
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church December 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.

December

4 Second Sunday of Advent
Communion

11 Third Sunday of Advent
Pageant of the Holy Nativity
Gathering for Jini De Vries,
11:30 a.m.

18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Cents-Ability Offering
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.
Christmas Concert, 3:00 p.m

25 Christmas Day

January

1 Communion



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT VALLEY

Advent means coming. During this first season of the Church year, we anticipate the coming of Christ into the world and the coming of Christ into our lives. Advent is a season of Holy waiting; waiting for God's peace to come to earth... waiting for the light of Christ to shine... waiting for the shepherds, the angels, and the Christ child.

Advent lasts for four Sundays, leading up to Christmas Day. During our Advent worship, we prepare the way for our hearts and minds to receive God's greatest gift to us, the birth of his Son. We light the Advent candles, one more each week, as we remember God's promises to us for Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. We hear the prophets' words of warning and promise, and we listen with wonder for the miraculous Gospel story leading to Christ's birth. During this Holy season, we prepare to celebrate the coming of Emanuel, God-with-us!

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

We begin Advent with symbols of the season displayed in the sanctuary. The first candle of Advent symbolizing Hope will be lit.

Saturday, December 3 - Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us for caroling and hot cocoa as we light the Christmas Tree on the front lawn at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

The second candle of Advent symbolizing Peace will be lit.

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

The third candle of Advent symbolizing Joy will be lit. The Christmas Pageant will be presented during 10:00 a.m. worship. There will be a dramatization of the coming and birth of Jesus. The Sanctuary Choir and Armonia Choir will sing.

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

The fourth candle of Advent symbolizing Love will be lit. A Christmas Concert featuring Thomas Rheingans and friends will be held at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m.

The Christ candle will be lit. A candlelight service celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ will be held at 4:00 p.m. with the Sanctuary and Armonia Choirs participating.

Our Christmas celebration continues with services on Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1, 2023.

Expectant Waiting



Rev. Robin Garvin

For centuries, Christians have prepared for Christmas, the celebration of our Savior's birth, by observing the season of Advent...the four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent has been described as a season of expectant waiting. During this season of expectant waiting, we remember our ancestors in faith, the Hebrew people, who waited and hoped expectantly for the promised Messiah to come and deliver them.

During this Advent season of 2022, our congregation is also in a period of expectant waiting. We are still in a period of transition between installed pastors, waiting for the next pastor to be called and begin his/her service among us.

Truth be told, most of us aren't very good at waiting! Sometimes it is hard to discern the work that is being completed that moves us ever closer to our anticipated outcome. As I write these words, I am reminded of the 33 Chilean

miners who were thrust into an unexpected season of waiting and hoping in August of 2010. You'll remember that when the mine in which they worked collapsed, the miners were trapped in darkness some 2300 feet underground.

The miners spent 69 long days in darkness...waiting. They would not know until emerging from the darkness how much work had been done to accomplish their rescue. Three separate drilling rig teams, nearly every Chilean government ministry, NASA, and a dozen corporations from around the world worked tirelessly for those 69 days to complete their rescue.

In far less dramatic, but certainly important fashion, your session has been meeting since February for monthly strategic planning retreats to do necessary work in preparation for the arrival of Valley's next pastor and our congregation's next season of mission and ministry in our changing world. Beginning in January, the Session will be sharing the fruit of their labors in a series of congregational conversations. Details about these conversations will be shared in the January edition of The Messenger. Please plan on taking part in these important conversations about our collective future.

In the meantime, let's wait with expectation during this season of Advent 2022, rejoicing once again in the good news of Christmas: "...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11)

Wishing you Christmas joy!

Robin R. Garvin

THE MESSENGER

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NEWSLETTER STAFF:
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

December Birthdays

Bob Archibald	Trish Gerlach
Wade Askew	Jenny Pratt Hale
Claire Bedsaul	Charlene Hegdahl
Steve Bird	Bob Hinson
Sarah Blair	Steve Levine
Kjel Carlson	Mark Rodman
Marilyn Connell	Donna Russell
Polly Dye	Silvia Smart

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



Together Women Rise



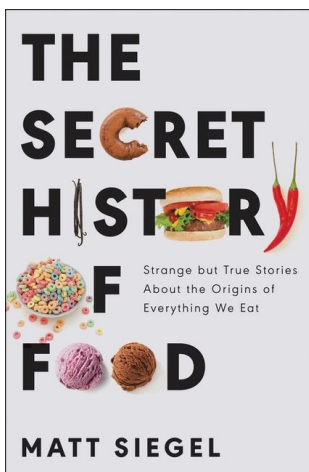
TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

agents of change. This is done through both academic and non-academic interventions and builds a supportive community that is invested in the long term academic goals of the girls from the largest and poorest slum in East India. Come learn about their program interventions that begin early and include social skills, academic skills, sports, creative arts, health and wellbeing, and parental engagement. These highly successful interventions are holistic, with very impressive outcomes.

