


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church October 2021

Sundays at Valley

In-person worship at 10:00 a.m. and online at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyCommunityPresbyterian/>

Click videos on the left side.

October

3 Communion
Armonia Choir, 11:30 a.m.

10 Armonia Choir, 11:30 a.m.

17 Cents-Ability Offering
Armonia Choir, 11:30 a.m.
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.

24 Armonia Choir, 11:30 a.m.

31 Armonia Choir, 11:30 a.m.

November 7

3 All Saints' Sunday
Communion
Armonia Choir, 11:30 a.m.



Our Next Steps

With Pastor Jeff's departure, what's next? An immediate need is to hire an interim pastor to work with our congregation through the transition to a new called pastor. An Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) has been formed by session to find this person. Members are Jan Bellis-Squires, Brad Carlson, Amy Dee, Ann Johnson, and Carol Powers (chair). This committee's job is to interview candidates and recommend one to session for approval. This work is done in collaboration with our Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. The committee hopes to complete its work in October.

Until an interim pastor is in place our Worship and Music team has identified guest preachers to lead worship each week. After the interim pastor is hired the IPSC's work is complete and the job of finding the next called pastor will begin. People often ask how long an interim pastor will be here. While we can't say for sure, it's typical for this period to be at least a year.

Here are the guest preachers through Sunday, October 24:

- **October 3:** Jennifer Ackerman is the Director of Fuller Seminary's Brehm Preaching - A Lloyd John Ogilvie Initiative, where she is working to catalyze a movement of empowered, wise preachers who live and lead at the convergence of worship, preaching, and justice. She is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), with nearly 30 years experience facilitating the worship and preaching efforts of churches in multiple denominations across the US. Jennifer has an MDiv and PhD in Theology & Culture from Fuller Seminary.
- **October 10:** The Rev. Mark T. Frey, a child of Valley, served on the pastoral staff at Valley, as head of staff in La Verne, CA, and as organizing pastor at Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Fellowship. He retired in January 2021 after his most recent service of 23 years as a church consultant/regional representative with the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church where he served and supported congregations, pastors, church employees, and mid-councils throughout the western United States.
- **October 17:** The Rev. Robin Garvin, a native of San Jose, CA, currently serves as the Pastor of Discipleship at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego. Robin is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, and over the last thirty-one years has served five churches in Washington and Oregon. Robin is married to Roger Garvin, M.D. Roger is the Vice-Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland. Their grown daughter and son-in-law live in Atlanta, GA. From 1983-1985, Robin served as the Director of Youth Ministries at Valley!
- **October 24:** Shela Sullivan is from Penang Island, Malaysia. Shela was born into a Hindu family and grew up in a Chinese village. She speaks four languages: Malay, English, Tamil, and Hokkien. Shela graduates with a Masters in Spiritual Formation from George Fox University, Bachelors in Business and Marketing from University of Phoenix, Congregational Leadership from University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Supervisory Management Leadership from Portland State University.

Community Recycling Event October 2



You have one more day to gather your non-curbside recyclables and usable donation items for Valley's Third Community Recycling Event!!!!

On Saturday October 2 from 9:00 in the morning until 1:00 in the afternoon, the TriMet lot south of our church will be the busiest place on SW Laurelwood!

We will be hosting the following community organizations that will collect either non-curbside recyclable items or usable items that will go to those in need:

- Agilyx
- Computer Drive Connection
- Community Warehouse
- Ridwell
- Corks for New Seasons
- Cans/bottles for Valley's Youth
- Non-perishable food items for St. Matthew's Food Pantry.

Please go to our Valley website at www.valleycommunity.org to see the complete list of what each organization will be accepting. Each group has very specific items that they will accept, so please choose accordingly.

Tell your friends and neighbors! Each item collected is one less item tossed in the trash and ultimately taking up space in the landfill. Valley's Earth Care Team thanks you and looks forward to seeing you there!



THE MESSENGER

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
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Email: mail@valleycommunity.org

NEWSLETTER STAFF:
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

October Birthdays

Claudia Askew
Marie Bird
Sophia Bird
Connie Brenner
Susan Derting
Maria Freeborg
Angela Graham
Bev Hubbard

Tim Kurtz
Lindsay Kurtz
Justin Lee
Diane Meyer
Pat Nelson
Yvonne Rees
Mary Kay Rodman
Marian Romanaggi

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



Together Women Rise



Rise and around the globe, the Covid 19 pandemic has hit them hard and has set back their important work in gender equality.

