
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church January 2024

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

7 Communion
John De Vries Reception,
11:30 a.m.

14 Second Sunday for Children and Youth
Get to Know Valley
Class, 11:30 a.m.

21 Cents-Ability Offering
Together Women Rise,
11:30 a.m.

28

February

4 Communion



Four Gospels: One Jesus - Project 89

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

What is Project 89?

A new way of understanding who Jesus is through daily reading of the 89 chapters of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John during Epiphany through Lent 2024 (January 1 through March 29).

How Do I Participate in Project 89?

On Your Own...

1. Read a chapter each day, beginning with Matthew 1 and ending with John 21. Mark your reading card each day after you complete your reading.

2. In a journal, do the following:

- On the first page, create a Table of Contents that has four columns, moving from left to right:

- * Chapter (e.g. Matthew 1)
- * Title you give the chapter (after reading it)
- * Date
- * Page number

3. Number the pages in your journal (leaving the first three pages for the Table of Contents). We recommend using an 80-page moleskine journal. Blank journals will be available in the Narthex beginning December 31.

4. Start your first day (January 1) by reading Matthew 1.

- Before reading the chapter pause to pray. Ask Jesus to reveal himself to you as you read.

- Read the chapter at least once before pausing to let the Holy Spirit speak to you. Ask, **“What do you want me to know?”** and **“What does this passage say to me about God, me, and my relationships with others?”** Write down your observations, thoughts, and questions.

- Now record a title for the chapter, based on your personal thoughts and reflections.

- In response to reading and praying, **now ask God, “What do you want me to do?”** Write this down, too.

- As you go, **ask God to help you apply to your life what he revealed to you.** (Here is a description and pictures of a Project 89 journal, <https://emilylex.com/it-changed-my-life/>)

Together with Friends...

Participate in the helpful overviews of each Gospel, Matthew (January 10), Mark (January 31), Luke (February 21), and John (March 6). We will meet in-person in the office conference room at church (10:30 a.m.) or online (7:00 p.m.) on those dates.

Make your way through all 89 chapters of the Gospels, reading from Matthew 1 – John 21. Start on January 1 and end on March 29. Don’t worry if you miss a day here and there... **just keep going!**

Four Gospels: One Jesus



The Rev. Robin Garvin

Have you ever wondered why the New Testament contains not one or two, but four different accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus? These accounts are contained in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each account, written by a different author, gives us the author's unique perspective of the same story of the life and ministry of Jesus. The Gospels all draw in part from some of the same source material, but each one contains unique material that contributes to a richer and fuller understanding of Jesus.

During the seasons of Epiphany and Lent this year, January 1 through March 31, we are going to explore the richness and distinctives of the four Gospels and their witness to Jesus. The title of our preaching series for this season will be, **"Four Gospels: One Jesus."**

In addition to Sunday worship, we are offering opportunities for individual and group reflection. Beginning on January 1, all Valley members and friends are invited to participate in **Project 89** and read through all four Gospels. Each day, January 1 through March 29 (Good Friday), participants will read one Gospel chapter beginning with Matthew 1. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, taken together, contain 89 chapters (hence the title, **Project 89**). Reading cards to track your progress and a description of how you might journal your reflections each day are available in the narthex, the church office, or online at www.valleycommunity.org.

I will be providing four one-hour gatherings to introduce each Gospel. These group times will provide you with invaluable insights regarding the distinctive features of each Gospel. We will meet both in-person (10:30 a.m.) and online (7:00 p.m.) on the following days: January 10 (Matthew), January 31 (Mark), February 21 (Luke), and March 6 (John).

Let's all take this time during Epiphany-Lent 2024 to develop a richer and fuller understanding of the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus, this One we love, follow, and serve!

