THE VALLEY VOICE

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH August 2023



Summer of Fun, Worship and Fellowship at Valley Presbyterian Church





Adult VBS on July 18, 19 and 20. consisted of arts and crafts, chair yoga, meditation, and daily devotions.



Line Dancing on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. and Fun on Fridays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. continue through the end of August. Come join the fun!



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Women's Ministries Updates

Mission Committee Updates

> Bible Study Opportunities

> > **Jesus Eats**

Fun Fridays

Meet our New Members

2800 S Camino del Sol Green Valley, AZ 85622 Telephone: (520) 625-5023 vpc-offfice@valleypres.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 servanthood.

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

Valley Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Traditional Service of Worship 9:30 a.m. Online and in Person <u>www.valleypresbyterian.net</u>

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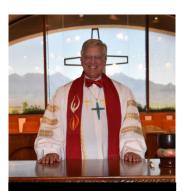
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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Pastor Craig Lindsey-Pastor/Head of Staff	pastorcraig@valleypres.net
Pastor Diane Christopher-Pastor of Discipleship	<u>dianechristopher@valleypres.net</u>
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Randy VanHyfte-Custodian	<u>randy@valleypres.net</u>

SUNDAY Worship Schedule

August 6	Genesis 32: 22-31 Communion Sunday Food Bank Sunday	Pastor Craig
August 13	Genesis 37 Nogales Crossroads Mission Sunday	Pastor Craig
August 20	Matthew 15 YOTO Sunday	Pastor Craig
August 27	Matthew 16: 13-20 "What Can Jesus Build Upon Your Name?"	Pastor Diane
September 3	Romans 12: 9-21How to Fight Evil" Communion Sunday Food Bank Sunday	Pastor Diane



Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Head of Staff

From Pastor Craig Paying Off the Solar Carport

July 16, 2023, we "Burned the Mortgage" for the Solar Carport, giving special thanks to former Treasurer Don Brooks for his leadership in this project. Later that week, the following prayer was offered at the Finance Committee.

"Our gracious heavenly Father: Being Optimistic Presbyterians, we choose to not complain about our recent prolonged spell of extreme heat... Instead, we are thankful for those who have provided leadership and shared their gifts, that we now own 100% of our Solar Collector System and find ourselves here in our beautiful church building enjoying nice cool air conditioning, with the collected electrical units accruing to our own benefit. We are grateful for our opportunity to serve. Please encourage us to be vigilant, open-minded, and creative in our efforts to continue the missions and recent financial successes of Valley Presbyterian Church. Amen"

Among my favorite verses, is PROVERBS 29: "When the wicked rule, the people mourn... the righteous consider the cause of the poor... fools speak all that is in their minds... for where there is no vision / no plan / no dream, the people perish."

This month, our church, Valley Presbyterian Church committed to a bold undertaking, so bold that in our 45-year history we have never done this before, at least not this thoroughly and for ourselves. We have committed to this in good Presbyterian fashion: committee а recommended, our Session and our Presbytery give their written endorsement, and when completed the final action will be for the Congregation to vote to proceed. That Action is to research and share together in creating a VISION, a PLAN, a DREAM, guite literally to name who we are and what our MISSION is as Valley Presbyterian Church is in the 21st Century.

<u>CIRCUMSTANCE</u>: Throughout our past, whenever a pastor retired, we immediately set about finding their replacement. However, in 2023, post-Covid and looking to the immediate future, circumstances are different. The number of people available as full-time Ordained Pastors is far fewer than ever before. Those possessing the gifts and wisdom to serve as she has done, and in a staff position, are even more rare among those.

We have been truly blessed! Second, the last ten years of this congregation's life have been a tumultuous journey. While we now enjoy a strong and healthy church and missions, with regular classes of new believers wanting to claim to be part of this body, we are not the same as ever before. Numerous historic figures have been quoted with saying: "Those who cannot remember/ fail to learn, from their history are condemned to repeat it." Looking into the future, I recently joined those eligible for Social Security, meaning that I can only work another three to five years. But I am committed that until such time as any of us finish our race, we will give our all without slowing down or sitting on our laurels. Finally, in 2028, this congregation will celebrate our first 50 years, and we need to be clear of our Vision, mission, plan, dream.

COMMITMENT: The Commission on Ministry of Presbytery in partnership with our Session and Pastors have committed to begin immediately with a thorough and comprehensive Mission Study, to discern our full history in every regard, to assess where we are today, and to envision the future of who and what we are called to be. We take pride in the many ministers who have been in our leadership and membership. While not hidden, I recently learned that George Sweet (who originally wrote to the Presbytery of the need for a church here) was a Presbyterian Minister from Detroit.

What else do we not know about ourselves? At one point we were the fastest growing congregation of any denomination in the United States, with 1800 members and multiple installed pastors. Thankfully, our dilemma is not financial as our Budget, Giving, Missions and Reserves are strong. This congregation has always had a vital "lay pastoral ministry program" of caring for each other. We have missions around the world, ecumenically, at our border with Mexico and in Tucson, as well as responding when crises are shared. As we question and listen to one another, what are our ministerial needs at this time? We have a great staff, what needs do we envision? With no other Presbyterian Church in Green Valley, Sahuarita, Amado, Tubac, Nogales, who do we want to reach out to in marketing and program? What do we believe Ontologically, Christologically, etc.? Music, Patio Sale, Stephen Ministry and NOC are among our hallmarks, how can we assist and enhance these? The majority of our members are in Green Valley, and part of our church because someone here invited them. So, what do we say about our church and ministry in Green Valley?

