



Valley Presbyterian Church

(USA)

Oasis of Grace

Our Valley Voice
April, 2021

HE IS RISEN



**HE IS RISEN
INDEED**

electronic copies are available on our website:
www.valleypresbyterian.net

OUR MISSION

To make Christ known through reconciliation while communicating respect and love to all people.

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

- Worship that glorifies God.
- Growing our faith in love, hope and the peace of Christ.
 - Caring for the children of God.
- Reaching out to the community and the world.
 - Seeking an attitude of servant-hood.

Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
(520) 625-5023

vpc-office@valleypres.net
www.valleypresbyterian.net

Member of Presbytery de Cristo in The
Synod of the Southwest,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey,
Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Diane Christopher,
Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Joe Hawkins,
Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Worship
Traditional Service of Worship
9:30 a.m.
Online and In person.

Resurrection Taize Online
Wednesday, April 7
5pm

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Patio Sale News

Finally we can say it: **We are having a patio sale on April 15, 16, and 17!** It will be an experience unlike any we have had before because this sale will be held in two large tents in the front parking lot with an area between them for an outside sales venue, so we are hoping for good weather, lots of volunteer help, and lots of eager shoppers.



All who attend the sale either as volunteer workers or as shoppers will be expected to follow the regular coronavirus protocols: wear masks, social distance, and sanitize hands. The number of people inside the shopping area will be limited according to restrictions dictated by the county and the permit we need to hold the sale.

This year not all departments will offer their goods for sale because of the outside venue. Those departments selling are hanging clothes, folded clothes, electronics, furniture, housewares, jewelry, lamps, and the miscellaneous items that would normally be in the tent in the back parking lot. The remaining departments will sell their goods at another sale later in the year. We are hoping that those people who usually volunteered in departments not selling will still work at the sale in a different department. We need all the help we can get, and we especially need people who can lift TVs, microwaves or other items of similar weight. Invite your friends and neighbors to chip in to help us. This is an event of, by, and for the community! Watch the E-blasts from the church for more information.

HOLY WEEK

Holy week is one of the most sacred weeks in the church year. Join us as we walk with Jesus to the Cross and celebrate the Resurrection. Online worship can be found on our website (valleypres.net)

Saturday, March 27th VAS: "Empty Bowls" Event in VPC Parking Lot

10 am-12 noon

Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday Live or Online, 9:30 a.m

Wednesday, March 31 Taize . Online by 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday Online by 5 p.m.

Friday, April 2 Good Friday Live Tenebrae concert,
Please note: the 5 p.m. recital is full, but a 1 p.m.
recital has been added.

Contact Pastor Diane for reservations

(pastordiane@valleypres.net; 625-5023)

Sunday, April 4 EASTER 6 a.m. online & 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary/online

Celebration of a Life Dorothy Barker Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. At the fountain

You are invited to come and celebrate the life of Dorothy Barker on Saturday, April 10 at 10 a.m., and to give thanks to God for the gift of life, both now and eternal. We will be at the fountain so we can uphold social distancing. Chairs and refreshments will be provided. Please wear a mask. Come with a favorite story or memory.



Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor, Head of Staff

ON LEADERSHIP

Several items from our Journey Ahead Group (JAG) Report touch on an intangible issue of Leadership. Recently, the Patio Sale Amigos sat me down to say: “Craig, we have never had a Pastor who was involved in the Patio Sale before!” Several Committees have reflected how nice it is to have one or the other of our pastors routinely a part of their meeting. To me this is not a matter of micro-managing or control, it is survival! Pastor Diane and I need to be kept informed in every facet of our church, and about your lives, which we can witness in a committee of 8-10 easier than visiting every member monthly (especially during a Pandemic). Pastor Diane and I then have to each be responsible for what is described as “self-differentiating,” because as your pastors we have responsibility for your care, your faith, all the other people and how this body lives into the future. So I need to ask for your help in four specific ways.



1. We no longer have a Church Administrator. All of those responsibilities have been given to me, as well as serving as your Pastor. So whenever you need something, before going to the Church Staff please check in with me. I may know that that staff person cannot take on one more thing right now, or there may be a better way for us to help you. So use me.
2. My style is different from all of our previous Pastors. I have been the administrator, as well as Pastor (sometimes a Bass in the Choir, sometimes a Custodian), and the weekly Preacher, for +36 years. Green Valley is a treat for me, because for all those years I had committee meetings, Session and Deacons meeting every night of the week! I am a weird animal who actually enjoys meetings (which are productive). So, I hope, as the Public Health protocols are lifted, we can play together and enjoy each other’s company in meetings.
3. Pastor Diane and I are a Team. The Constitution of the Church does not have Head Pastors, Lead Pastors or Senior Pastors; we have Pastors, Associate Pastors, and Interim Pastors (and neither of us are planning to go anywhere). I absolutely trust and am in awe of Pastor Diane’s faith in

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Jesus Christ, her wisdom as a teacher, and her love of you. So please treat her with the respect that she is more than a staff member, she is our Pastor. My role is as Head of Staff, Moderator of Session, Administrator, regular Preacher, Counselor, Teacher, Pastor. Her role as Pastor of Discipleship is to create and lead ministries of discipling, to Preach regularly, Counselor, Teacher, Pastor. If I am not available, please use her as your pastor; if she is not here, please use me. While we each are very strong on boundaries and confidentiality, we also share with one another everything they need to know.

