

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JULY/AUGUST. 2022

THE VALLEY VOICE



How is Our Church Doing?

Submitted by Pastor Craig

When visiting parishioners, after discussing their concerns, people often ask; “How is our Church doing?” Honestly, I feel sheepish responding. The world is still emerging from the most severe pandemic in history, the American economy is struggling with inflation, mass murders continue weekly, due to other priorities our building and property needed significant care; AND our Church is Wonderful, Healthy and Caring.

Remembering that Easter was the first-time we felt healthy enough to share the Sacrament of Communion in the traditional style; for the month of June, in triple digit temperatures, our in-person worship attendance averaged 150, with new visitors every week (in June), and another 150 worshipping on-line, plus over 700 regular hits to our Website

Valleypresbyterian.net .

While budgets provide incentive for goals many churches rarely meet, due to good administration, our income continually exceeds all expenses. In addition to the extraordinary work, our Mission Committee, the congregation and staff provided \$10,000 for mission relief for tornado-destroyed communities in the Midwest and southeast United States.



Image of tornado destruction at an Amazon warehouse in Illinois.

In This Issue

Sunday Worship
Schedule

July & August
Summer Movie

5th Sunday Gospel
Hymn Sing

Mission Committee
Updates

Line Dance Lessons

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

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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

In This Issue

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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

Suzanne Mandeville-Bookkeeper.....suzanne@valleypres.net

Cindy Johnson-Administrative Specialist.....cjohnson@valleypres.net

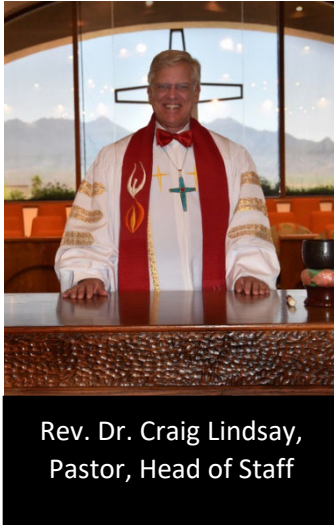
Linda Hester-Administrative Specialist.....lhester@valleypres.net

Steve Hart.....Custodian.....steve@valleypres.net

Randy VanHyfte.....Custodian.....

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

June 26	Galatians 5:1, 13-25 "Christian Freedom"	Pastor Diane
July 3	2 Kings 5: 1-14 "Naaman the Leper" Communion Sunday, Food Bank Sunday & 4th of July Party	Pastor Craig
July 10	Deuteronomy 30: 1-8 "Restoration to Come"	Pastor Craig
July 17	Amos 7: 7-9 "The Plumbline" Luke 10: 38-42 "Martha and Mary"	Pastor Craig
July 24	Hosea 11: 1-11 "Restoration of Gomer and Her Children" Luke 11: 1-13 "Lord's Prayer through Knock & the Door Shall be Opened"	Pastor Craig
July 31	5th Sunday Colossians 3: 1-11 "Hidden in God" Noisy Offering & Gospel Hymn Sing	Pastor Diane
August 7	Luke 12: 32-40 "An Unexpected Hour"	Pastor Craig
August 14	Isaiah 5: 1-8 "The LORD'S Vineyard"	Pastor Craig
August 21	Psalm 71: 1-6 "Garnet God"	Pastor Diane
August 28	Luke 14: 1, 7-14 "The Best Places"	Pastor Craig
September 4	Jeremiah 18: 1-10 "The Potter's Shed" Communion Sunday, Food Bank Sunday & Labor Day Weekend	Pastor Craig



From Pastor Craig
Presbyterian Church (USA) 2.0
“Power is Shifting to Partnerships”

By Pastor Craig

Among the questions Elders and Pastors promise in their Ordination and Installation is to serve on Committees and Councils of the Church. As such, I am completing a term (my 5th term of 3 years) on the Conflict Resolution Team of the Commission on Ministry for our Presbytery; and also, the Chairperson of Task Force on “Mid-Council Conversation.” That is a fancy title for coordinating the relationship between our four Presbyteries and the Synod of the Southwest. After meeting by Zoom for the last year, May 26-27-28 we had our first face to face meeting in Phoenix.

The Presbyterian Church was originally formed in Philadelphia over 200 years ago (before that we were part of the Church of Scotland). There were several hallmarks in governmental structure about being Presbyterian. First, because of wars between Scotland and England, as well as Protestants and Catholicism, rather than having any individual in authority like a Bishop, Canon, King or Pope, at every level in the Presbyterian Church we have committees making decisions, and those committees at every level of governance have equal membership elders and deacons, male and female. Second, the organization of the denomination was based on judicial courts, with the congregation governed by the Session. When there are issues that affect larger than the local congregation, or there is disagreement with the Session, decisions are appealed to the Presbytery, which for us is the southern half of Arizona. When decisions are larger than a Presbytery, or if there is a disagreement with Presbytery decisions, these are appealed to the Synod, in our case four presbyteries in New Mexico and Arizona. When decisions are larger than the Synod, or there is disagreement with a Synod action, these matters are referred to the General Assembly which meets every two years.

