
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church May 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.

May

5 Communion
Intergenerational Bell Choir
Spring Musical, 3:00 p.m.

12 Mother's Day
Second Sunday for Children and Youth
Intergenerational Bell Choir

19 Graduate Sunday
Cents-Ability Offering
Congregational Mtg., 11 a.m.
Together Women Rise, 12:00 p.m.
Intergenerational Bell Choir

26

June

2 Communion



Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch a Success

After a week of rain, Saturday March 30 dawned sunny and bright - perfect weather for our second annual Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch. Over 235 kids and grown-ups enjoyed a light brunch and crafts however the highlight of the morning might have been holding a rabbit in one's lap. A larger than life bunny visited for photos and to lead the kids in finding 1700 eggs scattered across the lawns.



Time for a New Church Photo Directory



The Rev. Robin Garvin

When I arrived in late November 2021 to begin my work as your Transitional Pastor, one of the tools I used every day as I settled into life at Valley was the church picture directory. I was so grateful for the pictures in this directory that enabled me to rapidly learn your names and faces. The directory was prepared in 2019 by the *Lifetouch* company and was reasonably up to date when I arrived.

Five years later, we have added new staff members, some staff members have moved on, some of our congregants have died or moved away, and other new friends have become participants in our faith community. In anticipation of the arrival of a new pastor some time in 2024, it seems like a very good time to create a new picture directory! We want to help our new pastor quickly come to know the names and faces that are a part of his/her new congregation.

To that end, we are going to produce an “in-house” church photo directory using our database software. From Mother’s Day (May 12) to Father’s Day (June 16) we are asking everyone who considers Valley Church your spiritual home (member or non-member) to have your picture taken for inclusion in this new tool. The process will be very simple. **Every Sunday from May 12-June 16, from 11:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., we will have members of our community with photography skills on hand in Room 16 (east Sunday School/preschool wing) to take a photo of you (and your family, if applicable... please, no pets).** At the same time, we will ask you to verify your contact information and provide the name and contact information for your emergency contact person. The whole process should take a matter of minutes. Just select the Sunday that works the best for you and drop by Room 16.

This effort will be a great success and a great help to our anticipated new pastor if we all participate! Every member and friend of Valley will receive a copy of our new photo directory when it is completed. Thank you in advance for your participation and support!

Joyfully in Christ,

Pastor Robin Garvin

THE MESSENGER

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NEWSLETTER STAFF:
ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

May Birthdays

Selma Anderson	Amy Dee	Elaine Rea
Barry Armentrout	Marilyn Hartzell	Sam Rheingans
Dylan Blair	Amy Hennning	Jacque Rheingans
Alex Blair	Sherrie James	Katherine Rinella
Mollie Bootsma	David Jimerson	Catherine Romanaggi
Bill Bruning	Alisha Killian	Donna Rueff
Phyllis Bruning	Ainsley Killian	Marcia Sanderman
Nels Carlson	Ann Miller	Turner Sanderman
Birgitta Carlson	Karen Mitchell-Yakymi	Ty Scearce
Brad Carlson	Stan Munro	Sonja Spencer
Lyle Chadwick	Zeph Pratt	Marilyn Tuffs

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



Together Women Rise



Celebrating 12 years meeting at Valley!

May 19 is when Together Women Rise at Valley will meet again. This month Rise will feature two different and previously funded nonprofit organizations, each receiving \$50,000 for their grant request.

The first organization is One Heart Worldwide in Nepal. Their mission is to save the lives and promote the well-being of mothers and their newborns in underserved areas of rural Nepal. They are transforming maternal and neonatal healthcare across rural Nepal. Their programs are highly regarded. Since 2010, One Heart Worldwide programs have impacted over 1 million mothers and newborns throughout 32 districts of Nepal.

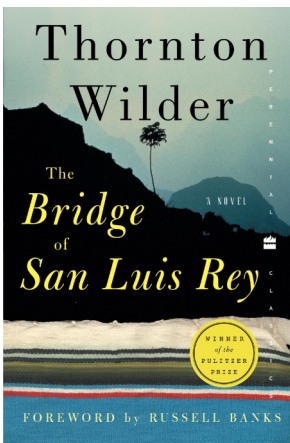
Their grant request will expand the Simulation-Based Mentorship Program for maternal and newborn health (MNH) providers, resulting in a stronger and more equitable health system for women and, ultimately, a reduction in adverse outcomes for mothers and their newborns.

The second organization is the Fistula Foundation, working in Ethiopia and Tanzania. The Fistula Foundation is the global leader in fistula treatment, providing more surgeries to more women than any other organization, including the U.S. government and United Nations.

