

THE VALLEY VOICE

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2022



Christmas

Submitted by: Pastor Craig Lindsey

While we often groan about Christmas being advertised earlier and earlier, the reality is this is a busy time. We had hoped to replace the Chancel Carpet with a new tile floor, but because the Church is so scheduled, we need to expect that in January 2023. (Have no fear, it will be complete before the Organ).

December 1st we will be presenting St. Andrew's Clinic in Nogales with a check of all your donations to support this program (over \$8,000.00), and there is talk of a Flatscreen Television as well!

Saturday December 3rd, everyone is invited to donate and walk one mile around the Church property to raise awareness of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) which has now affected the lives of Roberta Flack and our own Pat Nau. Please come and show your encouragement. Then join is for a Mexican food lunch from our Valley Galley.

That afternoon December 3rd, 3-5pm will be a Tucson Orchestra concert in our Sanctuary.

Monday, December 5th, at 7pm is the Green Valley Community Chorus concert in our Sanctuary. Tuesday, December 6th at 2:30pm is a second performance of the GVCC concert.

Thursdays, December 8th, & 15th, at 5pm, Taizé Service in the Spiritual Life Center, followed by a meal of soup and bread. At 6:00pm is the Advent Study, *Angels of Christmas*.

Sunday, December 11th, we have 15 New Members joining our Church, which totals 44 this year!

Wednesday, December 14th, is the transitional Deacons' meeting, with new and retiring Deacons.

Saturday, December 17th Music in the Valley Concert will feature our Chancel Choir (free) Christmas Concert!

Thursday, December 22nd at 5pm is our Longest Night Remembrance with lighting candles for our losses. At 6pm, December 22nd is study of the Angels of Advent.

Saturday, December 24th at 7pm will be our Christmas Eve Worship with Candlelight, the Chancel Choir and Communion, please bring your neighbors and family.

Sunday, December 25th at 9:30am we celebrate this year on Christmas morn, because it is also Sunday!

Wednesday, December 28th at 7pm will be a True Concord Concert in our Sanctuary.

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Worship

Bible Study
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2800 S Camino del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
Telephone: (520) 625-5023
vpc-office@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



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

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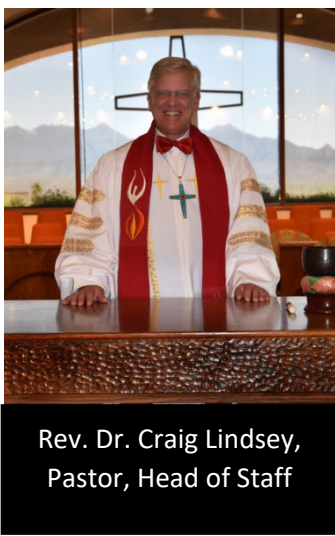
OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Pastor Craig Lindsey-Pastor/Head of Staff.....pastorcraig@valleypres.net
Pastor Diane Christopher-Pastor of Discipleship..... dianechristopher@valleypres.net
Jamie Reed-Director of Music.....jamie@valleypres.net
Wes Moulton-Organist/Accompanist.....wmoulton@valleypres.net
Chris Erickson-Parish Nurse.....parishnurse@valleypres.net
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Linda Hester-Administrative Specialist.....lhester@valleypres.net
Steve Hart.....Custodian.....steve@valleypres.net
Randy VanHyfte.....Custodian.....randy@valleypres.net

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	Isaiah 11: 1-10, Communion Sunday, Food Bank Sunday	Pastor Craig
Dec. 11	Luke 1: 46-55 “Advent Magnification” New Member Sunday, Nogales Crossroads Sunday	Pastor Diane
Dec. 18	Isaiah 7: 1-7 and Matthew 1: 18-25 YOTO Sunday	Pastor Craig
Dec. 24	7:00pm Chancel Choir, Candlelight Silent Night, Communion	Pastor Craig
Dec. 25	Luke 2: 16-20 “Ponderings”	Pastor Diane

**If you did not know, the Lindsey’s son is getting married December 30th,
so, he and Judy will be away December 28-January 1st.**



From Pastor Craig

What a wonderful time of year to be together in Green Valley!

December has always meant COOKIES! Caroling, gathering with friends, poinsettias, concerts, family coming from near and far. We as a church have wonderful opportunities to gather and celebrate the anticipation of the coming of our Savior.

For those who may not have been in worship in early November, we announced several wonderful gifts are coming to our Church. The Acousticians have determined a problem in our Sanctuary is the Carpet on the Chancel (the Stage for the Communion Table, Pulpit and Choir) absorbs sound! So, we are pulling it up, to be replaced with porcelain tile to reflect the sound. Before Easter, we will have installed a new Organ! Imagine the technological changes that have happened to your telephone or television in the last twenty years, now think about an Organ! However, for both of these, we will wait until after Christmas.