At this meeting two power shifts were represented. First, for the last few years, the Presbytery deCristo (greater Tucson) and the Presbytery of Grand Canyon have been separate governing bodies, but have shared our meetings, shared budgets (we pay 30%/ Grand Canyon pays 70%) and shared staff, so we have cooperated fully instead of being in competition. Second, rather than the Synod of the Southwest being described as the Governing Body “over” the four presbyteries, the Synod leadership described themselves as equal partners with the four Presbyteries. This may not seem monumental, but churches are known for disagreements and power issues, particularly over their authority and over money. For our presbyteries and Synod to work in partnership represents an entirely new day.

Pastor Craig

When Russia began invasion and destruction of Ukraine, our Church immediately raised another \$25,000 for Disaster Assistance (and also a dozen handmade quilts).

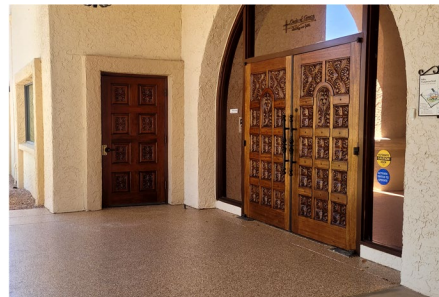


Picture of quilts provided by VPC Mission Quilters.

Everyone worked in great fellowship to have a phenomenal Patio Sale this year!

- Music in the Valley ended the season with a fabulous concert by the Tucson Boys Choir!
- Legion Post 131 led a wonderful Memorial Day Celebration for a standing-room only crowd in SLC!

While doors had been refinished, entryways were shabby with carpets a tripping hazard, and these have now been replaced with epoxy non-slip coating that sparkles like gold in the sunshine.



- Landscaping was more than volunteers could cut down, we have now hired the father and sons' company Imurez Landscaping to work two days every month (already making a great difference).
- With roughly an acre of parking lots, the oil from our asphalt bakes-out in the sun, and after repeated efforts scheduling, the parking lots are now fresh and clean.
- In a retirement community, we have 45 people coming midweek for line dancing (and laughing)!
- Volunteers have replaced the fountain pump, and repaired wiring to outdoor lighting.
- Our staff is working very well together and enjoying one another's company.
- The "proof-copy" of our first church Photo Directory in seven years has been returned to the company, as we now await being able to recognize who everyone is without facemasks or nametags.
- We know that roof tiles need to be replaced, but thus far the roofs are not leaking. With monsoons beginning, we have three bids for doing this work in the new year, and contracted repair if needed.
- While we have an outstanding debt, we have the cash in hand, to pay this off in full in June 2023.
- I explained to one good friend, "No pastor will ever say: we do not have challenges ahead of us, and we do, but God continues to bless us richly."

Thank you for being Our Church,
Pastor Craig

One Another

I have several people in my life that I keep in contact on a regular basis. Every day, I call my Mom, who is in Minneapolis. I am the health advocate for a friend in a care facility in Minneapolis. I make sure to contact him at least once a week. I have two good girlfriends that I have known for forty years. We live in different parts of the country, but the other day, we connected through a Zoom call. Staying in contact with one another enriches our lives.

There are scripture passages in the Bible called the “one another” passages. These passages instruct us on how to relate to others. Here are some examples:

Love one another (repeated at least 16 times)

- Build up one another
- Care for one another
- Honor one another
- Serve one another
- Bear one another's burdens
- Encourage one another

There are at least 35 additional “one another” exhortations in the scriptures. God, who demonstrates relationship within the Trinity, created us to be in relationship and to connect with one another. The purpose of the “one another” passages is to show us how to build community and relationships with each other.



Pastor Diane Christopher-Pastor of Discipleship

This is the purpose of Network of Caring (NOC). NOC is one of the oldest ministries of Valley Pres. Its purpose was to make sure each member and regular attender was contacted at least once a month by phone. The ministry divided Green Valley up into areas, and each area had a leader and callers. As Green Valley grew, the number of areas grew to twenty, and as you can imagine, became difficult to manage. Plus, other means of contacting people (besides phone calling) have come into existence over the past 30 years.

Continued on page 5

Time for a makeover!

Continued from page 4

This summer, the NOC leadership team and I are redesigning NOC. Our first step was taking the twenty areas of NOC and reducing them to a manageable eleven. As we continue to work on the new details of this beautiful ministry of our church, we are looking for people who enjoy connecting with others and believe it is important to stay in contact with one another. If this describes you and you would like to hear more about NOC, please contact me (pastordiane@valleypres.net; 520-625-5023).

