

Our Valley Voice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / JANUARY 2022

FINISHING WORK BEGUN PREVIOUSLY

In 2020, we began replacing the Sound System in the Sanctuary, then replacing Spot Lights which were obsolete with new LED fixtures. Last Summer we replaced all of the Chandelier fixtures with LED Bulbs. For each of these we needed to rent a powered lift to reach the ceiling, which cost \$500-700 per use, and was more power than we were comfortable using. Someone suggested purchasing a simple scaffolding and lo and behold we already owned one that had not been used! !

December 10-11th we began by putting the scaffolding together, which took several hours. Simultaneously, Skip Berry began balancing the colored Par Can lights to a white, and investigating how to store the setting so we do not have to reset every time we turn on the lights!



Les Walter and Rick Nau then investigated why the Choir Speaker did not function, and added a second speaker. Skip Berry investigated through You-Tube and found how to program this set of speakers to work with our other speakers. Pastor Craig re-aimed the microphones for where our Choir actually sit.



Les then continued replacing all of the aged plastic lights above the choir with new 3000 watt LED spot lights. In addition to assisting with all of the above Custodian Steve Hart worked with three college students to provide all of the heavy lifting.

Sunday morning worshippers described that the Choir was no longer in the shadows: Choir members described hearing the sermon for the first time. There will continue to be adjustments as we balance everything. But finally, all of the electrical components have been replaced and are working; everyone can hear!

Pastor Craig

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

electronic copies are available on our web-site: 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.)

In This Issue

Table of Contents

Our Valley Presbyterian Staff	1
A Word from Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor/Head of Staff.....	2
A Word from Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship.....	3 & 4
Being Mortal.....	18
Birthdays for Jan. 2022.....	27-28
Calendar January.....	29
Casa Vida Nueva Para Ninos	19
Crossroads Mission.....	22
Church Photo Directory.....	5
Community Food Bank	23
FaithWorks.....	17
Financials.....	7
Finishing Work.....	Front Cover
Fifth Sunday Gospel Sing.....	8
Four Ways to Lead Your Church Through Inflation.....	25
Friendship Kettle Dinners.....	8
Giving Seminar Sunday.....	26
January Open House.....	14
Men's Bible Study.....	24
Mission Weekend.....	16
Music in the Valley Concerts.....	4
Name Badges.....	19
Noisy Offering Sunday.....	24
Parish Nurse	9 -10
Patio Sale News	6
Presbyterian Mission Pam and Dave L.....	13-14
Presbyterian Mission South Sudan.....	15-16
Stephen Ministry.....	21
Valley Assistance.....	11-12
Valley Readers.....	22
Worship Schedule.....	1
Youth on Their Own	20

OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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 Alice Sanchez Nursery Attendant vpc-office@valleypres.net

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE			OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
December 26	Titus 2: 11-14	Pastor Diane	January 30 Fifth Sunday Gospel Hymn Sing
	"The Gift"		
January 2	John 1:1-18	Pastor Craig	
	"A Different Reality"		
	Communion Sunday		
	Food Bank Sunday		
January 9	Luke 3: 15-22	Pastor Craig	
	Baptism of the LORD Sunday		
January 16	John 2: 1-11	Pastor Craig	
January 23	Missionary Sunday		
	Missionary Dave Lovett		
January 30	Luke 4: 21-30	Pastor Craig	





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

What do we believe about our future? Several of the television situation dramas have included a disclaimer at the beginning and end which states that in this time, their producers have chosen to imagine life in a post-pandemic world. Numerous books and movies of the last ten years have envisioned circumstance in a dystopian world after the next war, nuclear fall-out, climate crisis, etc. The Old Testament prophets leading into the Babylonian Exile, afterward and envisioning the coming Messiah, each provided prophetic image of their future based in part on the reality they knew. What do we believe about our future?

First and foremost, different from our not-so-distant past, we trust and believe Valley Presbyterian Church does have a future! And a very bright future, indeed. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Choir members commented: "We heard the sermon and prayers for the first time, and like what we heard!" No longer are we so afraid, as COVID19 has become endemic, we are back to passing friendship pads. Winter residents have returned to their schedule of making certain everything is in place, leaving for Christmas to return for long winter months in Green Valley. We know that, if ever there is a crisis of any kind, our leadership are concerned about the health and safety of the most vulnerable among us. We know that, everything could be shut-down by our leaders or government, and still we would be able to worship God from the comfort of our home (but we want the fellowship of seeing one another)! Just as there are members who have only ever attended worship on Christmas Eve and Easter, there are now "virtual members" who will never physically be present in our Sanctuary, and yet who attend worship weekly and support the missions and ministry of our church. There is laughter and joy in our worship of God, sincerity of faith and prayer. Insofar as there are persons who want to attend Bible Study, or participate in meetings from other parts of the Country or globe, our church has the ability for people to participate fully from anywhere.

At present, we end 2021, praying for family and friends recovering from the Pandemic, from Hurricanes and Fires. We are thankful for health and strength, for God's blessings, for this congregation and our staff. Merry Christmas to all, and wonderful good wishes for the New Year.

