
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church January 2023



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.

January

1 New Year's Day

8 Baptism of the Lord
Communion
Clipper Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

15 Cents-Ability Offering
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.
Sermon on the Mount
sermon series begins

22

29

February

5 Communion



Sanctuary Audio and Video Upgrade

The A/V upgrade project finally got into high gear in December. After waiting for equipment deliveries due to the pandemic related supply chain issues, new speakers, soundboard, and video components were installed in just a few days prior to the December 18 Sunday service and Christmas Concert. Our 30+ year old analog sound system has now evolved to a modern digital system that provides clearer sound, support for the electronic keyboards Thomas uses to enhance the organ and tremendous improvement in flexibility. Installing the new speakers that can accurately produce the sound from these new components was a major task. Our contractor, Hollywood Lights, Audio and Video, brought in a lift to reach the top of the sanctuary to uninstall the old and install the new speakers. Hats off to the brave technicians who completed this work!

Continued on p. 5



A new winter sermon series: "Follow the Call" based on Matthew 5-7, often referred to as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, will begin January 15 and run through February 19. See p. 4 for more information.

A Future with Hope!



Rev. Robin Garvin

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2023! In the December edition of *The Messenger*, I mentioned that your session has been meeting since February of last year to prepare for the arrival of Valley's next pastor and our next season of mission and ministry as a congregation in an ever-changing world. The session is eager to share their insights with the congregation in a series of congregational conversations. **The conversations will be held on consecutive Sundays, January 22, January 29, and February 5, 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Davis Hall.** Light food will be served.

Here are the topics for these important conversations:

- January 22: Change: The New Normal**
- January 29: Re-Envision: The Session's Process and Discoveries**
- February 5: A Future with Hope: Valley's Gifts and Graces/Neighbor Needs/Next Pastor**

The session welcomes the in-person participation of all Valley members and friends. For those unable to attend in-person, each gathering will be videotaped and available on the church's YouTube channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWbnnbikR_B9DL-Qw30kNnA

Our theme for these congregational gatherings will be, "A Future with Hope." As we enter this new year, let us trust the promise of Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Let us entrust our congregation and its good and hopeful future to our faithful Lord! May it be so. Amen!

Joyfully in Christ,

Robin R. Garvin



Happy New Year



THE MESSENGER

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ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

January Birthdays

Len Anderson	Lisa Garpestad	James Price
Sarah Boyle	Roger Garvin	Taylor Rawlings
Jacqueline Bridges	Martha Gazeley	Thomas Rheingans
Duncan Brown	Eben Jenkins	Roger Rothrock
Will Browning	Don Kelly	Jim Sandberg
Dane Carlson	David Lee	Kimberlee Scott
Glenys Craig	Geri Mitchell	Kerrie Standlee
Andy Dee	Andrea Murdoch	Fan Standlee
Chuck Falconer	Daniel Murphy	Macy Vermillion
Jan Falconer	Marah Murphy	

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



Together Women Rise



rights awareness, enhanced decision making power, greater earning potential and a dignified standard of living. That last phrase is so meaningful—a dignified standard of living. Isn't it the right of everyone in this world to have a dignified standard of living?

Together Women Rise will support grants in several countries in Africa, Guatemala, Honduras, Palestine, India and Pakistan this coming year. Please join us—perhaps make it a New Year's Resolution—at our monthly meetings to learn about the featured program and the history of the non-profit receiving these funds, to expand your awareness of the many and varied needs around the world, to share a potluck meal and to donate to the grant requests. Much more information is available at togetherwomenrise.org. If you have any questions at all, please contact Ruthann Marquis.

Valley Book Group

The Valley Book Group will be meeting on Friday, January 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Our January meeting traditionally gives members a chance to select books that will be read in the new year. During the past several months, Kathy Ems has been compiling a list of recommended books provided by members. The list of these books along with a brief description of each of them will be available to members of the group so that they can vote on the ones they would like to read for discussion in the coming months. If you have not attended in the past but would like to join us and learn more about the books under consideration, contact Laura Sanders to have your name added to the contact list.



