


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church February 2022

Sundays at Valley

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

February

6 Communion

13

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

27 Transfiguration of the Lord

March

6 Communion



The Ahmadzai Family Update

The Ahmadzai children are enrolled in school! Our team had to be very patient as we waited for LCSNW to complete all the preparatory steps.

Yousef (8th grade) and Zulaikha (7th grade) are attending Whitford Middle School. They are learning to ride the bus to and from school and use their Chromebooks. They will be getting English language instruction, technology training, and various academic supports to help them succeed.

Wahab (5th grade), Tawab (2nd grade), and Bahar (kindergarten) are enrolled at Raleigh Park Elementary School. They are happy with their teachers and new friends. This is Bahar's first experience with any school, so she is having more challenges but is getting adjusted. They will be getting English language instruction and other academic supports as needed.

Sally Rasmussen, our volunteer in charge of school-related issues, has worked very hard to get the children enrolled and receiving all the special help they need from the Beaverton School District. Carol Powers, Sally, and Chelsea Redmond have all been very involved in making sure the kids are either driven to and from school or get on the bus on time. Carol has worked very hard to help organize and launder the clothing for this large family. Ruthann Marquis takes Fawad grocery shopping (often to Halal stores) and is teaching him about comparative shopping.

Three-year-old Sadaf, a little girl with a twinkle in her eye, is loving the preschool that Karen Yakymi organized with the help of Beverly Hubbard and Connie Brenner. Bev spent hours turning the church nursery into a perfect preschool! Sadaf goes twice a week from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to have attention from both Bev and Connie! This should really help her develop the foundations of English and school readiness. Little Fatima, (16 months) is home with Dad but sometimes gets to go to school with Sadaf. Karen keeps a list of those who will be available to watch the younger children when Fawad has appointments or work.

Our team applied for a grant from the Memorial Gifts Fund, and it was approved to purchase a computer for Fawad to use while he is living in the Sanctuary Home. He will use it to communicate with the school regarding his children's progress, do job searching, and connect to community services. Glenys Craig will help him with setting up and using the new computer. He will be in the program at IRCO (Immigrants and Refugees Community Organization) which will help him with English language improvement, computer skills, and preparing for eventual employment. He is studying to get his Oregon Drivers License.

Karen Yakymi, Glenys Craig and Katie Craig took Zulaikha clothes shopping, and it was a joy for them to see her making her selections. From a distance, Zulaikha identified and ran to an Afghan family that happened to be at the mall that day, who shared their experiences with the group.

Chelsea and Adam Redmond (preschool parents) and Allison and Tanner Gregory (neighbors) have invited the family to share meals with them in their homes. Allison has taken Fawad to a local mosque.

Our team of volunteer organizers have really enjoyed working with this family and are very grateful for the number of new people who have expressed an interest in helping.

~ Debbie Purcell

Listening Together for God to Speak



The Rev. Robin Garvin

and so forth. But God speaks to us uniquely and authoritatively through Scripture.

Here is my favorite description of Scripture taken from the Presbyterian Book of Order. “Scripture is the record of God’s self-revelation through which the Holy Spirit **speaks** to bear witness to Jesus Christ and to give authoritative direction to the life of faith.” As we gather each Sunday, online or in-person, when we read from the Bible and hear the message, we listen together for God to speak. What a privilege to love and serve a God who speaks to us!

I want to suggest one way we can be prepared to receive what God is saying to us each Sunday. During our Friday Elblast we include the Bible passage for Sunday. **Will you prepare to hear from God by reading this passage on your own at least once before we gather for worship?** Better yet, why not read it twice... once from the bible you typically read and one more time from another translation or faithful paraphrase (such as *The Message*). If we all take up this challenge, we are sure to hear even more clearly what God is saying to us individually and collectively. Why not give it a try this week?

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Robin Garvin

THE MESSENGER

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NEWSLETTER STAFF:

ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

February Birthdays

Sharon Baker
Grace Baker
Richard Bryant
Mary Collins
David Derting
Ariel Derting
Diana Domingo-Forasté
Joy Eaton
Marjorie Grootendorst
Norm Jacox

Jeffrey Keim
Barbara King
Kristina Kurtz
Phyllis Patterson
Debbie Purcell
Bill Rea
Antonio Rinella
Esta Sherwood
Don Sowers

Happy birthday to all those born in February! 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

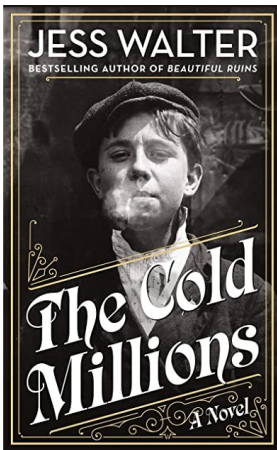
Over the next two months, the Featured Projects for Together Women Rise will focus on the mental health needs of survivors of gender-based violence (SGBV), each using a different approach to treatment and recovery. Gender-based violence is one of the most prevalent issues faced by women and girls around the world, and it can have lifelong repercussions for survivors.

