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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church March 2024

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## 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

**3 Communion**  
Intergenerational Bell Choir  
"Spring Into Music"  
Community Concert,  
3:00 p.m.

**10 Daylight Saving Time Begins**  
Second Sunday for Children  
and Youth  
Intergenerational Bell Choir

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

**24 Intergenerational Bell Choir**

**31 Intergenerational Bell Choir**

## April

**7 Communion**  
Intergenerational Bell Choir



## Holy Week and Easter at Valley

### *Palm Sunday*

*March 24, 10:00 a.m.*

Worship begins with a palm branch procession as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and mark the beginning of Holy Week. Worship will include a special Sanctuary Choir anthem and a message from Pastor Robin.

### *Maundy Thursday*

*March 28, 6:00 p.m.*

On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room for fellowship and heavy hors d'oeuvres. At 6:30 p.m., we will proceed to the Sanctuary for a time of worship which will include the traditional scripture readings, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, special music, and a message from Pastor Robin.

### *Good Friday*

*March 29, 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. The service will include traditional scripture readings, special music, and a message from Pastor Robin.

### *Easter Sunday*

*March 31, 10:00 a.m.*

On Easter morning, we will celebrate the resurrection at 10:00 a.m. with an intergenerational worship service. Our service will include music from the combined Sanctuary and Youth Choirs, a special time with the children, and a meaningful message from Pastor Robin. Invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate the risen Christ!



# The Message of Easter



*The Rev. Robin Garvin*

There is a story I heard once about a couple who took their 11-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter to the Carlsbad Caverns. Apparently, it's the custom there for the guide to turn off all the lights when the tour has reached the deepest point in the cave, to dramatize how completely dark and silent it is below the earth's surface.

The little girl, suddenly enveloped in utter darkness, was frightened, and began to cry. But her brother quickly said, "Don't cry. Somebody here knows how to turn on the lights."

Somebody here knows how to turn on the lights. Here is the message of Easter: The resurrection of Jesus turns on the lights – darkness is banished, and we discover that darkness and death are not the end. And if death is not the end, it is possible to live life, right now, without fear. The message

of the resurrection...of Easter...is that we can live **now** in faith and hope...and be conduits of faith and hope in a world in which darkness and death often seem to have the upper hand.

Friends, the Easter message is not just about life after death – although it is that, an assurance that we, like Christ, will be raised – it's also about how we can live right now – how we can live hope-saturated, Christ-like lives now. The great Episcopal pastor and hymn writer Phillips Brooks once said, "The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death – that is not the great thing – but that we are to live here and now by the power of the resurrection; not so much that we are to live forever as that we are to, and may, live nobly now because we are to live forever."

Friends, let us live nobly now... nobly sharing, through both words and actions, the grace and love... the faith and hope... the life we have received because Jesus is risen! May it be so! Amen.

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Robin



## THE MESSENGER

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
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PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355

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valleycommunity.org  
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**NEWSLETTER STAFF:**  
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

The March featured nonprofit for Together Women Rise is IANGEL in Afghanistan. IANGEL stands for International Action Network For Gender Equity and Law. This international network of lawyers is dedicated to gender equity and justice that harnesses the power of pro bono legal assistance, connecting it to the cause of women's rights locally, nationally, and around the world.

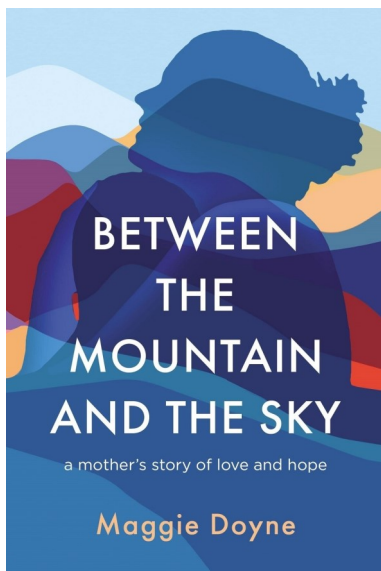
This project will provide key support for Afghan women, both inside the country and in exile, by: 1. partnering with Afghan women's rights defenders on international legal research, 2. connecting with Afghan women lawyers inside and outside the country via Zoom through the BRIDGE (Building Real Interactions Driving Gender Equality) project, and 3. by providing direct assistance and support to Afghan women who operate underground schools. This multi-faceted project provides the opportunity for Rise to address gender inequities in Afghanistan and the Taliban's systematic oppression of its female population.

You are cordially invited to join our meeting on Sunday, March 17, at 11:30 a.m. in Armitage Hall to learn more about IANGEL, share an abundant pot-luck lunch and donate to their grant request. If you would like more information about this group, go to [togetherwomenrise.org](http://togetherwomenrise.org) or contact Ruthann Marquis.

The 2023 Annual Report is now available!

Read about what Valley's ministries were up to in 2023 by visiting our website, [www.valleycommunity.org](http://www.valleycommunity.org), [clicking here](#), or pick up a hard copy in the church office.

## 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 22, in the Fireside Room to discuss "Between the Mountain and the Sky" by Maggie Doyne. One reviewer writes that this novel "shows us the goodness that is possible when a single person--regardless of age--takes action to help another and, in the process, changes

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

## Summer Youth Mission Trip

A summer youth mission trip in partnership with the youth from First Presbyterian Church, Portland is planned for July 14-19. The youth will be involved in a service/learning opportunity on the Yakama Reservation in Washington through SLAM (Students Learning About Missions). Any students interested in participating in this exciting opportunity should contact Pastor Robin ([robin@valleycommunity.org](mailto:robin@valleycommunity.org)) as soon as possible to reserve a spot.

