

THE VALLEY VOICE

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH July 2023



Planning In a World of Uncertainty

Submitted by: Pastor Craig Lindsey

In the 20th Century, with the advent of personal computers, we envisioned a time when everything would be known, and there would be absolute certainty... The goal of the enlightenment had been to reveal all of the laws of nature, in order that everything could be known. Personally, I believe our world is more uncertain today than ever before. We had the carpet removed from the chancel, uncertain what would happen to sound; we ordered a new organ, only to discover our Organist was leaving for a full-time job; we had a committee audition candidates for an Accompanist only to discover Jan was right under our noses; for 45 years we have tried every possibility for a sound system for the choir to hear worship, and now a new system is available, but until installed we have no proof whether it will work for our circumstance...

The temptation of the Garden of Eden was a desire to know and be certain, rather than trusting God.

The fear of terrorism is that uncertainty discourages us from trusting. The partisanship of politics has resulted in our refusing to listen to those different from us. In my doctoral thesis, I discovered that “conflict” and “trust” are in opposition, meaning that the greater our trust, the lower the conflict, and the lower our trust the greater the conflict. Increasingly, the human problem is not that we do not believe in God, it is that people do not believe anything, people do not trust. Someone recently was making an illustration that the businesses create goods or services, their purpose being to make money which influences their stockholders. In the church, we are in the business of trust. Thank you, that in daily life, in life and death struggles, in the midst of changes, you have trusted God and prayed for us. You mean the world to us!

Pastor Craig

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Updates**

**Bible Study
Opportunities**

4th of July Celebration

Fun Fridays

Adult VBS

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

OUR MISSION

To make Christ known through reconciliation while communicating respect and love to all people.

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

- Worship that glorifies God.
- Growing our faith in love, hope and the peace of Christ.
- Caring for the children of God.
- Reaching out to the community and the world.
- Seeking an attitude of servanthood.

Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol

Green Valley, AZ 85622

(520) 625-5023

vpc-office@valleypres.net

www.valleypresbyterian.net

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

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey,

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Diane Christopher,

Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Joe Hawkins,

Pastor Emeritus



Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship

9:30 a.m.

Online and in Person

www.valleypresbyterian.net

In This Issue

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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Pastor Craig Lindsey-Pastor/Head of Staff.....pastorcraig@valleypres.net

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Jamie Reed-Director of Music.....jamie@valleypres.net

Janet Brachel-Organist/Accompanistorganist@valleypres.net

Chris Erickson-Parish Nurse.....parishnurse@valleypres.net

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

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

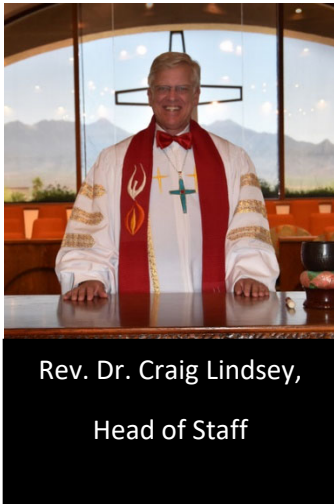
Linda Hester-Administrative Specialist.....lhester@valleypres.net

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

Randy VanHyfte-Custodian.....randy@valleypres.net

SUNDAY Worship Schedule and Other Celebrations

July 2	Genesis 22 “Coming of Age” Communion Food Bank Sunday July 4 Picnic following Worship	Pastor Craig
July 9	Genesis 24 “A Partner for Isaac” Nogales Crossroads Mission Sunday	Pastor Craig
July 16	Genesis 25 “Twins”	Pastor Craig
July 23	“Parable of the Weeds”	Pastor Craig
July 30	Romans 8:26-39 “Nothing Can Separate” Noisy Offering Sunday	Pastor Diane



From Pastor Craig

The George H. Pike Endowment

Thank you to those who have given to create the George Pike Endowment over these last 10 years. Part of our consideration of removing restrictions on this fund, are to call attention to the funds existence so more of us might want to contribute to this.

Our Session did not meet in June, so no final decisions about changes have been considered as yet. What has been recommended is that our Session change the restrictions on this fund.

1. In the future, just as it has been, this fund would be called The George H. Pike Endowment.

2. However, rather than reserving this asset (which in 10 years has become \$208,000) until it reaches \$1,500,000.00; advisors could offer that no more than the IRS recommended amount of these funds (5% = \$10,000) could be used starting in 2024. In recent years, our annual giving has consistently been greater than our spending, so in all likelihood these funds would continue to grow without any expense.

3. Rather than only being allowed to be used to fund the salary of a Minister of Pastoral Care, instead, these funds could be used to support all of the pastoral care ministries you as the church provide for one another (Deacons, Stephen Ministry, NOC, Bereavement, etc.).

Similarly, there was a beautiful limestone church building in Pennsylvania, which had a \$3,000,000 endowment that could only ever be used to purchase replacement bricks for the Sanctuary. While an earlier edifice had been made of brick, the building built in the 1920s had been limestone, and the restrictions on that endowment meant the church could never use those funds.

Holy Lands Tour 2024

April 8-16, 2024, Valley Presbyterian Church is sending a group on tour in the Holy Lands with Pastor Craig. Easter will be March 31st in 2024, so this is an excellent time to go, having celebrated Holy Week in Green Valley AZ.

Thus far, we have about 25 who have expressed interest and a growing number who have made a reservation. Please, whether you have previously expressed interest or are just deciding about going make your reservation now! Pastor Craig's guidance before, during and after the Tour, all Air Fare, a Private Tour Bus and Driver, Professional Tour Guides in Israel and in Palestine, First Class hotels, all meals, and two bottles of water daily, all tour admissions, and visas are provided for \$3,949.00. We have finalized the Air Travel arrangements through British Airways flying Phoenix to London to Tel Aviv. There is an additional charge if you are wanting to room singly, so if you would like to find a friend to travel with as roommates, please let this be known when making your reservation. Special shots and visas are not needed ahead of time (When landing in Israel, each person will be given a visa to carry in their passport).

