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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church February 2012

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## Worship Schedule Congregational Meeting Feb. 19

### Worship Schedule

Informal Service 8:30 a.m.  
Early Bird Coffee in Library  
9:30 a.m.  
Traditional Service 10 a.m.  
Nursery care 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday  
School 10 a.m.  
Fellowship and Coffee after  
Worship

### February

- 5 Communion**  
**Souper Bowl of Caring**
- 12 Youth Sunday, 10 a.m.**  
Session meeting with new  
members, 11:15 a.m.  
**Jenny Pratt Ordination, 1 p.m.**
- 19 Transfiguration of the Lord**  
**Cents-Ability Offering**  
**Congregational Meeting and**  
**Sandwich Lunch for**  
**everyone, 11:15 a.m.**
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service**  
6:30 p.m.  
*Cherubs and King's Kids Choirs*
- 26 First Sunday in Lent**
- ### March
- 5 Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Celebration of the Gifts**  
**of Women**  
**Communion**

**One Great Hour of Sharing, p. 3**

Valley's annual congregational meeting will be in the Sanctuary following worship on Sunday, February 19. The congregation will vote on the pastors' terms of call and hear brief reports on the ministries at Valley in 2011.

Everyone is invited to the congregational lunch for all ages in Davis Hall following the meeting. A sandwich lunch will be provided with live music from the Soundstage Rhythm Orchestra. Plan to be there!

## Jenny Pratt ordained at Valley Feb. 12



### *Reception follows in Davis Hall*

All are invited to the ordination of Jennifer Steinbrenner Pratt to the ministry of Teaching Elder (formally called Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Book of Order) at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 12 in Valley's Sanctuary. Come and enjoy this joyful occasion with Jenny and the Valley family.

Jenny says, "I'm excited about making the invitation to the ordination service open to all of my Valley family. You all have supported me in many ways over the years (especially the last 20 years in the ordination process) and are an integral part of my journey."

The ordination will be conducted by a commission of the Presbytery of the Cascades. Jenny has been approved for the ordination due to her current position with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Jenny has been part of our church since she attended Valley as a small child and again as a student at Lewis and Clark College. She was "under care" of Valley and the Presbytery since she was a student at Fuller Seminary, where she received her Master of Divinity degree and then worked with short-term mission groups in Tecate, Mexico, where she lived with her family. After returning to Portland, Jenny was a member of Valley's staff as a visiting chaplain and high school youth director.

At Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Jenny is Director of Membership Relations, working with (and recruiting) many different denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners around the state, with the focus of encouraging unity in hands-on practical ministries, theological dialogue and peacemaking, environmental ministries, and public policy advocacy. "I love being part of a team that is honed in on being the hands and feet of Jesus in our many neighborhoods and working toward physical, emotional, and spiritual healing and health among all people. I will also continue in my work with the Second Home project, helping unaccompanied youth without homes to find stable and safe housing," says Jenny.

## Pastor's column



Pastor René Minshew

Valley is about to lose a pastor. It is not because Ben and I are approaching retirement age. It is not because Rebecca is looking for

another position. It is all because of consistent financial shortfalls at Valley.

This is not a decision that Session - those you have elected to provide direction for the church - is making. This is not a decision that a called congregational meeting - the collective wisdom of the entire body called "Valley" - has made. It is necessary because we continue to run a deficit in our budget year after year.

Last year we were short almost \$30,000. This year we are projected to be short another \$30,000. Session is trying right now to decide how to trim at least \$60,000 from the budget. There are few ways open to Session other than to cut one of the pastoral positions. The sad part is

that this is not what they want to do, but they are left with no other viable choices. Two years ago the staff took an across the board 10% pay cut, which has never been restored. This year session will have no other alternative but to cut salaries again in addition to eliminating a pastoral position. This won't be good for morale or for staff retention.

Dan Rueff said it one year during the financial stewardship season. It is not that the money is not here at Valley. It is because the money is still in our pockets.