Pastor Craig Lindsey

Rev. Diane Christopher Pastor of Discipleship



2022. Such a nice sounding number.

I remember when 2020 began and people said the same thing about that year. One person wrote an article with high hopes for 2020 because it represented “perfect vision.”

2020 started with the horrific fires in Australia (remember?) Then came the virus, and everything as we knew it changed.

So here we are starting a new year. I always look forward to a new year, a reset, a refresh, a new hope. But this year I struggle. I find it hard to believe that things will get better. I watch as people walk away from God and the church. America is awash in anger and violence. The environment protests our poor care of it and is responding in destructive ways. And that detestable virus won’t go away. As I write this, a neighboring church is closed for Christmas (canceling their Christmas Eve services) just as we did over Thanksgiving.

The world (and me) needs a reset.

Twenty-three years ago, I remember the sermon I preached for my ordination exam. Presbyterians have a lengthy ordination process. One requirement is to stand in front of Presbytery and give a sermon. After the sermon, the floor is open to any questions, criticisms, and hopefully encouragements. Waiting to give my message, awash in nerves, I remember thinking over and over, “It’s only 10 minutes out of my life. It’s only 10 minutes out of my life.” (It went fine, by the way, which is why I am here.)

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

The title of my message was something along the lines of “Our God Is Too Small.” For a visual, I had a box with me. I said that sometimes we place God in the box of our own making and expect God to act within that box. We keep stuffing God in that box.

I think I am doing that today. My God is so small that I can’t see how we can/will change for the better. I want to believe.

So here is my New Year’s Resolution: to trust in a BIG God who is continually doing new things. We have just come off the worship of a tiny baby. When we think of Jesus only as a baby, He becomes safe and predictable, controllable in our nice box. The Bible, however, ends with a vision of Jesus “clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest” sitting at the right hand of God. This is the One who will come to make all things new. In fact, making things new today, too. This is “the One who comes to upend our expectations and set God’s will loose in the world” (Jill Duffield, *Advent in Plain Sight*).

This is what I choose to believe as we enter 2022. Let us believe it together.
Pastor Diane,

Music In the Valley Concerts 2022

Saturday, January 15th @ 3:00 P.M

Afternoon of popular Classical, Broadway and Pop String Quartet Music!

Sunday ,February 13th @ 3:00 P.M.

For Valentine Weekend, Endless Love featuring University of Arizona's Professor of Voice, Darnell T. Roulhac

Sunday, March 6th @3:00P.M.

Caleb Collins, Grammy Award Nominee. He will be singing and playing a program filled with a variety of material.

Sunday, April 3rd @ 3:00 P.M.

Closing out our season, we have the Tucson Boys Choir!

Tickets are on sale for \$20.00 a ticket and can be picked up at the VPC office during business hours. M-F 8am-4pm

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IS HAPPENING!

Submitted by Linda Freeman

1. **When:** Photo dates are February 2, 3, 4. Additional dates will be added as they are needed.
2. **What:** Come to church to get your photo taken by a professional photographer.
 - a. Receive one free 8x 10 color photo.
 - b. Receive a free copy of the Directory.
3. **Why:** We want current photos of our church family – without masks!
 - a. The church will have a professional directory with high quality photos using a common background.
 - b. It's free to the church!
4. **How:** Because of COVID, all steps for the process will minimize person-to-person contact.
 - a. To make an appointment:
 - I. Go to the church website www.valleypresbyterian.net and click on the link for the photo directory. - or -
 - II. Click on the link noted in one of daily E-Blasts. - or -
 - iii. Call the church office (520- 625-5023) and our staff will be happy to help you. -or-
 - IV. Beginning Sunday, January 9, come to the table after worship.
 - b. What to expect at your appointment:
 - I. Check your information on our church's database.
 - II. Time with the photographer will be about 10 minutes.
 - iii. Schedule a ZOOM appointment during which you will choose the pose for the directory and order any photos you may wish to purchase. Please bring your calendar!
5. **Who:** EVERYONE who has a connection with Valley Presbyterian church – members, visitors, friends – all are invited to be included.

Thank you for helping make this directory as complete as possible!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Photo Appointments February 2022			2 2:00 to 8:30	3 10:00 to 4:25	4 10:00 to 4:25	

PATIO SALE NEWS 2022

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

Believe it or not, a full Patio Sale is just around the corner. Last year we held two smaller sales and now we feel it is possible to return to just one sale again in 2022.

Sale dates are March 10, 11 & 12, 2022 with set-up March 4-9.

Department Head Meeting - February 3, 2022

All-Volunteer Meeting – February 24, 2022

Pack and Sort dates have been set for the second Thursday of each month except in March when the Pack and Sort will be on the first Thursday, March 3rd. It takes more than 200 volunteers to prepare for and put on this sale, and we can use your help. One specific area of need is men and women to work with our Trucking Team. They pick-up donations, including boxes, furniture and miscellaneous items, every Friday and take them to our storage units. That means heavy lifting is involved. We are also looking for a full-time resident to Co-Chair the Tent Department. No, we don't sell tents, but the Tent is one of the largest parts of our sale and very popular with the shoppers. We hope you will consider volunteering for Patio Sale. Contact one of the Amigos – Carmen Nylund, Dick Christensen or Pat Nau.