As 2023 progresses, we will keep folks updated and begin planning times to gather to make the trip more enjoyable, but for right now, selecting a roommate and making a reservation for AIR & LAND Travel are important. If you need to know who is planning to go and may not have a roommate, please consult the church office.

From Pastor Diane

As I write this, our country is preparing to celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. I think of my recent trip to Maryland to visit John and Ruth Dunham (John was a former associate pastor here at Valley). On our first day, we traveled to Washington, DC as we had snagged last-minute tickets to tour the Capital building.

As we waited in line and watched the multitudes visiting that day, especially children, John said, "This is the people's capital." It is designed for all to visit at no cost (well, except for parking). Our visit included the Library of Congress which for some reason reminded me of Hogwarts from the Harry Potter movies.

There was so much beauty and art on the walls and ceiling in both buildings. Of course, you cannot miss all those statues from each state (each state has two). My favorite was the statue of Ronald Reagan which contained pieces of concrete from the Berlin Wall. I was mesmerized.

In the midst of all this beauty was something more simple, more powerful, easily missed if our tour guide hadn't mentioned it. I was standing right next to it: a plaque in the floor signifying where Abraham Lincoln had his desk in Statuary Hall, where the House of Representatives used to meet.



Pastor Diane Christopher-Pastor of Discipleship

His desk was in the very, very back, which showed the lowest rank or importance. He rose from the very back of the House to saving the nation in its most divisive time. Later that day, we stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial, reading on the walls the words of his famous speeches. I listened to the different languages spoken by visitors from other parts of the world, and I wondered what drew them to the Lincoln Memorial.

I came away from that visit with deep gratitude for our country. Our tour had started with a short movie called "E pluribus unum (Out of many, one). A reminder that we have different opinions, but still one country. I was deeply aware of how divided we are, so as we walked the halls, I prayed for our country. I prayed for the men and women who work there. I prayed for our leaders and decision makers. It is easy to miss all that those walls display and represent, so I prayed these leaders would be reminded over and over again of the great task to which they have been called. Will you pray with me?

Happy 4th of July everyone.

Pastor Diane



Bible Study with Pastor Craig at VPC

BIBLE REFLECTIONS

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

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

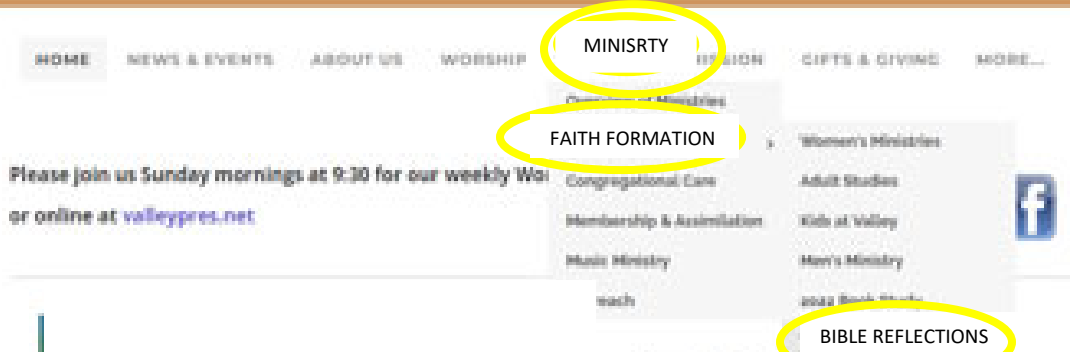
You don't have to attend every class and you may join at any time.

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

Meeting ID: 294 281 2414

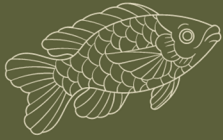
Password: Heaven

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






Jesus Eats!



**An Experience About the
Foods Jesus Ate.**



**Thursdays, August
3, 10, 17 & 24
10:00 a.m. in
Classroom 1**



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

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

Your teacher: Pastor Diane

Your food provider: Anne Morrison

LINE DANCE LESSONS CONTINUE FOR THE SUMMER THRU AUGUST 23

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

Steve Hart will be teaching new dances.

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



★ 4TH OF JULY PICNIC ★

AFTER WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

ON THE MENU: HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, BAKED BEANS, CHIPS
AND
ICE CREAM SANDWICHES

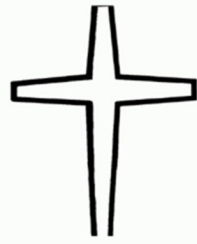
JULY 2 | 10:30AM-12: 00PM

PLEASE Bring Your Hot Dog or
Hamburger Tickets with you!

No Charge but there will be a free will offering

This event is brought to by your
Fellowship Committee





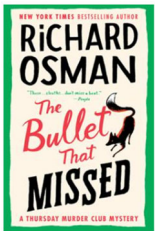
VPC Library

Submitted by: Anne Morrison, Church Librarian

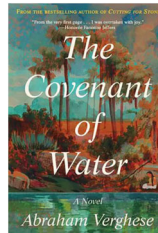
NEW VPC LIBRARY BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

Look for these books in the racks on the library tables.