- Live in harmony with one another.
- Forgive one another.
- Look to the interests of one another.
- Accept one another.
- Be patient with one another.
- Pray for one another.

Pastor Diane



Submitted by Jamie Reed

As we enter monsoon season, I cannot help but think of the similarities of music and rain. It can be soothing, exciting, loud, simple, therapeutic, cleansing. Cellist Pablo Casals said: "I see in the melody of Nature, God. It is a wonderful work of art. The spirit of the art is wonderful. And I feel that I am myself because I have never taken music lightly. Music is the manifestation of God, like everything else."

Have a wonderful couple of months!

Jamie





Yes, it is definitely summer, and we hope you are enjoying time in your home away from Green Valley, spending time with family and friends, taking short trips to try and beat the heat or just waiting for the monsoons to come to Green Valley. Many of you are aware that many of our church activities have slowed down for the summer.

But Patio Sale activities are year-round and only slow down a little. We continue to receive donations dropped off at the church almost every day; the Trucking Team are still picking up donations on a reduced schedule; we still have monthly Pack & Sorts; the Coordinating Team meets once a month; and we are in the process of making plans for the Holiday Plus Sale in November. And before you know it, we will also begin making plans for the Annual Sale in March.

New volunteers are always welcome to help with Patio Sale, and especially if you would like to be part of the Trucking Team. For information about these volunteer opportunities, please contact Carmen Nylund at clnylund1968@outlook.com.

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

Patio Sale Financial Update January-May 2022

The Amigos and Patio Sale Coordinating Team are frequently asked about the Patio Sale finances – “How much money have we made?” – “Where do we stand year-to-date?”

Before reviewing where we are year-to-date, it needs to be noted that the Patio Sale is a year-round activity from January through December with income and expenses each month. The final net results are not known until the books are closed at year-end. It is from the net profits achieved each year that support is given to the Mission’s Committee’s recommended recipients, which were endorsed by the Finance Committee and approved by Session for the next calendar year. We have now completed the large March Patio Sale and have the smaller Holiday Plus sale in November.

All financial accounting is input by the Church Bookkeeper, using sign-off approval procedures, and reported using the church’s accounting format. Below are the income and expenses associated with the Patio Sale from January – May 30, 2022.

For any questions, contact Linda Walter, Patio Sale Amigo lwalter25@yahoo.com

Net Income to Date	\$ 68,209.54	Transfer to Missions of \$55,00 from
2021 Fund Carryover	<u>\$ 21,502.28</u>	proceeds of 2021 sale are made quarterly
Total 2022 Fund Balance	\$ 89,711.82	on the amount of \$13,750 each.

JULY SUMMER MOVIE

News of the World

Starring Tom Hanks & Helena Zengel

Our July movie is set in Texas after the Civil War. An ex-Confederate Army Captain is eking out a living by traveling from town to town to read newspapers to anyone willing to pay a dime to listen. Johanna is a young girl who was stolen when her German-immigrant family was killed and raised by a Kiowa band, and whose Kiowa family has, in turn, been killed. Tasked with returning the recalcitrant Johanna to her remaining relations, Captain Kidd reluctantly agrees and the two set out on a 400-mile trip through the various dangers of Reconstruction-era Texas.

Please join us at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 20th for this engrossing film. Liz Haynes is the leader.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a sung-through musical comedy with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the character of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis.

Coming to the Spiritual Life Center

ONE SHOWING ONLY

Wednesday

August 17 @ 1:00 pm

Linda Freeman is the leader.



Caring for those in our congregation

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News May 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 once a week; a 30-minute exercise program for health, stress, and balance. Please email parishnurse@valleypres.net for more information and to registrater.



Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy.

Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.



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

Medical Minute:



Avoid hot and heavy meals when it is hot outside. These meals can also add heat to your body temp. Make sure you drink water and keep cool.

A Different World

Submitted by: Chris Erickson Parish Nurse

My usual Valley Voice articles are about a specific health difficulty: vision, blood pressure, depression, taking care of oneself, caregiving, etc. This Valley Voice article might just be a little different, as our times now affect all the above in one way or another. There are more people who cannot afford groceries, gas, rent, and are having a challenging time navigating the healthcare system of healthcare providers that are full for 6 months to a year at a time. Stressors have escalated all around us this past month and have resulted in people needing to talk with someone else, having someone with them while they are sick, caregivers that are wearing down, and amid this, the loss of peace/ joy, with emotions are the brink of being irrational.

It is a different world. COVID began a turning point to see the health, social, economic, and emotional changes. This past week, I was at a business waiting to present information and on the television was the series *The Waltons*. This series began in 1972 and continued through 1981, with a few more episodes after that year. This series was about a family living through difficulties in depression and war times. Lots of the stressors we see today were still there. People connected more and communicated more. Why is it such a different world? We now must ask for someone to talk with us or be with us if we are ill. Dealing with health problems, healthcare providers are limited, and much of the time someone returning your call is not the healthcare provider. Every cost, from groceries to gas, is escalating, with more unable to live on fixed or low incomes. Computers, cell phones and other technology devices have decreased our connection in person. Have we lost human caring?