As reported last month, our gross receipts from the two sales and other miscellaneous income in 2021 was over \$96,000 with net proceeds being distributed by the VPC Mission Committee to the following recipients –

Amado/Green Valley/Sahuarita Food Banks

Casa Vida Nueva Para Niño

Crossroad Nogales Mission

Mission Quilts

Presbyterian Campus Ministry

Valley Assistance Services

Pam and Dave L. – Operation Mobilization

Posada Life Community Services

Companeros en Mission

Hands of a Friend

PCUSA Seminary Support

St Andrews Children's Clinic

Youth On Their Own

Bob & Kristi Rice – PCUSA

Missionaries

Your support of Patio Sale, along with our shoppers from around Green Valley & Sahuarita, makes a real difference in our community and beyond.

Thank you!

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

Since there was no Finance Committee meeting in December, the committee received the November 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 anticipated Reserve budget support because we do not feel it will be needed to support operations for 2021. As of November 30, 2021 our financial report continues to be positive:

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving Support (contributions for current operations)	\$ 619,350.00	\$ 577,873.00	\$ 41,477.00
Per Capita Support	\$ 8,370.00	\$ 9,607.00	\$ (1,237.00)
Other Support (other funds transfers in support of operations, investment income, fee for services, etc)	\$ 67,981.00	\$ 71,958.00	\$ (3,977.00)
Total Support	\$ 695,701.00	\$ 659,438.00	\$ 36,263.00
Expenses	\$ 656,630.00	\$ 726,180.00	\$ (69,550.00)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 39,071.00	\$ (66,742.00)	\$ 105,813.00

We are very grateful for the positive position we see currently. Not only are the revenues up, but the expenses are down considerably. We were definitely discouraged as we worked on the 2021 budget at the end of 2020 and were in fear of the large amount of expense that would have to be covered by reserves. But through your generosity and each department's work in controlling spending, we see that VPC is healthy going into the new year.

In October, we approved the 2022 operating budget to go to Session for approval. Session approved that budget in October and that budget as amended will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 30, 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 all for your continuing support.

5TH SUNDAY GOSPEL SING!



On January 30 VPC will be celebrating Fifth Sundays by having *Old-Time Gospel Hymn Sings*.

We will meet at 4:00PM, in the Spiritual Life Center, to worship together by singing gospel and spiritual tunes from the American evangelical tradition. This will be an uplifting time of joy and praise. It will be relaxed and less-formal than Sunday morning worship, but no less worshipful and meaningful.

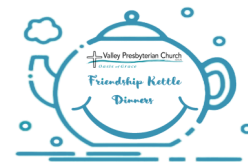
Please join us for this time of fellowship and song.

We look forward to developing this into a tradition for Fifth Sundays at VPC.

Happy New Year
2022

FRIENDSHIP KETTLE DINNERS

January 16 at 5:00 P.M.



Finally an opportunity to join again with fellowship, food and entertainment! Our first of three Kettle Dinners will feature a pork tenderloin dinner then a performance by Hardscrabble Road with Katie Sayre as the female vocalist.

Tickets will be \$13 for this dinner and will be on sale January 2 and 9. If you're willing to help organize the dinners or to serve the meal, please contact Dave Tompkins.

Parish Nurse: Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Caring for those in our congregation

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News January 2022



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.

**New Office Hours: Parish Nurse's office hours are
Tuesday mornings 9 – Noon & Thursday afternoons Noon – 3 pm.**

Medical Minute: More than feeling blue: Depression may show as noticeable difference in day-to-day activities and social activities. Please discuss any changes with your healthcare provider.



By Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, BA, RN

A Gentle Reminder with a Gift of Chocolates



Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get, a popular phrase brought into the movie *Forrest Gump*. This also reminds me of our health. You never know what you have inherited, what will come along, what will happen, especially in the New Year. We sure have seen this in the past year, didn't we? So instead of opening up the box of chocolates, and trying to determine which one might be the best, how it looks, which one might taste the best, just open the box and enjoy; enjoy all the possibilities of this New Year, especially caring for oneself.



We are all caregivers of some kind to someone. Sometimes, we forget to take care of us. No matter what the issue, no matter what the problem, each of us needs to take time to care for ourselves, so we can better care for others. *Your Whole Life* is a book about caring for one's self, mindfulness of living well, eating right and loving God. Caring for one's self is often placed on the back burner, especially during Holidays or in times of de-stress.

- Remember to take time to take a walk or exercise, take a nap, visit with a support group on-line or in person, talk with family, friends, and neighbors that may lend support, or to just sit and relax and have a cup of tea with a good book, especially on these cooler winter days.
- Take time, be aware of your own health and seek out a health care provider if needed. Watch for signs of stress, anxiety and/or depression. Caregiving and stress go hand in hand. Stress can lead to numerous health difficulties or problems, if the stress level is not diminished. Our emotions and energy may also be on the lower side following the Holidays. Taking the time to care for ourselves is caring for others.

In Psalm 119:50, we hear the words: *This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.* Just as our stress, emotions, our energy, and our outlook affects our health, so does our health affect our spirit. Mind, body, and spirit are related. A New Year is here and a new sense of mindfulness.

Next time you open a box of chocolates, maybe the ones you have received as a gift during the Holidays, remember to take time with small bites of sweetness and care for yourself, so you can care for others, and enjoy.