Their grant supports training of Community Health Volunteers and patient ambassadors, and radio advertising to spread awareness of fistula and fistula treatment options to enable the referral and treatment of women at two partner facilities in Tanzania. This will increase the number of women receiving life-transforming treatment and will add more community-based organizations to build the local capacity to offer quality treatment to women.

Together Women Rise at Valley meets in Armitage Hall at noon on Sunday, May 19. Please join us with a contribution to the potluck lunch table, an open heart and ear as well as a monetary donation to support their grant requests. Please note that the start time for the May meeting is again at noon, secondary to it being the same day that Valley recognizes our graduating High School seniors. If you have questions, please contact Ruthann Marquis.

Valley Book Group



The Valley Book Group meets on the fourth Friday of the month and the May meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 24, in the Fireside Room to discuss a classic book, “The Bridge of San Luis Rey,” by Thornton Wilder. This novel won the Pulitzer Prize in 1928 and was the best-selling work of fiction that year. It has also been made into several movies. It tells the story of several interrelated people

who die in the collapse of an Inca rope bridge in Peru, and the events that lead up to their being on the bridge. New members are always welcome and, if you are already on the Book Group email list, you will receive a reminder of the meeting.

Knowing Ourselves: An Introduction to the Enneagram

Like the Myers Briggs, the Enneagram is a tool for self-understanding. It offers perspectives on why we think, act, and feel the way we do and how to live the healthiest and most faithful versions of ourselves. Whether you are well-versed in the enneagram or it's new to you, this day-long retreat will offer meaningful content that enrich your own life as well as strengthen relationships you have with those around you. Led by the gifted pastor and speaker, Rev. Dr. Sarah Sanderson Doughty, we'll gather with Presbyterians from across the region on Saturday, May 18, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at United Presbyterian Church, Albany to learn and grow together. Lunch and a book is included in your registration fee. Hope to see you there!

Use the following registration link here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/knowning-ourselves-an-introduction-to-the-enneagram-registration-808744585827>



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.pccusa.org/percapita



Pentecost Offering



On May 19, the church celebrates Pentecost, which commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. The Pentecost Offering is one of four special offerings our denomination collects during each year. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, we are nurturing the

faith of those who are the church to come – children, youth, and young adults.

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. This foundation helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering collected by Valley Community Presbyterian Church stays with our congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our church and community. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. Another twenty-five percent of our offering supports Ministries with Youth, to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God’s word. The remaining ten percent is devoted to children at risk, to improve education and provide safe havens. Please give generously!

A Kid’s Life, the Musical!

Join us Sunday, May 5, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a spring musical presented by our Melodia Children’s Choir. This wholesome musical tells the tale of a massive electromagnetic emergency that has jammed all technical systems so there is no electricity, no cell phones, no laptops, no video games – NO FUN! The kids are in a panic and don’t know what to do, until Grandpa and Grandma arrive on the scene and introduce them to a day filled with adventure, music and imagination – all without fancy gadgets!

Following the 35 minutes performance, join us for root beer floats and classic games in the gym.



Summer Drama Camp



Kids in 2nd-6th grade are invited to participate in our annual drama camp July 15-19 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. each day. Campers will put on a play called “Summer Camp” the story about kids going to “Camp Runamok” and having the wackiest summer camp experience ever. It’s full of humor and catchy songs with plenty of chances for your child to shine, including a performance on Friday, July 19, at 6:00 p.m.! Cost is \$175, with flexible tuition options.

For more information contact our Kids Music Director, Amy Rheingans, at amy@valleycommunity.org.

New Member Gathering



On Sunday, June 9, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Pastor Robin will offer an informal gathering for all who want to learn more about Valley Church, our mission and ministries, our denomination

(Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.), and some of our distinctive beliefs. Though certainly not required, an opportunity to become a member of Valley will be provided at the end of the gathering for all who so desire.

Please Stop...



time to look for young kids on their way to and from recess as they have to cross the parking lot in order to get to the playground. Let’s work as a community to help keep our students safe!

With the nicer weather upon us, the preschoolers will be using the playground more often during school hours. We want to get the word out to please stop at the stop sign in the alley and take the



Congratulations 2024 Graduates!

On May 19, we will have the opportunity to honor our graduating class of 2024 as they end one stage of life and begin their journey to the next. Four of Valley's high school graduates, Katie Craig, Nathan Graham, Avery Teed, and Macy Vermillion, will receive a special gift from the Holy Nine Patch Quilters. Celebrate with us during Sunday worship where we will be able to give all graduates our blessings and well wishes.