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Inflated stressors not only affect how we care for others, but care for ourselves. We need to look at the stressors and what they are causing. What happens to us when we have a projection of negativity, long and exhaustive days, impairments of our health status, impairment of our financial, emotional, or social status, and/or the lack of care given to oneself? It is like a domino effect. As one thing is affecting us, more tiles fall down the line. Try to decrease stress or built-up stress, which might be caused by these fixed stressors of today's different world. Sometimes by exercising, meditating, keeping a journal, getting enough sleep, and connecting with others, we can learn to take a deep breath, laugh, and smile.

A sense of peace and joy might just start to return.

Exploring Membership Class

Tuesday, August 2, 9. & 16

1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Plus

Thursday, August 25, 8:00 AM-9:00 AM

Do you want to learn more about Valley Pres? Are you wondering how you can be more involved? Perhaps, you are thinking about becoming a member. The Exploring Membership Class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership.

In this class, you will explore the wonderful reasons to join a church, and what it means to be Presbyterian. You will discover all the different service opportunities this church has to offer. You will meet the pastors and leaders, and many others who give their time and talents to serve Christ through Valley Pres.

You can become an affiliate member (whereby you keep your main membership with your church back "home") or an active member (full membership here at Valley).

Contact Pastor Diane Christopher to register (520) 625-5023

Free Line Dance Class

Come and Join us on
Wednesday's now thru
August 31 at 4:00 PM in the
Fellowship Hall as
Steve Hart shows us some
basic steps.



If you would like a link to line dance steps we are
learning each week please call 520-625-5023.

Remember what Steve Says

"drink lots and water and sit when you feel tired".

Valley Readers
2:00 PM – July 25, 2022
Classroom 1



Members of Valley Presbyterian know and admire Jim and Kathie Rusk for their many activities in our church. When Jim spent a year in Vietnam during that war, he and Kathie exchanged almost daily letters. They have now compiled these into a book that reveals what life was like for a serviceman in Vietnam and a young wife raising two children back home. Please join us for a discussion with Jim and Kathie, facilitated by Carol Wilking. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

Valley Readers

HOW TO START A BOOKSTORE

2:00 PM- August 2022

Classroom 1

Kari Johnson, co-owner of Quail Run Books, will describe how the newest bookshop in Green Valley came to be established. Kari will give the ins and outs of bookselling and will answer questions about popular genres and favorite authors. Join us for an insight into a very popular pastime in Green Valley.

Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762 or gvaz1058@cox.net.





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

Youth on Their Own is proud to recognize 104 high school graduates in the class of 2022. BRAVO!!! This school year, 2021-2022, YOTO served over 1,300 youth in our area. This number is UP from the previous year when the effects of the pandemic cut the number of students in the program to about 800.

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING

We will meet on Wednesday, August 24th in Classroom 5 from 1-3:30 to make Inspirational Cards for Youth on Their Own students! HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!

COLLECTING BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

In late August, we will be collecting items for the YOUTH ON THEIR OWN Mini Mall! Check out the poster on the next page to see what items are needed. Watch the eblasts and Sunday Bulletin for collection dates. THANKS in ADVANCE for helping these students to be successful!!



BACK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Help YOTO youth start the school year off right!
We are collecting the following items to restock the Mini Mall
and prepare youth for the year ahead...

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Heavy duty backpacks
- USB flash drives
- Headphones
- Mechanical pencils
- Pens
- Pocket folders
- Spiral notebooks
- Note cards

HYGIENE

- Sunscreen
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Hair ties
- Hand sanitizer
- Chapstick

FOOD

- Shelf-stable milk
(dairy and non-dairy)
- Cereal
- Oatmeal pouches
- Canned fruits and veggies
- Single serving juice
- Chocolate milk
- Sports drinks
- Beef jerky
- Trail mix
- Nuts
- Dry beans

**VISIT YOTO.ORG
TO LEARN MORE!**

Scan this QR code to
make a gift online or see
our Amazon Wish List.



Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison

Capital Improvements Plan

Submitted by: Pastor Craig

A great deal has happened in recent years, without any extra appeals for money! How is this possible? Are the projects just taken as ideas, or is there a plan behind all of this?

IMPORTANT NOTE: VPC Foundation was established, in order to invest bequests and gifts outside of the Annual Operating Budget (pledged giving), to annually generate Income on Investments, to be used the following year by VPC Session action for Capital Improvements.

Based on current assets, and the Market 2019-2022, this has generated about \$50,000/year for Capital Improvements. Several projects had not been addressed for decades, requiring significant investment at this time, that will not need to be addressed again for years. Let us emphasize that this is using Interest Income on Investments and not costing the Congregation additionally.