Chris Erickson, RN, BA, C-Parish Nurse



Valley Assistance Services (VAS) fills Empty Bowls all year long

Submitted by Chris Erickson,



The Empty Bowls that are distributed at Valley Assistance Services' annual fundraiser are beautiful works of art crafted by local artists, but their emptiness represents a more-difficult truth, that many people struggle to fill their bowls all year long. Sometimes this emptiness is literal, people do not have food to fill their bowls, but sometimes it represents other needs as well, including a lack of transportation, financial difficulties, isolation and loneliness, and health changes.

Please join VAS on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at the 16th annual Empty Bowls Event, as we fundraise to fill the bowls of persons in our community all year long.

Over the last year, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of persons seeking assistance. Our financial assistance program alone has grown over 1,000%. Current trends and predictions do not indicate a reduction in the level of need in our community. Please support VAS in its effort to fill the empty bowls in our local area. Proceeds will support the following programs:

Going Home with Care: Care transitions from hospital to home in partnership with the local Green Valley/Santa Cruz hospital, a post-hospital discharge program with specific diagnoses to help ensure recovery and discharge follow through; our VAS RN provides home visits to assess each client's health for care needs, makes sure clients have needed medications and knowledge of medication use, to reduce readmissions.

A Touch That Cares ®: RN Medical Advocacy for seniors facing chronic illness including in-home health education and medical support; health advocacy between patients and physicians, pharmacists, and other care providers, and assistance to help clients improve their quality of life through coordination of a personalized care plan, medication education and management, exercise education and assessments, and family/caregiver education.

SH/M ®: (Safety and Health in Motion), a partnership with the Green Valley Fire District is an evidenced-based fall prevention program designed to identify medical fall risks, reduce fear of falling through an in-home assessment of fall risks: home, medication, lifestyle, and health. The program provides in home safety assessments followed by installation of needed safety equipment including night lights, reach sticks and smoke alarms.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Green Valley/Sahuarita and Tubac Regional Neighbors

Helping Neighbors: Volunteer Transportation and socialization program. Trained volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other essential trips, as well as performing errands for homebound, isolated seniors. (in partnership with Pima Council on Aging Neighbors Care Alliance).

MAP (Map a Plan program): Monetary assistance for rent, utilities, to prevent evictions and homelessness, including required attendance in 6 hours of budgeting classes. Savings and benefits information and resources including on-line SNAP (food stamps) application assistance and Arizona Self-Help program are available to all clients.

Workforce Training/Career Path Building and Computer Lab: including resume writing, mock interviewing, and job search, each individual works with a workforce coach.

Neighbors AIM (Awareness in Memory Loss): ongoing support classes and peer-support groups support loved ones, family, friends, and neighbors of dementia sufferers, and those with early-stage dementia through creative events, simulation experiences, and education. This program, overseen by RN's and a counselor, creates a community/neighbors sense of caring for those with memory loss and their loved ones. Dementia and memory loss are challenging

Socialization Programs:

connectwithU: volunteers provide over 1,300 friendly phone calls to senior citizens
SASS (Socialization and Support for Seniors): in person peer-group socialization
Support Groups

The 16th Annual Empty Bowls Event will be held on Saturday, February 19th at Valley Presbyterian Church

For more information, please call Valley Assistance Services at **520-625-5966**. Tickets will be available at the VAS office and on Sundays starting in January. Please watch for further details.

Valley Assistance Services
3950 S. Camino del Heroe
Green Valley, AZ 85614

www.valleyassistanceservices.org



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Pam and Dave Update 2021

PAKISTAN: MINISTRY ON THE CUTTING EDGE

I was able to finally get back to Pakistan after two years delay due to Covid. In the end, I almost did not get there as the airlines kept changing the rules about who could fly depending on what PCR test you needed and arbitrary questions about my visas.

I had an amazing but intense 6-7 days of meetings with about 45 senior OM Pakistan staff who serve in 26 teams in 10 cities for evangelism, church mobilization, and church planting.

JORDAN: STRATEGY MEETINGS TO REACH 940 MILLION UNREACHED MUSLIMS

Pam and I just returned from a 12 day trip where we met with 25 key senior leaders from 14 countries across the Persian world, Turkic world and South Asia. We were teaching and training, coaching and counseling, and praying and planning in how to best reach the most unreached peoples who have never heard the Gospel in these countries.

AFGHANISTAN: THE FORBIDDEN HARVEST?

Our teams have been reaching out to help Afghan refugees in India, Pakistan, and other places by providing food aid, clothing and other support to 100's of families who have fled the Taliban inside Afghanistan. Over 13,000 Afghan refugees have also come to Wisconsin and Pam will head up to Camp McCoy Dec. 5-10 to help with ministry to Afghan refugee women and children.

Dave flies to Bangladesh Dec. 4-12 to meet with over 40 national staff for teaching, training and encouragement plus to meet with Bangladeshi leaders for future strategic thinking and planning in how to reach the 170 million people of the great land. Please pray for safety, anointing and wisdom.