As long as you are thinking ahead... We will have a Kirk'n the Tartans on Sunday January 29th. The heritage of the Presbyterian Church is that we originated as The Church of Scotland. There was a time, when it was illegal to wear a Scottish Tartan, a Kilt, or to play the Bagpipes. So once a year, families brought their family colors to the Kirk (the Church) to bless their family heritage. Whether you are Scot or not, this will be a grand day, and our Annual Meeting too!

Pastor Craig



Organ Fund

\$107,000.00 of our \$150,000.00 Goal

From Pastor Diane

I love the preparation seasons for the big festivals in Christianity. Advent, the 4 weeks before Christmas, prepares us for Christmas. Lent, the 40 days before Easter, prepares us for Easter. These seasons prepare our hearts and souls and minds for the big event.

The word Advent means “arrival,” and contains the theme of waiting. The Jews were waiting for their Messiah. They had many promises from the Old Testament prophets of the one who will come to save. Advent, in a sense, simulates this waiting time. We commemorate Christ’s first coming and we anticipate His second coming. As Israel longed for their Messiah to come, we Christians long for our Savior to come again. Advent prepares our hearts for Christmas and for the eventual return of Christ.

This year, Advent begins November 27, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. I am so excited for what we, as a church, are offering in this preparation time for Christmas. The season of Advent has its own color – purple (some use royal blue). You will notice the purple draped in front of the pulpit. Look at the choir and notice the purple around their necks. Pastor Craig and I will wear purple stoles (that piece of material that hangs around our neck and down the front of our robe).

One of the most common of Advent traditions involves the use of evergreen wreaths, branches, and trees. Notice our Christmas trees outside the sanctuary. On the chancel up front will be an Advent wreath – an evergreen circle with four colored candles surrounding a white one in the middle. The candles are lit one at a time on successive Sundays as we anticipate and wait for Christmas.



Pastor Diane Christopher-Pastor of Discipleship

The children will receive Advent calendars. The calendar contains covered windows that are opened one a day until Christmas Day. Sometimes it is hard opening just one! It is the practice of waiting.

We will offer an Advent class on the four angels of the Christmas story. We have written our own Advent devotional, readings for each day in Advent. On Thursday evenings will be special worship services followed by a bread and soup meal followed by our Advent Class. Details of all of this is on page 4.

I hope and pray you will take part in our Advent season. I find that when I do, as I take those four weeks to prepare my heart, Christmas takes on a deeper meaning.

I can’t wait.



Advent in December

Mondays (through December 19)

10 a.m. *The Angels of Christmas* Class in Room 5

We take a look at the four angelic visits in the birth narrative of Jesus. Books are \$13 and can be purchased in class or in the church office.

Thursdays (through December 22)

5:00 p.m. *Special Worship in Spiritual Life Center

5:30 p.m. Soup and Bread Meal in Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. *The Angels of Christmas* Class in Room 5

***The Thursday Special Worship Services Defined (5 p.m.)**

Taizé worship will be offered December 1 and 8. Taizé is a meditative service with the Taizé choir and in candlelight.

Hope and Healing worship will be offered December 15. You will have the opportunity to be anointed with oil.

The Longest Night service will be offered December 22. This is an opportunity to name your losses and give them to God. (If you are not able to attend and would like your losses named, send them to Pastor Diane pastordiane@valleypres.net)

Advent Devotional

The Advent Devotional contains daily readings written by people of this congregation. Pick yours up at the Welcome Desks by the main entrances. And pick up several to share with friends and family.



The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings through our denomination. The Christmas Joy offering supports past, present and future leaders by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and is used to develop future leaders in our denomination.

Offerings will be received through December 18. If you would like to give to this offering, purple envelopes are on the Welcome Centers by the main entrances. Write checks out to VPC with Christmas Joy on the memo line. Place the envelopes in the offering plate on Sundays or bring/mail to the church office.



The Grace of Les Misérables in Classroom 5

Les Misérables is a masterpiece that is steeped in Christian imagery and ethics and delves into the nature of grace, the fault of unwavering justice, the tragedy of poverty, and, intimately, hope. It is the story of the redeemed criminal Jean Valjean and his quest to discover peace, a story not unlike our own. The story invites us to see what happens when grace and justice collide.