COMPLETED 2020

Installed electronic sign, upgraded internet service for ZOOM, kitchen cabinets painted, replaced door mechanisms, replaced sanctuary lighting, replaced sanctuary sound system & updated carillon.

COMPLETED 2021

Installed live-streaming for worship, painted exterior of church building, refinishing doors, and replace irrigation system.

BEING COMPLETED 2022

Epoxied entryway sidewalks, repaired outdoor lighting and fountain, filled asphalt cracks & resealed, hired year-round landscaping, and relocating sound system into sanctuary.

FOR 2023

Re-tile roof perimeter.

SOLAR CARPORT In addition, in 2020-2022, parishioners took it upon themselves to contribute an additional \$100,000 which is being held to pay-off the solar carport purchase in 2023. Over these last four years, this solar system has saved our church over \$16,000; once the financing company is repaid (July 2023) this will provide a savings of \$14,000. annually, while TEP is raising utility costs.

Special thanks to Rick Nau and Les Walter, our Building & Grounds Committee and Staff!

WISH LIST There are a variety of additional concerns for the future: Replace the digital organ, sound system for the choir, a quiet ice machine, a blue tooth hearing impaired system, additional video cameras, and 25 air conditioning units which need to be replaced on a rotating basis.

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

Laura Romero, the Executive Directory of St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, said that the clinic met with 18 children on June 2, 2022, at the Knights of Pythias center in Nogales, Arizona. This facility is rent free and a temporary location for the Clinic which formerly met at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Nogales.

Much work was required of local volunteers to put up and take down clinic facilities in one big room. Disabilities served were Orthopedics, Pediatrics and Prostheses. Services of speech and hearing could not be provided in June with the amount of noise. The room was full echoes of Prostheses' construction and lots of people conversing in one area. There was no lunch space except for a small kitchen where volunteers could get their own lunches. In this one big room, many children, families and volunteers worked together to serve as a clinic.

July has always been an off month for the clinic, but it will resume on August 4, 2022, hopefully in a more adequate facility. The attendance for August has already reached its limit of 20 children. The professional volunteers (doctors and specialists) have been promised a clinic in September to serve children with Dermatology and Hearing problems.

This summer, several children have been selected have orthopedic surgery in Spokane, Washington. This will be in coordination with the Shriners' organization and hospital.

Laura has been searching, contacting agencies like Rotary, who know about adequate and available facilities in the Nogales, Arizona area. A permanent home for the Children's Clinic is needed and they are trying to find something.

In the meantime, children are being served regularly by telephone conversations with the St. Andrew's staff and volunteers.

Laura and the Children's Clinic are in desperate need of our prayers for a home in which to continue serving many disabled children.

Please, Go and Listen to My Students! A Letter from Bob and Kristi Rice,

Serving in South Sudan Spring 2022



Philosophy of Religion Class-Nile Theological College

Dear Friends,

The greatest joy for me serving in South Sudan these five years has been my students. I am always amazed by their curiosity, thoughtfulness, intelligence, good humor, hard work, and care for me as their teacher and brother in Christ. This semester has been no different. In Philosophy of Religion, we have tackled questions such as “Why is philosophy important?” “What is God’s central attribute according to many theists (believers in God)?” “What analogies help us better understand the Trinity?” “How can Jesus be both fully divine and fully human?” “What is the major weakness of Calvinism?”

This week we examined the greatest potential “defeater” for those who believe in God, the question of suffering and evil. As always, it was helpful for me to do the reading and preparation, and the lecture and discussion time were rich. Together we responded to this central question –

“Can I be mature, both intellectually and spiritually, be aware of the enormous and impressive amounts and depths of suffering and evil in our world, be aware also of the best anti-theistic arguments starting from the facts of evil, and still be such that Christian belief is rational and warranted for me?” (Plantinga, 2015: 117).

My students, all of whom have lived through war and suffering at unfathomable levels, thoughtfully and carefully answered “Yes,” that we can have rational and warranted Christian belief in the face of evil and suffering. We discussed at length God’s goodness in creation and His ongoing care for us. We also discussed the idea of “*sensus divinitatis*,” the experience of God’s divine presence as further evidence of God’s existence and goodness. One student, a pastor, described how members of his church did not want to leave church on Easter Sunday because they had experienced God’s presence amongst them.

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PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Continued from page 16

We then discussed how we could experience God's peace during times of suffering, an experience we believe is not irrational, and how the reality of suffering requires a loving, pastoral response. Furthermore, we discussed how God Himself has fully entered and experienced suffering in the person of Jesus Christ, evincing that while there is terrible suffering in this world, God himself has fully entered it, suffering also.

