


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church March 2022

Sundays at Valley

In-person worship at 10:00 a.m.
online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/>

Click videos on the left side.

March

6 First Sunday in Lent
Communion

13 Second Sunday in Lent
Gamble Library Birthday
Celebration

20 Third Sunday in Lent
Cents-Ability Offering
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.

27 Fourth Sunday in Lent

April

3 Fifth Sunday in Lent
Communion



Journeying with Luke Through Lent!

Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The 40 days of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, ends with the Saturday before Easter, and excludes Sundays. On the Sundays of Lent, we still celebrate the resurrection!

The season of Lent focuses on spiritual discipline and renewal. Lent is a time when Christians dig deeper in their relationship with Christ. Specifically, during Lent, followers of Jesus often engage in spiritual disciplines, as they reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. As we engage in these spiritual disciplines, the Holy Spirit invites us into greater devotion and commitment to Christ.

During Lent 2022, I want to invite you to join with your sisters and brothers at Valley as we explore the Gospel of Luke and engage in meaningful spiritual disciplines together.

- 1. Read and reflect on the Gospel of Luke in 40 days.** Take 15 minutes each day to read and reflect on a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke. By the end of Lent, you will have read through the entire Gospel of Luke.
- 2. Make Sunday worship a priority.** During the Sundays of Lent, we will focus on Jesus' parables found only in Luke's gospel, such as the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Prodigal Son.
- 3. Attend three special worship services during Lent and Holy Week.** In addition to our regular Sunday worship services, make it a priority to attend the Ash Wednesday (March 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church joining us for worship), Maundy Thursday (April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church), and Good Friday (April 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary). All services will be in-person with a live-stream option.
- 4. Join a group Bible study during Lent.** March 9 – April 16, we will offer two identical group Bible studies of the parables unique to Luke's gospel, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Armitage Hall, and 7:00-8:00 p.m. online. Both studies will be led by me.

Please note: A *Journeying Through Lent with Luke* guide will be available at church beginning Sunday, February 27. This guide will also be available for download from the church website. The guide will include the daily Bible reading schedule and small group discussion questions.

Prayerfully consider this invitation to go deeper in your faith as we journey with Luke through Lent! Let's ask God to richly bless our congregation as we engage in these spiritual disciplines and prepare for a joy-filled celebration of the resurrection of our Lord!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robin

Afghan Bologna



What would you like for lunch? When the Ahmadzai family (a single dad with seven kids) arrived in mid-December this was a burning daily question at the Sanctuary House. Mac & cheese, meh. PB&J, no thank you. Pizza, yes! But we can't have pizza every day.

Chelsea Redmond, one of our Preschool moms who's been really involved with the family, was determined to find out. She asked the kids about their favorite lunch when they were in Afghanistan. "Bologna" came the answer. Knowing that the family doesn't eat pork and sausage she set this aside for the moment. But later she tried again. "Bologna" was still the enthusiastic response. "My mother made it."

Some diligent internet searching discovered that there's an Afghan food called bolani, a flatbread stuffed with potatoes, vegetables and herbs. It's similar to a quesadilla. After finding a recipe Chelsea made the dough and filling at home and brought it over. When the kids saw it they yelled "bolani, bolani!!" and ran to the kitchen with her. They pulled up chairs to the counter and helped roll out and stuff the dough. They were delighted with the end result, and it is really tasty!

Left: Wahab helping to make bolani for his family.

Valley Community Youth Choirs are back in action!

If you know a young person who would like to try choir, please have them contact Amy Rheingans at amy@valleycommunity.org. Or check out the choir website at www.valleyyouthchoirs.org.



Groups are meeting at the following times:

- ◆ Wednesday, 5:00-5:45 p.m.: Cherub Choir (ages 4-6)
- ◆ Wednesday, 5:00-6:00 p.m.: Melodia (2nd-5th grades)
- ◆ Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Armonia (6th-12th grades)
- ◆ Sunday, 12:30-1:15 p.m.: New Spirit Ringers (6th-12th grades)

THE MESSENGER

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NEWSLETTER STAFF:

ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

March Birthdays

Janet Adkins	Gary Eaton	Kenneth Magnuson
Wendy Archibald	Mark Gazeley	Addy Pratt
Raoul Bellis-Squires	Zachary Graham	Laura Sanders
Jan Bellis-Squires	Georgia Hoffbeck	Glenn Simenson
Michelle Blair	Ann Johnson	Charlene Stansbury
Pat Bryant	Sue Lanthrum	Barbara Symons
Kegan Derting	Ron Leland	Joann Uecker

Happy birthday to all those born in March! 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 Valley Chapter of Together Women Rise will meet on Sunday, March 20 at 11:30 a.m. to learn about this month's Featured Project in Uganda. This is another month that the Featured Projects focus on the mental health needs of survivors of gender-based violence.