Presented by your teacher, Eloise Fredrickson

Bible Reflections

Continues Mondays, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

In Classroom 5 & Zoom Available

Your Teacher: Pastor Craig Lindsey



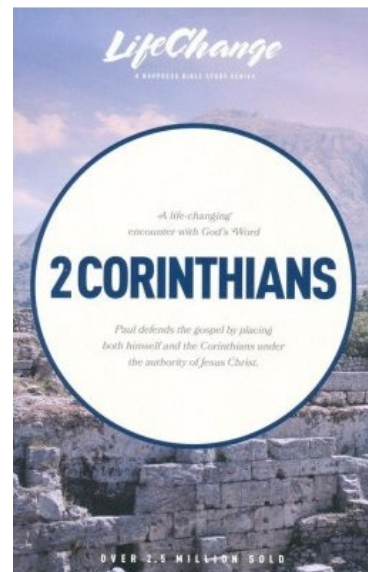
This is a different kind of Bible study, that spends as much time as we need with each Chapter and Book (probably one to three chapters per week). We will try to give background that is helpful and offer ideas about interpretations (even pronunciation of names), but what is most important is what you hear in the text.

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

Men's Weekday Bible Study Wednesday at 9:00 A.M.

Submitted by Larry Philips

With about six to thirteen men attending each week, the group meets every Wednesday morning at 9:00am. They meet at the church for one hour in Classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (520-777-8027) but focuses on group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying Paul's Second letter to the Corinthians. Join the group any time to participate in the discussion or just to listen. In either case, your presence will be welcomed. Lessons are self-contained so feel free to join the group when able. The Navigators Life Change study guide is available from Amazon or Christianbook.com.



Welcome New Members



Don Bradford



Mary Bradford



Lorna Corso



Mike Corso



Kathryn Duncan



Joseph Harnish

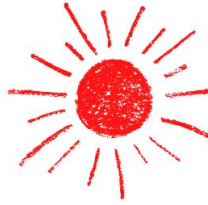


Janet Harnish

Welcome New Members



John Jackson



Abby Jackson



Carol Faust



Kathy Knoop



Janice McCoy



Paula Menefee



Dudley Williams



Laura Penton-Williams

The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah: His Final Week

Tuesdays, Starting January 10, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in Classroom 5

Teacher Bud Laundry



Part One: The Temple: Its Ministry and Services as They Were at the Time of Jesus Christ

- The Royal Entry Into Jerusalem (Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 11 AM Room 5)
- Understanding the Temple Sacrifices and Offerings (Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 11 AM Room 5)
- Understanding the Feasts of the Jews (Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @ 11AM, Room 5)

The Second Temple was destroyed in 70 AD. What can we know of it now, almost two thousand years later? Sound scholarship and archeological evidence, however, along with Jewish writings and oral tradition, informs our knowledge of what it looked like, and how it functioned, in the time of Jesus.

In the mind of the Jews of Jesus' time the Temple and Jerusalem were essentially one and the same. This was the most holy place on earth. It was where Abraham met Melchizedek and was blessed by him. This was where Abraham would have offered Isaac. This was where the heart of every exiled Jew turned toward home. It was where heaven and earth met.

The New Testament makes frequent reference to the Temple. We see the father of John the Baptist ministering the burnt incense; the Virgin Mother at her purification; the child Jesus among the Rabbis; the showing of the healed leper to the priest; His cleansing of the hucksters. The roof of this Temple was where Satan brought Jesus to be tempted, and this is where Jesus made His triumphal entry only days before His death.

What was this place like? What happened there and what were the Sacrifices and Feasts pointing to? In Part One of *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* we will attempt to understand the Temple, referring to the *Misnah*, biblical texts, rabbinical teaching, and archeology to see how the sacrifices, feasts and rituals foreshadowed the Messiah Himself and His Saving Work.

MUSIC IN THE VALLEY

Our Own Chancel Choirs' Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 17, 3:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Jamie Reed



Free Concert!

Bring a neighbor or 10, friends, family, spread the word!

From Classic to Contemporary, Carols of Broadway, join us on a journey of hope, peace, love, and joy.

Session Highlights from October meeting

Summary of Session Actions

- MSP to allow request for a person who has been a member for less than a year to be elected as a Deacon as a one-time exception.
- MSP to accept the recommendation of the Organ Commission to purchase a Rodgers Infinity Series Organ model 367 at a cost of \$150,366.90, with the addition of a date of delivery and installation of March 1st.
- MSP to transfer the undesignated funds from the Gifts and Memorials fund to the Capital Reserve to be used for the organ purchase.
- MSP to take funds left in Foundation Capital Reserve fund from 2021 of \$1,205.22 to reduce what is owed on relocation of the sound board to sanctuary.
- MSP to approve funds from Peace and Justice Committee for Judy Aguayo to visit the Café Gusto Coffee Co-op in Mexico.

Discussion: A bid from Green Valley Cooling and Heating was accepted by the Building and Grounds Committee to replace the air conditioning units damaged by the hailstorm. Insurance will cover the cost.

Session did not meet in November. The next meeting will be on December 8th.