Joyfully in Christ,
Pastor Robin



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	Jan Falconer	Taylor Rawlings
Sarah Boyle	Rev. Robin Garvin	Roger Rothrock
Jacqueline Bridges	Roger Garvin	Jim Sandberg
Duncan Brown	Martha Gazeley	Kimberlee Scott
Will Browning	Eben Jenkins	Kerrie Standlee
Zeme Buslovich	Don Kelly	Fan Standlee
Dane Carlson	Dr. David Lee	Macy Vermillion
Glenys Craig	Geri Mitchell	Scott Vernon
Andy Dee	Andrea Murdoch	
Rev. Chuck Falconer	James Price	

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



**TOGETHER
WOMEN RISE**

Collective action for global gender equality

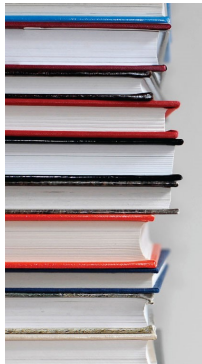
organizations that empower women and girls in low-income countries, and build community to forge meaningful connections that increase our strength and collective impact. Valley's chapter has been active since April 2012 and has members both from our church and from the community. Collectively, our chapter has donated over \$47,000 dollars to the featured grantees that lift up girls and women in the global south.

Wouldn't you like to be part of this global impact? How about joining Valley's chapter this year?

We meet again on January 21, 2024. We will be learning more about the Transformational Partnership with Shared Interest—Investing in South Africa. According to Shared Interest, women are poised to become the driving force behind Southern Africa's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding their ideas and investing in their businesses will not only "help generate broad-based economic growth, but will also build resilience and support the development of strategies to address issues like nutrition, climate change, and energy poverty".

Join us on Sunday, January 21 in the Fireside Room for a potluck lunch and to learn about this relationship that Rise has with Shared Interest as a Transformational Partner. If you have questions, please contact Ruthann Marquis.

Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group will be meeting on Friday, January 26, 2024, 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.

Valley's Produce Table



The Produce Table is officially closed for the year! From Spring to late Fall, there were many items of interest on the table and lots of monetary donations in the jar. This year, Valley will send a check to the Oregon Food Bank

for over \$565! This is a fantastic amount of money that was collected—the most ever! This amount is certain to do great good toward easing the food insecurity of our fellow Oregonians.

Thank you to all that brought produce in during the year and to the many that made donations to the collection jar. If Valley folks are interested in fresh eggs, please contact Ruthann Marquis. Donations for those beautiful rainbow eggs will still go to the Oregon Food Bank.

Reverse Advent Calendar



We've got one last week to go before these items are delivered to the Good Roots Church in Milwaukie, on January 8, 2024. Years ago, Bill Kruchek asked if Valley would ever help out this food pantry... and this partnership was born. We'll take any food (even food past the "Best By Date"), toiletries, household products, baby items/food. Last year I delivered a full trunk load, several hundred pounds; let's beat that this year and make me fill the back seat too! Thank you for playing along. Andrea Murdoch - your Mission Elder



Thank you for sending your check for **\$45.60** for the

2024 Per Capita for each Valley member.

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



"The Rise of the Nones" Workshop



Sunday, February 4, 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Armitage Hall.

Come on a journey with Liz Leavitt, pastor at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church and daughter of the late VCPC members Baird and Karen Smith, as we explore the increasing proportion of our neighbors who no longer identify as being any religion. (As in, Religion: None.) Sometimes called the *Spiritual But Not Religious*, these folks now represent about a third of Americans. But who are they? What do they want? Are they ever coming back to church? Based on research recently completed for her Doctor of Ministry degree, Liz will lead us through some of the historical factors that contributed to this dramatic shift in American religious life as well as some of the trends we are seeing today among these groups relevant to what they believe and practice. (Spoiler alert: Yes, they do believe and practice things!). We'll conclude with a discussion about what kinds of ministries might fruitfully collaborate with this growing group and how church life might be meaningfully enriched by such partnerships. Mark your calendars and plan on attending this rich time of conversation and learning!



Thank you to all who donated or brought gift cards for the Second Home kids.

Along with your donations, we added funds from the 2023 Pentecost Offering to create these heart-warming gifts, in support of the 'next generation'.

2024 Soup Kitchen Help Needed



As Transition Projects gets ready for another year, there are a few changes. Capacity will be back up to 90 men in January. They no longer have a vaccine mandate for folks that want to serve onsite. Options are to serve the prepared meals or drop the meal off at Bud Clark Commons. VCPC provides the meal the third Thursday of the month. We are looking for individual or groups to provide this service. All the months are open for 2024. Please contact MaryKay Rodman mkrodman@comcast.net if you can help out.



The cast of the Nativity Play.

Christmas Tree Lighting a Success!