Bangladesh: The Golden Harvest

Pam and Dave L are International speakers for Operation Mobilization with responsibility for activities in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, and North India. Speaking Farsi, they have been active in Iran with Afghanistan refugees who have no legal status in Iran and are cruelly treated. When they write "**AFGHANISTAN: MY TEARS**" it is their deep personal experience and is reflected in their work in Wisconsin.

AFGHANISTAN: MY TEARS!

We have been networking with our teams internationally to see how we can best respond to help the Afghan people in the midst of this crisis. We have been able to help about 50 local believers who have had to flee the country and are working to help them find their next steps. We are also helping 100's of Afghan refugees in practical ways like providing food packs and other initial aid.



We are also trying to help with the influx of Afghans here in Wisconsin. It has been a confusing and sometimes difficult process to know how and when best to help. We are planning to provide orientation and training for local Christians and churches who want to help Afghan refugees resettle in the Milwaukee area. Please pray for open doors and wisdom in how we best can help.



JANUARY OPEN HOUSE

January 22nd-23rd our Missionaries Pam and Dave Lovett will be visiting Valley Presbyterian Church!

In honor of the event Craig and Judy Lindsey would like to invite all who are able to an Open House Sunday, January 23rd at 1pm at their home 4151 South Westcotta Drive.

This will be a wonderful time to meet the Lovetts and listen to stories as well as for the congregation to share fellowship at our Senior Pastor's home.

Please join us, and as always bring cookies if available.

Pastor Craig,

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Bob and Kristi Rice are our supported missionaries to South Sudan. Their communication tool to our congregation is through their blog- bobandkti.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. To date \$2320 Has been donated for new churches!

We are thrilled to hear of the response of donations towards starting new churches in South Sudan. I shared this news with one of the church leaders this week, and he was very encouraged. Blessings, Bob and Kristi Rice

Entering Jerusalem

We bumped along a rocky, rutted dirt road past the outskirts of Juba city. We left our taxi at an intersection to meet some people from the church we were visiting and walk the last kilometer into the IDP (internally displaced persons) camp. It was only 6:30 in the morning, and we were grateful for the cool air as we started walking. We came upon a group of children, lined up and wearing uniforms. As we neared them, they started singing and we recognized Changkuoth, a former student at NTC who leads a significant children's ministry in his church. After a joyful greeting, we followed the children as they sang and marched down the road and onto the small path that led into the camp. As we neared the church, two other choirs of older children and teenagers met us on the way. We were amazed at the number of children and blessed by their joyful singing.



Children's choir on the road, with Changkuoth directing them

The church we were visiting is called Jerusalem, one of several churches in the camp. The pastor of the church is David, a recent graduate of NTC and someone who has become a friend and now also a research assistant for Bob. We were encouraged and inspired to see Chankuth and David using their gifts and empowering people in the significant ministry that the church has in the community. During the week, the church turns into a primary school. And while conditions are harsh and people are often discouraged by life in the camp, the church is a place for community, empowerment, and hope. After several choir and congregational worship songs in the Nuer language, the children came in to sing. Several rows of chairs were stacked up and removed and adults waited outside so that the children would have room to sing – more than 100 in the choir! They sang in both English and Nuer, complete with dancing and gestures that showed the long hours of practice they had put in. Bob preached from Hosea, reminding us of God's faithfulness and love despite people's unfaithfulness. We encouraged everyone with the greetings and prayers of churches in the U.S., and we reflected together that God alone is the hope for our broken world. We felt humbled to sit and be present with people who have overcome many obstacles and persevered through so many challenges, continuing to praise God and trust God through it all. And it was a good reminder to continue to pray for peace in South Sudan and that people would be able to leave the camps. Please join us in praying for God's provision and protection on all people in South Sudan. And please pray for students at NTC to be equipped to minister in these challenging sit

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.

Mission Weekend

We are blessed again to have Pam and Dave L. (confidential) seasoned and fun missionaries with Operation Mobilization with responsibilities and oversight for Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Northern India as they minister to unreached people for Christ. They have visited Valley Presbyterian Church many times and have inspired, stimulated, and challenged our Spirit to serve the mission field under our own two feet. Pam and Dave L. not only have many stories of God's grace and mercy but are gifted, sought after, international speakers. Although we hope their visit will be restful and relaxing as returning old friends, we do have many opportunities for interaction.

- ♦ Mission Breakfast- 1/22/22 at 8:30a.m. in Fellowship Hall with \$5.00 tickets on sale on January 9 and 16, 2022
- ♦ Mission Sunday- 1/23/2022 with distribution of Mission Outlook 2022, Sermon Dave L. and fellowship and free Christian books (Pam has written a new Book) after service in Fellowship Hall
- ♦ Open house 1/23/22 1:00- 3:30 hosting Pam and Dave L. at Pastor Craig Lindsey's Home- 4151 S Westcotta Dr, Green Valley, AZ -(315)729-9924



**New Class: Faith Works
Tuesdays, 4 p.m. beginning
January 11, 2022
Classroom 5
Your Teacher: Chuck Ramsay**



Happy New Year to all my Christian brothers and sisters!

I am hoping that we all experience a great New Year in 2022!