PATIO SALE NEWS

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

We have just completed a very successful **Holiday Plus Sale** and we want to say thank you to all of our volunteers, trucking crew, kitchen team, staff and shoppers. This sale included holiday items of all kinds, a wide selection of books, specialty items, TV sets, a bake sale, kitchen goodies, and handcrafted items created by local artisans. The income for the sale was \$10,513.77 (and counting).

In March of this year, we also had our Annual Patio Sale, we sold a car that had been donated and with other various donations our total 2022 Patio Sale income to date is \$116,573.02. We still have our expenses to pay and unfortunately, like everything else, the “cost of doing business” continues to increase. It is always our goal that the net income from these two sales will be used to provide financial support for Valley Presbyterian Church’s designated mission and outreach programs.

Yes, the 2022 Patio Sale and Holiday Sale year is at an end. However, we are already making plans for 2023. So, mark your Calendars now!

Annual Patio Sale March 9, 10 & 11, 2023
Holiday Plus Sale November 9, 10 & 11, 2023

We thank all of you for your continuing support of this exciting, meaningful, and sometimes exhausting program.

Your Patio Sale Coordinating Team

Carmen Nylund	Les Walter
Pat Nau	Linda Walter
Chris Schorr	Nelda Lobb



Caring for those in our congregation
Faith & Health/Parish Nurse December 2022

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 a once a week; a 30-minute exercise program for health, stress, and balance. Please email parishnurse@valleypres.net for more information and/or for registration. There are few more openings available.

Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy.

Drink plenty of water when you are exercising or are outside doing activities.



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.

New Office Hours: Parish Nurse's office hours are Tuesday & Thursday mornings by appointment.

Medical Minute: December is National Flu Vaccine month. Flu is on the rise across the nation, have you received your Flu Vaccine yet?

Many Emotions

Many of us face the upcoming Holidays with many emotions. We sometimes dwell on things that may arise during the holiday and Christmas season, and even before the season begins. There is stress with all the plans of the holidays, financial concerns, family concerns, and illnesses along with colds, flu, pneumonia, COVID, etc.

There is also a time of remembrance of loved ones, and the grief of those who have passed away recently. Many will feel many emotions, many of them mixed emotions of current and past.

God is always there for us. God gives us the strength and carries us through all sorts of difficult moments and emotions. We need to remember this in the times of loss, uncertainties, illnesses, stress, during tragedy, and during the Holidays. Sometimes, celebrating and remembering with prayer allows for some healing.

The Longest Night will be held on December 22nd here at Valley Presbyterian Church. A beautiful, service of Remembrance, Healing, Hope and Prayer. Please join us on this evening to celebrate those family members, friends, neighbors, and pets, and join in fellowship with a light soup dinner. If you are unable to attend this service, please email 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 to Pastor Diane.

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

Blessings, Chris





Stephen Ministry



Submitted by: *Helen Phillips*

We invite the congregation to share in our Christmas program on Friday, December 9 at 10 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. We will be sharing scripture, carols, and readings from David Jeremiah's book, *Why the Nativity?* Following the program there will be Christmas treats for all!

Email-Based Scams are on the Rise

With billions of emails sent globally each day. It's no wonder that email compromise has become one of the largest and most financially damaging online crimes. In an email-based scam, fraudsters send an email that appears to come from a known or reputable source with a legitimate request, such as updating a mailing address or payment instructions.

Here are 5 steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Set up two-factor (or multi-factor) authentication on any account that allows it.
- Be careful with information you share online, and the details others share about you.
- Think before clicking on downloading
- Verify email addresses.
- Compare the from address to the reply to address.



FRIENDSHIP KETTLE DINNERS

Dinners will resume in January, February, and March of 2023. In January we'll get to see how much fun the line dancers had this summer learning their steps under the guidance of Steve Hart.

We need your input for February and March programs. (Dave Tompkins at davegaylet@yahoo.com) Sweet Peas Catering will again provide their excellent meals. For January: Chicken in sun dried tomato cream sauce, wild rice blend, sautéed green beans and apple cobbler.



SUPPER CLUSTERS!

By Carmen Nylund, Organizer

The time to sign-up for Supper Clusters is coming to an end. The last official day to sign-up is **Sunday, December 4**, so stop by the “Supper Cluster” table in Fellowship Hall after Worship. If you missed the deadline, contact coordinator Carmen Nylund at clnylund1968@outlook.com no later than December 15 to see if there is a spot for you.



Operation Christmas Child 2022

Submitted by: Ann Ball

Operation Christmas Child Boxes has drawn to a close for 2022. The packed boxes have all been returned, delivered to the Processing Center at Calvary West Church in Tucson on November 15, and will be going from there to major distribution centers for shipment to over 100 countries around the world....by big and small boats, air, barges, canoes etc.

