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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church

November 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.

## November

**7** All Saints' Sunday  
Communion  
Daylight Saving Time Ends

**14** Kirkin' o' the Tartan  
Mission Market, 11:00 a.m.

**21** Pledge Sunday  
Christ the King Sunday  
Cents-Ability Offering  
Together Women Rise,  
11:30 a.m.

**28** First Day of Advent  
The Rev. Robin Garvin to Preach

## December

**5** Second Sunday of Advent  
Communion



## Rev. Robin Garvin to serve as Interim Pastor



*The Rev. Robin Garvin*

excited to see what God will do here at Valley through her transitional ministry with us.

Since there is nearly a month before Robin will start we are pleased that The Rev. Jennifer Ackerman has agreed to serve as our bridge pastor. She will be with us for four Sundays, October 31 and November 7, 14, and 21. She's already preached on Sunday, October 3. Presbytery has appointed her as temporary moderator of our session. She will also be available for emergency pastoral care during this time. Jennifer is the Director of Brehm Preaching at Fuller Seminary. We are so grateful to her for bridging us through this next month.

There's so much jargon and so many acronyms related to calling Presbyterian pastors that it can get confusing. The Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) is not a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The IPSC was appointed by the session and its job is now complete. It will be a PNC's job to eventually call a permanent pastor. Members of the PNC will be elected by the congregation. The work of identifying PNC candidates is typically done by our Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC), which is the group that also nominates candidates to be elders and deacons. After Robin is here discussions will begin about this process.

People often ask how long our interim pastor will be with us. While we can't say for sure, it's typical for this period to be at least a year. Our covenant with Robin is for an initial period of a year and can be extended for up to one additional year if agreed to by Robin, the session, and our Presbytery.

Thank you to the Interim Pastor Search Committee for their diligent work to get us to this milestone. Committee members are Jan Bellis-Squires, Brad Carlson, Amy Dee, Ann Johnson, and Carol Powers.

## Sermon Series: WHAT IS TRUTH?

In the scripture passage, John 18:37, Jesus declares to Pilate, “I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice,” to which Pilate replies, “What is truth?” Over the next four weeks, the Rev. Jennifer Ackerman will lead us in a sermon series exploring this question that is as timely today as it was 2000 years ago.

- October 31:** *What Is Truth? It's Bloody.*  
Hebrews 9:11–14; Mark 12:28–34
- November 7:** *What Is Truth? It's the Beginning AND the End*  
Revelation 21:1–6a
- November 14:** *What Is Truth? It's the Beginning OF the End*  
Mark 13:1–8
- November 21:** *What Is Truth? It's Out of This World*  
John 18:33–38a



### Other Important November Dates/Events to Remember

- ◆ **November 7:** All Saints' Sunday - We remember loved ones who have died in the past year by reading their names during worship.  
Daylight Saving Time Ends - Remember to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday night.
- ◆ **November 14:** Kirkin' o' the Tartan - We celebrate our Presbyterian Scottish heritage during worship with bagpipes, tartans, Celtic dancers, and special music. Wear your tartans!  
Mission Market - Learn about organizations supported by Valley. See p. 5 for more information.
- ◆ **November 21:** Christ the King Sunday - Celebrated on the last Sunday of Ordinary time, before the beginning of Advent that starts the new Church Year.  
Pledge Sunday - Bring the pledge card that you will be receiving in the mail soon, to worship and deposit them in the Joash chest. A drive through will also be offered in the East parking lot, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ **November 28:** The first Sunday of Advent and when the Rev. Robin Garvin, Valley's Interim Pastor, begins.

#### THE MESSENGER

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**NEWSLETTER STAFF:**  
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

### November Birthdays

Dick Adkins	Nathan Graham
Courtney Bird	Aaron Jenkins
Dean Bridges	Ruthanne Keim
Eric Browning	Hyeyeon Kim
Nick Browning	Jamie Martchenke
Annika Carlson	Holly Rea
Christine Danner	David Sanderman
Shon De Vries	Dorothy Schumacher
Taryn Dee	

Happy birthday to all those born in November! 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 at Valley will again meet on Zoom for our November meeting on Sunday November 21 at 11:30 a.m. This month we will learn about and support the grant request for Sunsar Maya in Nepal for their program entitled: SuMa Women's Literacy: Educating and Empowering for Change. This program was piloted in 2016 and has been going strong since 2017, now

having expanded to another community center.

