

The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church September 2022



Sundays at Valley

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

September

4 Communion
Teacher Commissioning
Blessing of the Backpacks

11 Kelly Dickson,
guest preacher

18 Jennifer Ackerman,
guest preacher
Cents-Ability Offering
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.

25 Fall Kick-Off Sunday
"This I Believe" preaching series begins

October

4 World Communion Sunday



Blessing of the Backpacks

One of the milestones we celebrate with our students is the transition into a new school year. On Sunday, September 4, we will have a "Blessing of the Backpacks" to celebrate the start of a new school year. Our blessing will include prayers for the students, their teachers, and a new year of learning. All children, youth, and adults who are beginning a new school year are invited to bring their backpacks or laptops to 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, September 4. We will also include in the blessing all of the school supplies we collected for Project BACK. Feel free to bring school supplies that Sunday to help fill the backpacks for Project BACK:

- * Box of #2 pencils
- * Box of markers
- * Black Sharpie
- * Glue sticks
- * Colored pencils
- * Pink Pearl eraser
- * Box of facial tissues
- * Cleaning wipes
- * Black whiteboard marker
- * Water color paint set
- * Clip-board
- * Yellow highlighter
- * Ream of paper



Kick-Off Sunday Open House



Mark your calendars for Sunday September 25! On that day Valley will have a Kick Off Sunday and Open House for the neighborhood. And, if all goes as hoped, there will even be a classic car display in the East parking lot!

This will happen after worship that day until 12:30 p.m. There will be a map to follow as you, your family and your friends explore the different places in our building and on our Valley campus and discover what makes Valley Community Presbyterian Church our loving church home. There will even be a passport to have marked at each station that you can enter for a drawing at the end of the event.

There will be a regular coffee hour and some treats to start you on your journey. This is where you can pick up your passport and then start a self guided tour of our building and pick up tiny treats at various tables along the way.

This will be an opportunity to showcase the fabulous ministries that Valley participates in and the many ways that we interact with our local community. Please invite your family and friends to join you that day as we show everyone that we are rooted and grounded in the love of Jesus.

Does it Really Matter What I Believe?



The Rev. Robin Garvin

What is it that you believe? Could you give an answer if you had to, if someone challenged you to say – in detail – exactly what you believed? What is it that followers of Christ believe? If you struggle to answer these questions, you are not alone! Many adult Christians are hard-pressed to say in detail what they believe...to articulate their core convictions about Christian faith.

For centuries Christian believers have attempted to put into words what they most deeply believe about their faith. The oldest and simplest attempt to put our faith into words is the Apostles' Creed. This statement of the core beliefs of Christian faith originates from the earliest centuries of the church, perhaps as early as the end of the first century.

Why should we study this ancient creed today? I can think of at least three reasons. First, it provides a basic, concise outline of our faith...it summarizes our faith in a few words. Second, though the Apostles' Creed was never intended to be an exhaustive statement of all Christian beliefs, it nevertheless introduces us to the most foundational beliefs held by Christians and enables us to recognize and avoid inadequate versions of Christian faith. And finally, we study this creed today because in doing so we are united with Christians across the world and through the centuries who have also affirmed these core beliefs.

This fall we will explore the affirmations of the Apostles' Creed during our worship services (September 25 through November 13). Our preaching theme during these weeks will be, "We Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed." I hope you'll join us as we explore and reaffirm our faith in the living and personal God whom we worship and adore.

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Robin Garvin

THE MESSENGER

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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 | Olivia Hoffbeck |
| Linda Armentrout | Edie Leland |
| Wayne Boyle | Karen Miller |
| Tami Brester | Bob Peterson |
| Karen Broome | Steve Rees |
| David Caputo | Ed Sanders |
| Allison Carlson | Karen Smith |
| Don Giles | Sophie Vermillion |
| Lars Hoffbeck | Larry Yakymi |

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

Together Women Rise at Valley will learn about and support an amazing nonprofit in September that is based in Uganda and called EverFree. The specific grant program that is being supported is Protection for Women and Girls Through Holistic Anti-Trafficking Programming.