FUTURE: When this study is complete, it will have many parts and will include input from everyone, then the conclusion will be made available to everyone in the church, for our Congregation and Presbytery to assess whether this is an accurate representation of who we are and what we are committed to. At a Called Congregational Meeting probably in March or April of 2024, we will vote to adopt this report and recommendations, as will the Presbytery Commission on Ministry. Having undertaken this thorough analysis at this time, the Presbytery and Session have agreed, that at the Congregational Meeting when I retire, there should be no need for another Mission Study or Interim Pastorate. If everything continues to be healthy, the congregation at that time would immediately move to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee with what is anticipated as a 3-to-6-month search to Call my successor.



Picture of our solar panels/shaded parking.

From Pastor Diane

Paul Harvey tells a story about a man and some geese during Christmas. Considering the Christmas story as nonsense, the man stays home while his wife attends Christmas Eve services. It starts to snow heavily, and he witnesses a flock of geese hitting his windows and landing in his yard confused by the snow and unable to fly. He opens the door of his barn, turns on the lights and tries to get the birds to go into the barn for warmth and safety. But the birds run other directions. The man realizes in despair that the geese don't understand, and thus, fear him. If I were a goose, he thought, I could tell them to not be afraid and I could show them the way to safety.

The realization hits him like a thunderbolt. The Christmas story of God taking on flesh was not ridiculous at all. God came to earth as one of us so God could show us the way and save us.

Well, I have a similar story, but it doesn't involve geese. It involves a cockroach.

This year, I have had problems with cockroaches coming up through the kitchen sink (more than usual). One came up the sink while I was trying to catch another. I was able to turn on the water and watched him go back down the sink. (Did you know that cockroaches can hold their breath for 7 minutes AND they can float?)

Anyway, I had a cockroach I could not catch. (Did you know cockroaches can travel 3 miles per hour?) He would come out every evening around 8 p.m. and hangout on my kitchen counter. I began to look for him (or her) as I turned on the kitchen light. I would grab a jar or glass and try to trap him. Every time, he outmaneuvered me.



Pastor Diane Christopher-Pastor of Discipleship

I got so used to him that I began to talk to him. (Apparently, I have gone off the deep end. I did not give him a name, so there is that.) As time went on, he became slower, going through a slow death. I began to bargain with him: "You know, if you would let me catch you, I will save you and place you outside and you can live." Of course, he did not understand English, and I did not speak cockroach. We continued our nightly ritual.

As I went through this process, I thought of the goose story and God coming to earth in order to communicate with us in a way that we could understand. By becoming one of us. We call it the incarnation, God in flesh.

I eventually did catch the cockroach and did as I promised. I let him live and released him outdoors.

Pastor Diane

The Book: The Grand Story of God Thursdays, 1 p.m. in Classroom 5 Begins September 7 Your teachers: Pastor Diane and Chuck Ramsay

The Book is back!

The Bible is one big grand story of God. This class tells you that story by studying each book of the Bible and how they are all connected. Last year, we covered the Old Testament. This Fall, we begin the New Testament.

Why read the Bible? We say that the Bible is living because God speaks to us through it. We believe it contains the word of God. We believe it is the Good News of Jesus Christ. We believe it is practical for everyday living. Pastor Adam Hamilton says the Bible "contains every truth we need to know about God and God's will for human race." That is why we spend much of a worship service on the words of the Bible. That is why we encourage people to read the Scriptures.

Come and join this class as Pastor Diane and Chuck Ramsay take you through the grand story of the Bible, book by book. You will discover how God continues to call us back, again and again, into relationship.

Our schedule for September:

Sept 7	Matthew, Mark, Luke
Sept 14	John
Sept 21	Acts
Sept 28	Romans



Bible Study with Pastor Craig at VPC

BIBLE REFLECTIONS

With Pastor Craig Lindsey Mondays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. In classroom 5 (zoom available)

This is a different kind of Bible study, that spends as much time as we need with each chapter and book. We will try to give background that is helpful and offers ideas about interpretations (even pronunciation of names), but what is most important is what you hear in the text.

You don't have to attend every class and you may join at any time.

To join by zoom, go to https://zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 294 281 2414

Password: Heaven

This class is recorded and can be viewed on the church's website: valleypres.net

Walk the Sanctuary

by Linda Freeman

One of the daily activities offered at the recent Adult VBS event was the self-guided *Walk the Sanctuary Meditation.* Based on the idea of a labyrinth, this walk uses the sanctuary as a meditative walk, a spiritual pilgrimage, or a healing journey. Pick up your guide at the Welcome Centers and walk the aisles of the sanctuary. The sanctuary is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Jesus ate a lot of meals in the Gospels. One author said, "In Luke's gospel, Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal." Why were these meals mentioned in the Gospels? How did Jesus use food? Did they influence what Jesus taught?

Not only will we talk about Jesus' meals, each week we will sample the food of Jesus' time and have a Mediterranean meal at the last class.

Your teacher: Pastor Diane

Your food provider: Anne Morrison

THE END TIMES ACCORDING TO JESUS – SELECTED TOPICS



Bud Landry Begins September 26 Classroom 5 and YouTube

As I prepared the recently concluded course, " The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah: His Final Week", I was struck by the significance of Jesus giving up His Spirit at 3 PM on Nisan 14 or April 3, 33. (Mark 15:33). This was late afternoon on the Day of Preparation and the exact time required in Exodus 12:6 (and elsewhere) for the temple priests to slaughter literally thousands of lambs within the two hours before darkness fell, and the Passover Sabbath began. It is no mere coincidence that *Agnus Dei*, our Lamb, the ultimate Lamb, greater than an infinite number of animal prototypes, died exactly when He did. And, within less than a generation the Temple would be no more, putting a forever end to animal sacrifices. There simply would be no more need. (Hebrews 9:12)

The doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus is also firmly established, and this is our Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13). However, the events surrounding the Second Advent are so confused by writers of sensationalism that Christians avoid the subject altogether. In this eight-week course we will explore what we do understand (as best as possible) while standing on firm Reformed theological ground. This course will be videotaped and made available on YouTube as well as presented live in Classroom 5 on the following **Tuesdays at 11 AM**.