In February Valley's chapter will be meeting on Sunday, February 20, at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. We will be learning about Common Threads Project in Nepal, which helps women heal from the enduring psychological effects of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of war and the displacement that is often a result.

This project provides deep, transformative trauma treatment to survivors of SGBV and builds a cohort of local therapists who will carry the program forward. Common Thread Project's innovative group trauma treatment methodology takes inspiration from the ancient tradition of making story cloths to depict unspeakable experiences and integrates this with best practices in trauma treatment.

Please join us for our February 20 chapter meeting and learn more about this sensitive topic and the good work being done to help those affected by it. If you would like to be added to the evite list, please contact Ruthann Marquis.

Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group meets on the fourth Friday of the month and, dependent on the church COVID policy on February 26, the meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. either via Zoom or with a dual option of in-person gathering in the Fireside Room and meeting via Zoom (for those who are still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings.)

The book being discussed is *The Cold Millions*, by Jess Walters. This book has been chosen for Beaverton Reads, sponsored by the Beaverton Library, and the Northwest author is scheduled to talk about his book via Zoom (go to beavertonlibrary.org for further information.) The novel, set against the panoramic backdrop of an early twentieth-century America that eerily echoes our own time, tells a story of brotherhood, love, and sacrifice and addresses the chasm between harsh realities and simple dreams. If you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive further information about how to attend the Zoom meeting.

Gamble Library's 55th Birthday

February 2022 marks the 55th birthday of Valley's William B. Gamble Library. The library was dedicated, along with the rest of the new East Wing, on February 5, 1967. It is named for Valley's second senior pastor, Dr. Gamble, who served from November 1956 to February 1967. The library began earlier as a collection of 125 books housed in a portable cabinet opened on Sundays only by the Women's Guild, grew to over 1100 books by the time of the dedication and almost 5,000 items by its 25th birthday. The collection has continued to grow, adjust and change as the years have passed.

Glori Rodman served as the founding librarian. She served from 1967-1977 and then again from 1997-2005. Over the years, many, many wonderful Valley members have served in various capacities to keep the library running smoothly.

The library philosophy has been to provide the best reading material that would enrich the whole person. To that end, Valley's collection includes a variety of books, DVDs and periodicals. In addition to a large collection of religious titles there is fiction, biography, psychology, arts and crafts, etc. There is also a large collection of books for children and youth.

Valley's library collection continues to serve as a valuable resource to this congregation and others. Please feel free to stop in and check out the possibilities for casual reading, Bible study, personal growth, education, or a DVD or magazine you haven't yet experienced. Many options await you!

Thank you to all who have supported the library over these last 55 years. Thank you to all who will continue to support the library in the years to come. A celebration of this birthday will be scheduled for a later date, when we all can gather safely.



Thank you for sending your check for **\$39.00** for the
2022 Per Capita for each Valley member.

For more information about what per capita is

and how it helps, go to:

oga.pcusa.org/percapita



The State of Valley's Giving for 2021

By Andrea Murdoch

I would like to thank **EACH** and **EVERY ONE** of you for participating in our various 'Social Distanced' projects during 2021. From the year just past, we've seen how tenuous our lives really are. In the 'blink of an eye' we can go from "having" to "not having enough". And yet **WE** continued to step up to the plate.

Thanks to online and in-person giving to our four main yearly collections: the Christmas Joy offering, the Peace & Global Witness offering, the Pentecost offering, and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. These important collections continued as did the monthly Cents-Ability offering. Though down in the amounts we received, we were still able to send funds where needed.



Here are some of the other things Valley has participated in:

- Beginning and ending each year, we've donated to the Good Roots Food Pantry in SE Portland with our yearly Reverse Advent Calendar donation. Just last week I took a carload of items to them.
- Monthly, we have continued with the third Thursday Soup Kitchen which was prepared in our homes, with delivery only, to the Bud Clark Transition Center.
- Here's to the knitters and crocheters of the Prayer Shawls made and delivered in 2021 and baby hats for the Purple Period of Crying.
- I can see you now in front of your screens, Zoom was a wonderful way to stay connected. It allowed Together Women Rise (formerly known as Dining for Women) now in it's ninth year, to continue to meet. Where funds collected have been given by this group to empower women and children worldwide.
- We continued to distance food collect on the first and third Thursdays of each month and sent over 5,700 pounds of food to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry. They are now serving around 300 families per month. Volunteer duties in the pantry are still happening every third and fourth Wednesday nights, coordinated by Diane Meyer.
- Also joining me in the back parking lot on those Thursdays were Carol Powers, Connie Brenner, and Ruthann Marquis who collected your Styrofoam... 24 truckloads went to Agilyx. I even have friends who collect out of trashcans in my neighborhood for this!
- We brought back our Community Recycling event in April where at times the cars were lined up all the way to Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy., and we repeated this again in October. This has allowed us to maintain our Earth Care Congregation status.
- Twice each year we distribute \$10,000 to applicants through the Mission Endowment Grant. This past fall's grant supported our newest project: Sanctuary House, which is now in full operation with a wonderful family, looking for a new start. For more details, please see Debbie Purcell or Karen Yakymi.
- We continued our on-going support of the Presbyterian Disaster Relief, by donating pints of blood to the Red Cross, driving for Meals-On-Wheels, and the Summer Produce Table where the funds were donated to the Oregon Food Bank.
- We collected about 200 pairs of eyeglasses and some hearing aids for the Lyons Club.
- A Free Will Offering was taken at the April recycle event for our CROP Walk contribution. This year Valley is Hosting the walk here in our neighborhood... stay tuned. I'll be asking for your upcoming support.
- In October we held our Bake Sale for Bread for the World and in November we had our annual Mission Market, which was held over for acts 2 and 3. All of the participants gathered several hundred dollars each for their programs.



These are the things I know we did... but I know you did more. For some of us we didn't need the COVID Relief checks I asked you to "Redirect the Check" and I know some of you did. Some of you probably participated in a SOLV event. As the world reawakens, please remember WE continue to be the hands and feet of Christ. Look, we are a Vital Congregation! Your Mission Committee wishes to thank you for your on-going and generous giving. With God's help, we have a giving that knows no ending. Thank You Again.



Siena Hertafeld Wins Again!



Valley's talented Assistant Music Director Siena Hertafeld has again been recognized in the folk music realm, this time closer to home. Last month, Siena learned her song "Dear Northland" was selected as Best Overall Song by the Portland Folk Festival. The annual songwriting contest is held in January, and Siena was scheduled to perform her song on stage at the Crystal Ballroom; unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, the 2022 festival was postponed for a year.

This award follows another win last year when "Dear Northland" won the Great River Folk Festival in Wisconsin, with judges noting the song "is a gorgeous piece of acoustic folk, simple and effective, gently picked guitar, and a crystal clear voice evoking the social narrators of the folk world of the past. A worthy winner indeed."

The award-winning song is included in Siena's masterful CD "ice olation," written during the isolation of 2020. "That was a hard time, and the separation from others was really getting to me," shares Siena. "Who knew that a song birthed during such a hard time would end up filling my dream of winning recognition in not one but two folk festivals!"

Pastor Robin Garvin says, "We are so blessed to have Siena and her extraordinary musical talents lifting our spirits here at Valley. Congratulations! We are proud of you!"

"Dear Northland" is featured on Siena's Bandcamp page: <https://sienachristie.bandcamp.com/track/dear-northland>. Those who have listened to "ice olation" and "Dear Northland" enthusiastically recommend checking it out!

A Pilgrimage of Discovery: Israel & Palestine



Travel to Israel and Palestine on a pilgrimage and study tour October 7-17, 2022.

Rev. Susan P. Wilder (a.k.a. Susie Pratt, as many know her from her family's long-time association with Valley) will be leading this trip along with Rev. Dr. Ben Trawick, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Virginia. Travelers will walk in the land of the Bible beside those who live in the land today. Visiting places of Jesus' life and ministry and having conversations with Israelis and Palestinians, the group will consider what it means to be faithful witnesses to Christ in this time. \$3,850, double occupancy, includes round-trip airfare from Washington Dulles Airport, lodging, and meals. See brochure here: <https://store.tourtheholylands.com/collections/holy-land-tours/products/11-day-a-pilgrimage-of-discovery-to-the-holy-land-from-washington-dc-iad-7-17-october-2022-grace-presbyterian-church>.

For more information, contact Susan at wildersus@gmail.com or Ben at ben@gracepresby.org.



Above and right: "Baba" David rocks the youngest Ahmadzai child, Fatima, to sleep.

Far right: Three year-old Sadaf Ahmadzai created a snowman in preschool (see page 1).