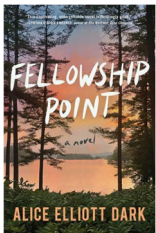
FICTION



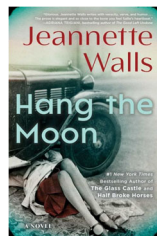
The Bullet that Missed: a Thursday Murder Club mystery. (Richard Osman) The Thursday Murder Club is back in action (for the third time) in their peaceful British retirement community. Now, an old cold case leads the four septuagenarian sleuths to a local news legend and a murder with no answers. (FIC OSM)



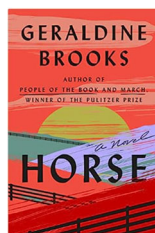
The Covenant of Water: a novel. (Abraham Verghese) From the *New York Times* – “Bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone* comes a stunning epic of love, faith, and medicine. The epic novel is set in Kerala, South India, and follows three generations of family seeking the answers to a strange secret.” (FIC VER)



Fellowship Point: a novel. (Alice Elliott Dark) This is a story of a lifelong friendship between two very different women who share histories, divisive loyalties, hidden sorrows, and eighty years of summers on a pristine point of land on the coast of Maine. (FIC DAR)

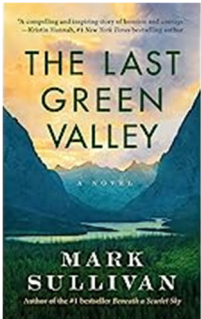


Hang the Moon: a novel. (Jeannette Walls) From the author of *The Glass Castle*, comes a ‘rip-roaring, action-packed’ novel about a determined young woman making her way and her mark during prohibition-era Virginia. (FIC WAL)

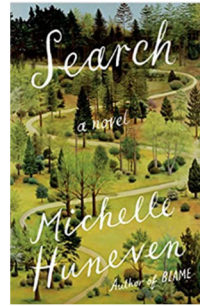


Horse: a novel. (Geraldine Brooks) “A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner Brooks creates a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. (FIC BRO)

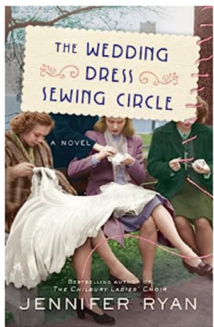
New VPC Library Books for Summer Reading Continued:



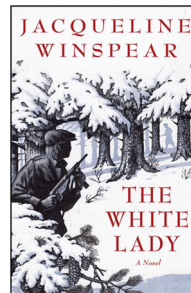
The last green valley: a novel. (Mark Sullivan) Sullivan has developed a historical novel inspired by one family's incredible story of daring, survival, and triumph in 1940s Ukraine. (FIC SUL)



Search: a novel. (Michelle Huneven) From an award-winning author comes a sharp and funny novel of a Unitarian congregational pastor search committee, told as a memoir with recipes. (FIC HUN)

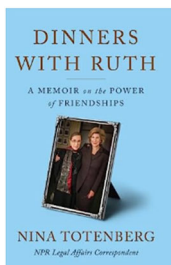


The wedding dress sewing circle: a novel. (Jennifer Ryan) Three creative women lift the spirits of home-front brides in WWII Britain where clothes rationing prohibits fancy gowns for celebrations at weddings. This heartwarming novel is based on true events. (FIC RYA)



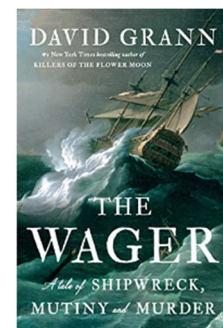
White lady: a novel. (Jacqueline Winspear) This book introduces yet another extraordinary heroine from the author of the popular *Maisie Dobbs* series. Set in Post WWII Britain, the novel follows former wartime operative Elinor White—veteran of two wars and a trained killer. The book is based on true events. (FIC WIN)

NON-FICTION



Dinners with Ruth: a memoir on the power of friendships. (Nina Totenberg) Noted NPR correspondent Totenberg delivers a memoir of her personal successes, struggles, and life-affirming relationships. Totenberg includes memories of her lasting friendship with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. (791.44 TOT)

The Wager: a tale of shipwreck, mutiny, and murder. (David Grann) From the author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, this is a page-turning story of shipwreck, survival, and savagery. The book is impressively researched and documented. (910.9164 GRA)





Adult Vacation Bible School – YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD!

Save the mornings (9 to noon) of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday July 18, 19, and 20 for our very first Adult Vacation Bible School. We are calling it ***You Are Never Too Old*** because the Vacation Bible School experience should not be just for kids. We think adults - even adults our age - should have the opportunity to step away from their usual routine and nurture their faith journey. Each day will have its own focus:

Tuesday – You are never too old *to enjoy God*.

Wednesday – You are never too old *to learn something new*.

Thursday - You are never too old *to share your faith*.

At Vacation Bible School you will

Value your bond with others in our faith community,

Build your Bible knowledge, and

Seek to deepen your spiritual self.

Registration continues Sundays July 9 and 16 after church. You can also register by contacting the church office. There is no charge. All activities are recommended for people age 55+.

This is for everyone – so feel free to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome!



**EVERYONE
IS INVITED
TO JOIN**

FUN ON FRIDAYS

*Make a New Friends,
or Bring a Friend*

Fridays 1:00 p.m. -
3:00 p.m.

**BOARD GAMES, CARD GAMES,
DOMINOES, MEXICAN TRAIN,
BUNCO OR BRING A GAME TO SHARE**

For More Information, Contact
Anne Morrison - 520-591-2797

Meet Our Organist/Accompanist

Submitted by Jan Brachel



Hi! I'm Jan.

It is an honor to have an opportunity to introduce myself. Losing a beloved organist immediately after purchasing an extraordinary organ must have been very difficult for the congregation. I have known and respected Wes ever since my family moved to Tucson and know how much he is loved.

I am excited to have been hired to assume his duties and do my best to maintain the integrity and joy demonstrated in Valley's worship services.

