

Our Valley Voice



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER OF VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | DECEMBER 2021

Christmas Eve

|Friday December 24| **Worship**

**Join Us on Christmas Eve as we
celebrate Christ's birth**

**4:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols
Pastor Diane**

**7:00 P.M. Candlelight Communion
Pastor Craig**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

**November 28 "Advent Hope" Matthew 24:30-35
Pastor Diane**

**December 5 "Advent Peace" Luke 3: 1-6 Pastor Craig
Communion Sunday &
Food Bank Sunday**

December 12 "Advent Joy" Luke 3: 7-18 Pastor Craig

**December 19 "Advent Love" Luke 1: 36-55
Pastor Craig**

**December 24, 4:pm Lessons and Carols Pastor Diane
Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 7:pm Candlelight Communion w/
Chancel Choir Pastor Craig**

December 26 "The Gift" Titus 2:11-14 Pastor Diane

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

December 21 Longest Night 4:00 pm

**Advent Taize' Thursdays Dec. 2,9,16, & 23 5:00 pm
Spiritual Life Center**

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

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

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

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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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

Thanksgiving and Fear

Over my lifetime, Thanksgiving was one of those Norman Rockwell kind of holidays. Relatives and friends came over, the house smelled of cooking, and then there was the feasting, parades, and football games. The last two years have been different. Our world has lived in fear. We could not gather at the table together. We could not pass along recipes, by teaching next generations in person. Thanksgiving is different, when we are simply thankful, it is harvest season; than when we live with fear of being exposed and exposing others to something which make us sick or die. What more explicit symptoms could there be than to lose your sense of taste and smell at Thanksgiving dinner!

I do not want to live in fear; I choose to live out my concern for others, for you. Why have we cancelled the Church Thanksgiving Dinner and asked everyone to again mask? In the last three months, we have had thirteen friends who have positively contracted COVID 19. They were not all at the same events, these are simply 13 persons who all happen to also go to church here. Our Church is not a Health Care Facility, we are a community of Christian caregiving and love. To me this means we are not bound by HIPPA, but I am bound by Pastoral Trust. The question is not whether Masks are Mandatory, or that anyone will be excluded, but rather that out of concern for one another, trying to protect each other, we are taking every precaution.

In many ways, this Thanksgiving seems especially poignant, because we could not gather a year ago, and this year if we gather it has to be because we really work to do so, with concern for one another.

Craig Lindsey

Cont.. on page 3

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

Blessing Even in a Pandemic

On a recent Sunday, we reported that we received amazing blessings during 2020-2021. First, while many are now developing less severe cases, as a congregation, we were spared deaths from COVID19. Thank God!

Second, churches are treated very strangely according to economics. "The Constitutional Separation of Church & State" prohibits the Government from dictating to the Church; the Constitution does not in any way restrict the Church or believers from providing leadership in our society. In fact one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence was an ordained minister, and he was a Presbyterian! The land on which our House of Worship resides is designated as Tax-Exempt; however in the State of Arizona, churches are required to pay Sales Tax. Legally, we are a corporation, a business with a financial bottom-line, employees and responsibilities, utilities and capital expenditures.

All of that is important to recognize, because in 2020, the Federal Government offered all businesses the PPP (Payroll Protection Program), as part of the Cares Act, to guarantee full salaries and benefits to businesses for all employees during an economic season hard-hit by an International Pandemic. The Financial officers of Valley Presbyterian Church appropriately applied for and were granted \$101,400 which was placed in a savings account and drawn from every two weeks to pay the salaries of our pastors and staff. Meanwhile, our program continued with Broadcast Worship, Zoom Meetings, even Bible Study. As such, our donors generously fulfilled their pledged contributions, such that when the forecast economic crisis ended, our staff had been paid and we had a balance of like amount.

A Church is unable to post Capital Gains or a profit, to offer dividends to stock-holders, so when the Federal Government ultimately declared the PPP would not be a loan accruing interest, but instead a Federal Grant to stimulate the economy, what was anticipated as a loan became unanticipated excess income. After prayerful consideration, the Finance Committee recommended to our Session, which acted to grant our Missions an additional \$10,000 over and above what has already been budgeted and received for this year. We also recognize that our Sanctuary and grounds are over 40 years of age, at which time, buildings begin to need a great number of Capital Improvements. Therefore, the balance of this unanticipated income will be reserved as "seed-money" for anticipated Capital Improvements.

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

The Valley Presbyterian Foundation invests reserves of the church, generating about \$50,000 annually to provide a resource for the Session to make Capital repairs. This was incredibly insightful and has recently allowed replacing the sound system and lighting, the painting of the exterior of the building, as well as annually replacing individual air conditioners. However, we have a contract that in July 2023 we will finally owe the full cost of the Solar Carport. Our Organ is +20 years old and the anticipated replacement is every 25 years. This monsoon season, we suffered a number of roof leaks. We have an aesthetically spectacular Sanctuary, which has acoustic problems that could possibly be improved. But each of these will require an expenditure of about \$100,000. Thank God for the wisdom and foresight of those prophets among us who have anticipated that Valley Presbyterian Church will have a future!