I remember a wise older Episcopal priest telling the story of a man in his congregation who said that he loved his church more than almost anything. The priest had learned through the years that our professed values need to be tested against reality. The priest knew that this could be proved or disproved by one simple act; show the priest the man's calendar and checkbook. The man did.

There were a few startling revelations. One is that the man was a workaholic and had made very little time for the church and its mission in his weekly schedule. The other was that the man had spent more money during one weekend trip to a professional football game in another state than he had given to the church in the past year. The man was startled. The man said he valued the church, but the reality was far different than his proclamations. Now he had some decisions to make.

And so does Valley. Many of you are generous with your resources toward Valley. And for that I am grateful.

However, you share with your pastors about second and third homes, vacations to exotic places and many other things that you value in addition to your church. It may be

time for each family to think long and hard about the value of Valley in your financial scheme of life.

When I was a young pastor in Florida, I sat in the hospital with a couple who had moved to our town from Boston. They had joined our Presbyterian church. We had some places and experiences in common since I had gone to seminary in Boston. The husband was dying. During my many visits with the couple while he was a patient in the hospital, the wife told of a time when their church had made a special financial appeal for the life and ministry of their church, for its ongoing health and vibrancy. The couple had plans to put an addition on their second home located on Martha's Vineyard. During the appeal, they looked at one another and knew what each was thinking. They valued their church and its ministry. They said, "The church needs that money more than we need the addition." And so they made a check to their church, equal to the sum of their proposed remodel addition.

What is the life and ministry of Valley worth to you? Where in the scale of values is Valley for you and your family?

Valley is about to lose a pastor. Will it be because the Session and Congregation as a whole decide or because we simply don't have the money? The decision is yours.

The priest never told us what the man did with his newly discovered revelation about his professed values concerning the church. I always hoped that going forward he made the adjustments so that his proclamation of love for the church was a true and real value.

*Shalom,*

### THE MESSENGER

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SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY  
FEBRUARY 15 FOR THE MARCH ISSUE:  
messenger@valleycommunity.org

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF RETAINS  
PERMISSION TO MODIFY SUBMISSIONS FOR

## Financial Report

In December, Valley had an operating surplus of just over \$26,000, much better than our budgeted “breakeven” for the month. This strong December helped to offset a portion of the deficit we accumulated throughout 2011. Valley still finished the year, however, with an operating deficit of \$30,600. This is \$4,000 better than budgeted, but, of course, a significant deficit and a key area of concern entering into the 2012 budgeting cycle. A little more detail: Valley ended the year with sources of income to the church about \$10,000 less than we budgeted, but this was offset by expenses being about \$14,000 less than budgeted. We are grateful to the many who helped “make up ground” against pledge amounts in December, and to those managing program areas and therefore watching their individual expense budgets all year long.

Finally, again we offer thanks for those who have pledged for 2012. The Session will use these pledges as a basis for the budgeting now taking place in order to determine an expense base to offer to the congregation in our budget later this winter. We prayerfully ask you to consider Valley’s ministries during this campaign, and as always thank each of you for your contributions to Valley.

Lyle Chadwick, Treasurer and Eben Jenkins, Finance Committee Elder

**NOTE: Valley’s bank has requested that we begin to process deposits electronically in the near future. This may change the description of checks clearing on your bank statement when Wells Fargo posts pledge payments. Otherwise, you should not be affected by this change.**



## Souper Bowl of Caring Feb. 5



*“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”*

This is the prayer that began the Souper Bowl of Caring movement more than 20 years ago. Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Again this year, the Valley Youth will continue our tradition of collecting an offering in big soup pots to help tackle hunger.

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement led by youth who are committed to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, middle school and high school youth across the nation will greet church members with large soup pots as they exit worship. One hundred percent of the money we collect here at Valley will stay in our local community. Our youth have decided that this year’s collection will go to both the Sunshine Pantry in Beaverton and to Night Strike in Portland, two local outreach ministries that help tackle hunger.