Here are some more 2024 graduates of Valley friends and families:

- ◆ Mason Rouches is graduating from Yale with a PhD in Biophysics. Mason is the son of Melissa Vaughan Rouches and grandson of Virginia Vaughan.
- ◆ Clay Edwards is graduating from Sammish High School in Bellevue, WA. Clay is the grandson of Marilyn Farrier.
- ◆ Jaron Farrier is graduating from Oregon State. Jaron is the grandson of Marilyn Farrier.
- ◆ Logan Sowers Clancy is graduating from Beaverton High School in Beaverton, OR. Logan is the grandson of Don and Jean Sowers.
- ◆ Andrew Daniel Sowers is graduating from Lincoln High School in Seattle, WA. Andrew is the grandson of Don and Jean Sowers.
- ◆ Madeline Prewett is graduating from Beaverton High School. Madeline is the daughter of Lynne Fowler's cousin.
- ◆ Rebecca Oswald is graduating with a nursing degree from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. She will be the student speaker at her graduation as well as for the nursing school's pinning ceremony. She begins her residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in August in the cardiac surgical ward. Rebecca is the granddaughter of Robert and Wendy Archibald.
- ◆ Caitlyn Bernhard is graduating from Johns Hopkins University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. She will begin work on her PhD in that field at M.I.T. in the fall. Caitlyn is the granddaughter of Cathy and Milton Bernhard.
- ◆ Jacob Esmond is graduating from the University of Oregon with a BS in Business. Jacob is the grandson of Stuart and Sandy Young.
- ◆ Cameron Esmond is graduating from Lincoln High School. Cameron is the grandson of Stuart and Sandy Young.

Congratulations Kimi!



Kimi Gubler Davies is graduating from Portland State University with her Master's in Music: Conducting on June 14, 2024. Her graduate conducting recital is on May 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church. The recital is free and open to the public. Kimi will be conducting the Portland State Rose Choir, which she has been directing since the Fall of 2023.

Kimi earned her Bachelor's in Music Education in 2018. She taught choir at American Leadership Academy and American Heritage School, conducted the Heritage Children's Choir, and has directed the Portland State University Hawthorne Choir, Community Chorus, and Rose Choir while in grad school. She has loved working with the Valley Church's Sanctuary Choir since August 2023.

Kimi was selected by audition for a conducting masterclass with Dr. André Thomas at the 2024 Northwest American Choral Directors' Association Conference. Recently, she conducted a visiting tenor bass choir from Finland in a choir exchange concert with the PSU Rose Choir.

“Valley has a wonderful history with Portland State University that spans decades. Our former music director, Prof. David Jimerson, was a professor of choral music at PSU. Through David's efforts, many music students and professors have performed and shared their musical gifts in Valley's sanctuary.

This relationship is ongoing and vibrant as ever. A number of college students from PSU regularly sing with us on Sundays. Kimi Davies, our current choir director, is in the graduate conducting program and will soon be graduating from PSU. We would like to celebrate our rich connection with Portland State University on communion Sunday, May 5. We have invited a larger contingency of PSU singers to join us to sing the choral piece “Reach Down Lord” composed by Kyle Pederson.

Congratulations Jenny!

Valley's own Jenny Pratt Hale will be graduating May 2 from Portland Seminary with a degree in Doctor of Leadership in Global Perspectives.

Her doctoral project title is:
Coming Home NW: A Compelling Invitation to Connect with Nature for Improving and Sustaining Health, Strengthening Identity, and Deepening Relationship with God.

Rhythm and Rainbow Event

Twenty five kids and their grown ups shook instruments, danced and sang at Saturday, April 27th's Rhythm and Rainbow event.



Valley Scrapbook



The Prayer Shawl Knitters received a blessing as they celebrated 19 years of ministry at Valley.



Members of the Prayer Shawl group enjoying the Spring sun.



A screenshot from the livestream when Pastor Robin commissioned members of the Oregon Shalom Mission Church.



Congregants were invited to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" with the Sanctuary Choir on Easter Sunday.



Above and right: Thank you to all of you who provided Mason jars and flowers to line the walkway on Easter morning. All of the bouquets were sent home with guests or for someone's neighbor.



Recycling Event a Success!

Please see the Earth Care article on page 10 for more information.



Textile donations are always popular. "Just Porch It" will sort through the range of clothing, shoes, purses, fabric scraps, pillows, giving them new life and keeping them out of landfills. Roberta Hahn helped people unload their bags.