Sanctuary Flowers and Poinsettias for Christmas



Have you noticed the beautiful flowers in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings? These flowers are purchased by our congregation:

- to honor special people in their life
- to celebrate a special day such as an anniversary or birthday
- in memory of a loved one

After worship, the flowers are then broken down into 3-4 smaller arrangements and brought to the homebound or those in need.

We are taking orders for the year 2022 through the end of December. If you would like to reserve a bouquet, sign up in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. The cost for the large bouquet (\$50) and (\$10) for poinsettias amount is due when you sign up. If you are not able to come to church on Sundays, you may call the office to reserve a date. If you have a specific date in mind, make your reservations early as flowers are reserved on a first-come first-served basis.

Poinsettias cannot be removed from the church until after Christmas. Poinsettias order deadline is December 19th.

Rev. Diane Christopher Pastor of Discipleship

Small Things

One of my favorite topics in scripture is how God uses small things. God took a heap of dust and made an amazing creature (Genesis). God used one small



stone to kill a giant (David). God used a still, small voice to comfort a burned out prophet (Elijah). God used an army of hundreds to defeat an enemy of thousands (Gideon). God used a trumpet to break down a city's stone wall (Joshua). God started a nation with the fewest people (Deuteronomy). Jesus worked with only twelve disciples who changed the world (Acts).

God works greatness in small things.

Faith like a mustard seed can grow into faith like a large tree. A small lunch fed 5000 people. Small coins in an offering plate become an example how to give. A small tax collector in a tree gets the attention of Jesus. A small bottle of perfume prepares Jesus for his death. Everyday food items (bread and wine) become a blessing in a meal.

But, God's greatest small thing was coming as a small baby. To an unknown couple. In a small town. Laying in a small manger. Angels appearing to a small group of shepherds and a few wise men. We make the birth of Jesus grand, but almost everything about the birth of Jesus is small.

Do not despise the day of small things, God says in Zechariah.

Pay attention to the small things in your life. They may be insignificant to you, but God seems to take pleasure in using small things. Nothing is too small for God to use. Even you.

Pastor Diane



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

The holiday season is once again upon us.

As we count our blessing let us remember that nearly 10% of seniors in Arizona are “Food Insecure”. Green Valley and the surrounding areas is no exception.

As we celebrate the recent Hunger Walk, look forward to another season of providing for our community, enjoy cooler temperatures, and spend quality time with family and friends, let us remember our neighbors who continue to struggle. Thank you so much for your continued support.

It is sincerely appreciated.

In October, 71 lbs. of food was delivered to the Food Bank and \$822.00 evenly split between the Green Valley and Amado Food Banks.



Article submitted by
Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens

Being Presbyterian – *Sharing Thoughts about being Presbyterian*

By Linda Freeman



As I come to the end my year of monthly articles, let me share what it means to me to be Presbyterian in just three points:

1. **Committees**. Ah, the messiness of making decisions through committees. This system is ponderous, frustrating and can be very, very slow in coming to conclusions! However, it is through the committee structure that every person, no matter how “unique” their opinion may be, is given the chance to be heard.

Because of the committee structure, I have been able to practice my patience and self-control gifts of the Spirit. And I have continually schooled myself to bring my frustrations to God. I clearly remember one time, when my position on a question was not in the majority, telling God that “you need to open their eyes to the right answer, Lord.” Talk about arrogance on my part!

And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music. — Friedrich Nietzsche

2. **Shared Leadership**. Not only are decisions made by committees, but the people comprising these committees are not only pastors, but people who were “called by God through the voice of the congregation” to serve in positions of leadership. These believers are in varying stages of their faith journeys; some newly converted and some long-time believers. It is always a unique mixture.

When I was ordained I thought that I could be a “better” Elder by learning everything I could about my faith. The concept of growing my relationship with God was beyond my understanding – *facts* I could deal with – *feelings*, not so much.

God will meet you where you are. — Psalm 86:5 (NLT)

3. **We could be wrong**. When the Presbyterian Church was founded in America, the original constitution included the concept that even most faith-filled and earnest of leaders can make mistakes.

I was one of the youngest, female elders in my Presbytery. Boy, has that changed! I have learned that we cannot predict the future. Changes come and we adjust to the new reality. I mean – who could have predicted that I’d quote Nietzsche 50 years after he was required reading?

I became a Presbyterian by chance when I urged my mother to go back to the church that “sang the best songs” in Sunday School. I chose to continue by an Elder 50 years ago. I can’t really say that Being Presbyterian is better than any other faith – but I just might *think* it.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES– Year 2021

Submitted by Joan Bolin

Every year in October/November, Valley Presbyterian Church participates in this program. This year church members and friends filled 75 Christmas shoe boxes. What a great accomplishment during a year when the coronavirus continues to plague the country.

We hope each person who participated in this project got a happy feeling shopping for items to fill their shoe box knowing the shoe box was going to a child who probably had nothing to open at Christmastime. Also, enclosed in each shoe box will be literature about Jesus, stating how He loves you and that you are not forgotten.