We hope you will bring your spare change or a few extra dollars on February 5 to help us continue to serve as the hands and feet of Christ here in our neighborhoods. For more information about this movement, go to [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org).

Thank you for sending  
your check for the  
**2012 Per Capita - \$23.85**

for each Valley member.  
Your checks help Valley’s  
budget planning.

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

## One Great Hour of Sharing

### *Sharing resources, changing lives*

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help build strong communities through Presbyterian leadership development.

Most congregations receive the offering on Easter Sunday, Passion/Palm Sunday or both, while many receive it throughout Lent—however, your tax-deductible gifts towards this offering are accepted year-round.

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## Worship and Music in February

**February 5** - Communion Sunday will feature guest preacher, Amy Dee, preaching on the importance of community. "Souper Bowl" Sunday will have a care offering collected by youth.

**February 12** - Youth Sunday is always a special worship experience with members of our youth groups leading the service, preaching, and providing both choral and instrumental music. Everyone is invited to Jenny Pratt's ordination at 1 p.m. the same day.

**February 19** - Worship celebrates the Transfiguration of the Lord, the pivotal moment where human nature meets God, and Jesus becomes the connection between heaven and earth. The Annual Congregational Meeting and Fellowship Lunch follow.

**February 22** - Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. A 6:30 p.m. special worship service with music from children's choirs commemorates Jesus' forty days fasting in the desert before beginning his public ministry. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of believers as a sign of mourning.

**February 26** - First Sunday of Lent. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation for the annual commemoration and recollection of the events leading up to the trial, torture, crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

## Meet your family of faith

*The Membership Committee will re-introduce members (and friends) to the congregation through The Valley Messenger. If you know you'd like to be re-introduced to the Valley congregation, feel free to send a quick paragraph about yourself and your family to [mconforti3@comcast.net](mailto:mconforti3@comcast.net).*



### David and Susan Derting family

Susan Christianson and David Derting met on a tennis court at a Tualatin Hill Recreation event in the summer of 1989. They were married at Wayside Presbyterian in Erie, Pennsylvania, Sue's childhood church, in 1991. Sue was an intensive care RN at Tualaty Community Hospital while David was a Program Manager at Sequent Computer System. Five years later Sue and David became members of Valley Community Presbyterian, drawn to the English Handbell choir, beautiful sanctuary, grace, and theology.

Activities at Valley include Sue with the handbell choir and David's service with the sound system. Both Sue and David were active in the church karate program; Sue served as an instructor and a leader of that program. Sue is in Valley's Quilt Guild and has

made five quilts for graduating high school seniors. David continues to support the sound system, mainly as a consulting engineer, which really means he's the go-to guy when things go haywire.

Music is an important part of the Derting's family life. All have played handbells at Valley. Sue is an accomplished pianist and David is a tenor in the Sanctuary Choir. Occasionally he plays bass for the Sanctuary Choir or church musicals. Kegan, now a sophomore at Southridge High School, is an active percussionist in Southridge's music program. As a seventh grader, Kegan was drafted to the Southridge High Marching Ensemble for keyboard/synthesizer duties and is now a bass drum player on the marching line. Ariel, a fifth grader at Sexton Mountain School, is studying piano and sings with Valley's King's Kids' choir.

Kids' activities, music rehearsals, and skiing keep the family busy year-round. Sue has been a Ski Patroller forever - first as an on-the-hill sled puller and more recently as an Associate Patroller. Ariel is taking platform diving lessons while mom and dad swim laps. Kegan has a never-ending list of music rehearsals. In the past few summers, the family has traveled to North Carolina to visit Sue's sister, Cheryl, and her family and enjoy water sports.

## Valley is looking 'greener' every day



Caring for God's earth is everyone's job, and Valley Community Presbyterian Church desires to take the *best* care of it. There is an emerging interest at Valley to move actively toward becoming an Earth Care Congregation, certified by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as part of the 202<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly's "Call to Restore the Creation." This would mean committing to the "Earth Care Pledge" and caring for God's creation in the categories of worship, education, facilities and outreach.