I am Jan Brachel; musician, mom, grandmother and recently great grandmother. I have been an organist and pianist for the past 52 years. 30 of those years I was an educator, teaching high school music for 23 years and 7 years on the elementary level. I am proud to say I have worked as a church musician during all that time.

I come from a long line of eccentric musicians; we celebrate every kind of music. My mother was a professional jazz musician, church musician and nationally known Sweet Adeline director and arranger.

In 1985, I lost my husband due to Agent Orange and was left with 3 children under 7, finding it necessary to teach school, work full-time in a church and teach private piano to be able to provide benefits and security for my girls.

You have a precious gift at Valley. Let's talk about the organ. It is the Rolls Royce of instruments. In my entire life and being 5'1", I have never been able to reach the pedals or the highest manual. This instrument is so generous. I can adjust the bench for short people and lower the music rack to be able to turn pages. I try to play music that speaks to the heart while revisiting the classics.

You have the most incredible choir I've ever met. They are willing to master powerful anthems and share their talents weekly. They are also the nicest group of people with whom I've ever worked, and I appreciate their enthusiastic love and support.

My greatest blessing right now is working again with my daughter, Jamie. She is the finest musician I've ever known. Most importantly, she is an inspiration to everyone she meets and challenges all of us to be better people, as well as musicians. What Valley has done to embrace A.J. is beyond measure. He has a new, special family of people who look out for him and make him a stronger, more loving person. I am eternally grateful for your generosity.

I look forward to a wonderful partnership based upon love and the magical power of music. Let me know if there is anything I can provide to further enhance your worship experience.

Jan



July Ministry Movie *Cocoon* July 5 at 1:00 p.m. In the Spiritual Life Center

Submitted by: Marie Valade, Facilitator for the July 5 Movie



First Wednesday Movie

Wednesday, July 5 at 1:00 p.m.
in the Spiritual Life Center

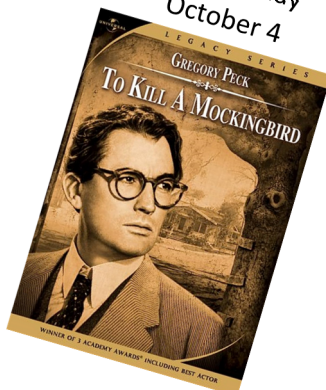
Cocoon is a 1985 comedy/science fiction movie.
There is a theme of friendship and love throughout the film.
It also shows what happens when selfishness and no
regard for hurting others take hold.

As we watch the movie together let's look for parallels with our
faith.

Wednesday
August 2nd



Wednesday
October 4



Wednesday
September 6



Caring for those in our congregation

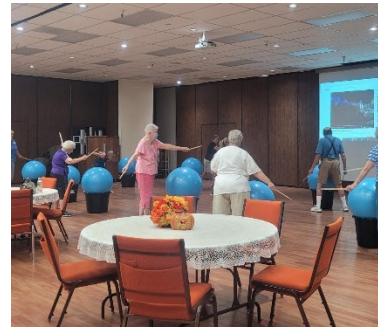
Faith & Health/Parish Nurse July 2023

Submitted by Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson

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

Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy.

Drink plenty of water when you are exercising or are outside doing activities. This is needed all year.



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.

Medical Minute: July is a National Month to over 70 things: National Chocolate Month, National Ice Cream Month, National Blueberry and Raspberry Month, National French Fry Month, and National Hot Dog Month just to name a few. July is also one of the warmest months – so remember to drink plenty of water.

July Healthy Vision Month

Submitted by Chris Erickson

July is Healthy Vision Month. Prevention and early detection with any health concern is key but especially with vision. As you age, you are at higher risk of developing eye diseases: AMD (age-related macular degeneration), Cataracts, Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, and Low Vision.

AMD (age-related macular degeneration) is a common eye disease for those age 60 and older. This disease gradually destroys the macula, that provides sharp, central vision needed for seeing objects clearly. This eye disease can be either dry form or wet form, with each form requiring different techniques in treatment plans. Also, protecting your vision from the blue light on your computer is very important.

Cataract is a clouding of the eye's lens and is common in older adults and those with Diabetes. Surgery can restore vision loss by a cataract. Surgery is one of the more common procedures, however some may not need it and others do postpone it.

Diabetic retinopathy is the most common condition among those with Diabetes, damaging the blood vessels in the retina, usually in both eyes. Controlling your blood sugar/glucose levels, blood pressure, and cholesterol may prevent it from getting worse. For a more advanced stage, laser surgery may be an option.

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that are caused by the same event; fluid in the eye builds up and damages the optic nerve. Prescribed eye drops can help control glaucoma; laser surgery is another option to open clogged areas so that eye fluid will drain, easing pressure against the optic nerve.

Those who have age-related eye diseases are more likely to develop low vision, so that even with glasses/contacts, medicine or surgery, daily tasks are difficult to do. (Reading, cooking, watching the TV, shopping, and writing or using the computer) Low vision specialists can offer some options/services that may help people make the most of their remaining vision. They cannot restore lost vision.

Those 50 and older should have visit an eye care professional annually. When outside with the sun, wear sunglasses. Ask about blue light protection glasses if you use a computer frequently and daily. Prevention and early detection are vital.

(Information from the National Eye Institute, National Institute of Health)





CLERKS CORNER

MAUREEN RAMSAY, CLERK OF SESSION

This is the first column that I am writing to you as your Clerk of Session. Why am I writing this? I want to keep you updated on all things related to the Session and also let you know how special it is to be a Presbyterian! I want to thank all the clerks who have come before me here, especially Charlie Ashton and Liz Haynes.