Lastly, we discussed the breathtaking idea that our human condition is actually better off than it would have been otherwise because of evil and suffering. Our broken estate and our sinful and rebellious condition open the door for redemption, inviting us into full and eternal fellowship with a loving and merciful God. We are like the "Prodigal Son" (see Luke, chapter 15). To fully know the depths of the Father's love, we must go astray, going our own way, before being able to comprehend the comprehensive and unfathomable love of God.



A friend whose shop at the Suk Malakia in Juba was destroyed

Suffering and evil are fitting themes as I reflect on these last few months. At the beginning of the year, the local market across from our former apartment was demolished

. We have many friends and acquaintances whose lives and livelihoods were supported by "Suk Malakia" (the local market). Our friend Mary had a tea shop. Jimmy and his crew fixed televisions and radios. Kapita, Amina, Saida, and Alima sold vegetables, fruits and other sundry items. We saw, visited and connected with these friends and these friendly faces multiple times each week.

They were our community, providing us with a sense of belonging in Juba. With the destruction of our market, this community was no longer present. Our friends scrambled to find new ways to support their families. Over these last few months, reading about the war in Ukraine has been terribly heartbreaking. I am always astounded when one leader causes such horrific pain and suffering for countless millions. These last few months have also been a tumultuous season for us at Nile Theological College.

Yet, in these experiences, which include the deep sadness I have felt over the fate of friends and strangers and the trauma we have experienced at the college; I can only agree with my students. Evil and suffering are not a "defeater" when it comes to the evidence and our experience of a loving, kind, and merciful God. Some persons will inevitably exclaim, "How can you believe in God with the overwhelming evidence of evil and suffering in the world?" I would gently reply to such persons, "Yes, there is evil and suffering in our world, but maybe you have not considered all the evidence when it comes to belief in a loving, just and merciful God. Please, go and listen to my students."

Thank you, as always, for your prayers, love, and support as we serve alongside friends and colleagues in South Sudan. We wish you God's peace and blessings during this Eastertide Season.

Grace and Peace,

Bob and Kristi

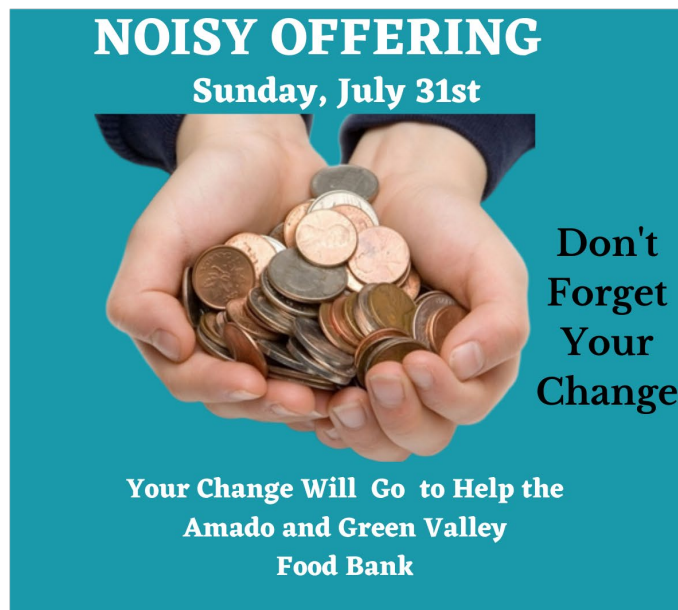
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

600 million unreached Muslims in South Asia

Submitted by: Doug Clark

Pam and Dave L. are actively working with leaders across South Asia to plan how we can reach 600 million unreached Muslims. We plan to expand the creative use of digital media to reach millions of people and mobilize 5000 new young leaders and 50,000 local believers to join us. A major effort is the South Asia Area Retreat we are hosting June 20-25, 2022, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The regional retreat is for our national and other missionaries from 14 countries, to inspire, train and motivate them to keep pressing on to be effective in the task of bringing the Gospel to unreached souls. Please pray for workers as the field is ready for harvest.

Thank you for your faithful support. Pam and Dave L.



Neighbors in Need

Submitted by: Doug Clark

This year we have been exposed to many disasters nationally and internationally for which the congregation has responded with outstanding support by prayer and finance.

A smaller yet very important disaster has occurred in our sister church the Papago United Presbyterian Church located in Sells, AZ. This is our only Native people's congregation in de Cristo Presbytery. The Papago Church is impoverished and their building, which is an A Frame is not only in need of a new roof, but structural timbers. The monsoons are coming! Total cost is \$600,000. They have received \$550,000 from the Presbytery de Cristo and from the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, and their members.

They need to raise another \$50,000 and have requested we participate in this fund raising. Please consider prayer and financial help. Please use our pass-through option by sending checks to VPC with Papago in the memo line.



Picture of several children attending church worship in the A Frame Church.