4. Keep us in your prayers, you are constantly in ours. The pastoral ministry can be exhausting, as week after week, we need to create and present a 20 minute sermon and prayers and a total worship service that is theologically accurate, hopefully relevant and occasionally meaningful; we then have all of our “weekday” responsibilities. AND, throughout this last year and the next, we have been trying to lead in a time within our culture where there is no prior experience.

Pastor Craig

TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sometimes, I am in awe of how much technology we have embraced so quickly! Over the last year, we have increased our Church’s Internet Speed and capability. We have not missed a single Worship Service, or Taize, instantly beginning Video Recording; and when safe we began In Person Worship with Protocols. We have had all of our monthly meetings and even some classes by Zoom Video Conferencing. We have replaced the Sound System in the Sanctuary, so it actually works! We have replaced the Theater-style Lighting in the Sanctuary, even balancing the Sun’s gleaming. We had the Lighting Board reprogrammed. In March, we cleaned out all the abandoned cables and wiring, and unused equipment from the Sound Booth, and a few days later found several cords that should have been plugged in that had come out. Our Session have now contracted with Sheila Croteau, who owns her own Computer Business and serves as the Administrative Staff person at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Tucson, to “build” a Live-Streaming Video Broadcast System for our Church having previously built the system for Trinity Presbyterian. This will mean that instead of pre-recording worship during the week, we will be able to record and simultaneously broadcast all of the Worship Services and Concerts in our Sanctuary.

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Pastor Craig Con't

MISSION GIVING & PASS THRU

A concern in the JAG Report had been having greater transparency surrounding the Mission allocations of our Church. 51% of the Mission Budget income was generated from the Patio Sale the year prior. The Operating Budget of the Church supports our Church's support of specific Missions, and through generous designated donations and offerings we are able to do a little more. Attached are two pages from the Mission Committee which fully and transparently explain where all of the Mission Giving for 2020. Our Church is amazing for having Mission Committee members who each take a personal interest and make a commitment to these causes.

Pass Through Giving

Pass through giving are funds which are given outside of the adjusted budget. These funds come from several sources.

- 1) Extra envelope giving such as Food Bank, PCUSA Special Giving (for example monies for One Great Hour of Sharing etc.)
- 2) Addition checks given to VPC for specific Mission Agencies (for example monies for Casa Vida Nueva, Crossroads Nogales Mission, , VAS, etc.) as noted in memo area on the check. The advantage of giving to agencies through the church includes easy bookkeeping as these contributions are listed in your Annual Giving Summary. The pass-through monies are given to the agency as a check from VPC which reflects our church's involvement in the community.
- 3) Projects which generate income such as Mission Breakfasts, Noisy Offering (if identified by check or in Special Offering Envelope) etc.
- 4) Undesignated gifts to the Mission Committee are placed in the Emergency Fund and are used in that calendar year as needed.

Approximately 51% of total revenue for 2020 of Mission Committee Giving is from the Patio Sale.

Approximately 25% of total revenue for 2020 of Mission Committee Giving is for Presbyterian programs.

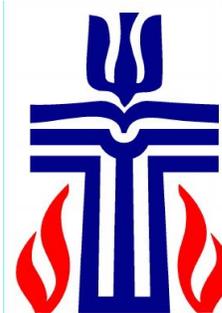


Pass Thru Giving Con't

Valley Presbyterian Church Mission Committee Giving and Pass Through Giving - 2020

Vendor	2020 Budget		12/31/2020
	Income	Pass Thru Giving	Total
Casa Vida Nueva	6,782.00	2,225.00	9,007.00
Community Food Banks (Amado & Green Valley)	10,782.00	9,563.58	20,345.58
Companeros en Mission	4,782.00		4,782.00
Crossroads Mission	9,782.00	3,429.00	13,211.00
Emergency Funds	1,502.00		1,502.00
General Mission Support:	4,782.00		4,782.00
Hands of a Friend	7,182.00	300.00	7,482.00
Operation Mobilization Mission Support-Pam & Dave L	4,782.00	50.00	4,832.00
PCUSA- Seminary Support	2,782.00		2,782.00
PCUSA-Disaster Assistance	1,000.00	25.00	1,025.00
PCUSA- Christmas Joy		1,247.00	1,247.00
PCUSA-OGHS	-	580.00	580.00
PCUSA-Peacemaking	-	184.50	184.50
Posada Life Services	4,782.00		4,782.00
Presbyterian Campus Ministry	3,782.00		3,782.00
Rices, Bob and Kristy	5,782.00	50.00	5,832.00
Samaritan's Purse		20.00	20.00
St Andrew's Children's Clinic	5,782.00	499.23	6,281.23
Valley Assistance Services	10,682.00	1,582.00	12,264.00
Valley Assistance Services-Empty Bowls facility use	-	871.94	871.94
Valley Presbyterian Women-Mission Quilts	800.00		800.00
Youth on Their Own	7,182.00	1,515.00	8,697.00
	\$ 92,950.00	22,142.25	\$ 115,092.25

Exploring Membership Class
Saturdays, May 15 and 22
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in Classroom 5
Thursday, May 27, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.