On November 15, 2021, project volunteers Parkie Copeland, Kay Brouwer and I delivered all the filled shoe boxes to Calvary Chapel of Sahuarita, the next collection point in our area (see photo below of SUV full of shoe boxes). Then the shoe boxes are delivered to the Processing Center where volunteers inspect and prepare the shoe boxes for international shipping.

A big “THANK YOU” to all the people who took a shoe box, filled it, and returned it to Valley Presbyterian Church by November 14th. Great Job!



PATIO SALE NEWS

We have just completed a very successful **Holiday Plus Much More** sale and we want to say thank you to all of our volunteers, trucking crew, staff and shoppers.

This sale included Holiday items of all kinds, a beautiful array of Collectibles, a wide selection of Books, framed Art of all sizes, Jewelry, Linens, and men's and women's Clothing. And, of course, good food prepared by our faithful Kitchen Team. This brought our Patio Sales for 2021 to completion. Due to COVID, we had to split the sale this year with the first part of the sale being held in April, also a great success. Hopefully, we can get back to "normal" and move forward with plans for a full Patio Sale in March 2022.

For those of you who are interested in the facts and figures, here is the Patio Sales Financial Statement through November 7, 2021. Yes, expenses are high and perhaps even higher this year since we had to store donations for a longer period of time. The Patio Sale Team will be looking at ways to cut expenses in the coming year, but as we all know the price of everything has gone up significantly.

The main goal of the Patio Sale is to raise money to support the Valley Presbyterian Church Mission Program.

In the January Valley Voice, we will list the Mission Programs that benefited from our 2021 Patio Sales.

INCOME		
Miscellaneous Sales Prior to 11/7/21	\$	10,790
Spring Patio Sale		60,555
November Holiday Plus More...Sale		25,247
Designated Giving		300
TOTAL	\$	96,892
EXPENSES		
Storage	\$	13,035
Rental - Tents and Tables		8,773
Outside Labor		8,140
Supplies		2,643
Trucking		1,959
Waste Collection		965
Church Custodial Staff		825
Advertising		656
Food		637
Miscellaneous		201
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	37,834
NET INCOME TO DATE	\$	59,058
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE 1/1/21	\$	78,761
Quarterly Transfer to Missions		
	2/15/2021	-13,750
	5/15/2021	-13,750
	8/15/2021	-13,750
	11/15/2021	-13,750
TOTAL		\$ (55,000)

SUGGESTED READINGS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Submitted by: Anne Morrison

The VPC Library has a wide group of books designed to make holiday preparations and celebrations more meaningful. Books for the season can be found on the tables in the library.

Here are a few suggestions from members of the Library Committee.

101 things Jesus has done for you. Jessica Inman. (232 In6)

What better time is there than the Christmas season for you to reflect on the many ways Jesus has affected your life. This book is a collection of scriptures, quotes, and meditations which will guide your thoughts during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Amazing peace: a Christmas poem. Maya Angelou. (811.6 An4) This tiny, but beautiful book consists of the poem read by Ms. Angleou at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. on December 1, 2005. Out of our fears and doubts, Christmas season and the joy of Christ's birth arrive with a sense of peace for the world and its many religions.

Because of Bethlehem: love is born, hope is here. Max Lucado. (242 LUC) Max invites us to look at the Christmas story from a different perspective. He reminds us that Christmas is about more than a pretty tree with presents piled up underneath it. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates: the child in the cradle who goes on to become the King on the cross.

God is in the small stuff at Christmas. Bruce Bickel. (242 B47) Want to really experience Christmas this year? Join the author for an inspiring look at the joyous season of Jesus' birth. Featuring the characters and places, symbols and celebrations, and thoughts and feelings of the Christmas season, this book combines the best features of a devotional with the traditional appeal of an Advent book.

Honest Advent: awakening to the wonder of God-with us then, here, and now. Scott Erickson. (242 ERI) Through powerful benedictions, prayers, and questions for honest reflection, you'll discover how the wonder of God-with-Us is still happening today: in your unexpected change of plans, your unaccomplished dreams, your overcrowded lodging, and your humble stories of new beginnings.

Incarnation: rediscovering the significance of Christmas. Adam Hamilton. (242 HAM) Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

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December 2021 Valley Voice - Financial Update
(Based on Financial Data through October 31, 2021)

Since there was no Finance Committee meeting in November, the committee received the financial statements and reviewed them individually with questions directed to the Finance Office. Basically, the committee was pleased with the year-to-date reports. We have left off the Reserve support because we do not feel it will be needed to support operations for 2021. As of October 31, 2021 our financial report appears very positive:

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving Support (contributions for current operations)	\$ 561,120.00	\$ 514,152.00	\$ 46,968.00
Per Capita Support	\$ 8,370.00	\$ 9,214.00	\$ (844.00)
Other Support (other funds transfers in support of operations, investment income, fee for services, etc)	\$ 50,505.00	\$ 56,667.00	\$ (6,132.00)
Total Support	\$ 619,995.00	\$ 580,033.00	\$ 39,962.00
Expenses	\$ 584,312.00	\$ 650,350.00	\$ (62,741.00)
Net Income	\$ 35,683.00	\$ (70,317.00)	\$ 106,000.00

We are very grateful for the positive position we see currently. We were definitely discouraged as we worked on the 2021 budget at the end of 2020. On October 20th, we approved the 2022 operating budget to go to Session for approval. That budget as amended or approved will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 22, 2022. We hope to see a large gathering of members and friends at that meeting.