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

Submitted by Kylen Joplin & Carol Stephens

Recently we had the pleasure of working at the Food Bank for the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive along with 37 other volunteers and staff members sorting more than 23,000 pounds of food. This annual event was cancelled for the past 2 years and has always been the Food Bank's largest annual fund raiser.

Your continuing support is sincerely appreciated by everyone involved.

REMINDER, SUNDAY JULY 3RD AND AUGUST 7TH , ARE VPC FOOD DRIVE SUNDAYS.



Artwork by Julian, age 9

"All these are my favorite things to eat. Bananas, grape, apples, cucumbers, carrots, watermelon, cherries and strawberries."



Artwork by Arabella

"it's really important for people to eat, to have food. I see a lot of people out there with signs."

In May VPC gave the Green Valley and Amado Food Banks about 46 pounds of food and \$478.00 to each of the food banks.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Synod of the Southwest Retreat Gathering-October 2022

The triennial retreat of the Synod of the Southwest Presbyterian Women will be held October 28-30 in Scottsdale at the Franciscan Renewal Center. Cost is \$200 (includes registration, meals, and room) for a shared room and \$300 for a single room.

Registration forms are available at the Women's Ministries table or the church office.

Registrations are due by July 15, 2022, in order to receive a full refund in case of CANCELLATIONS! Registration forms are available on the from office desk at VPC.

Women's Ministries of Valley Presbyterian Church will be providing up to five scholarships of \$200 each for this event. To be eligible you must attend the full three days of the retreat. If interested, please contact Sue Horton or Liz Haynes. Those receiving scholarships will get reimbursement for \$200 of their registration after the event.

Keynote speaker will be Carol Bechtel, author of *Celebrating Sabbath*, the Circle Bible study for the upcoming year starting in September.

About the Author



The Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel is Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, where she has taught since 1994. She also serves as the Executive Director of the American Waldensian Society, an organization that partners with Christians from the Reformed tradition in Italy and South America.

Carol grew up on a farm in Fulton, Illinois. She attended Hope College, Western

Theological Seminary and received her PhD. in Old Testament from Yale University. Her publications include a commentary on Esther and several curriculum series and bible studies. We're sure many of you will remember her PW Bible study from 2007-2008, *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth*.

Carol lives in Holland, Michigan, with her husband, Tom Mullens. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Her hobbies include singing, cookies, gardening, and the Celtic harp. We are so excited to welcome back Carol to Presbyterian Women!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Women's Ministries of Valley Presbyterian Church

Ladies of Valley Presbyterian Church, this is your personal invitation to join with other women of faith who gather monthly for Bible Study in a "Circle" and then come together for a theme-centered luncheon on the third Tuesday of each month from September – May.

This year's study, ***"Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight"*** is written by Western Theological Seminary Old Testament Professor Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel. In the nine lessons, with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke and Acts, we'll consider *Sabbath*:

- * as a celebration , not a day of dreary formality
- * as God intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- * as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- * as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide
- * as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plan for our precious lives
- * as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

In other words, *Sabbath* reminds all of us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives. Even though many/most of us are retired, we also need to be reminded that God has provided what is best for us in giving us the *Sabbath* for our good.

I don't know about you, but this study is appealing, and I look forward to refocusing my priorities while I am fellowshiping and learning from fellow believers. For information about joining a Bible Study "Circle" call the church office or Sue Horton at 203-770-8259 or email at sjhorton19@gmail.com. Our three circles meet at different times, and you can choose the one that best fits your schedule.

And there's more... On the third Tuesday of each month ladies are invited (you don't have to be a member of a study group) to attend an informative and delicious luncheon in the church's fellowship hall. Each month features a special meal, program and/or speaker and there is always the opportunity to learn more about Presbyterian Women and the causes that the Women's Ministry of Valley Presbyterian support. Some of the programs include "YOTO," "More Than a Bed," The GV Animal League and the highlight of every year, The Patio Sale Fashion Show. Look for details in the *Valley Voice*, and weekly bulletins as well as daily eblasts.

Susan J. Horton, Moderator 2022-2023

July Birthdays

*** Turning 90 * over 90*

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Emilee	Erickson	July 01
Rev. Craig J	Lindsey	July 02
Steve	Hart	July 03
Arleen	Boyuls	July 05
Ross	Bright	July 05
Donald	Bahnick	July 06
Daniel	Gnau	July 06
Barbara	Beyer	July 09
Mary Ann	Johnson	July 10
Ann	Bont	July 11
John	Howell	July 11
Donald	Brooks	July 12
Paula	Chervenka	July 15
Robert	McDowell	July 15
Julie	Pryor	July 15
Shirley	Yunker	July 15
William	Woodrow	July 16
Howard	Brown	July 17