In this extraordinary time, we offer a shorten New Member class for those of you interested in becoming a member of Valley Presbyterian Church. The class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership. You will meet the pastors and staff, and discover what makes this Body of Christ unique. Safely protocols will be in place.

Contact Pastor Diane Christopher with any questions and/or to register:
pastordiane@valleypres.net, or 625-5023.

Diane Christopher: Pastor of Discipleship

Pandemic and Resurrection

The biggest excitement these days is the announcement “I got my shot!” And we all rejoice together: “I get mine next week!” We all report where we got the shot, what it was like, and the aftereffects. It has been a journey to get these shots. They were hard to find, and when you did find a place and registered, you faced cancellations as shortages abounded.



But it is happening. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Prayerfully, the pandemic is coming to an end. Of course, we don't know if life will go back to the way it was. What will post-pandemic life look like? Will our “normal” life be restored? I am kind of enamored by the fact that I haven't been sick for over a year because I have been wearing a mask in public. Maybe keep doing it each winter?

In the midst of this weakening of the pandemic, we celebrate the Resurrection. What was post-Resurrected life like for the disciples and the new Christians? A resurrected life is not a restoration, a return to what was before, but a new reality. It is the reality of life beyond life. It is the fact because Jesus came to life, Jesus is alive and with us today.

How will we live differently? The pandemic has taught us how precious is life. That our relationships with family and friends are valued beyond words and have deeper meaning. That we need people, not just on a computer, but in real life with real touch. I hugged someone the other day (heaven forbid!) and the touch of another human being was exquisite. I can still feel it. I've been weeping over videos of grandparents finally able to hug their grandchildren.

Resurrection means that God in Jesus, having experienced human life, has experienced all our human sorrows and joys. He not only shared our lives,
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but transformed our lives. Life has a deeper, greater and new meaning. The resurrection offers us hope and joy.

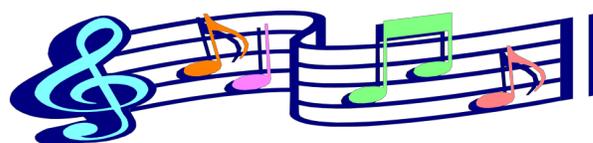
Easter was never meant to go back to normal; instead, it makes all things new. The pandemic may lead us to a new way of living just like the resurrection leads to a new reordered way. Look for the signs of Resurrection. We will rise because He has risen.

All my love,

Pastor Diane

A Musical Note of Thanks!

By Jamie Reed



As we enter April, the rays of hope keep showing themselves. Whether it is vaccinations, sunshine, good health, or community, we are constantly reminded that there is light and we are moving forward in a positive direction. No matter what we have experienced in the last year, the music has been the constant. So, I thank you. Thank you for trusting us, for listening to us, for giving us the opportunity to provide a musical support during times of uncertainty. As we move forward, we are slowly adding to our member opportunities and involvement. It was almost a year ago that we had our last “Music In The Valley” concert and look at us now. In December, February, and this month we are able to get back to concerts! Thank you for attending. Also, small groups of handbell ringers are able to come together. While we are not ready to sing together, we know that in time, and with patience, this will return.

Friday, April 2 @ 1:00 & 5:00 **“Music In The Valley” Presents:**

Tenebrae, Latin for “Darkness”, is a word used to describe a group of daily services, dating from the ninth century, that take place at the end of Holy Week, taking a liturgical journey through the events of Jesus’ Passion. This year, Wes, will present a contemplative concert; made up of musical selections, readings, and scripture; taking us on this journey, on Good Friday, April 2, at 5:00 P.M. Wes will be joined by other musicians of our Valley Presbyterian Congregation.

Please note: the 5 p.m. recital is full, but a 1 p.m. recital has been added. To make a reservation for the concert please contact Rev. Diane Christopher at pastordiane@valleypres.net

A love offering to benefit the music fund will be accepted.

40th Annual Patio Sale

Thursday, April 15 from 8 am to 3 pm

(\$5.00 Admission Thursday only)

Friday, April 16 from 8 am to 3pm

Saturday, April 17 from 8am to noon

**FOR THIS PANDEMIC SALE -
ALL 19,000 sq.ft. of MERCHANDISE
UNDER TENTS OR OUTDOORS
A SALE YOU CAN'T MISS!**



**Furniture, Housewares, Dishes, Clothing, Jewelry, Lamps,
Tools, Electronics, and so much more**

**MASKS REQUIRED – SOCIAL DISTANCING
OBSERVED**

Cash or US Checks Only (Local delivery for a small fee)



2800 S. Camino del Sol, Green Valley, Az. 85622

Website : www.valleypresbyterian.net

Phone 520-625-5023



Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona

Submitted by Joan Bolin

On Friday, March 5, 2021, my sister, Jan Sullivan, and I took another trip to Crossroads Mission to deliver the following donated items: hand-made knitted hats and sweaters, numerous pairs of socks, a grocery bag full of kitchen spices and many gallon-size cans of vegetables and tomato sauce to use in the on-site kitchen to prepare lunches and dinners for people in need of a meal.

