold

*We pray for those who mourn:*

- Friends and family of Laura Evans who died August 24, 2021.
- Allison Baird Carlson and family on the death of her mother, Karen Baird, on August 16, 2021.
- Karen Smith, Joy McNeal, and Bill Kruchek on the death of their brother, Robert Keith Kruchek, on August 13, 2021.
- Friends and family of Emma White who died August 11, 2021.
- Anne Foster and family of Brian Foster who died July 2, 2021. A memorial service will be held on September 18 at 10:00 a.m. Memorials can be directed to the [Brian Foster Endowment at Portland's Fashion Institute's Foundation](#) or to Valley Church.

## Earth Care Corner

### Why I Care About Earth Care

By Carol Powers

Why care? I've decided that I need to take actions to help preserve this beautiful planet that God has given us so that our five grandchildren (and hopefully their grandchildren in the future) will have an abundant and sustainable earth to live on. They're my "why."

The science is settled! No, the science is unsettled! They're arguing about that in opinion pieces in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal. Guess who's on which side? There's one thing I know for sure. Each of us gets up in the morning and needs to make decisions with incomplete information. But decide we must.

What should I do? Whether the science is settled or not, I think there's no downside to acting as if the environmental worst case scenario is true. When I think about it, I like the idea of being intentional about purchases and using durable rather than disposable items. After all, if it goes to a landfill it's still here taking up space in our world even if it's not in my house anymore.

How? What changes have I made? To be honest, not nearly enough. I've been a recycler since the first Earth Day in 1970, when I was in college. It didn't seem hard to save tin cans, glass, and cardboard and take them to a collection point each month. It's much easier now with curbside, and improvements continue. More recently, I've been working to minimize plastic. I'd recommend trying out "Plastic Free July" or something similar. I did that a couple years ago and it helped me to pay attention to how much single use plastic I consumed. It's interesting to stand in the grocery store and figure out how to get olives from the olive bar without a plastic container. (Answer: paper soup cup and lid!) I'm better now, but still not as good as I want to be. A few specifics:

- We have reusable silicone covers for bowls, which I use consistently
- I rarely use plastic bags for leftovers; they're stored in reusable containers
- Our reusable shopping bags stay in the car and I almost always remember to use them now! Alas, they rode around in the car for a long time before I'd remember to actually take them in.
- I have reusable produce bags, but somehow can't quite seem to get them where they need to be to actually use them
- We're attempting to eat vegetarian at least once a week. Many weeks we succeed!
- We still have gas vehicles, though. I'm thinking about a plug in hybrid – maybe soon.
- Solar panels? Not yet. I think it's time to do more research on this one.

Being a part of the Earth Care Team at Valley has been a great experience because it helps me stay focused on the issues and potential new ways to make a difference. Please consider what changes you might want to make for the sake of our earth, our shared home.

THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



# American Red Cross

*Together, we can save a life*

The Red Cross Blood Drive  
Wednesday, September 22 from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Contact Jim Sandberg or Karen Miller for more information or to sign up.