### How can we help?

- Join Valley's *Earth Care Team*, headed by Pastor Ben Paroulek. Contact him at the church office to be added to the team list. There are many ways that Valley can expand its current recycling, reusing, and purchase practices.
- Join the team of Valley dishwashers for fellowship coffees and events. Personal coaching and dishwasher lessons will be offered by Ruthann Marquis. Using Valley's mugs, glasses, plates, and cutlery can help preserve the resources used to make disposables and keep those disposables out of the landfills. The practice of using durable items is supported by Valley's Session.
- Join in upcoming opportunities to green up Valley. Stay tuned!



### 'Green' ideas and suggestions

from Donna Russell

- **Revive soap scraps and candle remnants.** Decorative candles tend to burn out before all the wax has been consumed, but those "dead" candles can be heated and re-formed into new creations. Bits of bar soap can also be recycled through a simple process using water and heat. Techniques vary, but we like National Geographic's instructions for making candles, <http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/make-candles-reusing-wax-2394.html> and Planet Green's ideas for reusing soap, <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/home/5-reuses-for-leftover-soap-bits.htm>.
- **Refill empty containers with bulk products.** Bulk products such as honey, oil, shampoo, conditioner and more from local stores can be put in empty containers brought from home to use again. Cost, fuel and energy to produce the containers is less, and waste is less, giving our planet a breath of fresh air and hope for a more sustainable future. If everyone did one small thing in this way, collectively we could all make a difference.
- **Share your ideas.** How do you reuse household objects? Send your suggestions to Donna Russell.

## Gamble Library

**Book Group: Claire Rudy Foster will speak with the Book Discussion Group** at 10 a.m., Friday, February 24 in the Fireside Room. Claire will share her experiences with the publishing industry including how she reviews books, how to judge a book, and opportunities for writers. She has a Master's Degree in Fine Arts in Fiction. Newcomers are always welcome. Remember to bring your own coffee.

**Library news:** Stewardship of the earth is a growing concern, especially for Christians. The church library has several books about this topic and "going green." A couple of these books are *Water Consciousness: How We All Have to Change to Protect Our Most Critical Resource*, edited by Tara Lohan, and *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How you and Your Church Can Make a Difference*, by Rebecca Barnes-Davies.

**Library Book Sale:** The church library is getting ready for the annual spring book sale. If you have books you would like to donate to the library or to the book sale, you may leave them in the library or church office marked "Donation."



## Children's Ministries

### Non-Rush Hour February 1

All adults are welcome to our Non-Rush Hour from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room on Wednesday, February 1. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Cheryl Hoffbeck. Join Pastor Ben for candlelight and conversation. Kay Hope Gold will care for your infants through three years, so all may kick back and relax!



### Vacation Bible School dates set for July 9-13

Mark your calendars. The dates are set for Valley's 2012 Vacation Bible School. VBS will be offered from 9 a.m. to 12 noon July 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Kids will sing songs for the congregation that they have learned during VBS week during our 10 a.m. worship on July 15. Valley's All Church Picnic will immediately follow the worship service. If you'd like to participate as a volunteer in our 2012 VBS, please contact Kay Hope Gold in the church office.



### Children participate in Ash Wednesday service Feb. 22

Children in the Cherub Choir and King's Kids Choir will sing for the Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 22. All families are especially invited to attend the service to mark the beginning of Lent.



### Children's Stewardship

Children's Stewardship envelopes are being distributed during February to Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. We're using re-cycled and re-purposed envelope boxes this year. The box labels, designed by Katie Simenson, encourage various ways for children to donate Time, Talent or Treasure to help do God's work in our world. Please contact Kay Hope Gold in the church office for more information.