Also, on our March 5th visit to the Mission, I spoke to Jason, an employee of the Mission who handles the day-to-day activities at the main Mission's property. The following is what I learned:

---I inquired about the absence of Ben Wenke, Co-Director of the Mission, since I hadn't been able to reach him by phone. Jason said Ben has been at Barrows Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona, getting tested for a possible mass on the brain. Ben's gait is so unsteady he keeps falling.

---Two pastors have committed to preach at the Mission a couple times a month.

---Two of the three women's transitional houses are open and running but not occupied to capacity. The other women's house is closed, in need of work.

---I asked what is the most needed thing at the Mission right now. Jason said "Money." Because of the coronavirus, donations are down. The Mission doesn't have the volunteer support they had before the virus hit. The Mission depends on volunteers to prepare lunch and dinner meals, and for repairing/ updating their property buildings. Jason mentioned that canned food is also needed, either the large gallon-size cans or the smaller cans.

Pray that a new Director for the Mission can be found. With Ben's medical problems he has wanted to retire for the last few years.

NOTE: At our March 9, 2021, Valley Presbyterian Church's Mission Committee meeting, it was voted to send \$1000 to Crossroads Mission with the money designed to purchase food. The food will be used in their kitchen to prepare take-out meals in clamshell containers or given directly to the needy that come into Crossroads Mission looking for food. The money will be taken out of our church's Mission Committee Emergency Funds.

More Bloggers wanted (15 and counting)

A blogger is anyone with access to a computer who can type in bobandkristi.blogspot.com. Have you ever wanted to read a missionary's diary? Consider blogging the real life story of Bob and Kristi Rice who share on a weekly basis the story of God working in their life. Kristi applied for a government grant which she received to allow this workshop.

From pain to forgiveness to celebration:

I could hear the excitement in Nyakuma's voice as she shared over the phone about the workshop. "The time of repentance during Standing in the Gap was really powerful!" she said. *Standing in the Gap* is when people are invited to confess wrongs done by their people that harmed people of another group who are represented in the workshop. A man who comes from the Nuer tribe in Akobo confessed before the group the ways that people of the Anywaa tribe had been mistreated and attacked in his region. The Anywaa participants in the workshop were moved and grateful for his confession and were able to offer forgiveness.

Another session talks about wounds we might receive in our families from a failure to communicate love. One man shared how his father had falsely accused him of something and then had been mistreating other members of the family in anger of the event. This man shared that he was finally able to forgive his father for this mistreatment and feel free of the bitterness against him.

The South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC) had invited a few members from several different congregations in Juba. Even though it was a small group, they represented a diversity of tribes and ages, male and female. The diversity meant they could meaningfully hear pain experienced by different groups and appreciate different perspectives. Nyakuma described the joy that people felt during the "Celebration of the Holy Nation" at the end of the workshop. "We could not contain ourselves! Everyone started dancing and singing," she said as she laughed. She was proud of how beautifully she had set up the snacks and drinks for that celebration, even spelling out the word "LOVE" with the soda bottles.



Standing in the gap - a confession of wrongs done in Akobo

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Nyakuma joyfully shared about the feedback that they received at the end. One person was there who comes from the Nuba Mountains region. He said that his people desperately need this workshop to help them find healing.

Some other participants said that if the workshop could be given to some of the leaders in the government, the situation in South Sudan would improve. "Everyone needs this workshop," she said, excited. I was especially grateful for this workshop because it was an opportunity for a few people who were trained last year at the School of Reconciliation in Rwanda to participate in the teaching and facilitation.



People take their pain (symbolized by papers with their source of pain or hurt written on them) and nail it to the cross



James shares his testimony of forgiveness

Nyakuma affirmed that they did a great job, and we are excited to have more people in the 'pool' of people who can facilitate so that more workshops can happen.

On a separate but related note, we pray for God's protection on people in South Sudan from an increase of cases of Covid-19. Large gatherings and travel are not possible yet, but we look forward to continuing this significant reconciliation work soon.

The past blogs read like a real life novel, chronicling God in action through the writings of Bob and Kristi Rice.

Please join me in following and praying for our missionaries and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by emailing me

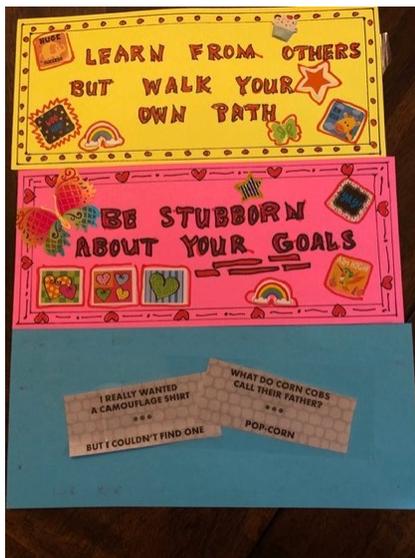
douglasclark68@me.com .





THANK YOU to our CONGREGATION for donations of hand knitted scarves, hats and sweaters! They were colorful and lovely! We also received donations of stretch/yoga pants, sweaters and sweatpants. We delivered these items to YOTO on February 22 along with 153 cards of inspiration to accompany the stipend checks for the students.