Sanctuary House Gets Facilities Upgrades

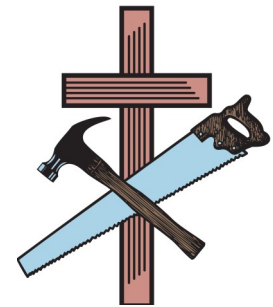
To drive by the Sanctuary House, at 8085 SW Cedar Street, it may not appear much different looking than in times' past. However when our five-year rental tenant moved out in mid September, an in depth inspection revealed some glaring needs for maintenance and preservation. When we decided to host an Afghan refugee family our Valley team went into high gear.

As homeowners yourselves you know how expensive this type of work can be. Even contracting workers is a challenge. Fortunately we have budgeted for anticipated property maintenance, and have also established reserves for emergency projects. Facilities has reliable, dependable and economical resources from routine maintenance projects at the church.

Here's a summary of work completed and in process:

- **Interior Paint:** Interior walls and cabinets were completely repainted by Valley volunteers. The paint was donated.
- **Furnishings:** The house was completely furnished with donations from many extremely generous congregants and friends. To host a family, the house had to be "move in ready" and it was.
- **Debris Removal:** There was a long time accumulation of debris in the garage attic that was left by prior residents. Thick with dust, it was cautiously removed and either hauled to the dump or recycled.
- **Tree Removal:** Several trees were overgrowing the house (and the adjacent house) causing roof moss and clogged gutters. Bushes had over grown their spaces causing siding damage. Tree cutters removed seven trees. Valley's facilities crew downsized overgrown shrubs and removed low hanging branches.
- **Roof and Chimney Maintenance:** After a thorough roof and chimney inspection, the roof was professionally cleaned and anti-fungal spray was applied. The chimneys needed sealing and counter-flashing. This should allow us at least two to three more years of serviceable roof.
- **Gutter Replacement:** Gutters were rusted through in several areas and overflowing. Ferns were even growing on the shady north side. They were replaced as well as rotted fascia boards.
- **Painting Prep:** Siding has been power washed in preparation for painting. Window re-glazing is in process. Detailed prep and painting will be scheduled as weather permits.

On December 8, the Ahmadzai family arrived to a fresh, clean and safe "sanctuary" thanks to all the skills, resources, talents and heart-filled love that made this project a blessed success.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

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.

The Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC) is currently seeking candidates to serve as deacons and elders. Contact the church office if this may be a fit for you or if you are interested in discussing these roles further with a member of CONC.

Thank You

Dear Valley Friends, Thank you for all your kindness and support following the death of our father, Shannon Pratt. We deeply appreciate all the cards, prayers, and memorial donations to the church representing the love of our long-time Valley family. We especially want to thank Robin and the whole team--Thomas, Siena, Steve and Dan on AV, and Angela--for all their amazing help with constant juggling as we adjusted to COVID realities moment by moment. We thank everyone who tuned in, and we are so grateful that in these challenging times we were able to gather with friends and loved ones around the world to celebrate our dad and the hope we share in Christ.

With love and appreciation,
Mike, Susie, and Georgia.

Thank you for all your heartfelt prayers throughout my extended battle of COVID. I can honestly say - this girl is about to be back in action with Valley real soon! Much love and gratitude to you all.

Donna Carlson

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Rick Hensley, Sonja Spencer, Ed Sanders, Tim Fogle, Donna Carlson, Christine Danner, Pat Judy

Earth Care Corner

Did you know that there are products for personal body and hair washing AND clothes that do not come in plastic bottles and are not mostly water? Yes, there are!

Here are some options for shampoo bars that can be found at New Seasons:



Trader Joe's also has a shampoo bar:



Here is an option for laundry soap that comes in sheets:



I prefer the unscented product and have ordered them from Canada, but have seen them at the Raleigh Hills Fred Meyer store, as well.

So, what the big deal about these and similar products?

1. No plastic containers need to be made, need to be used or need to be recycled for these products.
2. They weigh much less than typical shampoos and laundry soaps, as well as taking up much less room in storage and shipping. Less weight to the products will make a difference in the amount of fuel used to transport them from the manufacturer to the warehouse, to the store and then to the consumer. Since they take up less space more items can be transported, thus potentially reducing vehicles on the road using fossil fuel and adding to pollution.
3. They save water. Even though you will need to use water to wash your hair or clothes the product itself isn't formulated with the same amount of water that its liquid counterpart is made with, thus they can work in their most concentrated form without being diluted.
4. They are travel friendly! They take up less space in your luggage and there is no leaking from these lighter and solid washing options.

It's a new year with new opportunities to make choices to love our planet Earth! Here are just a few for you to consider.

Ruthann Marquis, member of the Earth Care Team at Valley

THE MESSENGER



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

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To view the directory online, go to members.instantchurchdirectory.com
and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.”

Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “**Instant Church Directory**” to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

For more information or if you need help logging in, contact Angie Graham at angie@valleycommunity.org.