First, a little history of who I am and how I got here. I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the oldest daughter of a large Catholic family. After college, I spent 46 years in the medical imaging profession. Chuck and I met at work and combined our families of 5 children and now 16 grandchildren! That was 27 years ago.

Chuck and I were both very active in our previous church. Chuck taught Sunday school, chaired just about every committee at one time or another, was a frequent lector especially during COVID-19, and preached during the pastor's absence. I worked in the finance office, was a member of the choir, praise team, handbells, and occasionally played the piano for worship. Oh yes, I was also the Clerk of Session for ten years!

We moved to Green Valley in 2021 and immediately joined Valley Pres. Chuck comes from a long line of Presbyterian ministers dating back to Scotland, so it was natural for us to seek out Valley Presbyterian. I became Presbyterian when we got married.

Okay, enough about that. I want to share with you what the Clerk of Session actually does. The Clerk is responsible for keeping the official minutes of Session and congregational meetings. The Presbytery provides guidelines and dictates specific items that the minutes need to contain. The Session minutes contain all of the actions taken by the church and provide a history of the church for future generations. The Clerk is responsible for the maintenance and storage of all the minutes. The Clerk also manages the membership rolls, including Active, Affiliate, and Baptized members. The Clerk communicates with other churches for membership transfers. The Clerk maintains records of all baptisms and marriages performed by the pastors. The Clerk records all member deaths. The Clerk is responsible for communicating with the Presbytery. The Clerk works closely with the pastor to ensure that the Book of Order is followed, and that Robert's Rules of Order are observed during meetings.

Whew, that seems like a lot! Now you can see why the role of Clerk of Session is so important. It is a job that requires meticulous record-keeping, attention to detail, and organizational skills. There is a lot of stuff to keep track of and it is a big commitment. Here at Valley Presbyterian, we have two very capable admins who help me keep up with it all. Linda Hester and Cindy Johnson are a great asset to our church. Please thank them every chance you get for the work they do!

In the interest of keeping you informed, I want to tell you where you can go to read about what the Session is doing. All of the Session packets, which contain meeting minutes, pastor's reports, financial statements, etc. for the last five years are in 2 binders in Room 5. The shelf that contained the binders was previously located in the Fellowship Hall. I encourage anyone who has an interest in really knowing what is happening in the church to go to Room 5 and read the reports. We do not have a check-out system for the records, so we ask that you do not remove them from Room 5.

If anyone has any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, you can reach me at my church email: clerk@valleypres.net. My personal email address and cell phone are also listed in the directory. I would like to ask specifically for any questions that you might have about the Presbyterian Church or why things are done the way they are here, and I will answer them in a future column.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Clerk of Session.

Become a Stephen Minister

Jana Honermann, Stephen Leader Team Coordinator



Do you have a caring nature and find yourself often listening, caring, and praying for those who are down? Have you had past experiences with personal suffering that can help you empathize with others who are experiencing their own suffering? Do you have spiritual gifts in areas connected with caring ministry?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Becoming a Stephen Minister in Valley Presbyterian Church is a life-transforming experience - an opportunity to serve God, help others, and grow in faith.

As we all know, just because we are of a "certain age" does not mean that we stop going through difficulties in our lives. All of us at one time or another are going to experience grief and loss, chronic illness, loneliness, relationship breakdowns, being a caregiver to a loved one, or other hard life transitions. You do not need to go through these alone. Many of our church members are reaching out to Stephen Ministry and finding a one-on-one listening companion to help them through their time of difficulty. VPC Stephen Ministry is having a difficult time in meeting the demand! As a result, we plan on a Stephen Minister training class commencing in January 2024 and need potential candidates to prayerfully consider applying for the class as early as yesterday!

Become a Stephen Minister continued.

Who Are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are congregation members equipped and commissioned for caring ministry. They come from many different backgrounds, ages, and walks of life, but all have one important thing in common: a heart for bringing Christ's healing love to hurting people. In short, Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who want to make a difference in the lives of those going through difficult times.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

A Stephen Minister walks alongside a hurting person to provide one-to-one, emotional, and spiritual care—listening, empathizing, encouraging, helping process feelings, and connecting the person with God's love. Serving in this role is an opportunity to put your spiritual gifts into action and touch people's lives in powerful ways. Typically, a Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver in person, although many have shifted to meeting by phone or video chat during the COVID-19 pandemic so that they can continue their ministry while ensuring everyone's safety.

Who Do Stephen Ministers Care For?

Stephen Ministers provide care for *care receivers*, people in the congregation or community who are experiencing difficulties in life, such as grief, major illness, loneliness, spiritual struggles, and so on. In the midst of challenging times, receiving care from a Stephen Minister can make a significant difference.

What Is Stephen Minister Training Like?

Stephen Minister training is an engaging, interactive experience that fully equips you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Stephen Leaders will use presentations, discussions, readings, videos, skill practices, and spiritual growth activities to equip and empower you with practical caregiving and relational skills. In addition, the training provides many opportunities for building Christian community and experiencing personal and spiritual growth. Stephen Ministers often say that their training was life-transforming—helping them to grow in faith and learn relationship principles and skills that deepened and enhanced all the relationships in their life.

Who Do I Contact if I Want to Apply for Stephen Minister Training?

You can talk to any of the VPC Stephen Leaders: Patti Bright- pattie.bright1@gmail.com , Carolyn Hill - carolynehill@bellsouth.net , Jana Honermann - janahonermann@gmail.com , Bob Lillie- milillie54@gmail.com , or Linda Piotrowski – giraffe109@gmail.com.

Patio Sale News

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

Changes for the Summer!

There are many seasons each year that require some changes, and in Green Valley, summer is one of them - especially for Patio Sale. The biggest change coming up is a change in donation pick-ups. During July and August, there will only be two pick-ups each month (see dates below). Weekly pick-ups will resume September 8. To schedule a pick-up, please call the church office and leave a message. One of our Coordinating Team will contact you and set a date.