### Children's Lock-In at the Youth House February 24-25

All 4th-5th graders are invited to an overnight event at the Youth House on Friday night, February 24! This will be a great time to get to know other students better, make new friends, and see what youth group will be like in Middle School. We will explore the church building and Youth House, play games, eat pizza, do some Bible study activities, sleep at the Youth House, and more. Pastor Rebecca, Kate, and other Youth Advisors will be our leaders. \$10 is requested per child to cover the costs of food and supplies. The lock-in will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday night and end at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. Friends are welcome! To sign-up, contact Pastor Rebecca in the church office.



# Youth Ministry



*Kate and a group of Middle School girls display their homemade pizzas, ready for the oven! The whole group made individual pizzas for dinner during the Friday Night Frenzy last month.*



*Members of the High School FAMILY hold many bags of food purchased for an outreach project for Beaverton youth and their families. In total, both youth groups brought in over \$150 worth of food in December and January.*

## Save the date for Parents' Night Out on March 17

We had so much fun the first time around (in December) that the Valley youth groups will host another "Parents Night Out" on Saturday, March 17, 5-9 p.m. at the church. This is a fundraiser to support the Youth Mission Fund, and the youth will be ready for more games, crafts, play time, and stories. Toddlers through 5th grade are welcome. Cost is \$20 per child, or \$50 per family (three or more children in one household). Please register your children in advance, no later than Wednesday, March 14. You may register with Rebecca in the church office with the names and ages of your children. Thank you for supporting the Youth Mission Fund!



*Left: One of the Valley youth works with her "buddy" to decorate sugar cookies during the last "Parents Night Out" event hosted by the youth groups to raise money for the Youth Mission Fund.*



*Middle School youth gather in the gym after a late-night game of "Grog" during a Friday Night Frenzy in January.*

## Third Annual Sock Hop on April 14

Save the date for the third annual Sock Hop for Youth Mission. Once again we will set-up Davis Hall for a rockin' fellowship event with music, food, sweet treats, dancing, and games. This is a great way to support the summer youth mission trips, but it is also a fun event with the Valley family. Church members and friends of all ages are invited. More information to follow, but mark your calendars now.





**DOOR:** Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection. This ministry is based on the concept from the psalmist who called God “our refuge and strength” and who said, “God is in the midst of the city...” (Psalm 46). During our week in Hollywood, we will get to know the city through the eyes of the homeless, both the chronically homeless and families and individuals who have recently experienced homelessness.

The DOOR website ([doornetwork.org](http://doornetwork.org)) explains: “While the Hollywood Hills are home to many celebrities, the neighborhood of Hollywood Presbyterian Church is one of the lowest-income neighborhoods of Los Angeles. Amidst world-renowned studios like Paramount and Warner Brothers, much of the district feels like an industrial area... Teams are often shocked to witness thousands of homeless folks walking up and down the streets, many of whom are in their 20s and 30s. Not only that, with the recent recession and the housing crash, many Los Angelesans find themselves unable to make ends meet, pay rent or mortgages, and many live ‘one paycheck away from homelessness.’ This has deeply affected teachers, service workers, even screenwriters and actors.” Our High School youth and their adult leaders will serve throughout the Greater Los Angeles area with ministries helping with poverty relief, hunger, education achievement gaps, HIV/AIDS issues, and children’s advocacy.

Our mission trip with DOOR will provide us with time for reflection on our experiences, local leadership who know the ministries and the people with whom they work, relational ministry that will allow us to both serve and learn, and community empowerment as the people of the city speak of their issues, joys, and concerns. The High School mission trip will take place June 16-23, 2012. Cost per person is estimated to be \$550, so the Youth Mission Fund—supported by many of you through our Youth Mission fundraisers—will help make this trip a reality. Flyers, Registration and Commitment Forms are available from Rebecca or Kate, and are **due no later than Sunday, February 5!**

### Middle School Mission: City Camp 2012, July 8-12

Calling all Middle School youth for an incredible week of mission, outreach, fun, and fellowship with other youth in our presbytery, July 8-12. For the second summer in a row, we will travel to Salem to join several other youth groups for a city mission camp. Our “home” for the week will be at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Salem. Our schedule includes lots of community service/outreach, swimming, recreation, prayer, evening programs, sleep, and more. All current 6th-8th graders are encouraged to come. **But we have limited space**, so the first youth to commit will be able to go! Cost for food, lodging, transportation, and all recreational activities for the week is only \$100. Scholarships from Valley, through the Youth Mission Fund, are also available. If you have not already turned in your deposit (\$50) to Rebecca, it is due by February 26.