At this time, we who led the Project from the Missions Committee wish to thank you so very very much!! Without your contributions it would not have been the success it was. We so happily report that the final count of Valley Pres boxes was 122. In addition, ALL boxes were accompanied by the shipping costs. The donations to the project rounded out the total cost of shipping and were very valuable to the project as well.

In addition, due to your generosity, we have extra donations given to Samaritan Purse that we were able to add \$6 per box for the 10-lesson Journey Bible Study Series to accompany the boxes!! This completes the goal to have each child know of Christ, and the message of His Love.

This enables the children to get their own Bible in their language, and the lessons are taught and written in their language by trained leaders. This will enable the full impact of the reason we give the gifts. We will hear sometime between December 15 to mid-January where our boxes from this church went and we will notify you of that.

Words cannot express nearly enough the joy and gratitude we felt as you returned your boxes and told us how much fun you had picking gender, age related gifts/needed items, and visualizing and praying for a special child. Continue to pray for the children, that the shipping be completed to over 100 countries without incident, and for all the volunteers all over the world that make this happen in so many different ways. Our God has enabled all of this to happen.

May your own Christmas season be blessed from all of us serving on the Operation and THANK YOU ALL.



Pictured are volunteer staff (left to right) Debra, and MJ and Bob Gaines at the processing center at Calvary West Church, Tucson.

Boxes here were scanned, inspected, sealed, and packed altogether into much larger boxes. Our boxes went to California via truck on November 16th and are being crated to be shipped to S Pacific area (not yet final destination). Stay tuned for final destination. Praise and Thank God for these staff who have worked tirelessly to insure a seamless transit.



Submitted by Kay Brouwer

November 3, 2022, day was thrilling for the children, families, and staff of St. Andrews' Children's Clinic. It was the first opportunity for over 40 children and families to experience examinations and treatment at their new location – the former K-Mart store, at 2021 N. Grand Ave. in Nogales, Arizona. Laura Romero, staff, and volunteers have spent many hours during October, working to make this building into a useful Clinic. The lobby and exam rooms have been freshly painted. There was a new, clean, and friendly atmosphere throughout the area. This is partly because of the joy everyone feels about having their first **very own** building.

A TV for use by waiting children has been donated by our VPC's Holiday Patio Sale. Les Walter along with other volunteers will get it installed next month. To add a festive touch this season, Les presented a Christmas tree and lights donated by the same sale.

The Clinic on November 3 was just a small start for what is to come. There are 3 rooms now available for departments of Orthopedics, Speech, and Cleft Lip/Cleft palate where Shriner volunteers were working. Rooms will be added for Dermatology, Cardiology, Vision, Occupational & Physical Therapy, Pediatrics, Audiology, Nutrition and Equipment/Prostheses. A large empty warehouse space in the back will be re-modeled, with the help of an architect, to accommodate more exam and treatment rooms, offices, kitchen, and storage.

December 1 will be the next Clinic which will also be the St. Andrews' Clinic Christmas Party. They have much to celebrate this year and anticipate an attendance of 80 children and their families along with St. Andrews' Staff and volunteers.

Laura Romero and St. Andrews' Children's Clinic express sincere thanks to the Valley Presbyterian Church congregation for prayers and support, helping to successfully overcome the challenges of the past 2 years.



**Sign up for the December 10th
Christmas Trip to the “Home for Children”**



It's still not too late to sign up for the trip to visit the orphanage in Nogales, Sonora, MX. Departing Valley Presbyterian Church parking lot by 9:00 am and returning by 4:00 pm.

Cost is \$10 per person to help cover the cost of the driver's transportation (gas), MX auto insurance, and tolls.

You will get a tour of the facility, overview presentation, lots of love from the children and a very moving Christmas experience witnessing the children opening their gifts.

Contact Reed Olson if interested: reedolson5623@gmail.com



CROSSROADS NOGALES MISSION!

Submitted by: Les Walter

Crossroads Mission continues celebrating the holiday season with their traditional Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 17. Christmas dinner donations requested:

- Hams
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Dinner rolls
- Instant potatoes

Donations of money for hams can be made at the Crossroads Mission table following Sunday worship.

There is a need for children's jackets, shoes, and toys for underprivileged children ages 2 to 12. Toys and items donated will be distributed to the children after the Christmas dinner. Donation boxes will be in Charter Hall.

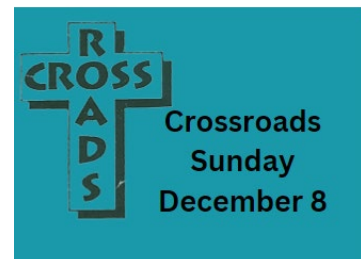
Crossroads Mission expects to giveaway 3500 bags of food and serve 10,045 meals during the holiday season.