The second change impacts house pack-outs. Due to the lack of volunteers and the summer heat, we will be suspending pack-outs until after Labor Day. You may ask, what is a "pack-out?" Occasionally, the Coordinating Team is asked to pack-up someone's home because they are moving away from Green Valley, are downsizing, or due to the death of the homeowner and they want to donate all their household items to the Patio Sale.

We appreciate your understanding of these temporary changes and your continued support of Valley Presbyterian Church's Patio Sale.

PATIO SALE SUMMER PICK-UP DATES

Fridays July 14 and 28

Fridays August 11 and 25

Submitted by Kay Brouwer, St. Andrews' Clinic liaison.

St. Andrews' Children's Clinic – July 2023

On June 1, Laura Romero, the Executive Director of St. Andrews' Clinic, gave Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Mike and Kay Brouwer a personal tour of the facility and the activities. Carol and Kylene, as first-time visitors, were shocked by what they saw. There were many suffering children who were unable to function without help. Families and volunteers were there to assist, but it is heartbreaking to see such severely handicapped children. Laura has great empathy, energy and desire to help these families. She has invited Kay to bring 2 or 3 people to visit the clinic the first Thursday of each month. Contact Kay Brouwer (573-552-2313) if you'd like to see the Clinic with her in August, September or October. A personal visit is the only way to understand how much St. Andrews' Clinic helps struggling children. Some of you may want to volunteer to work at the Thursday Clinic. Laura is planning a way to enlist interested individuals.

There were about 60 children with families at the June clinic. They had appointments for diagnosis and treatment. There were too many for the front area, so families were taken to the large back space to wait for their assigned time. Home-baked cookies were passed around as children played or just waited.

Laura is very thankful to our church for donating and mounting a television which the children will enjoy watching while they wait for their appointments.

Departments of Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Orthotics, limited Audiology and Physical Therapy were functioning at the June Clinic. Their Audiology van is parked in the back of the building, but it does not yet have electricity. Testing of a child's hearing is not possible with current conditions. Mike Brouwer donated several hearing devices and batteries. The doctor/audiologist expressed thanks because the donations like this are very helpful.

Before we left Nogales, Laura took us and other clinic visitors to a building which might serve as the future Clinic. It is a two story, small church which is no longer serving a congregation. The St. Andrews' Board is looking at this possibility. Pastor Craig contacted other pastors in the Green Valley Area who might want their congregations to join ours in an ecumenical fundraiser to help the clinic. An endeavor to join with others to help St. Andrews will be a further service to our Lord. A meeting with Father Warren of the Episcopal Church, Pastor Mike of the Desert Hills Lutheran met with Pastor Craig and Kay on May 24. At that time, Laura talked with us via telephone. Many ideas were generated and will be considered. We were able to set up a meeting on June 29 to visit the church which is under consideration to serve as the Clinic.

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

This year is the 50th anniversary of when St. Andrew's Children's Clinic began. Fifty years ago, seven cerebral palsy children and their mothers gathered in a home in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. It moved to Nogales, Arizona where volunteer and professional health care staff serve children on the first Thursday of each month, except July. The clinic is now housed in the mall at 2021 N. Grand in Nogales, Arizona. Laura has plans to increase fundraising efforts this year with mailings and events to acknowledge the 50th Anniversary. This clinic is one of the agencies served by our Valley Presbyterian Church congregation through the Mission Committee. Laura Romero, the director of the St. Andrews' Children's Clinic, considers our prayers, concerns and donations true blessings from God.



Left to right: Mike Brouwer, Laura Romero, the Executive Director, Diane Ward, Office Manager, and Kay Brouwer.



In these two photos are two of St. Andrews Clinic patients waiting with their mothers to be seen by the Doctors.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

Submitted by: Anne Ball, Samaritan's Purse Mission Liaison

Last year we had a very successful Shoebox Operation, and we pray to do so again this year.

I know it is early to be thinking about Christmas, but not really too early for this project as it is truly serving “the great commission” of reaching unsaved countries in faraway lands with the Gospel news. Last year almost 1500 churches were planted as a result of Operation Christmas Child. 2.5 million children all over the world gave their lives to Christ as a result. The primary goal isn't just gifts for impoverished or war/storm torn countries....it is that the Gospel will be preached to all the nations. The shipping of the boxes is a huge project and takes much time and organization so planning needs to begin now.

For those wishing to participate, we will begin passing out the shoeboxes this year around October 22 for you to pack, with final collection date November 12. But it is not too early for you to begin to watch for sales or that special WOW item for the box. Decide on age of child and gender you wish to gift a box and watch out for the July sales and back to school sales in August that would be appropriate.

Much more information will be forthcoming in months ahead, but save the dates, think about your box and get in on the clearance sales. And most importantly pray that again this Project will establish the Gospel where it has not been known.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Operation Mobilization

Submitted by: Doug Clark

FAMILY NEWS: MAY 15th, Justin turned 33 and he and his family will come to see us all from South Korea July 25! Rachel is 35 and working hard as a Special Ed teacher in Mukwonago, WI. We plan to spend some time with Rachel and her family this summer too.



Pam and Dave Lovett



Rachel and Family



Justin and Family

Pam and I do try and take some time away for recreation and renewal and often it is on her family farm, riding horses and camping out.