Youth Group News



Happy New Year! I am so excited to start our new year off for youth ministry. Here's a very brief look at what we will be doing for the month of January:



- Regular Wednesday youth group will start up again on January 11. This will give everyone an ease back into weekly activities after the break.
- January 18 the youth will be volunteering at the NW Children's Outreach from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We will meet there and there will not be regular lesson and dinner at 6:00 p.m.
- January 27 is bowling night! Come have a fun evening of bowling and laser tag at Superplay from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cost will be \$30 per person.

As we prepare for our mission trip to Puerto Rico in July, please stay tuned for a parent meeting with more information. If your student would like to go on this trip, please let Jenn (jenn@valleycommunity.org) know ASAP. There will be 10 spots for youth. If you would like to join as a leader, please let Jenn know. We are looking for two other adults to join. Stay tuned!

Blessings upon you all,
Jenn



Thank you for sending your check for **\$45.60** for the **2023 Per Capita** for each Valley member. For more information about what per capita is and how it helps, go to: oga.pcusa.org/percapita



Winter Sermon Series: “Follow the Call”



Our winter sermon series (January 15 through February 19) will be, “Follow the Call.” During this six-week series we will explore Matthew 5-7, often referred to as Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Fourth century theologian, Augustine, once described the Sermon on the Mount as “the perfect measure of the Christian life.” The Sermon on the Mount contains some of Jesus’ best-known teachings: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” “...strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...” Taken together, Jesus’

teachings in Matthew 5-7 help us form an understanding of what it means to answer Jesus’ call to follow him as faithful disciples. Join us each week during this series as we consider together how we might individually and collectively follow the call of Jesus!

“Follow the Call” Worship Passages

January 15	Matthew 5:1-12
January 22	Matthew 5:13-16
January 29	Matthew 5:43-48
February 5	Matthew 6:19-23
February 12	Matthew 6:25-33
February 19	Matthew 7:24-29

“Follow the Call” Bible Study

January 18 and 25, February 1 and 8
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Join with Valley friends to explore in greater depth the weekly worship passage from the Sermon on the Mount. We will gather Wednesdays, January 18 and 25, February 1 and 8, 10:30 a.m. in the church office conference room, or 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (Zoom links will be on the church website and included in the Friday Eblast).

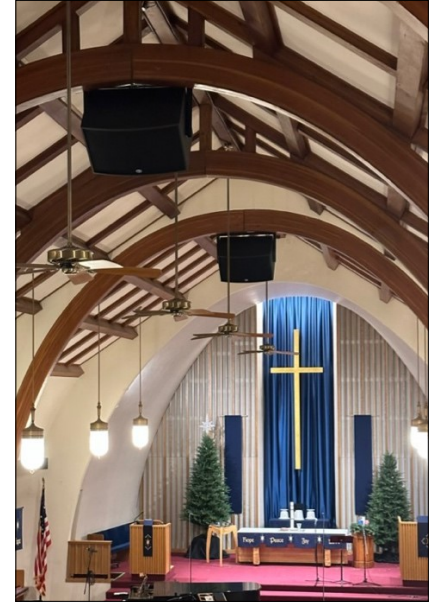
“Follow the Call” Daily Reading Guide

On Sunday mornings, January 15 through February 19, we will focus on a few key passages from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount during worship. Why not read, individually or as a family, through the entire Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)? Daily readings begin on January 16 and conclude on February 17. The readings each day will be brief and will help you to reflect on Jesus’ call to you to follow him. **Daily reading guides can be accessed through the church website or in the narthex on Sunday mornings beginning January 8.**



Sanctuary Audio and Video Upgrade (cont. from page 1)

The two large new speakers weigh about 200 lbs. each. The Hollywood folks hoisted them onto the handrails of the lift, then lifted them about 25 feet to the beams. Adjusting the position on top of the lift to bolt them to very substantial steel brackets attached to our glulam beams was an amazing task.