EverFree has been around and making a huge impact for the past 18 years. Their work addresses and halts the pervasive cycles of exploitation and poverty that enables human trafficking to continue globally. This organization focuses on:

- justice sector reform
- legal services
- education and awareness through stakeholder trainings
- services for survivors

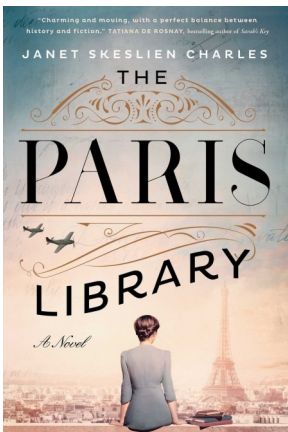
The trainings focus on protecting and upholding the rights of trafficking survivors, responding to cases effectively, and raising awareness of ways to prevent human trafficking. EverFree takes pride in its 95% success rate in preventing re-victimization and firmly believes this is the result of individualized services and personal empowerment of survivors throughout their healing journey.

Human trafficking is not a comfortable topic. Many of us may not be able to relate to it. However, it is real and a world-wide problem that needs to be addressed and eradicated.

Join us on Sunday September 18 after worship at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room to learn more about this worthwhile organization. If you have questions or want to be added to the evite list, please contact Ruthann Marquis. Thank you!



Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group meets on the fourth Friday of the month and the September meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on September 23 in the Fireside Room. The book being discussed is *The Paris Library*, by Janet Skeslien Charles. This book is based on the true story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris who join the Resistance during World War II to save their library. Forty

years later in Montana, one of these librarians meets a lonely teenager and they find that in addition to a love of language they are united by a dark secret from the past. If you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive a reminder of the meeting.

Community Recycling Event

Valley's Earth Care Team is organizing its fourth large community recycling event on October 15 from 9:00 a.m. -noon in the TriMet lot. Details are still being worked out, so stay tuned for more information as the invited businesses and groups confirm their participation. There will be lists of accepted items posted to help you prepare for this event. As always, volunteers will be needed and appreciated for this very popular community event.

Please contact Ruthann Marquis at ruthann.marquis@gmail.com to volunteer or if you have questions, as the event date gets closer.



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



Sanctuary House Update



Our Afghan family, living in our Sanctuary House, has been busy this summer. The oldest child will be a freshman at Beaverton High School, and he attended his orientation sessions there in early July. The two children who attend Whitford Middle School (6th and 8th grade) and two children who attend Raleigh Park Elementary (1st and 3rd grade) went to summer school during the entire month of July. All the students are currently enrolled in a summer reading program for children for whom English is not their first language. The two little ones, ages 2 and 4, attended their own private preschool at Valley twice a week through June and part of July, thanks to the efforts of Valley volunteers.

Our team is busy getting the children ready for back to school. This includes registering them through the Beaverton Schools website, getting clothing inventoried and purchased (with funding from community donations), getting vaccines and medical visits updated, getting dental care completed, and obtaining school supplies. It is a big job with seven children! Once school starts, we will assist the father with his communications with the schools and help the children with homework. Any volunteers who are interested in helping with tutoring are welcome!

All the children have enjoyed swimming at the Raleigh Park Swim Center this summer. The family was able to get a scholarship through the THPRD so they can swim as often as the pool is open and one of us is available to accompany them.

The father obtained his driver's license on Friday August 19! This is a huge step for him as he works toward independence. He is working part-time at Touchmark, and he is hoping to move up to fulltime work soon. We are very thankful for the Valley volunteers who have been driving him to and from work and delivering his children to and from daycare. He is studying English through an online program at PCC and making good progress toward English proficiency.

The Core Volunteer Team: Debbie Purcell, Carol Powers, Ruthann Marquis, and Karen Yakymi

Peace & Global Witness Offering



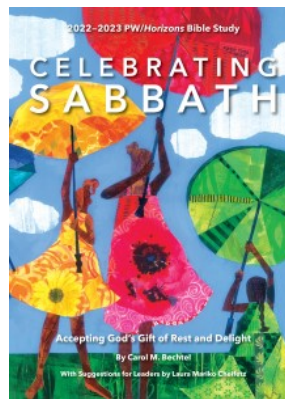
October 2 is World Communion Sunday, when Christians worldwide celebrate their oneness in Christ. We celebrate that Christ's peace extends

throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved, and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. We extend the peace of Christ to those around us, witnessing to what it means for us to be the Church together.

One way to extend Christ's peace throughout our community and our world is by participating in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, to be received on October 2. Twenty-five percent of the offering stays with our congregation to help promote projects that support peacemaking, and another twenty-five percent stays with our Presbytery and Synod for projects that promote peace in our regions. Half of the Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

The period September 4 – October 2 is observed as a Season of Peace., a month-long pilgrimage designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education. The theme for the 29 days of the 2022 Season of Peace is "Led Forth in Peace: Critical Areas of Engagement for Peacemakers." Daily reflections invite the practice of peace in four critical areas.: climate change, nonviolence, the intersection of poverty and racism, and immigration/migration. Subscription to daily reflections can be downloaded to your inbox at <https://buff.ly/2y11BYG>.