The women and girls in the Sunsar Maya community face challenges such as high dropout rates, high poverty and income inequality, cultural and caste barriers, early marriage, and pregnancy. The project teaches women conversational and written English, Nepali, mathematics, and life skills. By using role play and experiential learning, this project provides women with the education and support they need to transform their lives and build pathways out of poverty.

Please join us on Sunday, November 21 to learn more about this fascinating country and this impactful program. If you would like to be added to the invite list for this meeting, please contact Ruthann Marquis.

## Valley Produce Table



All good things might come to an end! Such is the case for Valley's Produce Table. After a successful season of growing, giving, taking and donating the table is closed until next Spring.

Thank you to everyone that helped fill its surface week after week with garden gems, as well as to all that made monetary donations in gratitude for what you found appealing and took home for a later meal.

Valley will help ease the way of others in our state that are experiencing food insecurity by sending a check for \$342.50 to the Oregon Food Bank. This represents the total amount in donations that were collected. Thank you!

## Recycling Event a Success!

Valley's Third Community Recycling Event on Saturday, October 2 was a great success! Although much smaller by contrast to the previous one in April, there was a slow and steady flow of cars coming through, totaling around 125.

The volunteers and our community partners made it easy for our guests to unload their items and to find the right place for them to go. In addition to the entire Earth Care Team that was on hand to help, there were 20 other Valley members and friends that came out to support this earth friendly event. We could not have done this without you! Thanks!

Save the date for our next event on April 23, 2022. We hope to partner with the Raleigh Hills Business Association on the same day as we offer our event in the TriMet lot and support their event, which is typically held in a nearby location. Stay tuned!

## Valley Book Group

The Valley Book Group traditionally avoids the holidays by combining the November and December meetings. We will be meeting on December 10 in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. Both Zoom and in-person options will be available.

The book being discussed is When We Were Young and Brave by Hazel Gaynor. This novel tells a story of courage and strength and the heroic spirit in each of us. It takes place in China during WWII and is inspired by true events surrounding the Japanese Army's internment of teachers and children from a British-run missionary school.

If you have not attended in the past but would like to join us in the discussion of this uplifting novel based on real life experience, 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.



*Steve Rees, Roger Rees, and Dan Rueff (along with Yvonne Rees who took the photo) are members of the ever faithful AV team every Sunday morning.*



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)



## Fall Festival Thank You



The Children's Ministries would like to thank all the volunteers that made this year's drive through Fall Festival possible. They include the Scout Troop 592 and their leaders, the Earth Care team, the Fellowship team, the Valley Youth, our greeter Andrea Murdoch, Lizz Brown and Mad Science, the Sanderman family, Donna and Brad Carlson, Evan Martin, Terri Vermillion, David Marquis, Amy Rheingans, Alan Hubbard, Glenys and Katie Craig, and Diane and Claire Benz. Thanks also to Angie who printed fliers and many other things as soon as it was requested.

"Many hands make light work" was certainly true as we prepared for this. We are blessed to have so many of you step in to lend a hand to make this a successful event. Thank you all for your help.

## Mission House

*By Debbie Purcell*

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is embarking on an exciting project in collaboration with LCSNW (Lutheran Community Services of the Northwest). LCSNW has a long history of helping refugees settle in Portland and other cities such as Seattle and Vancouver. The most pressing need they are currently addressing is the large number of refugees who have arrived from Afghanistan. After the departure of the US military from Afghanistan and the return of the Taliban, approximately 65,000 Afghans were evacuated and placed on US military bases. They have received their medical screenings, COVID vaccinations, and security vetting, and are coming to various cities around the US. Portland has already started to receive some of the 180 people which are slated to come to Portland between October and December of this year, with more to come in 2022. We are thrilled to be able to welcome one of these Afghan families as early as November 1, 2021.

We feel secure in our partnership with LCSNW. LCSNW will provide many supports to the refugees. Each refugee will be assigned a case worker who will ensure that they apply for the government programs that they will need. They will be given help with English language learning, cultural adjustment, and assistance with finding and applying for jobs. But the enthusiastic volunteers at Valley will serve an equally, if not more important role. We will be the friendly faces that welcome them to their new home. We will be the ones that will establish relationships to help them settle into a new culture. We will help provide some of their transportation needs. We will furnish the home and supply household items and foods. We will help provide a culturally appropriate first warm meal.