September 26 Crisis in Eschatology—Two World Views		October 24	The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish Diaspora
October 3	Time and Eternity—Exploring the Events of the First Century	October 31	Exegetical Approach for Understanding End Times
October 10	The Olivet DiscourseLiteral or	November 7	Nero, the Antichrist, 666, "The
October 17	Figurative? What Did Jesus Mean by 'This Generation' and 'The End of the Age'?	November 14	Beast", Babylon and more Exploring the Parousia, The Rapture, and the Millennium— Several Views

LINE DANCE LESSONS CONTINUE FOR THE SUMMER THRU AUGUST 23

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



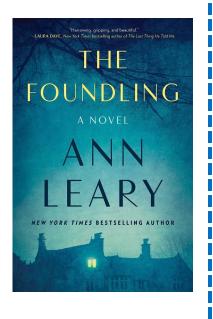
Steve Hart will be teaching new dances.

Everyone is welcome. If you would like the link to the past classes contact the office at 520-625-5023.



Valley Readers 2:00 P.M. - Monday, August 28, 2023 Classroom 1

The Foundling, by Ann Leary, tackles an early 20th century social issue with a surprisingly suspenseful novel based on an incident in the author's family. Mary, raised in an orphanage, is hired to work at the Nettleton State Village for Feeble-Minded Women of Child-Bearing Age. She is in awe of the woman director, a suffragist and one of the few women psychiatrists. Then she recognizes one of the inmates as someone who she knew well in the orphanage and her loyalties become divided as she begins to realize that not all is what it seems in the institution. Come for a discussion led by Gee Gee Smith of this riveting and acclaimed novel. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.



AUTHORS IN OUR MIDST

The following VPC members have written books which can be found in our church library and/or on Amazon (where some are available in print and/or as eBooks).

Martha Ashton. The girl in the little red dress. (FIC ASH)

Jeffrey T. Babcock. Should I not return: the most controversial tragedy in the history of North America mountaineering! (796.522 B11)

Richard Bushong. *My wars: B-17s to F-4s, WWII to Viet Nam with speeds 0 to Mach 2.1*. (358.4 BUS)

Tom E. Largent (aka **Tom Lobb**). *Overcoming depression: a personal journey of hope*. (616.8 LAR)

Jim & Kathie Rusk. *Love you: a devoted couple's letters and memories from the Vietnam conflict.* (959.0743 RUS)

Doris Steffy. Mrs. Steffy: my mother, the mortician. (BIOG St3)

Now we add to the list of VPC authors...

Sandra (Sandy) Clark. The Hyena's Stare.

"My first book, *The Hyena's Stare*, comes out on Kindle and paperback on Amazon on August 8th. It is a low-magic urban fantasy fiction. A young woman doctor volunteers to help an Ethiopian Mission. Plagues are not your worst nightmare in 1972 Africa. Dr. Laura London doesn't possess any special powers or magical destiny. She is a medical doctor trained to cure decease and ailments.



She is a medical doctor trained to cure disease and ailments. There's no room for superstition in her life, not when logic can solve most problems. Then she's called to Ethiopia to help contain and stop a suspected plague. Or is it a plague? When the sun sets, the villagers vanish into their homes. Children are tucked into their beds for fear of shapeshifting werehyenas. When she sees proof, herself, in the form of a body rising from an autopsy table, Laura's rational mind can't compute. But she alone may be able to save the cursed town and its people. To do so, she'll face evil werehyenas, as well as a ruthless colonel threatening her investigation and life. Can she overcome her fear and accept superstition as a reality when needed? If she can, she'll prove that in the Darkness, there is Light. Curses? Check. Werehyenas? Check. A realistic female hero? Check. Full of action, suspense, and memorable characters, follow Laura's journey into the unknown as she confronts regrets from the past and forges her own destiny forward." *Sandy Clark*

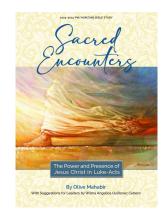


WOMEN'S MINISTRIES VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHUCH

Submitted by Lesley Bruce Women's Ministries Moderator

Hello ladies – I am the new Moderator of Valley Presbyterian's Women's Ministries, and I am very excited about the upcoming year of activities which includes Circle Bible studies, Gathering luncheons with programs, and mission projects. I am so blessed to have a terrific group of ladies who make up the Coordinating Team. They have worked all summer to create a wonderful year for you all.

The Bible study guide for 2023-2024, entitled *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*, will be available at the Women's Ministries table beginning in mid-August. The book will be used in our monthly Circle Bible studies. La Posada Circle meets at La Posada, Miriam and Ruth Circles meet here at the church. I urge you to come to a Circle that fits your schedule and join in the study with us. Our first lesson will be presented by Pastor Diane when we meet at La Posada for lunch on Tuesday, September 19. We have also prepared a new yearbook filled with month-by-month information on which groups are meeting and when. It will also include our monthly Gathering Luncheons with programs that are held the third Tuesday of the month in Fellowship Hall.



Women's Ministries has two groups that need your help. The first is Mission Quilts that meets the first and third Mondays of each month. Patti Bright is the leader of that group. The second group is Creative Hands. This group will be divided into two areas of interest. Maureen Ramsey is forming a knitting group that will teach knitting amid fellowship and sharing of ideas. They will make knitted projects for those in need. The other part will be sewing and at this time we need to sew walker bags. We are looking for someone who loves to sew to lead this group. If you are interested in joining either group, please see me at the Women's Ministries table before or after worship on Sundays.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again – old friends and new! Please join us for study, programs, and food, fun, and fellowship.