Together Women Rise at Valley will return to Zoom for our October 17 meeting. We enjoyed a brief time of meeting in person and await the opportunity again, hoping that it is soon.

At our next meeting on Zoom we will be learning about the featured grantee Nashulai and their Women's and Girl's Empowerment Project in Kenya. As have all of the nonprofits supported by Together Women

Now is the time to heartily support all of the non-profits important to us with enhanced monetary donations!

Nashulai is a story of how much can be achieved for future generations when a community unites to work together on daunting challenges. Faced with deepening poverty, biodiversity collapse of ancestral lands, and increased economic and social pressures on women and girls, the Nashulai community rallied other Maasai communities in the area. Collectively they seek a future that values tradition and conservation with modern values of gender equality and empowerment for women and girls.

This project moves the Nashulai community toward consistent advocacy for the rights of women and girls, reduction in the incidence of Female Genital Cutting, education on sexual reproductive health, and community support for girls' formal education and schooling.

You are cordially invited to join us on Sunday October 17 at 11:30 a.m. to learn about this amazing non-profit, as well as the sustained grantee. If you are not on the evite list for Together Women Rise at Valley and are interested in checking us out, please contact Ruthann Marquis at 503.260.9464 to get added to the invitation. See you then on screen!

Valley Produce Table

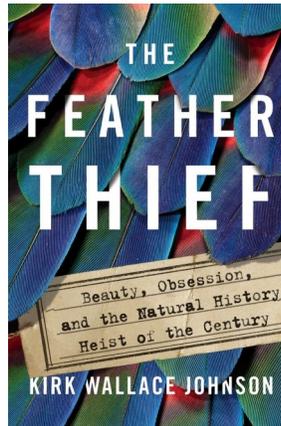


Our Portland summer has been sunny and warm – at times too warm! – and the result has been abundance in the garden. Some of this has found its way onto the Valley Produce Table. Various colorful produce items have been

offered by our community of “urban farmers” for the table and taken home by Valley members and friends. The donation jar has been generously sprinkled with green, as well.

October is still a growing month in Portland, so please continue to bring items to the Produce Table throughout this month and keep filling that donation jar. At the end of the growing season all of the monetary donations are sent to the Oregon Food Bank to help ease the way of those dealing with food insecurity. Even if you don't take some produce home, it is really okay if you add to the donation jar, knowing that your dollars get multiplied at the Food Bank. Thank you!

Valley Book Group



In order to accommodate the variety of people who now attend the Valley Book Group on a regular basis, we will again be meeting in the dual format of virtual and in-person (in the Fireside Room) on Friday October 22. The book for this month is The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century, by Kirk Wallace Johnson.

The bizarre crime of stealing hundreds of dead bird skins from the British Museum of Natural History in 2009 led the author to a years-long pursuit of the story behind this strange event. One reviewer, Maureen Corrigan of NPR, describes it as “absorbing... though it's non-fiction, this book contains many of the elements of a classic thriller.”

If you have not attended in the past, but would like to join us, contact Laura Sanders to have your name added to the list. If you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive further information about how to attend the Zoom meeting if you choose not to attend in person.



Thank you for sending your check for **\$36.50** for the **2021 Per Capita (for wider church expenses)** for each Valley member.

For more information about what per capita is, and how it helps, go to:

oga.pcusa.org/percapita



Help End Hunger!



Oregon Food Bank is hosting an Oregon Harvest Dinner on Wednesday, October 13, with a pre-show at 6:00 p.m. and the Program at 6:30 p.m. OFB is inviting people who are interested in alleviating hunger, changing systems and making food access a priority to join them at the Oregon Harvest Dinner, happening virtually. Learn more and RSVP at avlaunch.me/ofb. Questions? Contact Justin Diller at events@oregonfoodbank.org.

Youth Pie Sale

What do you get if you divide a pumpkin's circumference by its diameter?

Pumpkin pi! Whether you found that hilarious or groan-inducing, this is your friendly reminder to stock up on all your pies for the upcoming holidays. That's right, it's time for the Youth Pie Sale! The youth are once again selling handmade pies and cobblers from Willamette Valley Pie Co. **Online ordering will soon be available.** Orders are due by October 17. Pies will be available for pickup at the church on the afternoon of November 2. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Jenkins at wendymkj@alummi.rice.edu. Proceeds will go towards future youth mission trips. Thanks for your support!