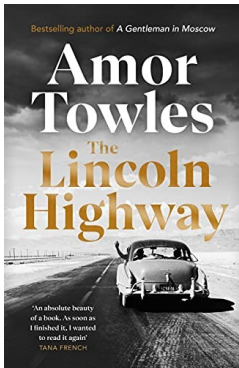
The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) was founded on the recommendation of then Minnesota Governor in 1985. It was the first rehabilitation center for torture survivors in the United States, and remains one of the largest organizations of its kind in the world. Their work began in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota, serving immigrants from war-torn countries, and in 1999, CVT launched its first international direct services program in West Africa. Today, their international rehabilitation programs operate in Jordan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Iraq, and Uganda.

The mission of this organization is to heal the wounds of torture on individuals, their families, and their communities and to end torture worldwide.

The purpose of this particular project that Together Women Rise is funding is to provide mental health and psychosocial support to women and girls in northern Uganda who have experienced torture and trauma during the many years of conflict in the country.

Please join us on March 20 to learn more about this program and how far reaching your donations go to help eradicate gender inequality. If you would like to be added to the invitation 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 March 25, the meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. 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 Lincoln Highway, by Amor Towles. This novel, spanning just ten days in 1954 and told from multiple points of view, tells the story of two brothers (aged 18 and 8) who, finding themselves without a home, decide to head west along the Lincoln Highway to find their mother. Two escapees from the prison farm where the older brother served time force them to change those plans and to head east instead. It is filled with richly imagined settings, characters, and themes. If you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive further information about how to attend the Zoom meeting.

Gamble Library Birthday

Plan to stop by the library after worship on Sunday, March 13, to celebrate our library's 55th birthday. February 6 was the originally planned date, but unfortunately Omicron postponed the party.

Our theme for this year is Gamble Library's Greatest Hits. Our library has many classics of the Christian faith by authors such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, C. S. Lewis, Reinhold Niebuhr, Richard J. Foster, Eugene Peterson, and others. These books have stood the test of time and continue to guide readers today. Classics lend themselves to re-reading and seem to never exhaust everything they have to say to us. We will highlight a group of books selected by Pastor Robin as her top ten books that every Christian should read. And we will also feature the first ten from *Christianity Today's* list of the top 100 religious books of the twentieth century.

Yes, there will be goodies!! We're still not cleared to eat in the building so they'll be in take home packets. They will be worth the calories!

We hope to see many of you there.



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



Ahmadzai Family Outing

Recently, Chelsea Redmond, a Valley preschool mom, took six of the Ahmadzai children to visit her husband, Adam, at his fire station in Portland. The children had a lot of fun learning about fire safety and exploring the fire trucks!





**CRITICAL HOME
REPAIR SERVICES
AVAILABLE TO
INCOME-QUALIFIED
BEAVERTON
HOMEOWNERS**



Habitat for Humanity Portland Region has partnered with The City of Beaverton to provide Community Development Block Grant funds for home repair activities to low income Beaverton homeowners! If you are a Beaverton resident in need of critical home repair, please reach out to Habitat for Humanity Portland Region to learn more.

Habitatportlandregion.org
503-844-7606 (Extension 110)



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/1-1-day-a-pilgrimage-of-discovery-to-the-holy-land-from-washington-dc-iad-7-17-october-2022-grace-presbyterian-church>.

Contact Susan at wildersus@gmail.com or Ben at ben@gracepresby.org for more information.

Our Church Directory is Online!



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.

Mission Endowment Applications Due April 1

April first is the spring application deadline for grants from Valley's Mission Endowment Fund. The Mission Endowment Committee will meet in April to consider these applications and make recommendations to Session for grants to be awarded.

Created in 1979 by a generous gift from a member, the Mission Endowment Fund is an important part of Valley's mission program. What organizations do you know of that further the work of Christ in the world? Think about submitting an application on behalf of one of them. Consideration is given to applications which:

- address hunger, food and health needs of people around the world
- assist volunteers in the mission field
- advance denominational programs of outreach, service and proclamation
- assist secular and social organizations that aid in the care of people.