Women's Bible Study to Resume September 8



All women are invited to participate in the Women's Bible Study, which meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room, from September through May. This year's study is "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." Study books will be available

for \$10 from the church office and at the meetings. This is a great way to become better acquainted with some of the women you attend church with.

The topic was selected in 2019 by a committee which reviewed proposals by Reformed pastors and educators for this year's study. It was read and reviewed by study groups, and the feedback was used to write the final version. The author is the Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel, a professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. She is also the executive director of the American Waldensian Society, an organization that partners with Christians from the Reformed tradition in Italy and South America.

Valley Youth Mission Trip a Success!



Thank you everyone so much for supporting our youth on the mission trip this summer! With your support we were able to help build a ramp and stairs for a dear, sweet lady named Lula. We learned a lot about ourselves, about working with our hands, about building, and about the community. We look forward to many more mission opportunities in the future.
THANK YOU!

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Cascades to Gather October 8

For the first time in two and a half years, Presbyterian Women will have the opportunity to gather in person at Columbia Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, Washington, on October 8. The gathering will be a hybrid, so that those who don't want to be physically present can attend by Zoom, while those who want to attend in person can do so.

The theme of the Gathering is "Caring for God's Creation" and will focus on the Presbyterian Earthcare Congregation designation. Valley's Ruthann Marquis will speak about Valley's Earthcare experience, and other Earthcare Congregations will share what they are doing. Others will be invited to share their experiences with Earthcare efforts.

Those attending in person are asked to send their name, church affiliation and e-mail address to Mary Lou Williams at mlwms41@comcast.net. The Zoom link will be sent out to everyone on the PW e-mail list several days before the event. If you would like to be added to this list, please send your name, church affiliation and e-mail address to Rebecca Jewel at rojewel@gmail.com

For those attending in person, gathering time will be 9:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 10:00 a.m. for everyone. For those attending in person, there will be time for fellowship following the program. Please bring your lunch...

Produce Table



Summer continues to unfold in the Portland area and our gardens continue to delight us in what they are giving back to us! Valley's Produce Table is set up every Sunday during coffee fellowship time and it is filled with many colorful and crunchy things to add to our next meal or snack. Gardeners among us bring things to cover the table's top and others take what appeals to them and make a monetary donation to the jar. At the end of the growing season (whenever that might be!) a check is sent to the Oregon Food Bank to help ease the ever-present and very real food insecurity problem in our state.

Please donate generously, either by bringing produce to the table or filling the jar with cash. Thank you!

Valley Community Youth Choirs

The choir season for children and youth will begin soon with the following schedule:

Cherub Choir (age 4 - 1st grade) - Wednesdays 5:00-5:45 p.m. beginning October 5.

Melodia (2nd-5th) - Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 p.m. beginning October 5.

Armonia (6th-12th) - Sundays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning September 18.

Choirs are for anyone interested, so please spread the word and invite people in! For more information, contact Amy Rheingans at amy@valleycommunity.org or view the Valley Community Youth Choirs webpage at: www.valleyyouthchoirs.org

Valley Youth Group News

Hello everyone! First off, I want to say thank you SO much for all your support towards the youth group this summer on our mission trip. With your help, we were able to faithfully serve the community of Tsaile in the Navajo Nation. It was a wonderful trip!

We have some very fun activities coming up for September: First off, we will be kicking off our 2022-2023 ministry program with a parent meeting on Wednesday, September 14, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Youth House. This will be a meeting to talk about the upcoming year of activities, go over the calendar, fill out new registration forms, and get to know each other more. Please plan to join us for this meeting if you can.

Along with this, we will be starting our regular weekly youth group studies on Wednesday, September 21, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For the course of the school year we will be having weekly youth group on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Each week we will be having dinner together, taking time to study a chosen biblical or spiritual theme, and play games. It will be a wonderful time of fellowship, laughs, and learning.

I am so excited to be diving into ministry with your families this year! As always, please feel free to reach out to me any time. ~Jenn

VOLUNTEERS: As we start thinking about the upcoming year of youth ministry, I am hoping to have some volunteers to come help the youth group in a variety of ways. I am looking for a handful of volunteers to help in the following areas. Please prayerfully consider helping out in any ways you feel led. Thanks!