Our meetings include a potluck lunch, an enlightening educational program and the opportunity to donate to this featured program. Plan on joining us December 18!

Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group meets on the fourth Friday of the month but we combine the November and December meetings due to the holiday season. The combined November/December meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on December 9 in the Fireside Room to discuss *The Secret History of Food*, by

Matt Siegel. This book provides an entertaining look at the little-known history surrounding the foods we know and love. Among the interesting questions addressed are: Is Italian olive oil really Italian, or are we dipping our bread in lamp oil? Why are we masochistically drawn to foods that can hurt us, like hot peppers? Far from being a classic American dish, is apple pie actually... English? If you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive a reminder of the meeting.

In January, we select the books to be read in the coming year. If you wish to suggest a book to include on the selection list, please contact Kathy Ems (rkems@comcast.net), including the title, author and a very brief description of the book.

Celebration Luncheon in Honor of Jini De Vries



Jini De Vries serving up delicious soup during Kick-Off Sunday in order to bring attention to the need for Soup Kitchen volunteers.

The family of well loved and long time Valley member Jini De Vries would like to invite you to join them in celebrating her life at a light luncheon after worship on Sunday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m. in Armitage Hall. Jini passed away in March of 2020 and secondary to Covid restrictions, a memorial service has never taken place.

Please join us on December 11 as we visit with Jini's family and each other, tell favorite Jini stories and celebrate her wonderful life.

Her family will provide a light lunch, however, help is needed with dessert! Let us fill the dessert table with recipes that Jini shared with her church family. If you have a favorite recipe from Jini please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.260.9464, so that Fellowship can start making a list of those sweet things to come.



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

The **2023 Per Capita** will be **\$45.60**.

For more information about what per capita is and how it helps, go to:
oga.pcusa.org/percapita



Advent Daily Devotional Guide Available



The weeks leading up to Christmas can be hectic and full. The opportunity to pause and attend to Advent can get lost amid preparations for Advent/Christmas celebrations. Why not take time to spiritually prepare your heart and mind for the celebration of this holy season? You are invited to pick up a free daily Advent devotional created by the trusted Presbyterian periodical, *The Presbyterian Outlook*. This daily devotional, entitled *Attending to Advent: Poetry, Prose, and Prayer*, invites readers to pause and reflect on narratives in the Christmas story. Each week, the devotions address a different theme: Week 1: Mary; Week 2: Joseph; Week 3: Herod; Week 4: the Christ child; Christmas Eve: Emmanuel.

Daily readings will take us deeper into the scriptural story of the birth of Christ and explore contemporary subjects like parenting, power, war and violence, vulnerability, innocence, and the many ways God's incarnation can be experienced. Devotional guides will be available beginning November 27 (the First Sunday of Advent) in the narthex on Sundays or from the church office during the week.

Christmas Joy Offering Coming!



At our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services (and for several weeks thereafter), Valley will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering. This is one of four Special Offerings received annually in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and reminds us of God's great gift to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Half of the Christmas Joy Offering enables the PCUSA Board of Pensions to assist current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. Many church workers have spent their careers

working in small rural churches, and their pensions aren't always adequate to cover emergency needs. Also, many current workers encounter emergencies that their resources aren't adequate to cover.

The other half of the Christmas Joy Offering works to develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools, such as Stillman College and Menaul School, equipping future leaders from communities of color. Please give generously in light of God's greatest gift to us!

Mission Market a Success!

Thank you for your support! We were so happy to see how many people came together for Mission Market 2022. Most of the groups represented on November 13 went away with around \$300 toward their Non-profit. And we would like to thank some of our Mission Endowment Grant groups: Open Arms, Sister Cities/Kiev and Uzhhorod, Valley Youth, and Second Home for participating. We did, however, miss our dancers from Ann Johnson's school, and hope they've all recovered. God willing, we'll see them next year. Your Mission Committee.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of counting down to Christmas, we count up to Epiphany. By gathering a food or hygiene product each day and adding it to your box. Then we'll take our gifts to the Grass Roots Food Pantry in Milwaukee. This is the fourth year we've paired with this food pantry over the Christmas season. You can find the daily suggested list during coffee fellowship, on our website, or by [clicking here](#) - or - play once each Sunday by bringing a suggested item to church and placing it in the bins by the Fireside Room. The game runs through Sunday January 1, 2023.

Equal Exchange Sales



If you missed your EVO or coffee at Mission Market, Connie Brenner will be offering items for sale during coffee fellowship on December 18 and she'll be there during the Christmas Concert at 3:00 p.m., that afternoon too. See you there!