Yours in Christ,

Lesley Bruce



Our Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, September 30th from 9-2 at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Tucson.

The keynote speaker will be Christine Casanova, PW Moderator of the Synod of the Southwest who will speak on the 2023-24 Horizons Bible Study "Sacred Encounter: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts."

Leadership training for Moderators, Vice Moderators, and Treasurers will take place in afternoon workshops running parallel to a presentation by Youth on Their Own (YOTO) about teen homelessness. Please complete the registration form attached and return by September 15th.

If you have questions, you can reach me at 315-430-6538 or email me at judy.lindsey1@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Gathering

Peace to you all. Judy Lindsey, Moderator, Presbyterian Women of Presbytery de Cristo

The registration form is on the next page. Page 13, or you can pick one up at the office in the Fellowship Hall at the Women's Ministries Table after Sunday worship.

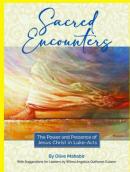
Presbyterian Women, Presbytery de Cristo, Fall Gathering

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 9:00 AM-2:00PM

Northminister Presbyterian Church (Park in the NE lot at corner of Tucson Blvd. & Ft Lowell. Watch for balloons to Fellowship Hall) 2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd. Tucson, Arizona 85719

2023-2024 PW/Horizons Bible Study

Sacred Encounters: the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts By Olivia Mahabir





go in peace.'" Luke 8:48

"[Jesus] said to her, 'Daughter your faith has healed you

Keynote Presenter: Christine Casanova, Moderator of Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Southwest

After lunch Leadership Workshops included for Moderators, Vice Moderators and Treasurers along with a presentation on Youth On Their Own (YOTO) focusing on teen homelessness.

Registration and lunch \$15.00

(Choice of Chicken Salad or Ham Sandwiches, Circle Your Selection) Send Check written to PW Presbytery de Cristo to Sue Anderson 3260 Kristina Park Loop Tucson AZ 85730

Registration deadline: September 15, 2023

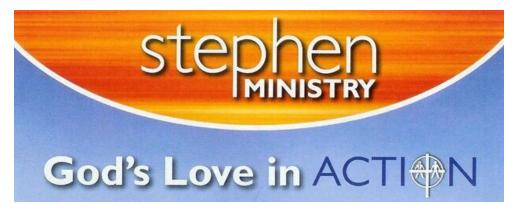
NAME	CHURCH
ADDRESS	
EMAIL	PHONE
If you have dietary restrictions, please indica	te here
Do you need childcare? Yes Number of o	children

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS





We invite you to enjoy this article written by Pastor Paul DenHerder of Riverview Church.

Stephen Ministers: A Heart for the Hurting

We all go through tough times in life. Times that are turbulent and unsettling. In the midst of these challenging seasons, it can be extremely helpful to have someone come alongside us to give understanding and encouragement – to provide stability, hope and Biblical principles to help us through the storm.

This is what a Stephen Minister is able to provide:

A listening ear, a supportive perspective, and God's word to help us through the challenges of life.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are compassionate individuals who are trained to help us when we encounter loss, grief, relationships challenges, and a myriad of things that can throw our lives into a tailspin. These Stephen Ministers are not counselors. They are not "know-it-alls." They are not individuals who try to fix everyone's troubles. They simply provide love, care, and support when we need it most. A Stephen Minister is a caring individual who can help us navigate our present situation.

Perhaps you, a friend or a family member would benefit from this kind of help and support. If so a Stephen Ministers may be just what is needed.

Becoming a Stephen Minister

For those who want to come alongside and support others in a more intentional way, we provide training to become a Stephen Minister. Through the training, you will receive practical, hands-on learning and resources to provide Christ-centered care and meet the emotional and spiritual needs of others.

You will use the skills you learn not only in your caring ministry but also in your relationships with family, friends, and coworkers. You will always be helped and supported in your ministry by our team of Stephen Leaders, who will help you grow as you help others. Being a Stephen Minister may be one of the most rewarding opportunities you will ever embrace.

To find Out More

To learn how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know – or how you can become a Stephen Minister – contact the church office.

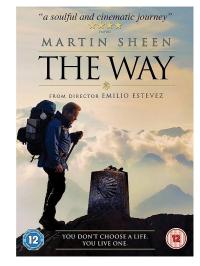
We all need help from time to time, and your request for Stephen Minister will be confidential.



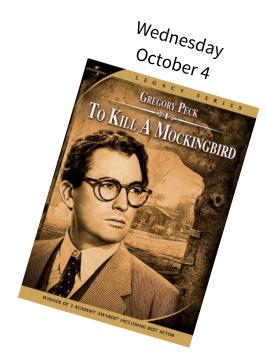


The Way is a film written and directed by Emilio Estevez and stars Martin Sheen (father of Emilio).

In dealing with the tragic loss of his son, Tom (Martin Sheen) decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage, "El Camino de Santiago," that his son began before his death. Tom discovers the difference between "the life we live" and "the life we choose." It is a journey of grief and grace, and it demonstrates the balance between faith and doubt and sorrow and joy. Emilio wrote the role of Tom specifically for his father.



Pam Karbowsky will moderate the showing which runs about two hours.





Caring for those in our congregation

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse August 2023

Submitted by Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson

Join us at Cardio-drumming; this class has just a few more openings. Cardio drumming begins at 9 am on Tuesdays and is once a week; a 30-minute exercise program for health, stress, and balance. Please email <u>parishnurse@valleypres.net</u> for more information and/or for registration.

Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy.



Drink plenty of water when you are exercising or are outside doing activities. Be careful of dehydration especially in these hot summer months.



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.

Medical Minute: Stay engaged in community and socialize with family, neighbors, and friends. Social isolation can cause/lead to may health problems, including cardiovascular disease, increased blood pressure, anxiety, and depression.