- Weekly meal sign up. Since we will be having dinner as a part of our regular youth group meetings, I would love to have some people help provide meals (or ingredients for meals) for the youth. I will have a signup sheet available during coffee hour for you to sign up.

- Snack coordinator, carpool coordinator, and 2-3 committed volunteers to help with weekly youth group.

Valley Notes

Opportunities

Mission Endowment

Applications are due October 1. Contact missionendowment@valleycommunity.org or visit Valley's website for an application.

A **Meal Train** has been set up for AmyAnn Green and her family as she recovers from a recent health incident: <https://takethemameal.com/EPNN5183>

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Bonnie Reeder, AmyAnn Green

We pray for new babies:

- Connor Jeffrey Schwartz, born August 26 to Erica and Josh Schwartz. Proud grandparents are Roger and Robin Garvin.

We pray for those who mourn:

- The Sanderman family and friends of Linda Sanderman who died August 25. A memorial service will be held at Valley on Saturday, September 24 at 10:00 a.m.

This month's Earth Care Corner article comes courtesy of Jeanne Roy at the EcoSchool Network.

Yellow Jackets

Why we care: Yellow jackets seem to love summer food as much as we do. While they can be a nuisance, they are also valuable scavengers and predators of other pests. Understanding a bit about yellow jacket behavior and natural ways to keep them at bay will make for better picnics and a healthier environment.

Simple, positive steps:

Avoid stings.

- Keep your distance. Nests are frequently located underground, under shrubs, or in rock or leaf piles. Consider letting them be; yellow jackets do not use the same nest for more than one season.
- Don't smash them. Squashing releases a chemical alarm that signals other yellow jackets to attack.
- Move slowly. They will not sting unless disturbed. If you can't sit still, slowly brush one off with a piece of paper.
- Avoid wearing scented perfumes, hair spray, lotions, deodorant, and brightly colored clothing.
- Feed pets indoors and keep garbage cans clean and tightly covered.
- If you are stung, apply ice in a damp cloth.

Trapping and removal:

- A Safer brand trap allows you to bait and catch yellow jackets and then release them when you go inside. A Rescue trap will kill the insects but is reusable. Or you can make your own trap.
- Removing a nest should be tackled only by professionals, some of whom might be able to use vacuuming instead of sprays or dusts. If they use chemicals, ask that they use pyrethrins.

For more information, visit the website [Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides](http://NorthwestCenterforAlternatives.toPesticides).

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org.

Sanctuary Audio/Video Upgrade Project

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, Valley reacted quickly to adapt to remote worship. With Bob Rasmussen's expertise and leadership, the sound team quickly adopted an efficient strategy to use Facebook Live to stream our Sunday Services across the Internet. Funded by a Presbytery grant, a new video camera and laptop was purchased to supplement an open source (free) software program.

After several months' experience of live streaming, Thomas Rheingans recommended that we take a next step to evaluate the replacement of our 30+ year old sound system and associated equipment with new technology. This would greatly enhance both our in-person and Internet worship experience. After consulting with A/V industry experts, we issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) with these requirements:

- Up-to-date digital sound mixer
- Speakers, amplifiers, and signal processors appropriate to provide improved sound quality and coverage
- Microphones to adequately capture singers' (adult and children) audio in Chancel and Sanctuary forward floor areas
- Wireless microphone receiver antenna distribution system
- Auxiliary speaker system for Synthesizing keyboards
- Pan and zoom (PTZ) camera(s) and control unit to supplement existing video camera
- Installation and training

After reviewing submitted RFP's and reference checks, Session awarded a contract to Hollywood Lights (and Sound) in June. Key components are forecasted to arrive in October (supply chain lead times are long!) expecting to be fully implemented before Advent.

This considerable upgrade came with a hefty price tag: \$35,000.00. Session approved funding from the Valley Stained Glass Restoration reserves. Thanks to all of you who participated in that event knowing that those remaining funds went to further enhance our sanctuary and our worship experience for another 30+ years.

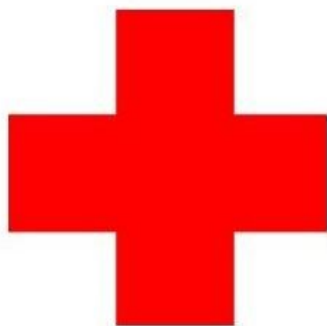
THE MESSENGER



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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 21 from 1:30-6:30 p.m. in the Youth House.

Contact Karen Miller or Anne Searce for more information or to sign up.