The Finance Committee will continue to keep you informed of the financial status of VPC. Thank you for your continuing support.

PLEASE JOIN US AT
THE LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

A Service of Remembrance, Healing, Hope and Prayer, which will be held on Tuesday, December 21 at 4:00 PM in the Spiritual Life Center (and be recorded for those who wish to view it on-line). Please submit any loved one's, friend's, pet's names and a brief remembrance sentence you would like to be read as we light a candle for one remembered during this service.

If you wish to attend the service, please RSVP. You may email your information to parish-nurse@valleypres.net or call the church office at 520-625-5023.

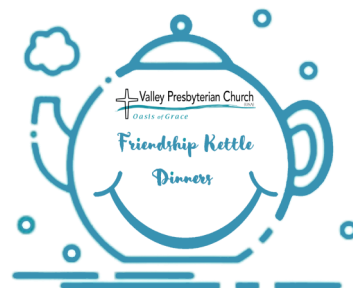
Please watch for more details and information in the E-Blasts.



FRIENDSHIP KETTLE DINNERS—Save the Date!

Sunday, January 16 will be the first of three Friendship Kettle Dinners in 2022.

Entertainment for that night will be the band and soloist of Hardscrabble Road.



Save the date for a fun evening of fellowship! Dinners will also follow in February and March.

Parish Nurse: Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Caring for those in our congregation

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News

December 2021



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

Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.



Connections, during this time, are essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care. Keep communications with friends, neighbors, and family during this time.

By My Side, a support and uplifting chorus, uses the irrepressible power of singing to move people with Alzheimer's (or other dementia diagnosis) and their care partners to rediscover themselves, make new friends, laugh together, learn together, empower and support, and create something unique together. The priority is to engage and embrace people with Alzheimer's/dementia and their care partners who live at home and who have fewer opportunities to socialize and contribute. We are hopeful that this chorus can begin again.



Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy.

Parish Nurse's office hours are Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Medical Minute: Dizziness may be a symptom of a medical condition, illness or medication side effect. If you are experiencing dizziness, call your healthcare provider.

By Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Choose your emotions, do not dwell on uncertainties

Emotions are high not just because of the COVID Pandemic but because of the time of year. Just listen to it in the voices of others, and watch the emotions of people's faces. Have we lost our smile?



Either we can choose stress, a frazzled state, grumpiness or we can choose joy, positivity and happiness. The choice is up to us.



There are uncertainties at this time of the year.

Many of us face uncertainties. We can dwell on things that may arise during the Holiday and Christmas season, and even before the season begins. There is lots of stress this time of year. Which stressors are affecting you?

- plans of the holidays (the family is coming and being overwhelmed) ,
- financial concerns and disappointments (I cannot afford presents, food prices are high, gas is high, limited supplies),
- a Blue Christmas or grief during this time of year (remembering your loss of loved ones or of a loss of independence that may be associated with depression),
- COVID, colds, flu, pneumonia, shingles, infections, dehydration, health changes,
- and Pandemic loneliness or lack of patience.

Take one day at a time, keep it simple and just enjoy it. Do things that may keep you positive and healthy. Challenge yourself to make someone smile, including yourself.



December is also the most beautiful time of the year with the most glorious birth, and with that love: He washes away our uncertainties with perfect love.

We need to remember this in the times of uncertainties, in times of illnesses, in times of stress, during tragedy, and during the Holidays.

May you be blessed every day through all the works you do however big or small, every smile you create, every person you touch, and everything you give to others. May a renewed sense of love and peace fill your hearts in this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year. Blessings, Chris

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 the 17 VPC members who promise to pray and follow the blogs. Consider supporting new churches in South Sudan by a small donation.

Healing and Forgiveness in Malakal

Malakal is a large city in the Upper Nile region of South Sudan, where the Presbyterian Church has had its base for the last one hundred years. We have been told that during the conflict in 2013 and 2016, Malakal changed hands at least five times as militia groups fought for control of the region. The city was destroyed, and most people fled their homes. One friend has described how he hid in the ceiling of his house during that time until he and his family fled to a refugee camp. The soldiers who occupied the area moved into his house, and he cannot return. Until now, nearly 35,000 live in an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp near Malakal. Many of them have not stepped foot outside of the camp for years, afraid of being attacked by an opposing tribe.



A map of South Sudan that shows Malakal in the northwest

When SSPEC leaders considered the best place for our reconciliation team to do a Healing Wounds Transforming Communities (HHTC) workshop, Malakal was a priority. Finally, a couple of weeks ago, our team was able to go to Malakal for the workshop. The workshop was done inside the IDP camp and included people from the Nuer and Shilluk tribes. There was a diverse group of men, women, and youth at the workshop, and three languages were used to make sure that everyone understood what was being taught. There is one united church inside the camp that worships in the Nuer language, comprised of members from seven different denominations. We are grateful for that tangible expression of unity, and glad that people from different backgrounds could all participate.