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

With love and blessings,
Dave and Pam

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

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

A Festival to the Lord: the 2023 Vision Convocation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Currently I am teaching the course “Introduction to African Traditional Religion” at Nile Theological College in Juba, South Sudan. A recent lecture and discussion focused on the role of rituals and festivals within the African Heritage. Together we discussed the role of festivals and the multiple functions which they serve. Festivals often last many days; they can even last up to one month and sometimes longer. Festivals can be a time of ritual worship, and they provide a source of entertainment through special food, music, and dancing. Festivals bring people together and they provide an outlet for thoughts and feelings to be expressed in the context of community. According to African cosmology, festivals bring together and unite the visible world with the invisible world of the spirit. Lastly, and perhaps most significantly, festivals renew the life of a community, strengthening its religious and social values.

Last month we gathered as the Presbyterian Mission Agency for our first ever Vision Convocation. We were an assembled gathering of more than two hundred staff across eight inter-related departments/ agencies: This was the first time all agencies came together under one banner. It was also the first time that all Presbyterian mission-coworkers serving across the globe were gathered in one place. The theme of our time together was “One Band/One Sound.” We were led by Rev. Dr. Dianne Moffett, our humble and courageous leader who serves as President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA).



Presbyterian World Mission, all of us (almost!) gathered together as one body perhaps for the first time.

In my most recent reflections on our week together, I was struck by how this gathering reflected the value of a festival according to the African Heritage. There was entertainment throughout, highlighted by music, drama, and good-natured humor. We worshipped together each day, and we were able to spend time reflecting together on our social values or “culture code.” We were able to listen to one another, learn from one another, and simply be together “in-person” after three years of the pandemic stress of being separated physically.

Over the last three years, we have known each other “in boxes” on a screen (Zoom). Now, we had a chance to all be together in one room, in the flesh. It was a fully orbbed, enculturated, incarnational experience. I remember helping lead the liturgy on our first day of worship. I recall looking deeply into the eyes of a brother sitting near the front as I spoke words of confession and feeling an immediate bond of kinship with him, being united in that moment with my brother across race and generation, joined together in that consequential moment across the divides which our society constructs to separate us. I was deeply moved. Such experiences usually do not happen on Zoom.

I will be honest and share that I initially had misgivings about participating in the Vision Convocation due to various concerns. Yet, I am so glad that we were able to attend! Following the wisdom of our African ancestors and the African Heritage, I believe that such gatherings are necessary to renew the life, vision, and values of our community. Rev. Dr. Dianne Moffett and the other leaders within the Presbyterian Mission Agency were determined to bring everyone together, and for that I am eternally grateful. To God be the glory!

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.

Bob and Kristi Rice are coming to Valley Presbyterian Church

Bob and Kristi Rice will join VPC's congregation to share their enthusiasm, Christian witness, and experiences serving as our missionaries to South Sudan on the weekend of September 16, and 17, 2023. Bob serves as a faculty member at Nile Theological College (NTC). He teaches courses in Theology, Church History, and Discipleship. His passion is to empower and equip emerging church leaders and to instruct them in a manner which is contextually relevant and helpful. Kristi serves as an economic and development advisor for the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. She supports the healing and reconciliation ministry of the church and the equipping of congregations to improve health and wellbeing in their communities. They live in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. The Rice's have visited us many times inspiring and educating with their blog, bobandkristi.blogspot.com, while we have supported them both financially and spiritually in prayer. Save the dates as we will host them at Mission Breakfast on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from the pulpit on Sunday, September 17, 2023, followed by an open house that afternoon. It is good to have our old friends with us.



Nogales, Crossroads Mission

Submitted by: Les Walter, Crossroads Liaison

Thank You!

Executive Director Alejandra Martinez would like to thank you all for your generous response to the needs expressed by Crossroads Mission for linens (twin sheets, blankets, covers), toiletries and personal hygiene products, clothing, and food items for the pantry. The Mission has been experiencing an increase in those needing shelter and these items will be very helpful in seeing to their needs.

Summer Slump

At the Crossroads Nogales Mission, we face a seasonal challenge known as the “Summer Slump”. During this period, the summer months of June, July, and August, our organization experiences a decline in donations and support, making it the low season for us. We are reaching out to you with this article to shed light on this crucial matter.

As the temperatures rise and people engage in summer activities, the needs of the hurt and homeless in our community remain ever-present.

With the decline on donations during this time, it becomes crucial to rally together and ensure that our services can continue uninterrupted. Your generous contribution plays a significant role in enabling us to extend a helping hand to the hurting and homeless individuals who rely on our assistance.

Your continued support means everything to us, and it is through your contributions that we can create positive change in the lives of those facing adversity. Together, we can overcome the summer slump and ensure that our mission thrives, even during the challenging months.

Thank you for being a part of our mission, and for your unwavering support throughout the year and for considering our cause as you make your gift for the next three months. Together, we can make this summer a season of transformation and hope.

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

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





Centenarians are defined as anyone in their 99th year of life and older. La Posada Community Services each year honors those men and women celebrating a century on earth.

The annual celebratory centenarian event held on May 12 at the La Posada Community Center brought together 15 of 37 centenarians living in Green Valley and Sahuarita with each accompanied by a caregiver or guest, some with their children who are also seniors themselves.

La Posada CEO Joni Condit honored each centenarian, praising them as “living examples of healthy living,” adding “life experiences and good luck also play a role, and technological advances after World War II contributed to increased numbers of people living healthier and longer lives.”

Honored attendees included Ruth Afifi, Cora Jones, Lucille Nickel, Marian McFadden, Frank Callozza, Jack Almas, Jane Anderson, Marian Prucha, Carolyn Goodrich, Earla Swope, Bob Leanna, Nathaleen Bristol, Lynn Mueller and Karl Leebrick.



The New England Centenarian Study, started in 1994, found that almost all centenarians were healthy enough to live independently until age 90, few were obese, most never smoked or smoked very little, and none drank heavily, if at all.