We are planning for a family to spend 3-6 months in our home, but possibly up to a year. We may take other families after the first one, becoming providers of an ongoing Mission House. We pray that God will supply the guidance going forward. (See p. 5 for item donation information)

## Valley Soup Kitchen



It is time to start thinking about the 2022 Soup Kitchen Service. VCPC provides a meal the third Thursday of the month to men at the Bud Clark Commons, 665 NW Hoyt Street, Portland, OR. We are looking for someone or a group to provide the meal starting January 2022. Valley has partnered with Portland's Transition Projects for thirty-one years, let's keep the tradition alive.

Here is the general information regarding the responsibilities:

- Preparing a meal for 45 men, entree, salad and milk. New Seasons provides bread products.
- Groups are responsible for covering the cost of the meals.
- Valley kitchen is not available. Volunteers need to prepare the meal in their own kitchen or purchase the meal.
- The meal is dropped off to Bud Clark Commons, **but not served.**

Step by Step guidelines are available to anyone who would like the document. Thank you to all the individuals and groups that have provided a meal during 2021.

If interested, please contact Mary Kay Rodman: [mkrodman@comcast.net](mailto:mkrodman@comcast.net)

## Do You Know About EMO?

### ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES of OREGON

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations (including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies), congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners. Through community ministry, public policy advocacy, theological education and dialogue and environmental ministry, EMO participates in the collective task of building a just and compassionate world for all people.

EMO provides basic needs in the form of food through the food pantry at the Northeast Emergency Food Program, fellowship and meals at the HIV Day Center, and meals provided through Daily Bread Express. Over 25,000 refugees and immigrants have been helped to resettle by Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) and by SOAR Immigration Legal Services over the past 40 years. Home providers have been recruited to provide housing for Second Home and Metro HomeShare. EMO develops and distributes Voters' Guides for Oregon Ballot Measures, and provides information about Environmental Justice and consults with Green Teams in faith communities.

A small booklet has been developed and distributed by EMO to describe their programs, and copies of it are available in the church office if you are interested in this important outreach in our State, supported by our denomination.

## PW Virtual Fall Gathering



On Saturday, October 16, Presbyterian Women of the Cascades held their Fall Gathering in a Zoom meeting, with the theme "Telling Our Stories." Jane Kirkpatrick, popular author of many books telling the stories of women settling the West, was the keynote speaker. Some of her books' subjects were real people, and some fictional, but all had obstacles to overcome in their journeys. She shared her process with the PW group, and invited us to write something in the course of the meeting. If you are interested in participating in the gathering (virtually, of course) you can find it on-line at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h2eHJlhJpw>.

## Children & Youth Choirs

Valley Community Youth Choirs

Choirs include:

- **Cherub Choir** (age 4-1st grade) Begins November 3, 5:00 p.m.
- **Melodia** (2nd-5th grade) Begins November 3, 5:00 p.m.
- **Armonia** (6th-12th grade) Began September 19. Registration remains open.

Covid safety protocols being used during choir practice include masks for all, social distancing, ventilation, and changing rehearsal space after 30 minutes.

Valley Community Youth Choirs is open to anyone in the community who wants to sing! Please spread the word.

For more information visit our website at [www.valleyyouthchoirs.org](http://www.valleyyouthchoirs.org) or e-mail director Amy Rheingans at [amy@valleycommunity.org](mailto:amy@valleycommunity.org).

## Mission Market 2021

Join us during Fellowship Hour (11:00 a.m. - noon) on Sunday, November 14 for 'MISSION MARKET 2021' in Davis Hall. There will be things to buy from: Equal Exchange, Second Home, and Heifer International. A few groups are collecting: New Narratives is looking for women's and men's new, packaged socks and underwear (all sizes), Union Gospel Mission needs winter weight outerwear for Operation Overcoat. And, we'll have a tables set up for Valley Youth, Open Arms and our Valley Refugee Home. Come see the vibrant projects we are supporting into 2022.



## Items Needed for Mission House

Valley has partnered with Lutheran Community Services of the Northwest (LCSNW) in an exciting new mission outreach opportunity. LCSNW provides housing for refugees who arrive in Portland with very little except hope for a better life. As faith communities come together to mentor families, fill Restart Kits with essential goods, give financially, and provide housing, we are building a brighter future for our communities.

Valley is blessed to have three rental homes on Cedar Street. One of these homes was recently vacated. After hours of research and many phone conversations, we felt God calling us to open our hearts and this home to a deserving Afghan refugee family. Session enthusiastically approved this proposal on October 12!