Under the dark sky and falling snow, over 120 of our VCP, neighborhood and Valley Church community stepped out to the front lawn and counted down from 10 to signal the lighting of the 2023 Christmas tree. Prior to the tree lighting, cookies were frosted and sprinkled, ornaments made for individual trees, books read, hot chocolate topped with whipped cream, Christmas puzzles put together and conversations enjoyed. The group gathered just prior to the lighting of the tree gathered in the sanctuary to exuberantly sing Christmas songs. Each family went home with a wood nativity set and Advent devotional as a gift from all of us at Valley.



Valley Scrapbook



Andrea Murdoch, Mission Elder, with Diane Meyer, St. Matthew's Pantry Volunteer Coordinator. Here with just some of the gifts collected for the pantry Toy Chest. Thank you for your continued generosity!



Valley college students reunite on Christmas Eve.



Left and right:
The Christmas
Eve service was
well attended!



Having fun decorating cookies during coffee fellowship.



Right: The Martin family along with Frank Powers, helped string up back-up lights on the Christmas tree when it was discovered the original lights were not working just before the Christmas tree lighting.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Second Sunday for Kids: On Sunday, January 7, we invite kids age 4 through elementary school to Second Sunday where we will enjoy a pancake breakfast, songs, time to play (which is sabbath rest for kids), and a dive into what it means to talk to God in prayer. Meet Leslie and Mark Hanscom at the back of the sanctuary right before the sermon at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Questions? Email
Leslie@valleycommunity.org.

Join Pastor Robin in the upper office conference room at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 14, to discover what it means to be part of our Presbyterian tradition and Valley Community Presbyterian Church. The structure will be one in which questions are welcomed as you consider what it means to be part of our faith tradition and our particular family of faith. Following the class, you will have an opportunity to become a member of the church if you so choose.

Raleigh Park Reading Tutors:
Volunteers needed who can read with students for 30 minutes 1-3 times a week; 30 minutes of training will be given. At this time, there are not enough volunteers to support the children who need help to meet standards for their grade level. Contact Leslie at leslie@valleycommunity.org if you have 30-90 minutes weekly to come alongside kids to boost their reading skills.

Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids:
Thank you for donating to the Blue Box by the donation bins near the Fireside Room. Keep bringing in your old prescription glasses and aids; these are taken to Third World Countries and distributed to those who need help seeing and hearing.

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Charlene Stansbury

Earth Care Corner

“Stopping Junk Mail” by Amy Henning

Are you tired of junk mail clogging your mailbox? You are not alone. Last year roughly 63 billion catalogs, postcards, credit card offers were sent to American mailboxes. This takes a heavy environmental toll. Sierra Club estimates 80 to 100 million trees are cut down each year to print junk mail. In 1970 Congress withdrew taxpayer dollars to the US Postal Service. To offset this, the Postal Service gave marketers access to your mailbox at 1/3 the cost of standard mail. Below are ways to end most of the junk mail.

Three Steps:

1. **Stop most advertisements** by checking out Association of National Advertisers’ (DMAchoice.org). This service will stop 80% of the promotional offers. You can register online for a \$4 fee to stop deliveries for 10 years or permanently by mail for \$5. There are options to stop mail for a deceased relative too.
2. **Stop credit card and insurance offers:** Tired of credit card offers? You can opt out by checking into OptOutPrescreen.com for 5 years online or by calling 888.567.8688. Note: They do ask for your social security number which is encrypted.
3. **Stop mail from specific businesses:** For this you can reach out to individual retailers, marketers and charities. Companies you’ve done business with in the past few years may still be allowed to contact you. Catalogchoice.org is a nonprofit organization that lists 10,000 businesses and charities. It lets you automatically send an opt-out request to specific companies.

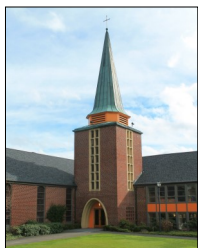
Not all your junk mail will stop. Political candidates’ campaign materials are protected by the First Amendment along with “Current Resident” fliers. But, this will certainly cut back on the majority of unwanted junk mail.

*Adapted by Michael J. Coren of Washington Post dated 11/30/23



Electric candles were brought out during the Christmas Eve service.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



The Sanctuary Choir singing at the Christmas Eve service.