For more information contact Les Walter (520) 870-3284 or visit "Crossroads" table on Sunday.

If you would like to know more about Crossroads Mission or to donate, you can visit their website at: <https://crossroadsmissionnogales.org/>.



Sara, Cook at Crossroads Mission testing the temperature of the Thanksgiving turkeys, just out of the oven.





Dave & Pam Lovett

Operation Mobilization

Submitted by: Doug Clark

Dave and I have recovered well from Covid that we had caught while we were on our September vacation hiking in Utah. Dave had a lingering cough for quite a while, and I had some stomach issues for a bit but today we are doing quite well by the grace of God.

Dave will go to Bangladesh and India next week with a group of people for two weeks and visit the projects and our staff to encourage them. I'm not going this time because I need a rest, I've already had five international trips this year plus travel in the states.

We do need prayer for Dave's mother because now she is in a home for people that have dementia. Dave just got back last night from visiting her because she had been in the hospital again for the second time for a UTI. Fortunately, she's able to do some conversing with people. We are praying for her. Her name is Anne if you would like to include her in your prayers God bless you richly.

Blessings, Pam, and Dave

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.

Submitted by: Doug Clark

Equipping for healing in Rwanda

This month I (Kristi) was in Rwanda for two big events related to the Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations (HHTN) workshop that we have been doing in South Sudan. First, I served on the facilitation team of the International School of Reconciliation (ISOR), training new facilitators for this workshop who came from nine different countries. It was an intense time of learning and sharing together as we faced the wounds within us and within our countries. Nearly 10 delegates came from Ethiopia, where war is devastating the country and the social fabric. Four South Sudanese pastors came from northern Uganda, where they live in refugee camps after fleeing their homes in South Sudan during the crisis of 2016.



All participants, facilitators, and staff at the graduation.

At the end of the training, the new facilitators conduct HHTN workshops in groups in the community. I helped to coach one group as they prepared to teach, including learning dramas and figuring out how to make the teaching interactive and personal. Teaching in a workshop in a way that touches the heart and not just the head is not easy! Add to that the language challenge – most of our new facilitators were not Rwandan, so they spoke in English which was translated into Kinyarwanda.

But they also do not speak English as their first language, so they are having to teach in a language that is not their most comfortable language. For some, this meant laboriously writing out what they wanted to say to make sure they would be clear. I was humbled and blessed by the hard work and caring hearts that each person in my group demonstrated. A few of them even incorporated testimonies of their own pain into their teaching which I know is difficult, but it served to open the hearts of participants and give them hope for healing in they heard how God can bring healing.

Continued from page 21

The second big event was a forum for practitioners who are using this workshop in healing and reconciliation ministries in this region of East Africa. It was a rich and meaningful time together, and I got to meet some faithful heroes that I have heard about for years. One group serves in Eastern Congo, visiting remote villages and promoting healing in places that have been repeatedly terrorized by militia. Four of us from South Sudan attended the forum, and it was inspiring to learn from others and see that ours is not the only country with challenges of instability and conflict!

One of the central parts of the HHTN workshop is the session on the cross, where we take our pain to Jesus as the pain-bearer (Isaiah 53:4). During the forum, there was a chance for all of us who regularly conduct the cross workshop for others to participate in it ourselves, sharing our pain and giving it over to Jesus. As we stood together around the cross, several people shared of deep pain that weighed them down and we prayed together for freedom and healing. I was grateful for this safe space where all of us who are pour out for lives for others could share our own pain and find love and support.

I give thanks for this gift of connection, inspiration, and equipping with others in this ministry. Please pray with us that God continues to use us as agents of healing and reconciliation in South Sudan and brings the transformation and wholeness that only God can bring.



Participants at the Forum

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.



Submitted by Deborah Myers

I met with Regina Ford at Posada Life Community Services in October, and she explained the many programs they provide. As a new member of the Missions Committee, there were many things I learned about their services. While Posada Life Community Services and La Posada Retirement Community are on the same campus, they are two separate organizations. Valley Presbyterian supports Posada Life Community Services through the Missions program. This is an intergenerational organization who supports the greater Green Valley area with a variety of services including: Daily Meals in their community center, a Child Care Center, Adult Day Services, and Behavioral Health Services. Tours are provided on the first and third Thursdays of every month by calling 520- 393-6800 for a reservation. I would encourage everyone to go on a tour to see all the good things they are doing. Regina wrote the article below about Memory loss for our newsletter.

Memory loss that impacts daily living is nothing to ignore

Can't find your car keys? Forgot your grocery list? Can't remember the name of the personal trainer you liked at the gym? You're not alone. Everyone forgets things occasionally. Still, memory loss is nothing to take lightly. Memory often changes as people grow older. Some people notice changes in themselves before anyone else does. For other people, friends and family are the first to see changes in memory, behavior, or abilities in their friends or loved ones. Memory loss that disrupts daily life is not a typical part of aging. People with one or more of these warning signs should see a doctor to find the cause. Early diagnosis gives people a chance to seek treatment and plan for the future.

- Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work, or at leisure: having problems with cooking, driving places, using a cell phone, or shopping.
- Confusion with time or place: having trouble understanding an event happening later or losing track of dates.
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relations: having more difficulty with balance or judging distance, tripping over things at home, or spilling or dropping things more often.
- New problems with words in speaking or writing: having trouble following or joining a conversation or struggling to find a word you are looking for (saying "that thing on your wrist that tells time" Instead of "watch").
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps: placing car keys in the washer or dryer or not being able to retrace steps to find something.

- Decreased or poor judgment: being a victim of a scam, not managing money well, paying less attention to hygiene, or having trouble taking care of a pet.
- Withdrawal from work or social activities: not wanting to go to church or other activities as you usually do, not being able to follow football games or keep up with what's happening.
- Changes in mood and personality: getting easily upset in common situations or being fearful or suspicious.
- Memory loss that disrupts daily life: forgetting events, repeating yourself or frequently relying on more aids to help you remember (like sticky notes or reminders).
- Trouble paying bills or cooking recipes you have used for years challenges in planning or solving problems.

Many conditions are progressive, which means that the signs of dementia start out slowly and gradually get worse. If you or someone you know is experiencing memory difficulties or other changes in thinking skills, don't ignore them. See a doctor soon to determine the cause. Professional evaluation may detect a treatable condition. Even if symptoms suggest dementia, early diagnosis allows a person to get the maximum benefit from available treatments and provides an opportunity to volunteer for clinical trials or studies. It also provides time to plan for the future.

La Posada Community Services, and Pima Council on Aging / Dementia Capable Southern Arizona invites everyone to come and socialize with others in a safe, supportive and fun environment at the Memory Café in the La Posada Community Center. The grand opening of the Memory Café in Green Valley is Saturday, November 19, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the La Posada Community Center, 780 S. Park Centre Avenue on the La Posada campus. There will be live music, games and trivia. The Memory Café is a warm, welcoming place for those individuals experiencing memory loss, their friends, family, and caregivers. RSVPs are encouraged. Please contact Ellen March at 520-393-6840 or emarch@casagv.org



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



Submitted by Kylene Joplin & Carol Stephens

The holidays are upon us once again and we find ourselves thinking about how we will celebrate them... with family, friends, acquaintances (new and old) our churches are various organizations we are involved in, and the list goes on and on.

But, are we thinking of those much less fortunate than ourselves and how (and if) they will be able to enjoy what we do.

It is heartbreaking to think of those in need, but we can help in many ways.

Food Bank Sunday is December 4th, and it would be wonderful to load up our cars with foods, toiletries, and paper products for delivery to the Food Bank. Monetary donations throughout the month are appreciated also.

Our latest deliveries to the Food Bank were 60 pounds of groceries and \$1,062.00.

Thank you all for your most generous support during this past year.



Artwork by Arianna, Age 7

"It's about when you are on a date, there is love, and basically about that"

The Food Ministry of Compañeros en Misión

Submitted by: Doug Clark

“Listening and Praying”

By Jeannette Pazos Gonzalez

This week was quite busy, as there are more and more migrants arriving every day. We heard several comments among them, that they hope that Title 42 will be lifted soon, and with this their hope grows. It is always a challenge to listen to their stories, sense their frustration, and above all to see their children play in the park most of the day because there is no other place to go. There is desperation, because the number of days they are allowed to be in the shelter are running out. And when the days run out, they don't know where to go.

Every time we distribute food, we stay almost three hours to listen to them and pray with them-in fact the vast majority-are looking for a place to rent and work, since they must feed their children. In all my time living here, I had never seen so many migrants that it exceeded the capacity of the shelters to give asylum. Sleeping in parks in the spring is not that much of a challenge but sleeping with your children in the park and with no security is very, very difficult.

Sister and brothers in the US, thank you for continuing to pray for this project. We really need it! It is not just physical tiredness, it is emotional, with so much listening and not being able to do more. The good and wonderful thing is those times of joy where they can smile for a while and sing and praise and see the invisible God smile through others. It reminds us that we are not alone.



Children are happy to receive sandwiches and juice boxes.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by: Sue Horton, Women's Ministry Moderator

THE STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

December 13, 11:30 a.m. In Fellowship Hall



Using written history, spoken words, and Christmas carols, Eloise Fredrickson and Wes Moulton will present a program that will not only illuminate but will also get everyone in the Christmas spirit. There will be something for everyone!