Volunteers have painted the interior of the house and spruced up the yard (see p. 6). Our next step is to furnish the house with donated items. We have made a commitment to have the house ready by November 1 but a few other items are still needed. [Click here for the list of items needed.](#)

If you have any questions contact Karen Mitchell-Yakymi [yaklaka@aol.com](mailto:yaklaka@aol.com) or Debbie Purcell [j-dpurcell@comcast.net](mailto:j-dpurcell@comcast.net).

# Valley Scrapbook



Frank Powers helped pick up hay bales and pumpkins for the Valley Christian Preschool pumpkin patch.



Above and left: Valley Youth carve pumpkins at the Youth House.



Glenys Craig helped paint the interior of Valley's Mission House. See p. 4 and 5.



Gary Moen made necessary repairs and helped paint the Mission House.



Left: Valley's Fall Festival Drive Through was a big success! See p. 4.



Valley family and friends joined the Earth Care Team and rang bells to support climate action and the UN Climate Change Conference.

## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**BottleDrop bags** are available by the East entrance of the church for people to pick up. Support Valley Youth by picking up a BottleDrop bag, filling it, and turning it in at your nearest BottleDrop location. No need to empty the contents, simply drop the bag off at BottleDrop. Thank you for your support!

**Distance food collection** the first and third Thursday of each month, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the back parking lot of Valley. All non-perishable, non-expired store bought foods are being collected. Items will be delivered to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry.

**Daylight Saving Time** ends on Sunday, November 7. Remember to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.

**Save the date:** Valley's Advent Fair will be held in David Hall/Gym on Sunday afternoon, December 5. Details coming soon!

**Calendar events:** If you have an event (one time only or recurring), please remember to check with the church office to schedule before publicizing the event. The doors will remain locked during office hours and you will need to ring the doorbell in order to be buzzed in. For nighttime events, the East door will unlock for scheduled events. Contact Angie in the church office, [angie@valleycommunity.org](mailto:angie@valleycommunity.org), or 503.292.3537. Thank you!

### Prayers

*We pray for those who have died:*

- Friends and family of Helen Green who died October 28, 2021.
- Cheryl Rees and family of Mark Wayne Carter
- Ellen Minshew and family of Simeon Minshew
- Charlene Hegdahl and family of Dean Glover
- Paul Brown and family of Leah Brown

## Earth Care Corner

As many of you are aware, the Earth Care Team has been writing summaries of Jane Fonda's book [What Can I Do? My Path from Climate Despair to Action](#). Having hope for the negative reports we are inundated with daily in the media regarding climate change, increased extinctions of plants and animals and decrease of our forests is a challenge. This morning I heard an interview with Jane Goodall and the octogenarian pointed out that we must have hope. Without hope, there is only despair.\*

I offer a summary of a chapter from Jane Fonda's book on the military and climate change. Like many people, I believe in the importance of having a strong military to defend the United States. What I didn't realize is how much is spent. Here are some statistics fact checked by Jane Fonda.

- The US spends \$719 billion a year on military. (This is more than the next seven countries *combined* which means Russia, China, Saudi Arabia and the four next biggest countries.)
- 53 cents of every discretionary federal dollar goes towards the military.
- The military is not subject to the federal regulations regarding protecting our air and water. This means it can dump toxic waste into the water and air without repercussions.
- 10% of the Superfund sites that need cleanup are near military bases.
- US government does not require the military to clean up, poisoning innocent civilians abroad and military personnel at home.
- The US has 11 aircraft carriers which is 10 more than other countries at \$15 billion each. What about using this money on cleaning up the polluted air, soil and water right here at home?
- Military spending largely goes to military corporations where CEOs make an average of \$20 million/year.
- In 2017, 23,000 active-duty military soldiers and sailors were making so little money that they and their families qualified for food stamps.

To quote Martin Luther King, "A situation that continues, year after year, to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." (Not to mention a physical death given the state of our world.)

\*Jane Goodall's new book is [The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times](#).

Thank you for reading this,  
Amy Henning, Deacon & Member of Earth Care Team



## THE MESSENGER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

# All Saints' Sunday November 7



On Sunday, November 7, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday. Members and friends who have died during the past year, since November 1, 2020, will be honored during 10:00 a.m. worship. Join us for this meaningful celebration of loved ones who have gone before us.