By now however the usual post-holiday letdown may (or may not) have set in. Thanksgiving and Christmas have come and gone. This year promises to have the usual ups and downs, good and bad events as the others we have lived through. There will be cheers and there will be tears. There will be times when it seems to be easy to see Jesus moving in your life and then there will be times when you and I are unable to see the Hope, the Faith and Promise of Christianity in our personal lives and in world events. Life gets fired at us at point blank range. It is up close and personal. Good and bad events come with no advance warning. Is there a way to make sense of the chaos as well as the good? Can we help each other? Yes!

How does your faith work? Is it working? I am starting a class that will help all of us strengthen our faith through each other's experiences, successes and stories. **This is basic Christianity. How do we take Sunday morning faith, put it to work and live the best life we can? That is the mission of the new FaithWorks class that is beginning on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 4pm.** This class will meet in room 5 and will be offered with a Zoom option as well. (Persons wanting the Zoom meeting option please email Pastor Diane.) The class will use a curriculum available online. Eventually, a preview of each class can be emailed to those who want it.

I hope to see you there. I need you and we all need each other. Recent events have unfortunately isolated Christians from each other. Please join us on January 11 at 4pm. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Chuck Ramsay
A Fellow Christian Pilgrim

Being Mortal
Preparing For the End of Life
Thursday Beginning January 13, 2022
2:00 P.M. in Classroom 5

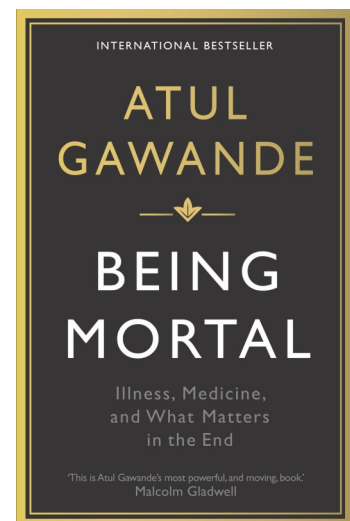
How do you want to live out the last years or months of your life? Are you willing to move to a facility where you will receive care, or are you determined to stay at home until they carry you out feet first? Do you want to live as long as you possibly can, or are the conditions under which you would 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 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?
- What part of the aging and dying process will take the most courage for you to face?





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

On behalf of the children at Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos, I want to thank you for your generous donations to their 2021 Christmas event.

This will be the third year we will miss their Christmas event due to COVID issues. However, by the time you read this, your donations have been received by the director, Elias Herrera. He is very grateful for the love and support from Valley Presbyterian Church. Update:

Due to a recent large donation for expanding their solar panels, Elias is currently working on either securing additional solar panels or opting to get real electricity from the City of Nogales. The city is putting in power poles and he believes this process will be better than adding to the solar system.

On another note, Myrna (Elias' wife and co-director) has come down with a mild case of COVID. The children all remain healthy - so far. There are 4 children in high school and 2 in college. A meeting with Elias at my home on Dec 17 and give him the Christmas donation check of \$2126.00 This was the first time we have met since Oct 2019 due to COVID and border issues. Thank you all for caring about these wonderful children.



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

NAME BADGES

Have you lost your Name Tag or, maybe you never got one?

- ♦ We would be happy to provide a **FREE** one to you.
- ♦ **HOW:** e-mail the church office vpc-office@valleypres.net or call 520-625-5023

Your new name tag will be available in about 2 weeks to pick up in the church office.

We all feel welcomed when someone knows our name.





INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO

We will meet at church on Wednesday, January 26 from 1 to 3:30 pm in Classroom 5 to make Inspirational Cards for Youth on Their Own students!

Our brief messages are included with the monthly stipend checks that students earn. Come join the fellowship and fun! We use a variety of uplifting slogans, colored sharpie pens, stamps and colored stamp pads, stickers galore, border ribbons, and colorful cards. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**





Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry Celebrations and Prayers

Thank You to John Dunham!

John Dunham has joyfully and faithfully served our Stephen Ministry for over 20 years, both as a pastor and a Stephen Leader. On Dec 10, we celebrated with both joy and sadness John's leaving us to move to Maryland to be near his daughters. John will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on through the ministry!



Prayers for New Class of Stephen Ministers

Our Stephen Minister training class begins January 7 with five new trainees

- ♦ Karen Woodrow
- ♦ Linda Piotrowski
- ♦ Bill Woodrow
- ♦ Carol Marshal
- ♦ Becky Williams from St Francis Episcopal

We ask you to keep our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ's love and care to hurting people on behalf of our congregation. Give them dedicated hearts and open minds. Be with these servants now and throughout their ministry. Also pray for our Stephen Leaders as they prepare and teach each Friday through March. The new class will graduate and be commissioned in April

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona

Submitted by Les Walter



As of December 8th, it can be reported that the Mission is responding to the border being open as of November 1st. Thanksgiving dinner was a success with 149 people being served dinner. Approximately half of those attending were from across the border. During the covid shutdown, the mission stayed open with only one staff person being quarantined for the prescribed time.

The Lunch program is building back up to an average of 60 and sometimes reaching 80. Clothing items are available as are bags of food items that are brought daily into the mission.

Christmas lunch is planned with ham being on the menu. Gift boxes are to be given out to the children as well as food items. The attendance of 150 is expected but will plan for 180 guests.