In the past ten years, this fund has awarded grants totaling about \$200,000 to deserving applicants. No applications will be accepted after the April 1 deadline. Contact missionendowment@valleycommunity.org, or go to the church website, www.valleycommunity.org, for a Mission Endowment grant application: https://media1.razorplanet.com/share/511662-5591/resources/1377494_MissionEndowmentApplication2018.pdf

Valley Sanctuary House



Valley's Sanctuary house before (left) and after (right) the exterior was painted.

Ash Wednesday - March 2



We begin Lent on Wednesday, March 2 with two opportunities to observe Ash Wednesday. From 7:00-8:00 a.m. and again from 5:00-6:00 p.m. we will provide **Drive-by Ashes** next to the Laurelwood walkway into church. Drive by and receive the imposition of ashes and a blessing from Pastor Robin and Pastor Sarah Sanderson-Doughty from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. At 7:00 p.m. in the Valley sanctuary, we will host an Ash Wednesday service in partnership with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Pastor Sarah will be offering the message. Special music, prayers, and the imposition of ashes will be offered.

Name Badge



Do you have your name badge yet? Wear your name badge on Sundays to welcome visitors, meet new members and identify long-time members and friends. You may order yours with a strong magnet or pin. Request forms are available on the church office counter or contact angie@valleycommunity.org for new or replacement name badges.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Valley will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering on April 10. The millions of people around the world who lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity are benefitted by OGHS. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Additional information about the offering and programs can be found at "specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs". The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!!!



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Bread for the World Lenten

Devotional: A Lenten devotional with prayers for an end to hunger has been prepared by Bread for the World. Readings, prayers, and actions are included to help you and your family observe Lent in 2022. Click here to download a copy:

<https://secure.bread.org/site/SSurvey?>

[ACTION_REQUIRED=URI ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=14260&s_src=22AA&s_subsrc=22AAM01X&autologin=true](https://secure.bread.org/site/SSurvey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=14260&s_src=22AA&s_subsrc=22AAM01X&autologin=true)

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.

Thank You

Dear Valley Family, I want to thank you for the outpouring of cards, meals, and love with the recent loss of my mom. My boys and I are extremely grateful for all the support we have received during this difficult time. I have said this before, and I truly mean it, we are beyond blessed to have such wonderful and thoughtful friends!

Blessings to you all, dear friends,
Angela Graham and boys

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

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

We pray for those who mourn:

- Pat McClean and family on the death of Pat's husband, Jim McClean on February 7.

- Angela Graham and family on the death of Angela's mother, Bonnie May, on February 5.

- Kylie Cole and family on the death of Kylie's grandmother, Mari Ribovick, on February 3.

Earth Care Corner

It's blue, it flies in the rain, it sleeps all winter! This month's superhero is the Mason bee!

Mason bees are often mistaken for blue flies (look for two sets of wings). Just one can pollinate as many flowers as 75-200 honey bees. In mid-March the male bees emerge. They fuel up, fertilize the females, and die. When females emerge they start pollinating. Finding a nesting site, a tube about 1/4-3/8 inch wide, they plug up the far end and then start filling a section with pollen, she then lays a single egg, seals it with mud and starts filling up another section for another egg, then another, up to 30-40 eggs in several tubes. The eggs hatch in a few days and the larva feed on the pollen. They spin a cocoon in the tube and pupate. By summer's end all will be dormant adults.

Your home's siding may already be providing some nesting places as they lay their eggs in small holes. No worries, they do not damage anything. Nests can be just a bundle of cut bamboo, or a mason bee house, placed 3-6 feet off the ground, in morning sun, facing away from the wind and rain. Placing the nests away from bird feeders is a good idea as the bees make a tasty bird snack.

For more info, <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9130>, a webinar being offered on February 26 <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/events/raising-mason-bees>.



THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

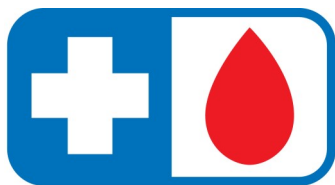
TIME DATED MATERIAL

Deacons' Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, March 9, 1:30-6:30 p.m.

Up to three people may be helped
with each pint of blood collected!

A side benefit of donating is that all donors will be tested for
Covid-19 antibodies as part of their donation.



GIVE
Blood

Contact Karen Miller, plmkmm@comcast.net or
Jim Sandberg, jim.sandberg@comcast.net, for more information.