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING



Four ladies met at church in late February to make more Inspirational Cards. We completed 57 cards and logged 6.5 hours of volunteer time. Another lady working from home crafted 18 cards and contributed 9 hours of volunteer time for Youth on Their Own. We continue to tape corny jokes on the backs of some cards (jokes contributed by Doris Steffy – Thank you, Doris!). Our next in person gatherings will be on Wednesday, April 28 in Classroom 5 at 2pm.

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO



Expanded Solar System Donation

Submitted by Reed Olson – VPC Mission Committee



During a mission breakfast in April 2015 featuring Casa Vida Nueva para Niños, Reed Olson announced a major fund-raising project - \$40K was needed for solar panels with batteries. Then in December 2015, a VPC check for \$43K was given to the Home. The new solar panel system was installed in February, 2016. At that time there were 25 children with limited power being provided by gas generators at a cost of \$54 USD per day. The generators provided only enough electricity to power the bare electrical needs of a livable one-story facility: refrigerators, clothes washers (no dryers) and very limited lighting (lighting was not provided in any bedrooms).

Today, the two-story Home has 50 children, many lap top computers for home schooling, computer monitors, large smart TVs, multiple clothes washers / dryers and abundant lighting throughout the facility. However, with more electrical needs comes the need for more power. Gas generators are now back in use to help supplement the solar system which cannot keep up with the growing electrical demand.

Two weeks ago, an out of state couple, who had visited the Home 4 years ago, sent me an email asking if there were any projects at the Home which they could help fund. After talking with Elias, the Home's director, and Julio, from New Life Church of God, they decided to ask for help funding an expansion of their solar system. The cost would be \$14K USD. This couple immediately agreed to help and then sent a check for \$15K (just to round up the request). The check was delivered by Julio to Elias and the children on March 5th (see photo). They are now working on securing an installation date for the additional solar panels. The Home is truly blessed to have the support from the Green Valley Community and others from across the county. The children are safe, healthy and thankful for the generosity of their expanding supporters. To learn more about the Home, please visit: www.risesa.org.



Being Presbyterian – Presbytery

Linda Freeman

Presbytery de Cristo's primary mission is to equip and encourage congregations and networks of congregations in their ministries. There are 28 congregations spread across Southern Arizona and New Mexico. The size of our congregations ranges from 20 to over 1,000 members.

Four times each year pastors and elders, in equal numbers from all congregations, gather for worship and a business meeting. During the year small groups of us gather (again, in an equal number of pastors and elders), to work on a committee such as: *Leadership* (overall vision for the presbytery), *Commission on Ministry* (oversight of pastors), *Preparation for Ministry* (shepherding people who are exploring becoming a pastor), *Administration* (money, technology, personnel), *Nominating* (inviting both pastors and elders to serve on committees) and *Mission* (coordinating with groups needing help).

The work of these committees and presbytery is supported by prayers and monies donated through the per capita (\$41.60 for 2021) collected by each congregation. These monies pay for presbytery personnel that include a Presbytery Pastor (Rev. Dr. Brad Monroe). For more details feel free to go to the website: presbyterydecristo.org.

I still remember how I felt at one of my earliest meetings of presbytery over 45 years ago. There I was, in a room of ministers and other elders. When the group voted by voice (aye or nay) on a motion (the particulars of which I can't remember), the decision was too close to call. So, we had to stand up to vote. They called the ayes, and I didn't stand. My pastor did. They called the nays and I stood. I felt so empowered. I felt that my opinions mattered. At that moment I felt connected to this denomination that values my voice as much as someone who studied in seminary.

Ever since that experience, I have enjoyed serving my church at 4 different presbyteries and at every other level. I thank God that I have opportunities to be part of the greater *church*.

Next month's article will look at the work of the Synod and General Assembly.





April 2021 Valley Voice Financial Update
(Based on Financial Data through February 28, 2021)

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 to review the current financial activity through the last two months of 2021. In the following report we have defined “Giving Support” as contributions for current operations and “Other Support” as Patio Sale Fund or other Fund transfers in support of operations, investment income, fees for services (memorials, events, concerts, etc.):

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving support	\$ 116,832	\$ 159,762	(\$ 42,930)
Per Capita support	6,621	6,069	552
Reserve Support	-0-	-0-	-0-
Other support	<u>14,675</u>	<u>16,833</u>	<u>(2,158)</u>
Total support	138,128	182,664	(44,536)
Expenses	<u>138,999</u>	<u>153,362</u>	<u>(14,363)</u>
Net	<u>\$ (871)</u>	<u>\$ 29,302</u>	<u>(\$ 30,173)</u>

This report shows that we are behind the 2021 Budget in income. Expenses are also behind budget, but that is to be expected because of lack of activities during the pandemic. And we continue to be behind projected net income as we move into the year. Now that the vaccine is becoming available to Arizona, we may see an uptick in expenses soon. We are grateful for the positive position we had for last year. In order to balance the 2021 budget, we anticipate that we will be using operational reserves possibly in the area of \$68,000; however, we will not move those reserves until it becomes necessary.