July Birthdays

***** Turning 90 * over 90***

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Janice	Callahan	July 18
John	Miller	July 18
Verla B.	Bakker	July 19
Leah	Bohor	July 19
Carolyn	Hill	July 20
Doris	Steffy	July 20 *
Elizabeth	Phillips	July 21 *
Marilyn	Walters	July 21 *
Ruth Ann	Ball	July 22
Roy	Romstad	July 24
Joyce	Gay	July 25
Evelyn	Kelley	July 26
Phyllis	Moore	July 26 *
Kay	Brouwer	July 29
Carole	Green	July 29 **
Clair	Howell	July 31
Janice	McGuire	July 31
Barbara Jeane	West	July 31



August Birthdays

***** Turning 90 * over 90***

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Juanita	Anderson	August 01
Thomas	Erickson	August 03
Christine	Erickson	August 05
Edgar	Truitt	August 05 *
Mikayla	Szabo	August 06
Geneva	Lemman	August 07 *
Joyce	Green	August 08
Roger	Fisher	August 09
Sheila	Kepler	August 09
Lois	Macfarlane	August 09
Mike	Brouwer	August 10
Richard	Horn	August 12
Victor	Valade	August 13
John	Ireland	August 13
Brad	Tate	August 13
John	Marchica	August 15
Patti	Messerschmidt	August 17
Carol	Wilking	August 17
Joyce	Davison	August 17
Calvin	Danhof	August 18
Bruce	Garnett	August 18



August Birthdays

***** Turning 90 * over 90***

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Linda	Mutimer	August 20
Gwen	Lamb	August 20 **
George	Curtis	August 21
Clayton	Messelt	August 21
Carol	Collins	August 22
Elizabeth	Haynes	August 22
Joan	Briggs	August 22
Gayle	Tompkins	August 23
Steven	Larson	August 23
Les	Walter	August 23
Mike	Yoder	August 24
Daniel	Wilking	August 24
Martha	Jenkins	August 24 *
Donna	Richards	August 25
Keith	Adrian	August 26
Bob	Lillie	August 27
Ann	Tate	August 28
Jean	Messelt	August 29 *
Carol	Stephens	August 30
H. Larry	Sharp	August 31 *

Valley Presbyterian Church July 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	27 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am Faith Formation Committee 2:00pm Valley Readers	28 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	29 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:30am Worship Committee 4:00pm Line Dancing	30	1 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	2 10:00AM 3 of July Party Setup
3 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School Food Bank Sunday 11:00 4 th of July Celebration	4 Independence Day 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises	5 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am Membership Outreach Committee 1:30pm Buildings and Grounds	6 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:30pm Worship Committee 4:00pm Line Dancing	7	8 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises Stephen Ministry CE, Peer Group, Stephen Leaders	9
10 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	11 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 10:00am Fellowship Committee	12 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	13 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 4:00pm Line Dancing	14 8:00am Patio Sale Sort 9:00am Faith & Health Committee	15 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	16
17 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	18 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises	19 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	20 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 10:00am Finance Quarterly Meeting 1:00pm Movie Ministry-News of the World 4:00pm Line Dancing	21	22 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	23
24 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	25 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 2:00pm Valley Readers	26 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	27 Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 10:00am Ministry of Presence 4:00pm Line Dancing	28	29 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	30
31 9:30am Worship Service Noisy Offering 9:45am Children's Sunday School 4:00pm 5 th Sunday Gospel Sing	1 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises	2 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 11:00am Network of Caring 1:00pm Membership Outreach Committee 1:30pm Exploring Membership Class	3 Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:30am Worship Committee 4:00pm Line Dancing	4 1:00pm Personnel Committee-Zoom Meeting	5 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises PEO Chapter DA	6

Valley Presbyterian Church August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	1 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises	2 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 11:00am Network of Caring 1:00pm Membership Outreach Committee 1:30pm Exploring Membership Class	3 Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:30am Worship Committee 4:00pm Line Dancing	4 1:00pm Personnel Committee-Zoom Meeting	4 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises PEO Chapter DA	6
7 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School Food Bank Sunday	8 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 10:00am Patio Sale Team Meeting	9 8:45am Mission Committee 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 1:30pm Exploring Membership Class 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	10 Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 1:30pm Building & Grounds Committee 4:00pm Line Dancing	11 8:00am Patio Sale Sort 9:00am Faith & Health Committee	12 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises Stephen Ministry CE, Peer Group, Stephen Leaders	13
14 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	15 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 10:00am Fellowship Committee	16 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 1:30pm Exploring Membership Class 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	17 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 1:00pm Movie Ministry 4:00pm Line Dancing	18	19 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	20
21 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	22 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 2:00pm Valley Readers	23 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	24 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 10:00am Ministry of Presence 4:00pm Line Dancing	25 8:00am Exploring Membership Class 8:30am Session Meeting	26 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	27
28 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	29 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	30 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	31 Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 4:00pm Line Dancing	1	2 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am PEO Chapter DA	3