Submitted by: Jamie Reed, Music Director

Happy August!!

So much is happening in the coming months!

- Wednesday, September 6, the choir is back to mid-week practices from 3:15 4:45.
- Our Chancel Choir will be having an in-house retreat on Saturday, September 9, from 9am 1pm. Please contact me if you are interested in joining our choir and we will get you ready for this amazing day!
- On Sunday, December 17, we will be presenting the Christmas Cantata "Everlasting Light." Rehearsals are tied into our regular Wednesday meeting time.
- As part of our Music in the Valley Series, in February our choir will be presenting a combined concert with a special guest.

So much exciting music for you all!

On a personal note, this summer is my 3rd year working at Okoboji Summer Theater in Okoboji, Iowa. I will be back on Sunday, Aug. 20. Special thanks to Jan for doing it all!

See you soon!

Joyful Spirit Ensemble

Submitted by Joan Dakin

The Joyful Spirit Ensemble has played in our church since 2008, originally called the "Orff Angels". We play for community events, church events, and church Worship services.

We are an "Orff" ensemble – Carl Orff, the composer, came up with the idea of using xylophones, metallophones and percussion instruments to teach music making in a joyful and engaging process for children and adults.

I became involved at Valley Presbyterian Church when I first moved to Green Valley – I received a call from Kay Albrecht (our former music director) asking for advice on buying instruments. She had met a colleague of mine who told her that an Orff teacher had just moved to Green Valley. One thing led to another, and I co-taught the children's summer and Christmas programs, and helped lead the adult group.

When she left, I continued leading the adult group, which then became the Joyful Spirit Ensemble.

I am getting ready to step down from leadership! Therefore, I invite church members who have a background in leading or teaching small ensembles – strings, band, percussion, etc. to play with us, learn the voicing of the instruments, and ultimately take over leading the group. If you are Orff trained, that's even better.

You will need to arrange and write music for the ensemble, choose pieces for Worship Services, (we have a large repertoire) and remain joyful –we play to show our love and gratitude to God for the gift of music.

I plan to start rehearsals August 29 – we meet on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. The Joyful Spirit Ensemble is a fun ministry and I plan to continue playing as long as I can, even if I don't lead.

Email me if interested: jbelldakin@yahoo.com

Joan Dakin



CLERK'S CORNER

MAUREEN RAMSAY, CLERK OF SESSION

The Session

This month I would like to talk about the Session. I am sure most of you know what the Session is and what it does. For those of you who are new to Presbyterian polity, the Session is comprised of elders who are elected by the congregation, much like the representatives we elect to local, state and national government. The word Presbyterian is derived from the Greek word "presbuteros", meaning elder. Thus, the church is governed by elders, who are ordained for life and serve as ruling elders for a three-year term typically. The Session also includes teaching elders or pastors. The senior pastor serves as Moderator of the Session.

The word "session" is from the Latin word *session*, which means "to sit", as in sitting to deliberate or talk about something. The Session has responsibility for the total life of the church and all organizations in the church. The Book of Order outlines the duties of the Session in the following areas:

- 1. **Evangelism-** designing and overseeing programs to encourage church growth.
- 2. **Membership** overseeing the membership rolls, including receiving new members, transferring members, reviewing and maintaining membership records.
- 3. **Worship-** ensuring that there is regular worship in the congregation, approving baptisms and scheduling the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- 4. **Leadership-** in the mission of the church.
- 5. **Programs-** providing for the church's educational programs, fellowship events, and programs of social ministry and mission.
- 6. **Stewardship-** reminding and challenging the people to be faithful in their Christian stewardship of money, time and talents, developing effective ways for encouraging the offerings of the people.
- 7. **Financial Management-** establishing the annual budget and determining the distribution of the church's benevolences, approving special offerings, providing full financial information to church members, and seeing that an audit or financial review is carried out annually.

- 8. **Preparing elders-** training newly elected elders, providing continuing education for all elders, and examining, ordaining and installing newly elected elders onto the session.
- 9. Supervising the deacons- providing for support, report, review and control.
- 10. **Church Administration** providing for the administration of the program of the church, including employment of nonordained staff, with concern for equal employment opportunity, fair employment practices, personnel policies, and the annual review of the adequacy of compensation for all staff, including all employees.
- 11. **Facility and property management-** providing for the management of the property of the church, including determination of the appropriate use of church buildings and facilities, and to obtain property and liability insurance coverage to protect the facilities and all members of the congregation.
- 12. **Relationships with higher governing bodies-** being informed of the work of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly, electing commissioners to presbytery and receiving their reports, nominating to presbytery elders who may be considered for election to synod or General Assembly, being obedient to the instructions of the higher governing bodies; welcoming representatives of the presbytery on the occasions of their visits; and making proposals to the presbytery that are of appropriate concerns for the mission of the whole church.
- 13. **Ecumenical relationships-** encouraging and approving missions or worship events held in cooperation with other churches in the community.
- 14. Church Discipline- serving in judicial matters in accordance with the Rules of Discipline.

Most of the duties outlined above are delegated to committees, but the Session has oversight over all the work and the decisions made in committees.

As you can see, serving on the Session is a big job. It involves a great commitment to serve God and the church. It requires seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in doing the will of God for the whole body of Christ.

- 1. Pittendreigh, W.Maynard (2003). The Presbyterian Church Welcomes You A Handbook For Church Members And Inquirers
- 2. Morrison, F.S. (2010). From Pulpit to Pew
- 3. Book of Order The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II

Patio Sale News

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

Yes, it is definitely Summer, and we hope you are enjoying yourselves wherever you are. It's definitely a time to visit family, taking short trips to beat the heat or just waiting for another day when there might be a monsoon to cool us down.