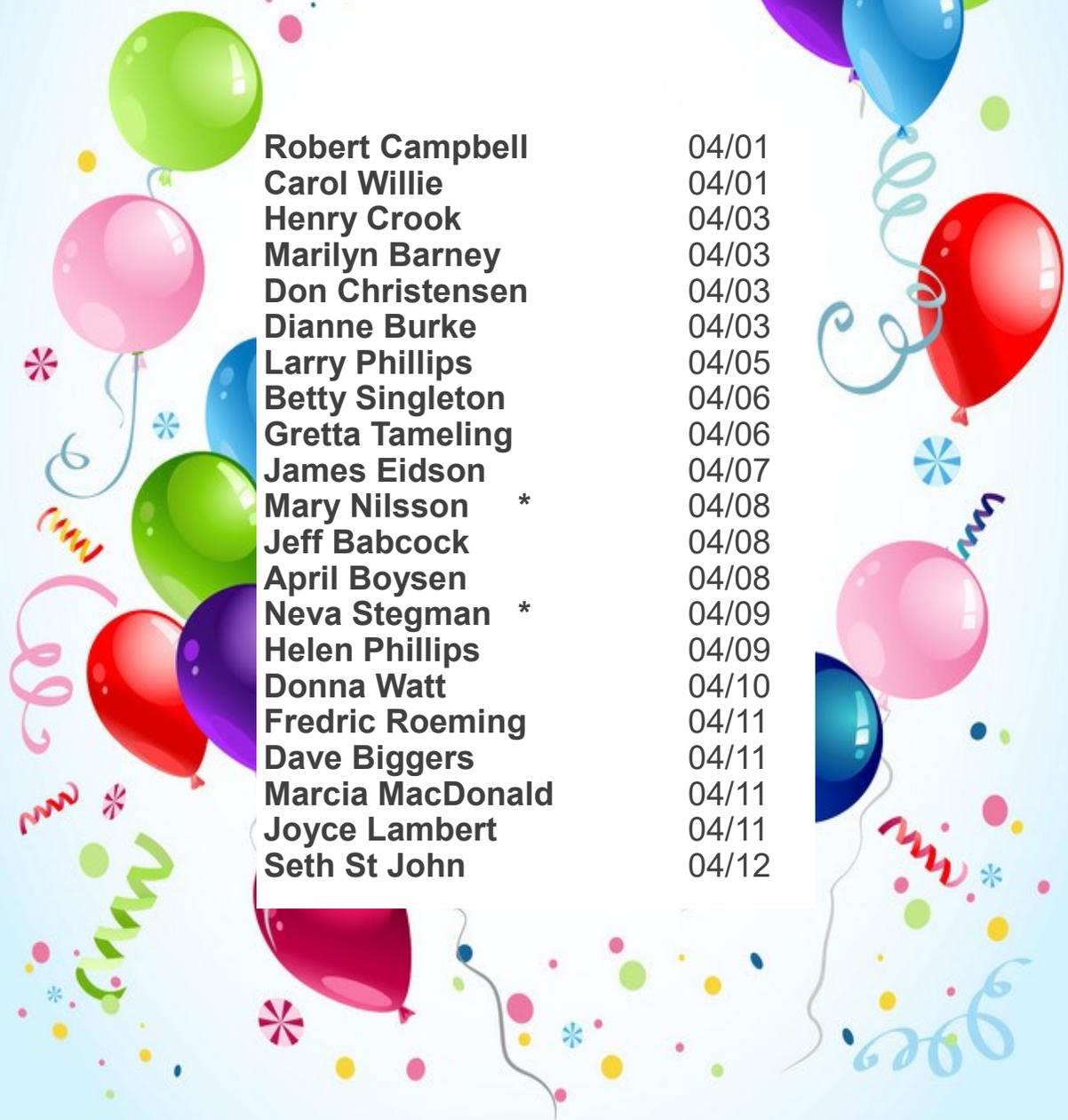
To date, we have 196 pledges for 2021 totaling \$524,870. That pledge amount will cover 66.7% of our projected expenses. The Finance Committee will continue to keep you informed of the financial status of VPC. Thank you for your continuing support.

Resurrection Taize Online
Wednesday, April 7



After walking with Jesus to the cross with the Stations of the Cross during Lent, we now celebrate the Resurrection in a Taize style of worship with candles, scripture, music and joy. You can view this worship service on our church website (valleypres.net) starting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7.

BirthdaysforApril2021



Robert Campbell	04/01
Carol Willie	04/01
Henry Crook	04/03
Marilyn Barney	04/03
Don Christensen	04/03
Dianne Burke	04/03
Larry Phillips	04/05
Betty Singleton	04/06
Gretta Tameling	04/06
James Eidson	04/07
Mary Nilsson *	04/08
Jeff Babcock	04/08
April Boysen	04/08
Neva Stegman *	04/09
Helen Phillips	04/09
Donna Watt	04/10
Fredric Roeming	04/11
Dave Biggers	04/11
Marcia MacDonald	04/11
Joyce Lambert	04/11
Seth St John	04/12

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!
Happy 90th Birthday!