Many centenarians were also physically active, maintained close relationships, were religious and about 95 percent of those in their 90s had their mental abilities intact. Other showed they were unusually resilient, handled stress well, maintained a positive outlook on life and had a good sense of humor.

The La Posada Community Center is just one program within La Posada Community Services, open to everyone in the community. Each weekday at lunchtime, the center hosts older adults from around the neighboring community enjoying each other's company over a nutritious meal—it's Green Valley's only senior lunch program—it's that popular. At other times of the day, you'll find vigorous board games and storytelling, or friends meeting up to take a day trip to one of the numerous things to do close by. And as with most programs and services at La Posada, the Community Center presents a great opportunity to volunteer, increasing our residents' social interactions with nonresidents as they form friendships with their fellow resident volunteers. For Senior Lunch Program information and advance reservations, contact Carla at 520-393-6814 or email her: CCastaneda@casagv.org. Suggested donation to this senior lunch program is \$3.

For Community Center questions and rental information, contact Ellen at 520-393-6840 or email her: emarch@casagv.org.

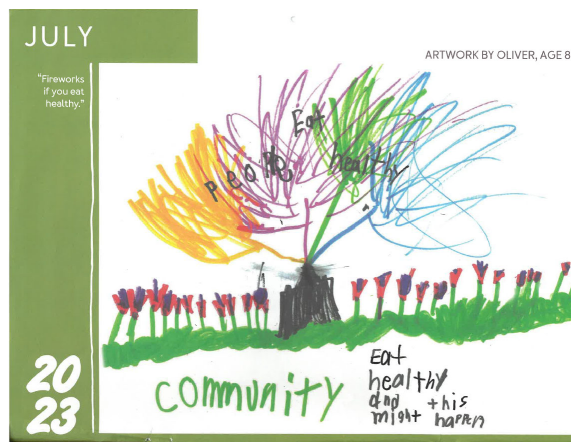


Submitted by: Kylene Joplin & Carol Stephens

Statement Of Purpose: The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFBSA) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that provides nutritious food to those suffering from hunger throughout Pima, Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties in Southern Arizona. Our mission is “to change lives in the communities we serve by feeding the hungry today and building a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow”.

Administrative expenses are only 4% of our budget; 96% pays for direct food and services to those in need. The Community Food Bank in Amado and Green Valley (CFB-AGV) are branches of the CFBSA.

Your continued generosity is sincerely appreciated.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Saturday, September 9, 2023, Hunger Walk 2023 in Green Valley, AZ at Historic Canoa Ranch!

More details to come in August.

MISSION BREAKFAST

Mission Breakfast is an educational, motivational, inspirational, and fun way to deepen your appreciation, focus, and prayers for select Valley Presbyterian Church's Mission Committee's programs. We meet on Saturdays at 8:30 for an amazing breakfast, fellowship, and learn. This year's programs are as follows:

- September 16, 2023 - Bob and Kristi Rice
- November 18, 2023 – Young Adult Volunteer program
- January 13, 2024 – Valley Assistance Services
- February 10, 2024 - Youth On Their Own
- March 23, 2024 – In House Missions

The February Mission Breakfast will be on the 10th of February, not the 17th as previously posted.



July BIRTHDAYS

First Name Last Name Birthday

<i>Rev. Dr. Craig J</i>	<i>Lindsey</i>	<i>July 02</i>
<i>Steve</i>	<i>Hart</i>	<i>July 03</i>
<i>Kandi</i>	<i>Gentis</i>	<i>July 04</i>
<i>Ross</i>	<i>Bright</i>	<i>July 05</i>
<i>Don</i>	<i>Bahnick</i>	<i>July 06</i>
<i>Dan</i>	<i>Gnau</i>	<i>July 06</i>
<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Beyer</i>	<i>July 09</i>
<i>Mary Ann</i>	<i>Johnson</i>	<i>July 10</i>
<i>Ann</i>	<i>Bont</i>	<i>July 11</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>Howell</i>	<i>July 11</i>
<i>Don</i>	<i>Brooks</i>	<i>July 12</i>
<i>Paula</i>	<i>Chervenka</i>	<i>July 15</i>
<i>Bob</i>	<i>McDowell</i>	<i>July 15</i>
<i>Julie</i>	<i>Pryor</i>	<i>July 15</i>
<i>George</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>July 15</i>
<i>Shirley</i>	<i>Yunker</i>	<i>July 15</i>
<i>Sharon</i>	<i>Hahn</i>	<i>July 16</i>



July BIRTHDAYS

First Name Last Name Birthday

<i>Tom</i>	<i>Lobb</i>	<i>July 16</i>
<i>Bill</i>	<i>Woodrow</i>	<i>July 16</i>
<i>Nancy</i>	<i>Callahan</i>	<i>July 18</i>
<i>Verla</i>	<i>Bakker</i>	<i>July 19</i>
<i>Leah</i>	<i>Bohor</i>	<i>July 19</i>
<i>Mary</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>July 19</i>
<i>Carolyn</i>	<i>Hill</i>	<i>July 20</i>
<i>Beth</i>	<i>Phillips</i>	<i>July 21 (Over 90)</i>
<i>Marilyn</i>	<i>Walters</i>	<i>July 21 (Over 90)</i>
<i>Ann</i>	<i>Ball</i>	<i>July 22</i>
<i>Roy</i>	<i>Romstad</i>	<i>July 24</i>
<i>Joyce</i>	<i>Gay</i>	<i>July 25</i>
<i>Paula</i>	<i>Menefee</i>	<i>July 27</i>
<i>Kay</i>	<i>Brauwer</i>	<i>July 29</i>
<i>Carole</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>July 29 (Over 90)</i>
<i>Clair</i>	<i>Howell</i>	<i>July 31</i>
<i>Jeane</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>July 31</i>