## "Spring Into Music" Community Concert



On Sunday, March 3, Eric Browning and Scout Troop 592 will be hosting a community concert on Valley's behalf. The "Spring Into Music" community concert will be at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It is free to attend, however, there will be an optional donation to Valley's music department.



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](http://oga.pcusa.org/percapita)





## Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch



What do 1000 eggs, 12 bunnies, 120 mini quiches and a giant rabbit have in common? All are components which will be part of our second annual community wide Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch on Saturday, March 30, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. The event is for Valley Christian Preschool (VCP) families, our community/neighborhood, our families, friends and neighbors.

**Want an easy way to support the event?** Drop off NUT FREE, individually wrapped candy to fill plastic eggs by March 10. You may drop off candy in the baskets located in the Fireside Room, by the front door or in the church office.

**Want an at home way to contribute?** Pick up empty eggs and candy, beginning March 10, and return filled eggs to the church by March 24.

**Want to help get us ready to welcome over 160 guests?** Volunteer to set-up on March 29 for the hunt and/or help clean-up so we are guest ready for Easter.

**Want to join in the fun on March 30?** Sign up to monitor bunny petting, help with crafts, serve delicious food, spread eggs across the lawn, guide the giant rabbit or greet guests.

For questions or to sign up- Email [leslie@valleycommunity.org](mailto:leslie@valleycommunity.org)

## 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.

In the past ten years, this fund has awarded grants totaling about \$200,000 to deserving applicants. No applications will be accepted past the April 1 deadline. Contact [missionendowment@valleycommunity.org](mailto:missionendowment@valleycommunity.org) or the church office for a Mission Endowment grant application.



*Lenten packets were handed out to families to use during Lent.*

## Cookie Sale Success!

Thank you to everyone who made the Youth Cookie Sale a huge success; from the bakers and packagers to the cookie eaters and non-eaters that donated, your generosity was amazing. We raised over \$500!! Your support for our youth is greatly appreciated.



*The Sanctuary is prepared for the Lenten season.*

## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

#### Second Sunday for Kids, March

**10:** Calling all kids age 4 through fifth grade for a morning of make your own pancakes, sabbath rest (play for kids) and a dive into the Lord's Prayer. Meet Mr. Mark and Miss Leslie at the back of the sanctuary just before the sermon.

**Easter Candy Needed:** Last call for pre-wrapped NUT FREE candy to fill over 600 plastic eggs. Drop off candy by March 10 at the baskets in the Fireside Room, by the front door, or in the office. If you'd be willing to fill eggs, let Leslie know and she will send you home with eggs and candy.

**The Women's Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, March 14, in the Fireside Room at 1:00 p.m. Please join us as we discuss Lesson 7 of *Sacred Encounters*.

**Thomas and Amy Rheingans**, staff members at Valley, lost their home to a falling tree in the recent wind and ice storm. While they are staying in a long-term rental during the rebuilding of their home, there are many unexpected expenses including additional tree and some debris removal not covered by insurance, short-term furniture needs, rent, etc. If you would like to help monetarily, here is a link to a GoFundMe organized by Michelle Blair and Allison Baird: <https://gofund.me/629f9314>

### Prayers

*We pray for those with health concerns:*

Bruce Armstrong

*We pray for those who mourn:*

- The Blair Family and friends on the death of Craig Blair on February 11, 2024.

*We pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee:*

Jan Bellis-Squires, Amy Dee, Sarah Martin, Harry Reeder, Amy Rheingans, Jim Sandberg, and Tina Teed

## Earth Care Corner

Here is what Valley's Earth Care Team has been up to....

We successfully completed our annual re-application for our Earth Care Certification and garnered more than enough points in each of the four categories to qualify. Our certificate is due to arrive during the month of March and will be posted on the Earth Care Corner bulletin board outside of Valley's library.

- We completed a battery audit around the entire campus of our church and will be looking into the purchase of rechargeable batteries to eliminate these single use items from going to the landfill.
- We have obtained a green bin for food waste and compostables that come out of our kitchens (i.e. coffee grounds, stale cookies and cakes, food scraps from meals prepared and plate scrapings from meals served). However, with the damage done to our upstairs kitchen and the limited room in the Fireside Room kitchen, this new practice will be put on pause until we have a new space to practice it in.
- We are collaborating with the Raleigh Hills Business Association for our Community Recycling Event on April 20 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. that Saturday morning. They will be having their annual Shred Event in the AAA parking lot, along with opportunities to donate to Community Warehouse, SBC Electronics Recycling and non-perishable food for Neighborhood House. Valley will be collecting plastic film, Styrofoam and #6 plastics, athletic shoes, books for the Beaverton Book Corner, corks, cans/bottles, textiles and, hopefully, batteries. We plan to have both Master Recyclers and Master Gardeners there for community education, as well as SCRAP and Mama and Hapa's No Waste Store.

We continue to collect Styrofoam and #6 plastic (along with non-perishable food for the St. Matthew's Food Pantry) every first and third Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

We welcome your suggestions and your help. Please reach out to anyone on the team to lend a hand: Wendy Archibald, Jan Bellis-Squires, Connie Brenner, Amy Henning, or Ruthann Marquis.



*All the appliances and lower cabinets were removed in the upstairs kitchen due to the water damage from the recent ice storm.*



## THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



**SPRING FORWARD**

→

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!

[+ 1 HOUR]

This year, we will spring forward to Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday night!

The poster features a large, detailed image of a silver alarm clock on the right side. The clock face is white with black numbers and hands, and a yellow glow emanates from behind it. The background is a gradient of purple and blue with yellow dashed lines and dots. The text is in white and yellow, with a yellow arrow pointing right.