William Eustis



William Thies		04/15
Richard VanTreese		04/17
Meagan Jorgensen		04/17
Karen Brumm		04/18
Ernest H. Bakker		04/18
Karen Backus		04/19
Colton Sayre		04/20
Jack Cissel	*	04/21
Doretta VanNimwegen	*	04/21
William Eustis	**	04/21
L. Marvin Clark		04/22
Carol Tahse-Roeming		04/25
Joan Bolin		04/25
Rosemary Mathews	*	04/26
Carolyn Sittnick		04/26
Karen Curtis		04/26
Gail Gesell		04/27
Carolyn Joling		04/28
Lela Pavlick		04/28
Carol Wilhems		04/29

** indicates turning 90
* indicate age in their 90's

New Class Begins in April on Friday Mornings by Zoom *An Overview of Creeds and Confessions*

Beginning Friday, April 23 at 10:00 am and continuing for 6 Fridays, Linda Freeman will lead a discussion group centering around the Creeds and Confessions that are part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

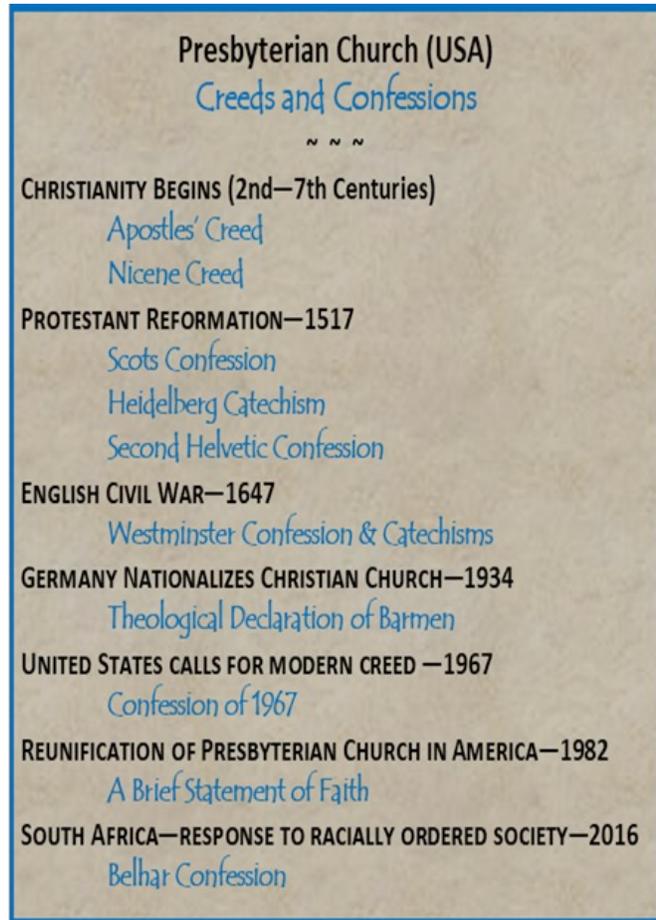
Most of us are familiar with the Apostles' Creed, a smaller number can recognize the Nicene Creed, but what we know about the others is pretty hit and miss.

The creeds, confessions and catechisms of the Book of Confessions are both historical and contemporary. Each emerged in a time and place in response to a particular situation, but it is amazing how topical they each remain.

For each creed, confession, and catechism we'll look at the historical and church environments from which the statement arose. I love history and theology and this class will blend the two.

Zoom class invitations and class handouts will be available through links provided on E-blasts as we near the date of the first class.

Come learn more about how our denomination has answered the question, "What do we believe?"



NEW BOOKS IN THE VPC LIBRARY

Spring 2021

NON-FICTION

- ♦ *Always a guest: speaking of faith far from home.* Barbara Brown Taylor. (252 TAY)
- ♦ *Caste: a brief history.* (305.5 CAS)
- ♦ *Eager: the surprising life of beavers and why they matter.* Ben Goldfarb. (333.95 GOL)***
- ♦ *Endurance: my year in space, a lifetime of discovery.* Scott Kelly. (629.45 KEL)
- ♦ *Keep sharp: build a better brain at any age.* Sanjay Gupta, M.D. (153.4 GUP)
- ♦ *Prayer in the night: for those who work or watch or weep.* Tish Harrison Warren. (248.8 WAR)*
- ♦ *This time next year we'll be laughing: a memoir.* Jacqueline Winspear. (823 WIN)
- ♦ *A walk around the block: stoplight secrets, mischievous squirrels, manhole mysteries & other stuff you see every day.* Spike Carlsen. (031 CAR)****
- ♦ *A woman of no importance: the untold story of the American spy who helped win WW II.* Sonia Purnell. (940.54 PUR)

FICTION

- ♦ *Einstein's dreams: a novel.* Alan Lightman. (FIC LIG)**
- ♦ *The four winds: a novel.* Kristin Hannah. (FIC HAN)