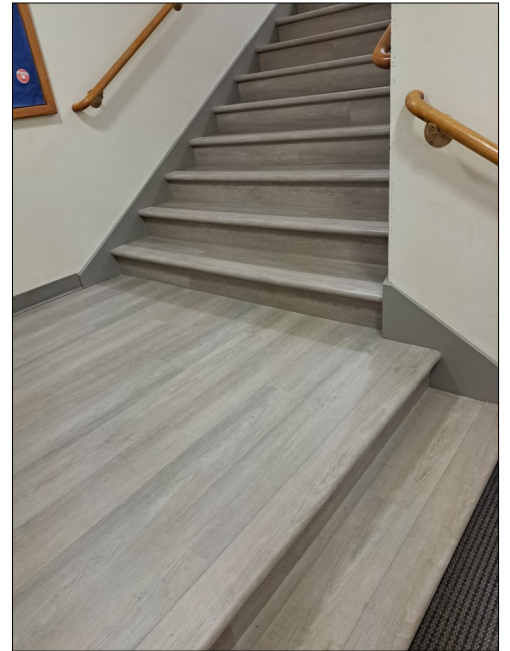


New Flooring



Before

As you no doubt noticed, the third-floor hall flooring outside Davis Hall has been long overdue for an upgrade. Separated and curling seams required black tape to hold them down since they posed a tripping hazard. The stairs and lower landing also showed considerable wear, and it was futile trying to keep them clean. Facilities selected commercial grade vinyl planking to withstand the high traffic in this area. A grant from the Valley Foundation provided funding. Enjoy the climb.



After

A Note on Year-End Giving

During December, many people give year-end contributions of cash or stocks. Please remember that said contributions must be in our hands or at least postmarked by December 31 in order to be 2022 tax deductible. If you are planning to drop by to personally deliver a contribution, please do so by Friday, December 30. A couple of other thoughts on giving that may be tax-advantageous to you (*fine print-Consult your tax adviser*):

1. Giving Appreciated Stock. You may find contributing appreciated stock to be an attractive option. You are entitled to claim as a charitable donation the full value of a stock as of the date of your contribution. So, for example, if you purchased a security at \$10 that has since appreciated to \$50, you can deduct \$50 as a charitable contribution. Your broker can assist you with details on making a stock transfer. Our business manager AmyAnn Green should be alerted if you decide to give stock. She is reachable at AmyAnn@ValleyCommunity.org.
2. Direct Contribution from an IRA. If you are 72 years or older and have an Individual Retirement Account, contributing directly from your account can be very tax efficient. Charitable contributions sourced from your IRA are deducted directly from your income so it helps you tax-wise even if you do not itemize deductions (i.e., take the standard deduction). The custodian of your IRA account can help you with forms and paperwork for accomplishing a transfer.

Thank you for your continued generous and prayerful support.

Youth Group News

Hello youth group families! This month we have a few fun festive gatherings to help us gear up for Christmas.

- Sunday, December 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. we will be baking cookies and watching a Christmas movie. Bring your favorite recipes to share!
- November 30 and December 7 will be regular youth group. We will be doing a quick study about the first two themes of Advent: Hope and Peace. There will also be a small craft each week that goes with the theme.
- December 14 we will not have youth group, as to give the youth a break to study before Christmas break.
- December 16 is our Youth Christmas party, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Carlson's home! Join us for a fun evening of games, good food, and laughter! This will be a potluck, so please plan to bring something to share. We will also be having a white elephant gift exchange. Please limit your gifts to \$10. Please RSVP to Jenn@valleycommunity.org by December 14 so she can plan for everything.
- Cookie sales are right around the corner! If you would like to order any cookies, please sign up during coffee hour! If you would like to bake any cookies, please contact Jenn Souders or Allison Carlson.

Have a wonderful December!



Valley Youth and their families celebrated a Thanksgiving dinner together in the Youth House.



LET US GIVE THANKS

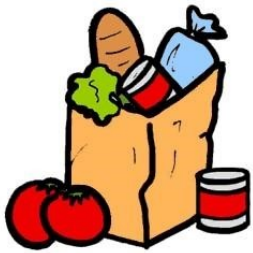
Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 3



Once again Valley's outdoor tree will be ablaze with lights on Saturday December 3! Please join your church family and neighbors on Valley's front lawn to catch this holiday sight, sing some carols and enjoy some sweet treats with a warm beverage. Festivities will start at 6:00 p.m. Please come prepared for whatever weather unfolds that evening!

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to welcome in the spirit of Christmas and community at this annual celebration. Fellowship Ministry hopes to see you there!

St. Matthew's Food Pantry



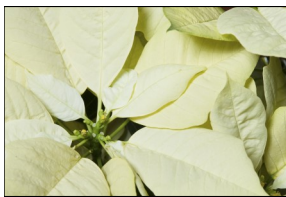
Thank you for supporting this monthly mission. Since its inception in the spring of 2020 we've collected and delivered over five tons of food... YES over 10,000 pounds!!! With 2,253 of that collected just this year alone. There's one more collection date to go....December 1 and then on to 2023!! Toys are being collected through December 4.