Mark Your Calendars

- October 7, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.: First Thursday food collection in the back parking lot of the church.
- October 14, 11:00 a.m.: Bread for the World Bake Sale
- October 17: Cents-Ability Collection is taken during 10:00 a.m. worship.
- October 21, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.: Third Thursday food collection in the back parking lot of the church.

A Prayer for Pastor Jeff



Valley staff packed a crate full of travel snacks.

With appreciation for your ministry, what we pray for you:

GUIDANCE for the paths your feet will daily follow...

WISDOM for the counsel you are asked to give...

COMPASSION for those you are called upon to help.

What we wish for you:

STRENGTH to stand for what is true and right, even when there is opposition...

COURAGE to press on, even when things seem routine...

PERSEVERANCE to follow the desires God has placed in your heart, even when you doubt.

What we give to you:

SUPPORT for your leadership, past, present, and future...

APPRECIATION for your calling and gifts...

THANKS for the person you are in Christ.

Safe travels to you and Julie as you begin your next adventure!

Season of Peace

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), this month-long pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for all. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, imagination, and education. You can sign up to receive daily reflections on "A Season of Peace" that will be delivered to your inbox at "www.pcusa.org/subscribe".

The Season of Peace culminates in the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering that will be received at Valley on October 3, which is World Communion Sunday. Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity. On World Communion Sunday we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the communion table, in God's house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God, with active peacemakers here at home and around the world. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith – a witness to what it means for us to be the Church together.

Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world.



Earth Care Corner

I love to read! One of the security questions on an online account asks me for my favorite past time. The correct answer is reading.

This summer I devoured Richard Powers' novel The Overstory, which was mentioned during a discussion in a Valley Book Group as a good read. Although a novel, it was eye opening to me to learn about various aspects of trees, their interconnection to their forest family and their connection to us. Several of my favorite authors were quoted on the front and back of the book and I was not disappointed.

I am currently reading Finding the Mother Tree by Susanne Simard. She is a professor of forest ecology in British Columbia and has ties to Oregon during her college years. As her book jacket indicates she is a "pioneer on the frontier of plant communication and intelligence...(she) illustrates the fascinating and vital truths—that trees are not simply the source of timber and pulp but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life..."

The Earth Care Team has been writing the articles for this corner of the Messenger this year using Jane Fonda's book What Can I Do? My Path from Climate Despair to Action. I am drawn to the chapter on Forests and Climate Change. I have heard that and believe that forests are the lungs of the earth. This book reminds me that about one half of the air (oxygen) that we breathe comes from the forests and the remaining half comes from the sea. Moisture from the leaves of trees is known to evaporate to contribute to cloud formation, which then makes rain, which makes its contribution to weather as we know it.

When deforestation happens the balance in the systems that support life gets thrown off. This has happened in the Amazon and in Indonesia. Experts tell us that already we have said goodbye to 30% of the forests on our planet and that most of the rest are either degraded or fragmented, "leaving only 15% of the original forests intact."

The fires that have been so aggressive in recent years may have several origins: climate change, warming of our globe and direct human action. In areas of Indonesia forests are cleared by the hands of arsonists to grow trees that produce palm oil, which is considered to be a valuable commodity. When this happens so much is destroyed including the dense and rich wetlands that are made of layers of shrubs, moss, and humus, all of which are capable of storing carbon in great quantity. When these burn they emit a tremendous amount of carbon—that is called carbon emission. We typically think of carbon emissions coming from the use of fossil fuels for our travel and in industry. AND, they do. But when forests burn the carbon that has been stored within their trunks, leaves and roots, as well as the peat lands and soil that support them, this carbon gets released into the atmosphere and adds to the vast quantities that have already been released.

I could go on and on. I would be happy to loan anyone this book, as I am sure, any member of Valley's Earth Care Team would.

But what can **you** do? Suggestions from What Can I Do?, which were liberally borrowed from pages 254 and 255 are:

- Avoid products that are single use from paper, wood and rubber sources.
- Avoid products that contain palm oil and soybean oil.
- Avoid meat from livestock that have been grazed on deforested land or have been fed on soybeans from deforested areas.
- Eat a more plant based diet.
- Insist that retailers and restaurant owners make forest-friendly choices available to the consumers. Is the meat you are buying raised sustainably? Are the forest-derived products you purchase 100% post consumer recycled content?
- Speak directly to the retailers and companies. It will also get their attention when they are mentioned in a post or tweet.
- Reach out to our government officials and insist that we buy forest commodities that protect nature and respect human rights. The indigenous people that have lives in many of those forests have been the protectors of those lands for generations.
- Be bold and call out banks like Union Bank and investment firms like BlackRock that fund the destruction of nature, essentially puncturing a hole in the lungs of this planet. Organizations like Greenpeace and Rainforest Action Network have been active for decades and are a great resource for more information.

