


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church March 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.

March

5 Second Sunday in Lent
Communion

12 Third Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Chili Cook Off, 11:00 a.m.
New Member Class,
11:30 a.m.

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

26 Fifth Sunday in Lent

April

2 Palm Sunday
Communion



Holy Week and Easter at Valley

Palm Sunday

April 2, 10:00 a.m.

Worship begins as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and mark the beginning of Holy Week. Palm branches celebrate the procession and the Stumptown Brass Quintet will play during the service. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. Worship centers on the gospel readings and anthem.

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 6:00 p.m.

Remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples and celebrate the Eucharist around tables in Davis Hall/Gym. A simple dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Following dinner, we will remain in Davis Hall to celebrate the Lord's Last Supper in scripture and music.

Good Friday

April 7, 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a service in the Sanctuary at 1:00 p.m. to remember Jesus' last hours and events leading to his crucifixion. This somber and contemplative time is to help us focus on the Passion of Christ and his sacrifice for us.

Easter Sunday

April 9, 10:00 a.m.

On Easter morning, we will celebrate the resurrection at our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our service will include music from the combined Sanctuary and Youth Choirs.

Worship will be full of "Alleluias" as we celebrate the risen Christ! Please invite friends and family to join!



Renewed Vision to Guide Us

During their February meeting, the session formally voted to adopt a renewed statement of Valley's mission, core values, and three-year vision. The adoption of this renewed statement represents the culmination of the prayer, readings, discussions, and congregational conversations the session engaged in during 2022 and early 2023. This statement will guide us as we prioritize our ministry efforts as a congregation and inform the creation of a Ministry Information Form that will enable pastoral candidates to become acquainted with Valley and its future direction during the pastor seeking process.

I am so proud of our session for their hard work, diligence, and commitment to leading the congregation into our next chapter of mission and ministry. Please take time to become acquainted with this renewed statement. Then let's all pray that God will give us grace to live out our stated mission of **cultivating a community of followers who embody Jesus' message of grace and love for all people.**

Joyfully in Christ,



Our Mission

Cultivating a community of followers who embody Jesus' message of grace and love for all people.

Our Core Values

Anchored in Worship

We anchor our life together in the vibrant worship of God.

Community and Celebration

We joyfully celebrate milestones and our life together in Christ.

Engagement with Scripture and the World

We cultivate thoughtful, reflective faith through regular engagement with Scripture and the world, with a commitment to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Welcoming and Serving All People

We respond to the grace and love we have received by opening our hearts, hands, and church in service to all people.

Next Generation

We intentionally invest in the next generation so that it may set its hope anew on God.

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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	Mark Gazeley	Pastor Ben Paroulek
Wendy Archibald	Zachary Graham	Addy Pratt
Raoul Bellis-Squires	Georgia Hoffbeck	Laura Sanders
Jan Bellis-Squires	Ann Johnson	Glenn Simenson
Michelle Blair	Kevin Killian	Charlene Stansbury
Pat Bryant	Ron Leland	Barbara Symons
Kegan Derting	Ken Magnuson	Joann Uecker
Gary Eaton	Pat Martinelli	

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

At our next meeting after worship at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday March 19, Together Women Rise at Valley will learn about and support Too Young to Wed in Kenya. This amazing nonprofit has a mission to empower girls and end child marriage globally. They carry out their mission by increasing school attendance and literacy, delaying marriage, informing girls and families of their rights, and

providing support and access to education, financial inclusion, safe spaces, mentors, and leadership opportunities.

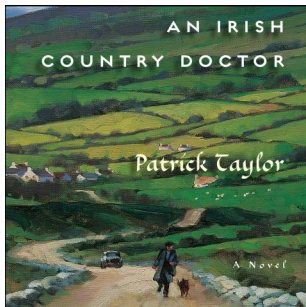
Here is are two facts that are frightening:

1. Globally, every two seconds one girl is married against her will.
2. An additional 10 million girls are at risk of child marriage in the next decade as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic, as deepening poverty drives more families to marry off their daughters.

Here is good news: Keeping girls in school is the single most protective factor against child marriage. On average, the likelihood of a girl marrying as a child is six percent less for every additional year she stays in secondary education. Too Young to Wed is doing just that.

Come learn more about how this featured grantee, an example of the nonprofits that Together Women Rise choose, helps promote gender equality because when women rise, we all rise. Join us for a potluck lunch, an interesting program and the opportunity to make a donation to support their grant request. If you have questions, please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.260.9464.

Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group meets on the fourth Friday of the month and the March meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 24 in the Fireside Room to discuss An Irish Country Doctor by Patrick Taylor.

This novel is a charming and engrossing tale that will captivate readers from the very first page about a young Irish doctor who jumps at the chance to secure a position as an assistant in a small rural practice. In the small village, he finds himself working with a pugnacious older physician who may turn out to be the biggest charlatan he has ever met or the very best teacher he could hope for.

New members are always welcome and if you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive a reminder of the meeting.



St. Matthew Lutheran Pantry

The St. Matthew Lutheran Pantry (the church we collect the first and third Thursday food collection for) is having an Open House for Partner Churches on Sunday March 12 at noon.

They will have snacks, give tours of the building, and talk about volunteer opportunities. Both Diane Meyer, Valley's Volunteer coordinator of Wednesday night food distribution and Andrea Murdoch will be on site to help recruit more volunteers. Everyone is invited and we hope you'll come!



FOOD PANTRY



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



Renewed Vision to Guide Us (cont. from page 2)

Our Three-Year Vision

In response to the grace and love we have received, during the next three years (2023-2025) we will intentionally invest in the cultivation of authentic and supportive relationships with neighboring next generation children/youth and their families and community partners that they might flourish.

Our Immediate Strategy

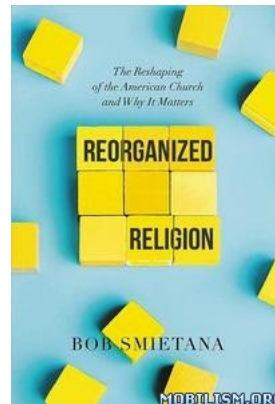
- Cultivate an ever-expanding network of next generation/community relationships beginning with our Sanctuary House refugee family, Valley Christian Preschool families, and Raleigh Park Elementary staff, faculty, students, and families.
- Hire a part-time Director of Community and Family engagement to assist us with the cultivation of next generation/community relationships.
- Expand the congregation's vision and capacity to cultivate authentic and supportive relationships with next generation and community partners.
- Call a new pastor who has the capacity and demonstrated ability to lead adaptive change.

Midweek Lunch and Reflection

Join us every Wednesday during Lent, March 1 through April 5, 12:00-1:00 p.m., in Armitage Hall for an opportunity to share lunch (bring your own brown bag!), a time of reflection on the upcoming Sunday's scripture passage and artwork related to that passage, and a concluding time of celebrating Communion together. Make space for this midweek time of reflection and refreshment during the season of Lent!



“Reorganized Religion” Conversation Set for March 26



Over the past month, several Valley members and friends have been reading the book, “Reorganized Religion,” by Bob Smietana, a nationally-known, award winning religion reporter. In this book, Smietana explores the current state of the American church and its future. The Valley session read this book during their revisioning process. On Sunday, March 26, the Reverend Dr. Ken Hood (former pastor of Tualatin Presbyterian Church) will join us at 11:30 a.m. in Armitage Hall to facilitate our discussion of “Reorganized Religion.” Copies of the book are available for check out from the Gamble Library. Why not read this book that many are talking about and join the conversation on March 26!

Director of Community and Family Engagement Hired!



The VCPC Personnel Committee is pleased to announce the hire of Leslie Hanscom for the newly created part-time (20 hours per week) position, Director of Community and Family Engagement. Leslie will assist the Valley congregation as it lives into its renewed vision to cultivate an expanding network of community partner and next generation family relationships. Leslie comes to us with a wealth of experience working with young families and community engagement. For nearly 30 years, Leslie and her husband, Mark, owned and operated two Gymboree Play and Music franchises in the Portland metro area. Most recently, Leslie served as the Director of Ministry with Children and their Families at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church. Leslie and Mark are the parents of two adult children, Margaret and John, and a daughter-in-law, Elise. Leslie was introduced to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 26. Her first day on the job will be March 12.

Report from CONC (Church Officer Nominating Committee)



Nominating COMMITTEE

Valley's CONC (Church Officer Nominating Committee) team is already hard at work. In addition to filling the openings for the classes of 2026 for both the Board of Deacons and Ruling Elders on Session, CONC this year will also be responsible for forming the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) that will work with the Holy Spirit's guidance to select a candidate for Valley to consider for our next called Pastor.

The Valley members that are on this committee are Allison Carlson (Deacon representative), Ruthann Marquis (Elder representative and Chair), Laura Sanders, Shirley Anderson and Frank Powers (members at large from the congregation.) Pastor Robin Garvin offers her guidance and wisdom generously.