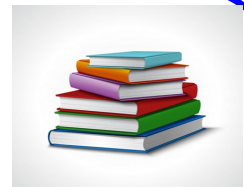
Ben Wenke is not active in the day-today operation of the mission but Jason had been filling that roll for over a year now. Bert Wenke is present part time as is able. The plan is for Ben and Bert to leave and return home to the Midwest this coming January with the Mission Board over seeing the operation from then on. Ben Wenke is worn out and needs to recuperate. His non-stop activity for so many years has caught up with him. The staff members feel sad about his condition but yet are confident they can continue with the vision that Ben and Bert started many years ago. Ben's attitude was contagious and uplifting . A true servant of the Lord.

Crossroads Mission is in need of continued support by us and the churches of the area. January will be change for the Mission. An update will be available in January of the new year. Donation can be left in the fellowship hall and marked for Crossroads.

Valley Readers

2:00 P.M. Monday, January 24, 2021 Classroom 1

Submitted by Anne Morrison



In lieu of a book discussion, attendees will (if they wish) talk about a book that they read during the Christmas season. Depending on the number of attendees each book summary may be limited in time duration. Future plans will also be discussed. Format for the meeting (in person or zoom) will be announced closer to the date of the meeting. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



The holiday season is in full swing now and we are all well aware of those in need. Reminders are every where!

Operating procedures at our Food Banks have drastically changed due to covid but the need continues, even more so.

Thanks you for your most generous donations throughout this past year. They are sincerely appreciated.

We wish everyone a happy and successful new year!

Submitted by Kylene Joplin & Carol Stephens

FOOD BANK
SUNDAY JANUARY 2ND

Community Food Bank of Arizona has given \$50,000 of non-directed funds from \$71 million dollars to a political program in Tucson to “fight for \$15 campaign”. A letter from Sio Castillo, Chief Development Officer, regarding the Mission Committee’s inquiry of involvement with this program states in part-

‘We do support the initiative- not only philosophically but financially. We believe that one of the ways to move people out of poverty is to raise the minimum wage to \$15.

While we will always be here to provide emergency food assistance to anyone who needs it, we know that bigger change is needed. This past year, we spent \$11 million dollars on food distribution programming and distributed 82 million pounds of food...

Please do know that CFB does not endorse or oppose any political candidate or party, but we will always advocate and engage in community issues relevant to our mission. We have always been committed to addressing the root causes of hunger and advocacy for social justice.”

The response letter, of which is a selected portion, outlines their many positive and vital programs for our community and states as a long-time supporter-

“...we have the right to restrict our donations to hunger relief only programs. Checking Valley Presbyterian Church’s record, all gifts have been designated to areas you have chosen for specific programming. None of your funds were used for endeavors outside your area.”

This states that contributions from Valley Presbyterian Church either from the mission budget or from pass-through giving are used for hunger relief programs only. This also means that monies given in a non-designated manner (direct checks) can be used for non-designated purposes in the Food Bank of Southern Arizona. If you wish your direct checks to go to local hunger relief, consider using pass-through giving by writing your check to the church with Food Bank in the memo line on the check (individuals names can be forwarded if desired).

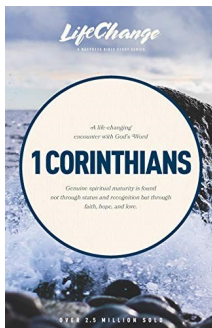
**HUNGER IS TOO IMPORTANT TO IGNORE OR NOT SUPPORT!
WRITE ALL DIRECT CHECKS FOR FOOD ONLY**

Noisy Offering Sunday, January 30th

**VPC Noisy
Offering Monies
will go to Pam
and Dave L. for
Salary Support.**



Pam and Dave will inspire and minister to the congregation the previous weekend, January 22-23, 2022. Show your appreciation with a record noisy offering.



Men's Weekday Bible Study Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

With about six to thirteen men attending each week, the group meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. They meet at the church for one hour in classroom 1.

The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (520-777-8027) but focuses on the group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying Paul's first 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 study guide is available from Amazon or Christianbook.com.

4 Ways to Lead Your Church through Inflation

Edited by Suzanne Mandeville, Bookkeeper, from a post by [Aaron Buer](#) on December 9, 2021 on the Breeze Advice Blog (Breeze provides the software the church uses to track almost everything.)

- Have you bought groceries lately?
- Have you recently ventured into a home renovation project or had to replace a vehicle?

If so, you've likely bumped into the impact of the rise in inflation. From what I've read, inflation is hovering between 6-10% right now.

That means families are currently able to afford about 6-10% less than they were a few months ago. As a church, how should we respond to inflation?

Here are four suggestions for how your church might want to respond to the impact of inflation.

Offer Guidance

Inflation leads to difficult decisions.

- What should you do when you can't afford to do everything you want or need?
- What should you do when there isn't money for the spring break trip, the car repair, or even the groceries?

The sad truth is, some of us are often inclined to make unwise decisions in financial shortage. Put it on the credit card...

Because inflation drives up the prices of gas, food, and many other necessary commodities, people need the guidance and challenge of Scriptural wisdom regarding money.

What a great time to talk about contentment, debt, giving, and gratitude.

Budget Expectations

I'm feeling a little intimidated by the budget process this year.