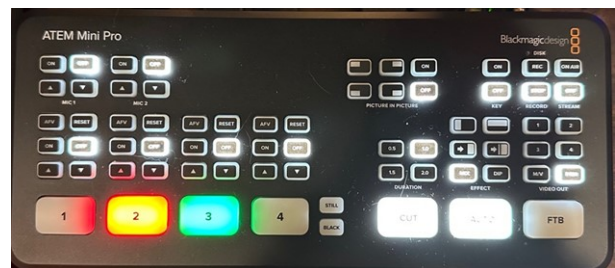


Once the speakers were up, the work turned to installing new speaker and digital cabling. The cables were fished through walls and attic space to allow communications from microphones and speakers to the new digital mixer (soundboard). This Allen & Heath mixer has amazing capabilities that will allow Valley to enjoy music, pageants, and the Message better than ever!



The last components are a new Point-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) camera and video switcher for our livestreaming. The additional camera and switcher allow us to smoothly transition to a new subject avoiding the distraction of panning and zooming. We hope to add a second PTZ camera in the near future.

Over the next several weeks, the AV staff will continue to train on and learn all our new capabilities. If anyone is interested on joining the AV team, please contact steve.rees@me.com.



Mission Endowment Committee Awards Fall 2022 Grants

The Mission Endowment Committee announces seven grants totaling \$12,000. Grants were approved by Valley's Session in November. The grants support housing, education, medical needs, and social services here in the Portland area and around the world.

- **World Vision Ukraine - \$1,750**
This grant, requested by Valley's youth, provides refugee support in Ukraine
- **EverFree - \$2,500**
Provides comprehensive care to survivors of human trafficking in Uganda
- **Janus Youth Programs - \$2,500**
Supports their SEEDS program which stabilizes vulnerable families by providing education for young parents to prevent child abuse here in Portland, OR
- **YWCA of Greater Portland - \$2,000**
Supports the Survivor Services program to create long term housing services for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence
- **EMO Second Home - \$1,750**
This grant will support gatherings for volunteer home providers in the Portland Metro area. It will provide snacks or meals, as well as a welcome basket for new home providers, or a thank-you basket for home providers who have students finishing their time with them.
- **Ignite the World Ministries - \$1,250**
Provides funding to build five tube wells which will provide clean drinking water to villages in Bangladesh and NE India
- **St. Stevens Youth Programs - \$250**
This grant, requested by Valley member Eric Blair, will help fund field trips for marginalized students in Jamaica Plains, MA, to visit sites in downtown Boston, MA

Members of the Mission Endowment Committee are Jan Bellis-Squires, Ernie Bootsma, Donna Carlson, Bob Hayes, Pam Kessinger, and Carol Powers (Chair). Janet Adkins is the Mission Committee liaison.



Left: Jini's son, Shon, and husband, John, at the luncheon.



A celebration luncheon in honor of the life of long-time Valley member, Jini De Vries, was held in Armitage Hall on December 11. Jini passed away in March of 2020 and secondary to Covid restrictions, a memorial service had never taken place. Many gathered to tell favorite Jini stories and celebrate her wonderful life.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Confirmation Class: Parents/guardians of youth in 9th through 12th grades are eligible to participate in the Confirmation class at Valley Church in the winter/spring of 2023. The Confirmation experience provides youth with an opportunity to gain a foundational understanding of the Christian faith and a basic appreciation of the Presbyterian branch of the Christian family tree. At the end of the Confirmation class experience, youth may publicly profess their faith, be confirmed, and unite in membership with our congregation. Please email Pastor Robin at robin@valleycommunity.org no later than **January 8** if your high school student would like to participate in the Confirmation class for 2023.

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

David Tuffs

We pray for new babies:

- Mia Rose Thomas, born November 22 to Austin and Lauren Vaughan Thomas. Proud Great-Grandmother is Ginny Vaughan.

We pray for those who mourn:

- Joy McNeal and family on the death of Joy's sister, Karen Smith, on December 26 and the death of Joy's brother, Bill Kruckek, on December 15.

- Blue Bickford and family on the death of Blue's wife, Diane Bickford, on December 15.

- Friends and family of George Doolittle who died on December 4. A memorial service for both George and his wife, Mikie, will be held at Valley on Saturday, January 21 at 1:00 p.m.