The facilitation team and the hosting pastors

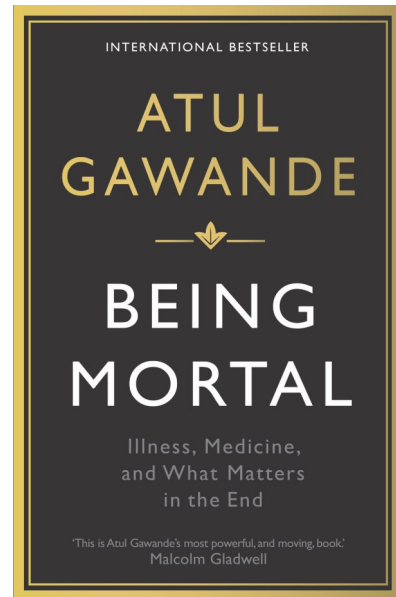
We praise God for this opportunity to witness to God's love and power to heal after tragic pain. We pray that the healing journey continues in Malakal. Our team is doing another workshop this week in the city of Bor, and we welcome your prayers!

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 .

PREPARING FOR THE END OF LIFE TOPIC OF DISCUSSIONS

How do you want to live out the last years or months of your life? Are you willing to move to a facility where you will receive care, or are you determined to stay at home until they carry you out feet first? Do you want to live as long as you possibly can, or are they conditions under which you would want the doctors to stop trying to save you?

In a book titled *Being Mortal*, Dr. Atul Gawande writes about what he learned about the last stages of life from his experiences with patients and, especially, with his father. Contrary to what would make good sense, he says that doctors are not required to take a single course in geriatrics or in death and dying, but they are trained to find cures and look for solutions to any health situation.



In six weekly sessions that will meet for 90 minutes each session beginning at 2:00 PM on January 13th, we will discuss the issues raised by Dr. Gawande. Participants will be required to have access to the book and read chapters as they are assigned. You can buy your own book or get one from Pastor Diane. Both large and small group discussions will be facilitated by Eloise Fredrickson, an experienced teacher; nurse Chris Erickson, and one of the pastors of Valley Presbyterian Church.

Sample discussion questions include:

What are your feelings about nursing homes? What would be ideal? What would be unacceptable?

What experience do you have with talking to doctors about end-of-life preferences? Have you had that same conversation with your spouse or children?

November 28-December 19th, Christmas Joy Offering

What a great name for an offering. What is the Joy Offering? Our denomination has four denomination-wide offerings. The Joy Offering, taken at Advent/Christmas time, is one of them.

In simple terms, it develops and sustains leaders in our denomination by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need. It also develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

If you would like to give to the Joy Offering, special Joy envelopes are available on the desks of the Welcome Centers. They are purple with the three kings and Mary, Joseph, and Jesus on the cover. If you prefer to mail in an offering, write "Joy Offering" in the memo line of your check made out to "Valley Presbyterian."

Music in the Valley Concerts 2021/2022

- ♦ **Saturday, December 18 @ 3:00 PM**
Our very own Chancel Choir will be "Singing" in the Holiday Season with a program of Holiday Music.
- ♦ **Saturday, January 15 @ 3:00 PM**
Join us for an afternoon of favorite String Quartet Music!
- ♦ **Sunday, February 13 @ 3:00 PM**
For this Valentine Weekend, we have University of Arizona's Professor Darnell Roulhac singing an array of Broadway, Opera, and Jazz Love Songs!
- ♦ **Sunday, March 6 @ 3:00 PM**
All the way from Colorado we bring you Caleb Collins! He will be singing and playing a program filled with a variety of material, not to mention he has a very sweet connection to our Chancel Choir.
- ♦ **Sunday, April 3 @ 3:00 PM**
Closing out our season, we have the Tucson Boys Choir!
Tickets are on sale starting in the fellowship hall following Sunday services. \$20 per concert ticket



New Class: Faith Works
Tuesdays, 4 p.m. beginning January
11
Classroom 5
Your Teacher: Chuck Ramsay



President Woodrow Wilson was once asked how he was able to cope with life. His response was that he lived “From Sunday worship to Sunday worship.” And so, it is with us as Christians at Valley Presbyterian. I am so totally transformed by our worship experience each week that I do not want it to be over. But it does end. Monday cometh. The world in all its ugliness (and beauty) comes in!

How do we make sense of the complexity of modern life from a Christian worldview? Seems to be getting tougher. In partnership with the Faith Formation group, I want to facilitate a new Faith Formation class beginning on Tuesday, January 11 at 4pm called “Faith Works”! The Faith Works Experience will be different than traditional expositional Christian education. It will center on lively discussion about current events. We will use as curriculum a web site called the “wiredword.com” most of the time, but we will always allow for more current events to be discussed. We need everyone to come and come with an open mind.