Whew! I am done. Go out and hug a tree. Thank it for giving off the oxygen that keeps us all alive and kicking. Then, think about what YOU can do to help our forest thrive!

Submitted by Ruthann Marquis, Earth Care Team leader at Valley Community Presbyterian Church

Blessing of the Animals



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Save the Date: Valley's annual Drive Through Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 30, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more details!

The Women's Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the lower conference room. We will meet in person as well as via Zoom for those who would prefer to stay home. A Zoom link will be sent to those participating. Study books are available in the church office for \$10.

Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering via Zoom is set for October 16, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To register, send your email address to rojewel@gmail.com. The featured speaker is Jane Kirkpatrick, the popular author of a number of books, mostly fiction, dealing with women's experiences in the early days of Northwest settlement.

All Saints' Sunday is November 7 where we remember those who have died during the past year. Loved ones will be honored during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please provide names of family and friends you wish to commemorate to the church office by Sunday, October 31 to be included in worship.

Thank you

Thank you, Valley Soup Kitchen, for the wonderful variety of dinners you have provided. Thanks so much for all your work in keeping folks engaged in service through this rocky period, and for bringing such yummy food for the 45 men at the Bud Clark Commons!

~ Emily Coleman, CVA
Volunteer Program Supervisor

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Richard Gold, George Doolittle,
Bob Hinson

Choirs for Children and Youth



"As long as we live there is never enough singing." Martin Luther

Singing is a balm for the soul. Whether you need to calm down, pep up, rejoice, grieve, pray, let out your frustrations, or just jam, there is song for that.

Valley Community Youth Choirs have started for some age groups and will begin soon for other age groups. Choirs include:

- ♪ **Cherub Choir** (age 4-1st grade)
- ♪ **Melodia** (2nd-5th grade)
- ♪ **Armonia** (6th-12th grade)

Covid safety protocols being used during choir practice include masks for all, social distancing, and changing rehearsal space after 30 minutes.

Valley Community Youth Choirs is open to anyone in the community who wants to sing! Please spread the word.

For more information visit our website at www.valleyyouthchoirs.org or email director, Amy Rheingans, at amy@valleycommunity.org.

Thank you Donna Carlson!



Donna Carlson was hired as Children's Ministries Director in September 2018. She immediately began working on Sunday School programs, organizing special events for children and their families, and doing whatever she could to further Christian Education at Valley.

The Kid's Night Out monthly events brought upwards of forty children to Valley for an evening of

fellowship, pizza, crafts and fun. She chose a theme for each of these events and then coordinated craft projects and a movie to go with the theme. She got several volunteers to help in these events including member of Valley's Youth group.

When the pandemic hit and these events were no longer an option, Donna made sure we had a connection with these families by providing "Faith and Family Fun Bags" which were distributed out on the front lawn. For those families who were not able to pick up their bags, Donna hand delivered them. She also organized two "drive through" events...a Fall Festival and an Easter Egg Hunt.

Prior to leaving Donna organized a new Children's Ministries Storage closet which would be every teacher's or volunteer's dream. Every bin is labeled as to contents and so easy to spot. She also has prepared worship boxes for children who remain with their parents during the service which contain a children's worship bulletin, paper and drawing materials.

We know that Donna is not leaving for good but will step back in as a willing volunteer once she is able to take time for herself and heal her body. We can all be grateful for her guidance and the **many** things she has added to Children's Ministries. Thank you Donna!

THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

FREE COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday, October 2 | 9am – 1pm

SW Laurelwood Ave TriMet Park & Ride Lot

View full list of recyclables/reusables at:

www.valleycommunity.org |  ValleyCommunityPresb

Electronics | Computer Drive Connection

www.computerdriveconnection.com

Styrofoam | Agilyx

www.agilyx.com

Plastic Film | Ridwell

www.ridwell.com

Furniture | Community Warehouse

www.communitywarehouse.org

Cans & Bottles | Valley Community Youth Group

www.valleycommunity.org/youth

Non-Perishable Food | St. Matthews Lutheran Pantry

www.smlcfamily.org/The-St-Matthew-Lutheran-Pantry-A-Community-Food-Ministry

Natural Wine/Champagne Corks | New Seasons

www.communitywarehouse.org