DVD

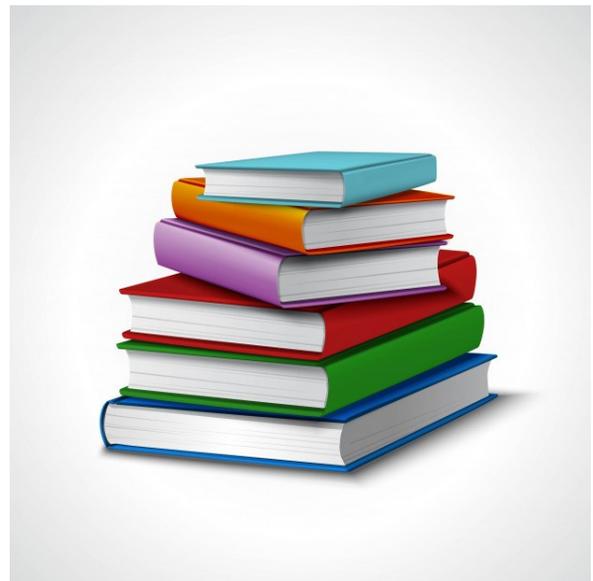
- ♦ *All creatures great and small.* (DVD 791.45 ALL)
- ♦ *Cranford.* (DVD 791.45 CRA)

*recommended by Pastor Diane

**recommended by Pastor Craig

***recommended by Sheila Frahm

****recommended by Liz Haynes



What Does a Stephen Minister Do?

A Stephen Minister provides one-to-one lay Christian Care.

One-to-one: Each Stephen Minister is matched with one care receiver of the same gender. That is why we have 2 referrals coordinators (*Peggi Briggs for women, 520-965-9203, and John Agner for men, 206-910-6357*). The Stephen Minister and the care receiver meet typically once a week for about an hour in a setting they have both agreed on. The caring relationship will be brought to closure when the need for care has been addressed.

Lay: Stephen Ministers are well-trained, supervised volunteer who provide a high level of care. They are not professional caregivers—their role is different from that of a counselor, therapist, pastor, or physician.

Christian: A Stephen Minister's care is an expression of Christ's love and an extension of the pastoral care we offer. When it comes to spiritual matter, Stephen Ministers meet their care receivers where they are, helping them work through challenges without pressuring them or forcing faith on them.

Care: Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting, praying, and helping their care receivers explore feelings without being judgmental, while offering emotional and spiritual support. Their role does not include providing other types of assistance—such as shopping, transportation, and other types of help—although at times they may help care receivers identify ways to fill those needs.

If you would like a Stephen Minister to walk with you today, call the church office or one of the referrals coordinators listed above to request one.



A.D.

The Crucifixion Was Only the Beginning

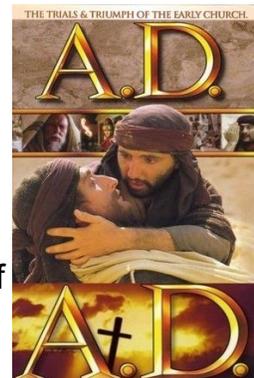
Begins Wednesday, April 7

1:00 p.m. by Zoom

In 2015, millions of people watched the TV mini-series *A.D.* – the story of the Resurrection of Jesus and the action packed journey of the first followers of Christ. *A.D.* covers all the major stories in the first 10 chapters of the Book of Acts.

In each class, we will watch a 45-minute episode (yes, on Zoom!), then have time for discussion of the episode and compare it to scripture.

Join Pastor Diane as we learn powerful lessons from each episode, and discuss questions for our lives and faith today. To register, contact Pastor Diane (pastordiane@valleypres.net; 625-5023). If you have not done Zoom before, Diane will instruct you in all things Zoom.





Women's Ministries

The Coordinating Team of Women's Ministries is looking forward to the day when we can again have lunch Gatherings. Hopefully that day will come this fall when we start up again after the summer break.

Save the date: May 1st is the Presbytery Gathering, which will be held by Zoom. There will be a keynote speaker and a worship service. We invite all women to join us for that – further information will be forthcoming through Circles and the church e-blast.

Although we are not having our Gatherings and many of the circles are meeting virtually, we need to remember that our contributions help meet needs that do not go away. Our donations go to support Presbytery and national missions. Please consider sending a check to Gee-Gee Smith, made out to Women's Ministries. Her address is P.O. Box 4709, Tubac, AZ 85646-4709. You can also drop checks off at the church.

Sermon Topics and Scriptures for April

March 28	Palm Sunday	Mark 11: 1-11	"SAVE US"
April 1	Maundy Thursday	Communion on Video	"BEING CHURCH"
April 2	Good Friday	Tenebrae	Please note: the 5 p.m. recital is full, but a 1 p.m. recital has been added.
April 4	Easter Sunrise	Pastor Diane Preaching	
April 4	Easter	John 20: 1-18	"DO NOT HOLD ME"
April 11		John 20: 19-31	"PEACE BE WITH YOU"
April 18		Acts 3:12-19 Pastor Diane Preaching	"TIMES OF REFRESHING"
April 25		John 10: 11-18	"THE GOOD SHEPHERD"
May 2		John 15: 1-8	"I AM the VINE, YOU the BRANCHES"



YOU SHALL BE CALLED REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

Providing relief from
natural disasters,
food for the hungry,
and support for the
poor and oppressed.

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made out to VPC
with OGHS on the
memo line, or, you
can give online on
the VPC WEB site,
designating OGHS.



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