Many church activities have slowed down, but not Patio Sale. We are busy year-round. Donations continue to be dropped off at the church almost every day, the Trucking Team are still picking up donations on a reduced schedule and we still have monthly Pack & Sorts on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 am. The Patio Sale Coordinating Team has been taking a little time off but will be back in full swing as we begin to plan the Holiday-Plus Sale in November. And the Annual Patio Sale in March is always in the back of our minds.

If you are not already a Patio Sale Volunteer, we encourage you to consider getting involved. It's a chance to meet and work with some great people. For more information about Patio Sale or if you have questions, contact the Coordinating Team Leader, Carmen Nylund, at <u>clnylund1968@outlook.com</u>

Thanks to all of you who continue to volunteer through the summer months, and we look forward to seeing those of you who are away for the summer when you return.

<u>Silent Auction Up-Date</u>: Not very many people seemed interested in the "Rocket's Red Glare" Quilt Auction that was held to raise funds for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund, but we did receive donations (not bids) totaling almost \$700 that will be designated for the First Presbyterian Church in Douglas, AZ. Thank you for your generosity! The Patio Sale Team will keep the quilt for future use.



St, Andrew's Children's Clinic – August 2023

This year, 2023, is the 50th Anniversary for St. Andrew's Children's Clinic providing free specialized medical care to children living in Mexico who cannot get or afford the care they need in their home country. Every month, approximately 65 children (250 before Covid) and their families are given hope for the future at the Clinic. Laura Romero, the Executive Director, has invited Kay to bring 3 or 4 people to visit the clinic the first Thursday of each month. Contact Kay Brouwer (573-552-2313) if you'd like to see the Clinic with her in August, September, or October. A personal visit is the only way to understand how much St. Andrew's Clinic helps struggling children. Some of you may want to volunteer to work at the Thursday Clinic. Laura is planning a way to involve interested individuals.

The Clinic takes children from birth through the age of 18 when they must find other help if needed. Laura finds this age limit difficult, because the families often have nowhere else to go. Children with Cleft Lips and Cleft Palate are a large special group. This year, there are 60 children who will have Cleft Lip/Palate surgery in Hermosillo, Mexico. Twenty of those are babies scheduled for their first surgery. All children and their accompanying families must stay in hotel rooms before and after surgeries. St. Andrew's Clinic pays for the rooms and for meals. Financial support is needed for these and many other expenses.

During the month of July, the Clinic did not offer regular services. On August 3, clinic diagnosis and treatment will resume. Departments of Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Orthotics, Speech, Audiology and Physical Therapy will be functioning. Volunteer staff and doctors will come to serve clinic children on that day. The Clinic is now located next to Pima Community College at 2021 N. Grand Avenue in Nogales, Arizona. It is in the old K-Mart building.

This clinic is one of the agencies served by our Valley Presbyterian Church congregation through the Mission Committee. Laura Romero feels thankful and blessed for our prayers, concerns, and donations.



Submitted by: Reed Olson, VPC Mission Committee Liaison

There is exciting news regarding the orphanage in Nogales, Sonora, MX. RISE Scholastic Achievements has recently received generous donations to help fund the new "English as a Second Language" (ESL) program for these children (see attached photos). The instructor has signed a contract to teach English twice a week at the home in a very fun and engaging way. Your donations to RISE pay for this new instruction which will help these children get a head start on their future. Thank you all for your help and support. To find out more about RISE, go to: <u>www.risesa.org</u> or scan the QR code below.







Presbyterian Campus Ministries Invite You to Refer a Student

Why refer a student to one of our campus ministries? Faith on campus matters. UKirk and PCM welcome all. Community is key at college. We all need help sometimes. And God invites us to worship and work for justice and in joy...together! If there is a student you know that you would like to connect to a campus ministry, after asking their permission, fill out the form below and they will be connected to a campus minister or chaplain at their college or university.





Contact Our Campus Ministries

Presbyterian Campus Ministries invite you to refer a student!

U of A: www.pcmarizona.org - CRE Josefina Ahumada (jahumada@asu.edu)

ASU: https://upctempe.org/ukirkasu/ - Rev. Eric Ledermann (pastoreric@upctempe.org)

NAU: https://www.facebook.com/ucmnau/ - Rev. Kathleen Day (kmd.day@gmail.com)

AZ Christian: www.crosswindspc.org - Rev. Terry Marks (pastortmarks@gmail.com)

Why refer a student to one of our campus ministries? Faith on campus matters. UKirk and PCM welcomes all. Community is key at college. We all need help sometimes. And God invites us to worship and work for justice and in joy...together! If there is a student you know that you would like to connect to a campus ministry, after asking their permission, fill out the form below and they will be connected to a campus minister or chaplain at their college or university.

Name of Student:	_ Cell:
Email:	OK to text:yesno
Address:	
Preferred method of contact? Call Email Text	
College or University they are attending?	



Operation Mobilization Submitted by: Doug Clark, Mission Committee Liason

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE VERWER

We had the privilege of attending the special Thanksgiving Celebration for our friend George Verwer, June 17 along with over 700 other people who flew in from around the world and also another few thousand who streamed in online. Over and over people remembered George as a loving husband, father and grandfather, a humble learner, a courageous leader, and a passionate disciple of Jesus Christ. He left us a challenge to make it our goal that every person in the world have the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, at least once, and that we fully surrender our lives to Christ every day.



A highlight for us was also seeing so many leaders in a kind of "Gathering of Eagles" where so many godly leaders have been running the race faithfully like George. We were able to reunite with many friends some of whom we had not seen in over 40 years.

RAISING UP A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS



We then flew to Dubai to help train a group of young leaders from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, South Africa and East Asia. It was very encouraging to see these young potential leaders developing and we are praying to see many more like them, to be raised up in the coming years.