I have years of success using this curriculum in my previous Presbyterian church. The point of the class is to first bring about peace. I love VPC’s theme of “Let there be peace and let it begin with me!” That means it must begin IN you. Discussions with other persons about the tension inducing events of this life can let that peace begin IN and with You! Secondly, we seek to accept this world as Jesus Christ did. Not being able to accept things the way they are leads to a whole host of problems like anger, guilt, and confusion. The church seeks to confront these polarizing issues with Faith Formation. Hostility kills the soul first. And lastly, we seek understanding and therefore Christian wisdom (James 1:5). Presbyterians are known as a church that does not require you to check your brain at the door (or your opinions). Remember this: ***We can disagree as Christians, but we cannot be disagreeable!***

I am ready and excited to go, but I need one more ingredient: YOU! Please come. Each class is self-contained so if you miss a session, you are never behind or not caught up. Please come see us **Tuesday, January 11 at 4pm in Room 5.**

Thank you.

Pass Through Giving for Missions

Christ has given us the model of self-sacrificing love through the cross and Christmas is a time of giving. Please consider additional funding for needy missions. Pass through giving for missions are funds which are given outside of the church's mission budget. The needs of our 15 agencies are great and for some critical. Pass through giving for missions is an extra source of income for a specific mission which would be delivered through our church. These pass through funds outside of our mission budget are available for special giving and come from many sources:

- 1) Extra envelope giving such as Food Bank, PCUSA Special Giving (for example monies for Christmas Joy).
- 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. By request, you can be identified by name.
- 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 for emergencies as identified.

Pass through giving is a way to help meet VPC's mission needs. Agape love is self-sacrificing Love.





Casa Vida Nueva para Niño's
"Home for Children"
Submitted by Reed Olson
VPC Mission Committee

Christmas 2021 will be another year in which we will not be able to visit the children at Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos, Nogales Sonora , MX due to COVID issues. The children are all healthy and most have had their COVID shots but we just can risk crossing the border this year. So instead of Christmas Cards, their request will be to donate money to the Children's Home through Valley Presbyterian Church in time for the director's to purchase Christmas gifts for the 50+ children. If you would like to donate your support to this effort, please write your check to: "Valley Presbyterian Church" and in the memo section write "Orphanage, Christmas donation." Or you can donate cash using the Valley Presbyterian donation envelopes and write on the front " Orphanage, Christmas Donation."

Thank you all for your continued support of the children.

If you want to know more about this mission, go to the following web site: www.risesa.org





.MISSION BREAKFAST REPORT **YOUTH ON THEIR OWN WAS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!**

On Saturday Morning, November 13 at 8:30 in Fellowship Hall, we shared a delightful breakfast together and enjoyed our talk about YOTO from our guest speaker, Bethany Neumann, Director of Development and Communications for Youth On Their Own!! She showed us some of the video entitled, "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A YOTO STUDENT" which was created earlier in the Fall.

This video is available for online viewing at the YOTO.org site. When you go to the home page, click on EVENTS on the bar at the top. This video will be one of the event choices. Hope you'll visit the site, meet some of the current students, and learn more about YOTO services.

Our unofficial money count collected at the breakfast for Youth On Their Own was \$2,185. HURRAH!!!

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO.

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING

We will meet at church on Wednesday, December 1 from 1 to 3:30 pm in Classroom 5 to make Inspirational Cards for Youth on Their Own students! This will be our combined November/December meeting.

Lots of fun materials will be available: a variety of stamps and colored stamp pads, stickers galore, slogans, border ribbon, and colorful cards.

Thanks to Carol Wilking for heading up this card making session.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Hope to see you there!



SUGGESTED READINGS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Cont. from page 10

A keepsake Christmas. Alice Gray. (394.21 G79)

This delightful book is filled with thoughtful ways to observe Advent and prepare for Christmas. Six sections highlight different things to do while getting ready for Christ's birthday. Spiritual passages, phrases from Christmas carols and beautiful photographs lead the reader through the Advent Season. There are even recipes for special foods to share with those we love. It is a book to savor and enjoy as one prepares to receive the greatest of Christmas gifts, Jesus' birth.

Unwrapping the names of Jesus: an Advent devotional. Asheritah Ciuciu. (242 CIU) By focusing on the person and character of Jesus throughout the Advent season, readers will prepare their hearts so that when they admire the live nativity, sit in the candlelight service, or wake up on Christmas morning, they can join the faithful who sing from the bottom of their hearts, "O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

A weary world: reflections for a blue Christmas. Kathy Escobar. (242 ESC) Great book for anyone experiencing a less-than-perfect Christmas. The author is honest, non judgmental, and full of solid guidance for people whose holiday doesn't match up to the "perfect holiday" the rest of the world likes to pretend exists.

The whisper of Christmas: reflections for Advent and Christmas. Joe E. Pennel, Jr. (242 P33) Often, words of inspiration come to us as a whisper, and sometimes we do not hear them. This book of reflections for the Advent and Christmas season takes us through the season quietly with gentle reminders of the true meaning of this season. Take the time to be quiet; prepare yourself to face the hustle and bustle with calm in your heart.