Valley's CONC has developed an application for the PNC for those interested in being on this important committee. This application process will allow those that apply to express why they feel called to be on the PNC and to share what gifts and talents will enhance the work of this team. The application was introduced and made available at the Annual Congregational Meeting held after worship on February 26 and is also available on-line on Valley's website. All completed applications are due on March 19.

As CONC continues with its work, please pray for all of its members and prayerfully consider what role you might like to play in Valley's future.

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

Youth Group News

Hello Valley families! What a fantastic February we had! Thank you to all who participated in and helped with the Youth Sunday service. We had a wonderful time worshipping together and the youth did great.

Get ready for a chili cook off! Join us on March 12 after church for our first fundraiser of the year for our upcoming mission trip. We will have about 10 chilis to taste and choose from. The top winner will win a fun prize. We will have information about our trip that we are excited to share with you!

Here's a list of events for March:

- March 1: Regular Youth Group (we will begin our Lent study)
- March 8: Regular Youth Group
- March 15: Volunteer Night TBD
- March 22: Youth Group Game Night

No youth group on Spring Break.



Valley Scrapbook



Clockwise:

Steve and David update the lighting in the East hallway.

Heart cookies, cake pops, and community are enjoyed during coffee fellowship on Youth Sunday.

Valley Youth enjoying cake pops before watching the Super Bowl together in the Youth House.

Combined choirs sang on Youth Sunday during worship.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Join us for a Chili Cook Off fundraiser on March 12 after church. The youth will be selling tickets for \$5 per person or \$20 per family. All the proceeds will go towards our youth summer mission trip. Come taste a variety of delicious chilis and choose your favorite. The winner will receive a fun prize. If you would like to participate by making a chili, please contact Jenn (jenn@valleycommunity.org). We have eight more slots available.

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 foods are being collected. Items will be delivered to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry. Styrofoam is also being collected on those days.

Women's Bible Study will meet Thursday, March 9, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing Lesson 7, "Sabbath and Self-Care". Study books are available in the church office or at class (\$10).

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 (\$9) or pin (free). Request forms are available on the church office counter or contact angie@valleycommunity.org for new or replacement name badges.

Prayers

We pray for those who mourn:

- Karen Broome and family on the death of Karen's mother, Mary Plymale, on February 9, 2023.

- Friends and family of Marjorie Russell who died February 5, 2023.

- Christine Danner and family on the death of Christine's second cousin, Stephanie Ferguson.

Earth Care Corner

Food Waste

By Carol Powers

Are you interested in an extra \$1,500? That's the average amount that a family of four spends each year on food that they don't eat. According to a recent New York Times article, the average American household wastes almost a third of the food they buy. The UN estimates that worldwide food waste would feed one billion (yes, with a B) people. This is a huge opportunity! In the US, food waste is responsible for twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as commercial aviation. I had no idea how large this problem was.

The Mayo Clinic recommends these seven actions to reduce food waste in your own family:

- 1) Take inventory before shopping
- 2) Create a meal plan
- 3) Eat or freeze leftovers
- 4) Store food appropriately
- 5) Buy "ugly"
- 6) Compost
- 7) Use leftovers creatively.

I can see a lot of opportunity for improvement in my own habits here and will attempt to mend some of my ways now that I'm more aware of the scope of this issue.

Community programs have also been effective. For example, by implementing a powerful public awareness campaign, one region in Central Ohio was able to divert an extra 19% of waste from landfills via recycling and composting. Local regulations have been helpful in ensuring that unused food from grocery stores and restaurants is donated rather than tossed.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Thousands have died in the February 6 earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and survivors face freezing weather with no shelter. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding through partner organizations in the region. Contributions should be designated DR99999 ST Earthquake. You can also give online through the Presbyterian website or by placing your check made out to Valley (VCPC) with "Disaster Relief" in the memo line. For those funds collected here, Valley's Mission team will add matching funds up to \$1,000 to be forwarded to PC(USA). Please keep their citizens and aid-workers in our prayers.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

2023 Sunday Lenten Sermon Series

The Sunday Lenten sermon series will be based on
“Meeting Jesus at the Table”

- ◆ **February 26:** Mark 6:30-44
- ◆ **March 5:** Matthew 9:9-13
- ◆ **March 12:** Luke 7:36-50
- ◆ **March 19:** Luke 14:7-14
- ◆ **March 26:** Luke 14:15-24
- ◆ **April 2 (Palm Sunday):** John 12:1-8
- ◆ **April 9 (Easter):** Luke 24:13-35