AFGHANISTAN IS CALLING

After 17 years we finally went back to Kabul, Afghanistan. This was so we could visit and encourage our team members who are working under the Taliban government, and better understand what the situation is like now inside the country. On the one hand, it was encouraging to see Kabul now rebuilt, modern and functioning. On the other hand, it was sobering as the country is suffering from four years of drought, with about 23 million people depending on food aid. Our agency is providing food for mothers and children who are suffering from malnutrition and helping people in other projects like water and sanitation.



We were impressed with the open doors there are in Afghanistan for God's people to serve and show the love of Christ at this critical time in history. Please pray for more workers to join us there!

SUMMER PLANS WITH FAMILY

We plan to take a few days off this week camping. Then Justin and his family arrive July 25 to be with us for a month! Our granddaughter Ayvah turns 14 July 31! And we will have a family reunion on Pam's side of the family in August.

Please pray for Dave's mom who seems to be moving into hospice care and Dave will fly there soon to see how she is doing and what this means.

Thanks again for your partnership in our ministry and for standing with us!

With love and blessings,

Dave and Pam

presbyterian MISSION

Bob and Kristi Rice are our supported missionaries to South Sudan. Their communication tool to our congregation is through their blog- bobandkristi.blogspot.com- which they write twice per month. Only a portion of their inspiring story can be shared in the Valley Voice. Join VPC members who promise to pray and follow the blogs. *Submitted by: Doug Clark*

Detour

In early June, we landed in the U.S., weary from a busy season in Juba but excited about the prospect of visiting churches and friends in the U.S. to share about how God is at work in South Sudan. But it has not worked out exactly as planned.

Bob has not been feeling well since before we returned to the U.S. After resting and seeing a doctor in Illinois, we decided to start traveling on our six week 'tour', hoping that he could rest and recover along the way. Unfortunately, after several days of travel, it became clear that Bob was not getting better and that to continue trying to travel and visit people would hinder his recovery. We made the hard decision to turn back and return to Illinois where Bob could rest and we could pursue more medical tests.



Traveling-using the rest stops to really rest, in addition to sleeping in the car.

The loss of these much-anticipated visits and the discouragement of being sick have challenged us to lean into God and wait on Him. Yesterday one verse that came up was Matthew 10:39, "Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." We meditated on Jesus' call to give up everything to follow Him, and the life that we find in Christ is not like anything the world can offer. Our motivation to be productive in raising awareness of the work and needs in South Sudan is strong, but we realize we must also open our hands to wait on God. We need God to teach us and enable us – and after all, God is the only one that can do the work that will last.



Bob is still recovering, so we appreciate your prayers for healing, strength, and a return to "normal." We also ask for prayer for wisdom for the days and weeks ahead. We hope and pray that Bob will recover strength and that we will be able to resume our visits and travel. Thank you for your prayers. We are grateful for the encouragements and support that we have received, and we are grateful to know that God is in control.

Visiting Mt. Gilead, Ohio

Bob and Kristi Rice are coming to Valley Presbyterian Church

Please continue your prayers for Bob and Kristi Rice's health for their travels to the states in June. They are still planning on joining Valley Presbyterian Church congregation on the weekend of September 16, and 17, 2023. Save the dates as we will host them at Mission Breakfast on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from the pulpit on Sunday, September 17, 2023, followed by an open house that afternoon. It will be good to have our old friends with us.

Please keep watching.



Café Justo is Grower owned Coffee Cooperative based in southern Chiapas Mexico, formed to address the poverty and migration from Mexico to the U.S.A.



Available at the church on Sundays during fellowship for \$11.00 a pound.





Nogales, Crossroads Mission

Submitted by: Les Walter, Crossroads Liaison

Thank you for the generosity on Sunday, July 9, Nogales Crossroads Mission Sunday.



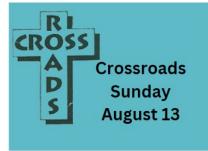
Picture of the table, Sunday, July 9.

Other items left were hygiene supplies, toilet paper, a large bag of pinto beans and all the items from our recent Patio Sale sort.

There has been an increase in the number of migrants including men and women, this has increased the need for bedding (mostly twin size). Nogales Crossroads Mission is a busy place.

To see the results of your support and some of the lives you have touched. Visit Crossroads Mission Nogales Facebook page.

For more information of ways, you can help. Contact Les Walter at 520-870-3284 or visit Crossroads website at crossroadmissionloglales.org





Submitted by Ed Storey, YAV Mission Liaison

The Presbyterian Church as a program in several cities, called Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) A stipend is provided for people to serve the Lord for a year as they work to discern their plan for their lives. In our area, it is called *Borderlands YAV*. James Martin, a part-time pastor at Douglas Presbyterian Church, is the coordinator. There are two sites where volunteers are active.

Southside Presbyterian Church is a meeting place for day laborers and for contractors. There, a volunteer helps facilitate the process. They ensure an orderly match between those being hired and those who are hiring. There is a form to be filled out to ensure the laborers are treated fairly. Some explanation of the process is provided.

Down south, at Douglas and the larger Mexican town of Agua Prieta there are a couple of organizations to help with safety of asylum seekers. After making an online appointment, the seekers are to wait in Mexico until the time of their appointment. The plan for the new year is to have three volunteers, starting in September. Valley Pres has been asked to fund one of these.

The YAVs on the border will be Mexican nationals. They will have an opportunity to assist those in need. There is a place for the asylum seekers to stay and lodging is also provided for the YAVs. There is a request for us to assist with English training via Zoom.



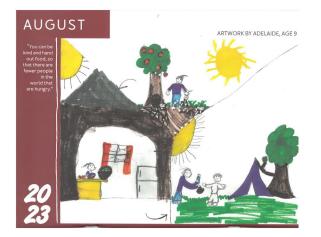
Submitted by: Kylene Joplin & Carol Stephens

It's that time again for the annual Community Food Bank Hunger Walk.