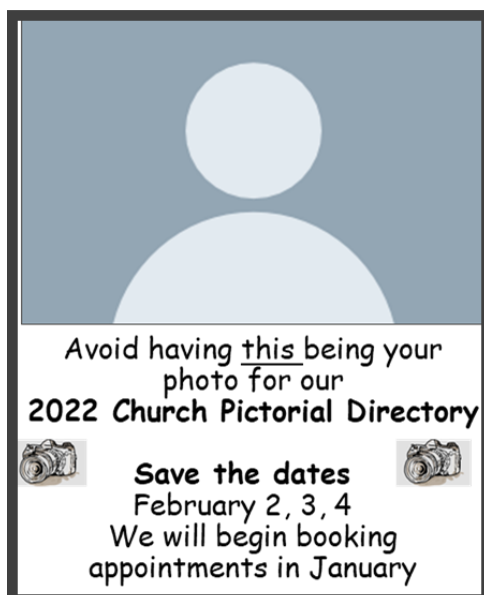
The women of Christmas: experience the season afresh with Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna. Liz Curtis Higgs. (232.92 H53) When we think of the women of Christmas we always think of Mary and Elizabeth, but we should not forget Anna. In *The Women of Christmas*, we get to look into the hearts and lives of these inspiring women. Their stories encourage us to look at our own lives and our relationship with the Messiah. This is a busy season, but I consider this book puts all the holiday preparation in perspective.



Session Notes: Highlights of October Session Meeting

Highlights of the Session meeting included the following:

- Pictures will be taken for the church directory on February 2 – 4, 2022.
- A Planned Giving seminar will be held on February 20, 2022. This will be led by Bill Herf, the financial advisor for the Foundation and Pike Fund and will include general information on estate planning as well as how a planned gift can benefit our church.
- Brass letter plaques have been installed in the Columbarium to denote the various sections. Timers are being added to outdoor lighting in the parking lots, etc.
- A letter was approved and signed by Session members for the pledge campaign. If you have not received this in the mail, please contact the church office.
- The following new members were received: David Gay, Joyce Gay, Eleanor Hargleroad, Kurtis Hargleroad, Bernadette Nicholson, Donald Nicholson, Linda Piotrowski, Charles Ramsay, Maureen Ramsay.
- Use of the PPP grant will be \$10,000 to Missions, \$90,000 as seed money for capital improvement projects.



Advent at VPC

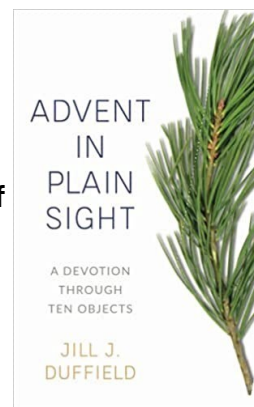
Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, began November 28. It is a preparation time for the coming of the Christ Child. Faith Formation Committee is offering two classes for Advent, and a devotional and a weekly Taize' worship service.

Advent in Plain Sight

Mondays in Advent: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 19 (and beyond)

1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5 or Zoom

Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects by Jill Duffield – weekly on Mondays, Nov. 29 for 6 weeks. Pastor Diane will lead this class and there will be a zoom component. “In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation—objects we encounter in our own lives. Through objects such as gates, trees, cloth, light, and water, readers will find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming.” (Amazon)



Books are \$12.00 and can be purchased from Pastor Diane or in the church office.

Wait Upon the Lord

Thursdays in Advent: Dec 2, 9, 16, 23

10:00 a.m. in Classroom 3



Wait Upon the Lord: Devotions for Advent by Reed Lessing – weekly on Thursdays, Dec. 2 through Dec. 23 at 10:00 am. Linda Norman will lead this class. “Waiting upon the Lord means trusting in him and being patient for his plans for our lives to come to pass. These devotions reveal that the birth of Jesus is worth the wait, and that we are not alone in these waiting days. The Lord is with us, even now.” (Amazon)

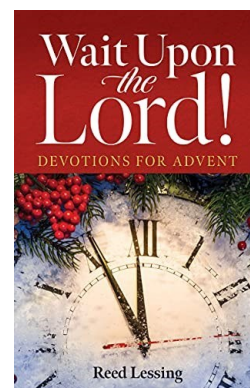
Study guides for this class are \$7.00 and can be purchased from Pastor Diane or in the church office.

A 4-SESSION BIBLE STUDY
FOR ADVENT

Wait Upon the Lord Devotional

This is a gift to all of you from the Faith Formation Committee. With readings for every day in Advent, members received their copy in the mail. For those who are not members, devotionals can be picked up at the Welcome Centers or in the office. If you are not a member and cannot make it to church, call the office and we will send one to you.

May this booklet be an inspiration to you this Christmas season.



Advent Taize'
Thursdays, Dec 2, 9, 16, 23
5 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

Taize' is a beautiful, half-hour meditative service of song and candlelight, scripture and prayer. If you have not been to a Taize worship service, we invite you to come and have your soul filled with peace and joy. For Advent, we focus on the deliverance stories in the Book of Daniel. Perhaps you learned about them in Children's Sunday School: Daniel in the lions den; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednago in the fiery furnace. Deliverance comes as well in the form of an angel and promises of a coming Messiah. Come and worship the One who gives these promises of deliverance for us today.