We pray for Ukraine: protection for the people and a swift end to the war.

Earth Care Corner

The beginning of a New Year is often the time to take an inventory of one's life and habits and to set some goals for the coming year. This Earth Care Corner has been a place to encourage your awareness of how to live more mindfully with regard to consumption and waste reduction.

This month's article will also offer encouragement to think about new choices you can make for 2023 and a few personal suggestions from the writer. In addition, there will be information about what Valley's Earth Care Team has done last year and actions that will be taken this coming year.

1. Reduce single use plastic items in your life. We all know that plastic has revolutionized our lives. And we know that it is rapidly adding to filling up the landfills in our state and around the world. When given a choice to purchase fruit in a plastic 12 pack or using a reusable produce bag to hand select your apples or pears, the latter eliminates the need to do something with that plastic packaging. Granted #1 plastics can be recycled at New Seasons and with James or Ridwell, however, significant energy goes into that plastic production, as well as on the recycling end. Eliminating the purchase of that plastic pack does good on both ends. This is just one example. Easy solution: purchase or make reusable produce bags and bring them every time you go shopping so that they are there to use. I put them in my reusable grocery bags so that they come into the store with me.

2. Use a coffee mug and a water bottle. Most drive through coffee business have resumed being able to use your coffee mug or a commuter mug for your warm beverages. Since disposable coffee cups have a plastic lining they *cannot* be recycled and *must* be thrown in the trash. The plastic lids, however, are #6 and can be brought to Valley's 2x/month Styrofoam and #6 plastic collection on the first and third Thursdays. In my opinion, plastic water bottles are not encouraged at Valley. Bringing a reusable water bottle with you to church for worship or your activities there is just plain good stewardship. One of many wonderful things to look forward to is the installation of a new water fountain and refilling station for water bottles that will be coming your way near the gym, kitchen and Armitage Hall! Thanks Facilities and Memorial & Gifts!

3. Use rechargeable batteries. Did you know that it takes about 50 times more energy to manufacture a disposable battery than that battery will provide in its lifetime? Yikes! In contrast, rechargeable batteries supply more than 50 times the energy used to make them. That's a pretty huge difference for our planet! Rechargeable batteries also save on cost by reducing the need to frequently purchase new ones. In our house we only use Eneloop batteries by Panasonic that come fully charged by solar power, can be reused/recharged over 2,000 times and retain their power while waiting to be used. Check them out!

4. Turn off lights. Turning off the lights when you leave a room is a really easy way to reduce the amount of energy you're using in your home or office. It takes time to get in the habit, but just like any new habit, you have to put some effort in before it becomes second-nature. But it's a habit worth making. When you turn off lights that aren't being used, you can reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by .15 pounds per hour! You might note that around Valley there are signs at all of the switches encouraging us all to turn off lights as we exit an area.

5. Recycle responsibly. Believe it or not, there really is something called "wish-cycling." It is the practice of recycling items that cannot be recycled. It stems from the *best intentions*: one's wish or hope that something they've bought or use regularly can be recycled. Instead, those good intentions end up costing recycling companies more time and money. And, it can impact recycling at a later processing point. Something may have a recycling symbol on it but also not be recyclable in your area. Each district has its own rules and available equipment. Your garbage hauler can provide the exact items that can be recycled at curbside. Valley has purchased recycling bins for every location that has a trash container. Each are clearly marked as to what goes where. The pictures will make it easy for you to put it in the right place. Please take a closer look!

This list could really go on and on. Valley's Earth Care Team is here for your questions and suggestions. We collect Styrofoam and #6 plastics every first and third Thursdays in the East parking lot between 10:00-11:30 a.m. We join the non-perishable food collection at the same time. Our next Community Recycling Event will be Saturday April 22, 2023 which happens to be Earth Day! Stay tuned!

Happy New Year and may we all resolve to love our Earth!

Ruthann Marquis, Earth Care Team leader

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

The Sacrament of
Communion will be celebrated
on *Sunday, January 8* instead
of *Sunday, January 1*. All are
invited to gather around
His holy table!