This year it will be held on Saturday, September 9th at the Quail Creek Veterans Municipal Park in Sahuarita, AZ on Old Nogales Highway across from the entrance to the Quail Creek community.

Look for flyers at the Welcome Centers and in the Fellowship Hall at church for more information.

Kylene Joplin and Carol Stephens are our Hunger Walk Team Captains. Let's STOMP out hunger together.





Hunger20 Walk23



Thank you White Elephant for helping to end he in Southern Arizona

Tucson & Green Valley GET OUT, GET ACTIVE, & GIVE BACK!

Join a fun and rewarding stroll with families, friends, and community members to raise awareness AND funds to help end hunger.



Saturday, September 9th Come Join the Valley Presbyterian Church Team Saturday, September 9 at 8:00 a.m. in Green Valley and Walk Quail Creek-Veterans Minicipal Park Registration is Open Now Sign up at <u>https://www.communityfoodbank.org/hungerwalk/</u>! or pickup a Registration Form at the Church

For More Information Contact your Team Captains Kylene Joplin or Carol Stephens



Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO

YOTO's Back to School Challenge has now started and will run through the end of September. Folks can find the most needed items for the Mini Mall or make a financial contribution by going to the website: <u>https://yoto.org/backtoschool/</u>. At this site, we can order directly from Amazon and the supplies will be delivered directly to YOTO.

We will also be collecting items for the YOTO MINI MALL on the 3rd Sunday of August. Please find a bin in Charter Hall near the entrance to the Spiritual Life Center. We will be collecting Spiral notebooks (College Ruled) Composition Notebooks (College Ruled), and Peter Pan Original Creamy Peanut Butter.



Work is still being done on YOTO's new FOREVER HOME located at 2525 N Country Club Road. They received a wonderful grant from Angel Charity for this building, but costs on the renovation have been much more than anticipated. YOTO will be doing additional fund raisers to help raise the needed monies. More on this in our September newsletter!! They are projecting November 2023 for "movein" date for students. We will look forward to doing a tour of the new facility in February/March 2024! Plan to join us!!





YOTO CARD MAKING will resume on the 4th Wednesday of the month in August. We'll meet at church (Classroom 5) on August 23 from 1:00-3:30. All are welcome to come and create cards of inspiration for the students!! Hope to see you there!!

Aug	gust	Bir	three	ays	rthday
First	Name	Last	Name	Bi	rthday.

Tom	Erickson	August 03
Chris	Erickson	August 05
Edgar	Truitt	August 05 Over 90
Mikayla	Szabo	August 06
Geneva	Lemman	August 07 Over 90
Joyce	Green	August 08
Roger	Fisher	August 09
Sheila	Kepler	August 09
Lois	Macfarlane	August 09
Mike	Brouwer	August 10
Lorna	Corso	August 10
Martha	Van Vactor	August 10
Linda	Hester	August II
Dick	Horn	August 12
John	Ireland	August 13
Brad	Tate	August 13
Vic	Valade	August 13
John	Marchica	August 15
Kathryn	Duncan	August 16
Patti	Messerschmidt	August 17
Carol	Wilking	August 17
Cal	Danhof	August 18

August Birthdays First Name Last Name Birthday

nsc man		inc V Qirchaug
Bruce	Garnett	August 18
Gwen	Lamb	August 20 Over 90
Linda	Mutimer	August 20
George	Curtis	August 21
Clayton	Messelt	August 21
Carol	Collins	August 22
Liz	Haynes	August 22
Steve	Larson	August 23
Gayle	Tompkins	August 23
Les	Walter	August 23
Martha	Jenkins	August 24 Over 90
Dan	Wilking	August 24
Mike	Yoder	August 24
Donna	Richards	August 25
Keith	Adrian	August 26
Bob	Lillie	August 27
Ann	Tate	August 28
Jean	Messelt	August 29 Over 90
Carol	Stephens	August 30
Larry	Sharp	August 31 Over 90

August 2023	Thu Fri Sat	3 10:00am Jesus Eats! 4 8:00am Parkinson's Chair 8:00am Communion Prep Exercises 1:00pm Fun Fridays	10 11 12 8:00am Patio Sale Sort 9:00am Parkinson's Chair 11:00am Kay Davison Memorial 10:00am Faith and Health Exercises 11:00am Kay Davison Memorial ss Committee 9:00am Stephen Ministry 10:00am Jesus Eats! 1:00pm Fun Fridays	17 10:00am Jesus Eats! 18 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Fun Fridays	24 25 26 3:00pm Barkinson's Chair 26 9:00pm Parkinson's Chair 8:00pm Session Meeting Exercises 10:00pm Jesus Eats! 1:00pm Fun Fridays	31
Valley Presbyterian Church August 2023	Wed	2 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise Class 12:30pm Worship Committee 1:00pm Worship Committee 1:00pm Line Dance Class 3:00pm Line Dance Class	9 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Personnel Committee 3:00pm Line Dance Class	16 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 3:00pm Line Dance Class	23 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 1:00pm YOTO Card Making 3:00pm Line Dance Class	30 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal
Valley Pr	Tue	1 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Prayer Ministry 1:00pm NOC Meeting 1:30pm Building & Grounds	8 8:45am Mission Committee 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	15 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	22 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	29 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble
	Mon		7 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:30am Mission Quitters 10:00am Patio Sale Coordinating Team Planning Meeting 1:00pm Bible Reflections	14 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 10:00am Fellowship Committee 1:00pm Bible Reflections	21 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections	28 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections 2:00pm Valley Readers
Ţ	Sun		6 Food Bank Sunday 9:30am Worship Service with Communion 9:45am Children's Sunday School	13 Nogales Crossroads Mission Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	20 YOTO Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	27 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School