Why? With inflation on the rise, I believe it will be prudent to anticipate congregational giving could be down. People who are feeling the financial crunch could be less inclined to be generous or simply may not be able to give as much as they have in the past. In addition, we know our 2022 budget will need to reflect the rising prices of paper, gas, electronics, etc.

With that, I would argue this year's budget process will require extra careful thought and planning.

Continued on page 24

Cost of Living

One of the obvious challenges of inflation is that people can no longer afford what they were able to previously. For example, Medicare premiums are projected to rise by 5% in 2022. That is a massive and unheard-of increase.

I would encourage you to consider how the rising cost of living may impact your church staff this year as you plan for salary increases. This could be tough to hear if your church is already struggling financially. However, this could be one of the more important investments you make in the health of your church. Financial stress at home will impact the quality of work your staff brings to their jobs. Also, a significant cost of living increase during this season would send a strong message to your staff. We see you. We care about you. We value you.

Discipleship

Every crisis brings opportunity.

During the financial stress people are experiencing, there is an opportunity to provide care, resources, training, and most importantly...Jesus.

With the rise in inflation comes an opportunity to improve our systems and processes around benevolence and care. This will ensure people coming to our churches for help experience wonderful hospitality and excellent counsel, whether they are church members or disconnected people from the community. Every benevolence opportunity is a Gospel opportunity. Every benevolence opportunity is a discipleship opportunity.

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.

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

Robert	Williams	January 1
Kylene	Joplin	January 2
Marya	Dalrymple	January 5 *
Jan	Schoeben	January 5
Glenn	Steinacker	January 5
Quentin	Gessner	January 07 *
William D.	McKinley	January 07
Dorothy	Sauder	January 07 *
Dale	Honermann	January 08
Thomas	Spurlock	January 09
Leonard	Defendorf	January 10
Fred	Searle	January 10
William (Bill)	Entwistle	January 12
Bruce	Nylund	January 12
Charles	Anderson	January 13
George	Pike	January 14
Billie	Youngblut	January 14 *
Karen	Lyon	January 16
Margaret	Moore	January 16
Martha	Ashton	January 17

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

James M	Van Valen	January 17
Terry	Hopper	January 18
Vicki	Chvala	January 21
Lee	Neuman	January 21
Jennifer	Yanamura	January 21
Judy	Clark	January 23
Carolyn	Blomeke	January 25
Thomas	Dierken	January 25
Linda	Freeman	January 25
Mark	Horton	January 25
Mary Ann	Root	January 25
Marie	Valade	January 25
Geraldine	Appleton	January 27 *
Carol	LeClair	January 27 *
Barbara	Platte	January 27
John W.	Green	January 28
Nancy	Thies	January 28
Michael	Schoeben	January 29
Judith	Christensen	January 30
Cheryl	Stepp	January 30
Joanna	Miller	January 31
Marita	Ramsay	January 31

Valley Presbyterian Church January 2022							Jan 2022 ▶
◀ Nov 2021	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						31 New Years Eve office Closed	1
2 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	3		4 9:00am Cardio Drumming Womens Ministries Coordination Team 9:30am Prayer Ministry 11:00am Network of Caring Meeting 1:00pm Membership Outreach Committee 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	5 8:00am Ministry of Presence 9:00am Mens Bible Study 10:00am Chair Exercise With Mia Cooper 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Practice	6	7 9:00am Stephen Ministry Training Class 1 & 2	8
9 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	10 10:00am Fellowship Committee		11 8:45am Mission Committee Meeting 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	12 9:00am Deacon Meeting Mens Bible Study 10:00am Chair Exercise With Mia Cooper 1:00pm Marian Circle 1:30pm Building & Grounds Committee 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Practice	13 8:00am Patio Sale Sort 9:00am Faith & Health Committee 1:00pm Personnel Committee 2:00pm Being Mortal	14 8:00am Stephen Ministry Training Class 3 & 4 9:00am SM CE Meeting 10:00am SM Peer Groups 11:00a. Stephen Leaders Meeting	15 3:00pm Music in the Valley Concert
16 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 5:00pm Friendship Kettle Dinner	17 9:00am Mission Quilters w/Pollock 4:00pm Ruth Circle		18 9:00 am Cardio Drumming 9:30 am Prayer Ministry 11:30 am Womens Ministries Gathering Lunch 2:00 pm Joyful Spirits Ensemble 4:00pm Faithworks	19 9:00 am Mens Bible Study 10:00 am Chair Exercise 2:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15 pm Choir Practice	20 2:00pm Being Mortal	21 9:00 am Stephen Ministry Training Class 4 & 5	22 8:30am Mission Breakfast
23 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service Mission Sunday	24 1:00pm Valley Readers		25 9:00 am Cardio Drumming 9:30 am Prayer Ministry 2:00 pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble 4:00pm Faithworks	26 9:00 am Mens Bible Study 10:00 am Chair Exercise 1:00pm YOTO Card Making 2:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15 pm Choir Practice	27 8:30am Session Meeting 2:00pm Being Mortal	28 8:00am Stephen Ministry Training 7, 8 & 6 9:00am SM CE Meeting Piano Tuning Sanctuary 10:00am Stephen Leaders Meeting	29
30 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	31						