The potluck meal will be red, white, green food. Bring your favorite dish that is composed of any, or all, of those colors. Please sign up at the Women's Ministries table on Sundays, December 4 and 11.

The PresbyGift for the month will be articles needed to support the program, *StandUp for Kids, Tucson*, which serves unaccompanied homeless and at-risk youth – and young parents with children of their own up to their 25th birthday. The ongoing mission is to end the cycle of youth homelessness. Wes Moulton is the Director of Funding Development for that organization.

Needed items include: boxers (lg & xl). Usually, kids wear clothes that are much too big... girls try to cover and look more masculine, and boys try to look bigger than they are. Other items for Christmas would be small manicure sets, small card games, art supplies, journals, wallets, belts, lip gloss, flashlights, bike lights, small blow-up travel pillows. Additional lists are available at the Women's Ministries table.



December Birthdays

*** Turning 90 * over 90*

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Carol	Bott	December 01
Richard	Nau	December 01
Ronald	Bell	December 02 *
Betty	Kiesle-Yoder	December 02
Helen	Triplett	December 02 *
Larry	Grove	December 04
Ruth	Kroon	December 04 *
Ellis Earl	Yarborough	December 05
Robert	Pearson	December 06
Donna	Allen	December 07 **
John	Agner	December 08
John	Dunham	December 08
Stephen	Ginader	December 08
William	Case	December 09 *
Carol	Yarborough	December 12
Larry	Root	December 13
Sadie	St John	December 13
Ronald	Erickson	December 14
James	Montgomery	December 14
Gary	Yanamura	December 14



December Birthdays

*** Turning 90 * over 90*

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Carol	Claton	December 16
Hank	Pedersen	December 16
De Etta	Haynes	December 20 **
Judy	Aguayo	December 21
Jeannie	Moore	December 22 *
Carol	Peeler	December 22
Philip	Pitts	December 23
Carol	Cikanek	December 25
Ron	Darrah	December 27
Peggy	Klap	December 27
Joyce	Johnson	December 28
Janice	McCoy	December 28
Wes	Moulton	December 28
Esther	Stevenson	December 28 *
Christina	Baxter	December 29
Mary Lou	Browne	December 29
Carol	Gutenkunst	December 29 *
Thomas	Macfarlane	December 30
Anne	Morrison	December 30

Intentionally
left Blank

Valley Presbyterian Church December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:00pm Taizé Worship and Meal 6:00pm Advent Class-Angels of Christmas	2 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am PEO Chapter DA 10:00am Grave Side Service-Barbara Eidson at South Lawn Cemetery, Tucson, AZ 1:00pm Journey Through Grief 1:15pm GVCC Rehearsal	3 9:00am ALS Walk 10:00am Civic Orchestra of Tucson (3:00pm Concert)
4 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School Communion Sunday Food Bank Sunday 2:00pm Joyful Spirit-Bells Holiday Free Concert	5 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 9:00am GVCC dress Rehearsal & Concert 9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am advent Class-Angels of Christmas 1:00pm Bible Reflections 7:00pm GVCC Concert	6 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am How Martin Luther Changed History 10:00am Membership and Outreach Meeting 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal 2:30pm GVCC Concert	7 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am Elders and Deacons Training 10:00am Chair Exercise 10:00am Personnel Committee Meeting 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30am Session Meeting 9:00am Faith & Health Committee 5:00pm Taizé Service and Meal 6:00pm Advent Class- Angels of Christmas	9 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am Stephen Ministry	10 4:00pm PEO Christmas Gathering
11 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School Nogales Crossroads Sunday	12 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 10:00am Advent Class-Angels of Christmas 12:00pm Valley Readers 1:00pm Bible Reflections 1:00pm WM Prep for WM Lunch 4:00pm Ruth Circle	13 8:45am Mission Committee 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am Beginning Yoga 11:00am WM Gathering Lunch 11:30am Women's Gathering Lunch 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	14 9:00am Deacons Meeting 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 1:00pm Miriam Circle 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Rehearsal	15 12:00pm Genealogical Society 5:00pm Hope and Healing Worship and Meal 6:00pm Advent Class-Angels of Christmas	16 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 12:00pm VPC Choir Dress Rehearsal 3:00pm Line Dance Refresher Class	17 Music in the Valley Free Christmas Concert
18 9:30am Worship Service 9:30am Ordination & Installation of Deacons and Elders 9:45am Children's Sunday School YOTO Sunday 11:00am Barbara Eidson Memorial Service	19 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am Advent Class-Angels of Christmas 1:00pm Bible Reflections	20 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	21 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Rehearsal	22 5:00pm Longest Night Service with Meal 6:00pm Advent Class-Angels of Christmas	23 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 Merry Christmas 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	26 Office Closed	27 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	28 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	31 7:00am Communion Prep