### Valley Youth help youth and families in the Beaverton School District



*Help for Those  
in Need*

Valley Youth launched 2012 by continuing the mission project we began in December. We have been collecting a monetary offering and non-perishable food items for donation to the Beaverton Family Resource Center to help youth and families who are experiencing homelessness. Every week in January, we invited our youth to

bring peanut butter, crackers, dried fruit, ramen noodles, soups, and other non-perishable food items to place in backpacks for students in the Beaverton School District. These students, who eat breakfast and lunch provided by the schools Monday through Friday, are able to take the food home for the weekend to feed themselves and their families.

Both Middle School LIFE and High School FAMILY visited the Raleigh Hills Fred Meyer to purchase additional items with the offering money we collected. We gathered more than \$150 in food all together. If you are interested in helping support us in our monthly and seasonal mission projects, contact Pastor Rebecca (in the church office) or Kate White.



*This year's Upward Basketball season is dedicated to the memories of Daryl Duncan, Lee James, and Everett Smyth, all who participated in many ways with the program throughout the years.*

*Upward Basketball season began in January at Valley Church.*



*A reception was held during coffee hour to celebrate Pastor Ben's ten years of ministry at Valley Community Presbyterian Church.*



*Sunday School Creative Classroom Circuit involves art, cooking, computer lab and more with a focus on a lesson from the Bible.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">February 2012</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">L.I.F.E. - Living in Faith Everyday (Middle School) Night Strike - mission in downtown Portland</p> </div>						
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Early Bird Coffee</p> <p><b>10:00a Worship</b> 10:00a Children's Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship 12:00p Youth Sunday Planning Workshop</p> <p>5:00p Youth Choir</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>5:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Portland Highland Games Association 7:30p Scout Troop 592</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class 10:30a Women's Bible Study 1:00p Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 40168 6:30p Cub Scouts (Wolf) 6:30p Youth Sunday Sermon Team 7:00p Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 12:00p Wednesday Adult Education 3:30p Girl Scout Troop 4:30p Upward Basketball Practice 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers 6:30p Middle School L.I.F.E.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>10:00a Alanon 10:00a Piecemakers 10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>4:00p Upward Basketball Practice 5:30p Preschool Board Mtg. 7:00p Tai Chi Class 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>4:00p Upward Basketball Practice</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:00a Upward Basketball Games 1:00p Youth Service Rehearsal</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>8:00a Youth Sunday Breakfast <b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Early Bird Coffee</p> <p><b>10:00a Worship</b> 10:00a Children's Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Finance Committee Mtg. 11:15a Session Meeting with New Members 1:00p Jenny Pratt Ordination 2:00p Camp Fire Meeting 2:30p Cub Scout Den 5</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics 12:00p Facilities Committee</p> <p>5:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 6:30p Girl Scout Troop 41486</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>4:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 40168 <b>7:00p Session</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>"Valley Messenger" Articles Due</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 12:00p Wednesday Adult Education 4:00p Middle School L.I.F.E. 4:30p Upward Basketball Practice 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8:00a Soup Kitchen 10:00a Alanon 10:00a Piecemakers 10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>4:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:15p Night Strike Mission 7:00p Tai Chi Class 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>2:30p Camp Fire Mtg.</p> <p>4:00p Upward Basketball Practice</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:00a Upward Basketball Games</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Early Bird Coffee</p> <p><b>10:00a Worship and Congregational Meeting</b> 10:00a Children's Sunday School 11:15a Congregation Sandwich Luncheon 5:00p Youth Choir 6:30p H.S. FAMILY</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00p Century Club Board Meeting</p> <p>5:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Personnel Comm. 7:30p Scout Troop 592</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>4:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Mission Committee 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 40168 7:00p Deacons Ministry</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 12:00p Senior Adult Luncheon 3:30p Girl Scout Troop 4:30p Upward Basketball Practice <b>6:30p Ash Wednesday Service</b> 6:30p Middle School L.I.F.E. Worship + Youth Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>10:00a Alanon 10:00a Piecemakers 10:00a Tai Chi Class 4:00p Membership Comm. 4:00p Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>7:00p Tai Chi Class 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>10:00a Library Book Club - "Fourth Friday Features" 4:00p Upward Basketball Practice</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:00a Upward Basketball Games</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>8:30a Worship</b> 9:30a Early Bird Coffee</p> <p><b>10:00a Worship</b> 10:00a Children's Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship 5:00p Cub Scout Pack 592 5:00p Youth Choir 6:30p H.S. FAMILY 7:30p High School Mission Trip Meeting with Parents</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>1:00p Century Club General Meeting 4:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 6:30p Girl Scout Troop 41486 7:30p Scout Troop 592</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>4:00p Upward Basketball Practice 6:00p Children's Ministry 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 40168 6:30p Youth Committee</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 12:00p Wednesday Adult Education 4:30p Upward Basketball Practice 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers 6:30p Middle School L.I.F.E.</p>			

## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**Knit for Kids:** More knitters are always welcome to join those already “Knitting For Kids.” The pattern is simple, and the need is great. These cold, dreary days are perfect for sitting by the warm fire and creating a sweater for a child in need. Contact Jan Falconer if you are interested.

**Interested in church membership?** You are invited to meet with the Session (elders and pastors) in the Fireside Room following 10 a.m. worship on the second Sunday of each month to join the church. New members may be received by baptism, affirmation of faith, or transfer of membership.

**We are a few hands short** (pun intended) for our English Handbell Choir. The group needs at least two new members to continue. Playing handbells is a fascinating and rewarding experience. Some music reading skills are needed, and rehearsals are Thursday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Contact Adam Steele if you are interested.

**The February 22 Senior Adult Luncheon** will feature Pastor René and Ellen Minshew who will be speaking about their sabbatical to Italy. Please join us for food, fellowship and to hear our speakers.

### Thanks

**Thanks to you all** for the food, cards, calls and warm hugs when Ron died. Valley people are special. I feel blessed.

Gratefully,  
Gerda Krug

### Prayers

**New baby:** We pray for Claire Elaine Pistor, born December 31, to Dave and Amanda Pistor. Proud grandparents are Wally and Hildegard Pistor.

**Baptism:** We pray for Ainsley Piper Killian, baptized on January 8.

**Health concerns:** We pray for Evelyn Page, Isabelle Adams, Myrill Frazier, Alex Eagon, and Frank Powers.

## Leadership Fair for all, Feb. 25



Whether you are a church officer, a choir member, a staff person or a member interested in growing your faith, there is something for you at the **Cascades Leadership Fair** to be held Saturday, February 25, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian, Portland. Hear nationally known speakers and attend two of many appealing workshops. Download a brochure and registration form at [www.cascadespresbytery.org](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org) or pick them up in the church office.



*Recite a Bible verse during Upward Basketball games and get a prize from the Mystery Box, seen here with Pastor Ben.*



*High School youth are tangled up in lights as they decorated the Youth House with many strands of bright lights for the winter season. Clanton Hall at the Youth House is still decked out with bright lights!*

Annual Congregational Meeting  
and  
Fellowship Lunch



Sunday, February 19  
following Worship  
Sandwich lunch for all and live  
music - see you there!

See p. 1

All are invited  
to the  
Ordination  
of

Jenny Pratt  
to the ministry of  
Teaching Elder  
1:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 12

Valley Community Presbyterian Church  
*Reception following in Davis Hall*



See p. 1

THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
8060 SW BRENTWOOD ST.  
PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355

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