VPC Foundation Committee

Kenneth Frahm, Foundation Committee's
Coordinator kfrahm@st-tel.net, (785) 462-1432



Giving Seminar Sunday February 20, 2022 11:00 am

The foundation Committee is pleased to announce a Giving Seminar after Church at 11:00 am on Sunday, February 20, 2022.

Please plan to come and learn way to contribute to Valley Presbyterian Church that fit your situation. Tax considerations have changed.

Bill Herf, who manages our Foundation Fund's investment portfolio will be with us to share techniques and knowledge.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

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

Rick	Nau		Dec. 1
Ronald	Bell	*	Dec. 2
Betty	Kiesle-Yoder		Dec. 2
Helen	Triplett	**	Dec. 2
Larry	Grove		Dec. 4
Ruth	Kroon	*	Dec. 4
Ellis Earl	Yarborough		Dec. 5
Robert	Pearson		Dec. 6
Donna	Allen		Dec. 7
John	Agner		Dec. 8
John	Dunham		Dec. 8
William	Case	*	Dec. 9
Carol	Yarborough		Dec. 12
Louise	Netherton		Dec. 13
Larry	Root		Dec. 13
Sadie	St. John		Dec. 13

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

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

Ronald	Erickson		Dec. 14
James	Montgomery		Dec. 14
Gary	Yanamura		Dec. 14
Carol	Claton		Dec. 16
Hank	Pedersen		Dec. 16
De Etta	Haynes		Dec. 20
Judy	Aguayo		Dec. 21
Jeannie	Moore	*	Dec. 22
Carol	Peeler		Dec. 22
Carol	Cikanek	*	Dec. 25
Ron	Darrah		Dec. 27
Peggy	Klap		Dec. 27
Joyce	Johnson		Dec. 28
Wes	Moulton		Dec. 28
Esther	Stevenson	*	Dec. 28
Christina	Baxter		Dec. 29
Mary Lou	Browne		Dec. 29
Carol	Gutenkunst	*	Dec. 29
Thomas	MacFarlane		Dec. 30
Anne	Morrison		Dec. 30

DECEMBER 2021 VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 2021							Jan 2022
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
5 9:00 AM Childrens Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service	6 9:00 AM GVCC Dress Rehearsal 11:30 AM Piano Tuning 1:00 PM Advent in Plain Sight 6:30 PM GVCC Concert	7 9:00 AM Cardio Drumming Womens Ministries Coordinating Team 9:30 AM Prayer Ministry 11:00 AM Network of Caring 1:00 PM Grief Recovery 2:00 PM Joyful Spirit Ensemble GVCC Concert	8 9:00 AM Decon Meeting Mens Bible Study 10:00 AM Chair Exercise 1:00 PM Marian Circle 1:30 PM Building & Grounds 2:00 PM Bell Rehearsal 3:15 PM Choir Practice	9 8:00 Patio Sale Sort 9:00 AM Faith & Health 10:00 AM Wait for the Lord 1:00 PM Personnel Committee 2:00 PM Doris Cissell Memorial 5:00 PM Advent Taize	10 9:00 AM SM CE Meetings 10:00 AM SM Peer Groups 11:00 AM Stephen Leaders 1:00 PM Grief Recovery	11	4 3:00 PM Civic Orchestra of Tucson
12 9:00 AM Childrens Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service	13 10:00 AM Fellowship Committee 11:30 AM Valley Readers 1:00 PM Advent in Plain Sight	14 8:00 AM Missin Committee 9:00 AM Cardio Drumming 9:30 AM Prayer Ministry 1:00 PM Grief Recovery 2:00 PM Joyful Spirits Ensemble	15 9:00 AM Mens Bible Study 10:00 AM Chair Exercise 2:00 PM Bell Rehearsal 3:15 PM Choir Practice	16 8:30 AM Session Meeting 10:00 AM Wait for the Lord 5:00 PM Advent Taize	17 1:00 PM Grief Recovery 4:00 PM Dress rehearsal for Choir Concert	18 3:00 PM Music in the Valley Concert	
19 9:00 AM Childrens Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service	20 1:00 PM Advent in Plain Sight 4:00 PM Ruth Circle	21 9:00 AM Cardio Drumming 9:30 AM Prayer Ministry 11:30 AM Womens Ministries Gathering Lunch 2:00 PM Joyful Spirits Ensemble 4:00 PM Longest Night Service	22 9:00 AM Mens Bible Study 10:00 AM Chair Exercise 2:00 PM Bell Rehearsal 3:15 PM Choir Practice	23 10:00 AM Wait for the Lord 5:00 PM Advent Taize	24 9:00 AM SM CE Meeting 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship-Lessons and Carols 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship-Candlelight Service Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	
26 9:00 AM Childrens Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship Service	27 1:00 PM Advent in Plain Sight	28 9:00 AM Cardio Drumming 9:30 AM Prayer Ministry 2:00 PM Joyful Spirit Ensemble	29 9:00 AM Mens Bible Study 10:00 AM Chair Exercise 2:00 PM Bell Rehearsal 3:15 PM Choir Practice	30	31 New Years Eve	1 New Years Day	

For the most current version please refer to our website www.valleypresbyterian.net