The St. Matthew Lutheran Pantry--supported by Valley for many years--will be stocked with a variety of nonperishable food thanks to people who dropped off food along with their recycling materials. Andrea Murdoch delivered the goods.

Ruthann Marquis, a Valley member for decades, has launched numerous outreach programs over the years. She spearheaded the effort for Valley to become an Earth Care Congregation and continues to lead this critically important focus.



Valley's Director of Community and Family Engagement Leslie Hanscom dished up hospitality that included donations of sweet treats and organic vegetable seeds.



Earth care enthusiasts were interested in the array of products Mama & Hapa's Zero Waste Shop will be providing in Beaverton when it opens its new store in The Round.



Valley Pastor Robin Garvin and Mark Hanscom greeted each person as they arrived, answering questions and explaining the various options available.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

The session has called for a very brief (5 minutes!) congregational meeting on May 19 immediately following worship at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive an additional report from the Congregational Officer Nominating Committee (CONC) and elect nominees to fill vacant deacon and CONC positions.

Second Sunday for Children will be held on May 12. It's time for another Sunday of pancakes, prayers, and play for kids ages 5 through 5th grade. Meet Leslie and Mark at the back of the sanctuary right before the sermon. Pick up is in Room 16.

Eoghan McDowell invites you to his house concert called "Memories". It is a culmination of the personal journey he has been on for the last few years. It covers experience with themes of identity and sense of self, love both romantic and platonic, and of course, memory. Join Eoghan for music and stories at the Youth House on Saturday, May 4. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with music from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and a 10 minute break in the middle of the set.

The Women's Bible Study will meet Thursday, May 9, in the Fireside Room at 1:00 p.m. We will conclude our study of *Sacred Encounters* discussing Lesson 9.

Non-perishable food will still be collected on the first and third Thursday of each month, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the back parking lot of Valley. Items will be delivered to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry. We are no longer collecting Styrofoam.

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns:

Charlene Hegdahl, Geri Mitchell



Earth Care Corner

Recycling Event a Success!

Valley marked Earth Month with another popular spring recycling event. Held twice annually in the TriMet Park & Ride Lot, this year's event drew a steady stream of cars over the three hours. Both new and repeat participants expressed their gratitude for making it possible to donate items for recycling/reusing at Valley's 7th Community Recycling Event.

"This event wouldn't be possible without the many volunteers who help set up, staff, and clean up after the event," says Ruthann Marquis, who spearheaded Valley becoming an Earth Care Congregation. "We welcome all who would like to join our Earth Care Committee or who would like to help at the fall event on October 19 from 9:00 a.m. to noon."

For this April event, Valley partnered with the Raleigh Hills Business Association, which offered shredding and electronics recycling in the AAA parking lot. "We're excited to work with our neighboring businesses to provide earth-friendly events for our community," says Ruthann, adding, "It's heartwarming to see the ongoing commitment to care for our precious planet!"



Cathy Bernhard and Connie Brenner collected used athletic shoes that will receive new life as running tracks, skateboards, furniture, and more.



Master Gardener and Valley member Wendy Archibald shared information about the importance of native plants.

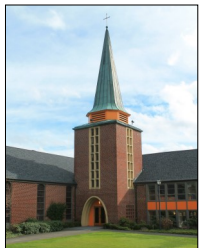


Youth--and youth supporters--collected bags of redeemable cans and bottles, which will help fund this summer's mission trip.

Did you know...

that most cardboard boxes for freezer items have plastic in them? This acts as a moisture barrier and cannot be recycled! Because plastic is a contaminant in paper recycling, this freezer packaging must go in the garbage, not your recycling bin. Now you know!

THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Pentecost Picnic on Sunday, May 19!

On Sunday, May 19, wear some red and come out for our Pentecost Picnic to celebrate our 2024 high school graduates and at the same time support our 2024 summer youth mission team! We'll gather in the Fireside Room right after the Congregational Meeting and enjoy a picnic lunch together. The picnic will be prepared by the youth mission team. This will be the team's only fundraiser for their trip with S.L.A.M. (Students Learning About Missions) to the Yakama Nation in mid-July. Suggested minimum donation \$10.00 per person (High School grads and their families attend at no charge!).



Spring into life.

Give blood.

The Deacons' Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at
the Valley Youth House on

Wednesday, May 8, 1:30-6:30 p.m.



Please consider donating blood at Valley's upcoming Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, May 8th from 1:30-6:30 p.m. in Valley's Youth House, hosted by Valley's Deacons. The need is constant and the gratification is instant! You can schedule an appointment to donate online at redcrossblood.org or simply contact Allison Baird Carlson or Anne Scarce.