Cents-Ability Sunday



On Sunday, December 18, please dig deep into your pockets to drop your spare change into the bowls placed in the Narthex for Cents-Ability Sunday. Funds go to PCUSA Hunger Relief and locally to Care to Share, the root program helping to direct families to agencies which can offer assistance in these troubling times.

Poinsettias to Grace the Chancel



Poinsettias will enhance the Sanctuary Chancel throughout the Advent season in memory and honor of our loved ones. If you wish to participate, please honor your loved one(s) with a donation of whatever amount you wish. Please note "VCPC Flower Fund" and send it to the church office by Sunday,

December 18. Honorees' names will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Questions? Contact angie@valleycommunity.org.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Sunday, December 18
3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

The Christmas Concert will feature Thomas Rheingans along with carolers, a brass quintet, piano solos, and vocal performances by Siena Hertafeld and Luke Smith.



The Sanctuary Choir will perform and will be joined by members of the Youth Choir.



This concert is free and open to the public!



Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to this festive musical celebration!



It is time to start thinking about the 2023 Soup Kitchen service. VCPC provides a meal the third Thursday of the month to 65 men at the Bud Clark Commons in Portland. We are looking for someone or a group to provide the meal starting January 2023. Individuals/groups can now prepare the food in the church kitchen to deliver downtown. Contact Mary Kay Rodman at mkrodman@comcast.net if you are able to help out. Valley has partnered with Portland's Transition Projects for thirty-two years, let's keep the tradition alive!





The youth pie sale was a success bringing in funds towards mission trips.

Pastor Robin preparing to lead her flock on Kirkin' o' the Tartan Sunday.



In October, the youth took a trip to the Pumpkin Patch and then carved pumpkins back at the Youth House.

Valley Notes

Opportunities

Alas, there will be no Advent Fair this year! However, there will be a selected craft available in a “take home” format on each of the Sundays in Advent. These will be available during coffee fellowship time, while supplies last!

Scholastic Book Fair hosted by Valley Christian Preschool will be held in the Fireside Room on Saturday, December 3 during the Christmas Tree Lighting (6:00 p.m.) and during coffee fellowship on Sunday, December 4.

Thank you

Dr. David Lee would like to thank his Valley friends for all the cards and prayers he received while recovering from health issues.

Dear Friends, on behalf of the session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Uvalde, TX, I would like to thank you for your prayers, donation, and support since the tragic events of May 24, 2022. We have been overwhelmed by the love, generosity, and prayers of the wider church, and are so deeply grateful you took the time to send us a reminder of God’s presence, power, and love. We are prayerfully discerning how we are called to use the donations to help our community heal, and we covet your prayers as we seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance. As always, we ask for your continued prayers for the UCISD teachers, students, families and administrators, as well as the whole city of Uvalde.

With deep gratitude,
Rev. Gini Norris-Lane, Pastor

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:
CJ Spisla

We pray for those who mourn:
- Christine Danner and family on the death of Christine’s mother, Roberta Danner, on November 16.

Earth Care Corner

I am fortunate that almost all of the furniture in my house is old. I mean really old: a bed that I sleep on that was my mother-in-law’s as a young girl, a guest bed and dresser that were my parents-in-law’s wedding set, their dining room table, a coffee table, an old school desk. The list could go on for several more items. All of these things were made to last, and last they have.

On the contrast, much of the furniture that is made today is considered “fast furniture” with a life expectancy of around five years. Since these items are not built to last, they are rapidly adding to the piles in our landfills. When something breaks or does not wear well it gets discarded. These items are made are not only made of wood and metal, but also all sorts of glues and fillers that don’t easily break down and biodegrade.

There is a full article about this in the November 2, 2022 New York Times. Check it out and think about this the next time you are looking at new furniture.

Submitted by Ruthann Marquis, Valley Earth Care Team member



Advent/Christmas Worship – 2022

First Sunday of Advent: November 27, 2022

Isaiah 64:1-9 “A Hopeful Lament”

Second Sunday of Advent: December 4, 2022

Isaiah 11:1-10 “Longing for Peace”

Third Sunday of Advent: December 11, 2022

The Christmas Pageant

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 18, 2022

Matthew 1:18-23 “Loving Us/One of Us”

Christmas Eve Intergenerational Service: December 24, 2022, 4:00 PM

John 1:1-14 “Perfect Grace”

Christmas Day: December 25, 2022

Luke 2:8-14 “Great Joy”



THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

DEACONS'
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, December 14,
1:30-6:30 p.m.



Up to three people may be helped with each pint of blood
collected. Please help if you can.
Contact Karen Miller or Anne Searce for more information.