



*Our Valley Voice  
for  
June & July  
2020*



electronic copies are available on our website:  
[www.valleypresbyterian.net](http://www.valleypresbyterian.net)

# OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

## **Valley Presbyterian Church**

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[www.valleypresbyterian.net](http://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**

**Taize Service**  
**1st Wednesday of the Month**

# In This Issue

## Table of Contents

Our Valley Presbyterian Staff .....	1
A Word from Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor/Head of Staff .....	1
A Word from Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship .....	6
Finance.....	8
Birthdays for June, 2020 .....	9
Birthdays for July, 2020 .....	11
Capital Campaign for Solar System.....	13
Casa Vida Nueva.....	14
Companeros En Mision.....	15
Crossroads Mission .....	15
St. Andrews Clinic .....	16
Bob & Kristi Rice Update .....	17
More Blog Readers Wanted .....	18
Library .....	19
Dave & Pam Lovett .....	20
Music .....	20
Parish Nurse .....	21
Patio Sale News .....	22
Photo Directory Update .....	22
Stephen Ministry .....	23
Valley Readers .....	23
Youth on Their Own .....	24

### Staff

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Laurie Allen..... Executive Secretary .....laurie@valleypres.net  
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Ray Esparza..... Custodian .....custodians@valleypres.net  
Bob Lopes ..... Custodian .....custodians@valleypres.net  
Alice Sanchez ..... Nursery Attendant.....vpc-office@valleypres.net

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## **Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey Head of Staff**

The last time we congregated together as “the congregation in worship” was the Sunday concluding the 2020 Patio Sale, March 15.



Following Government recommendations we each went into our own form of isolation, with Video Recording and posting Worship Services on-line; adopting Zoom Conferencing for Committee meetings. Businesses being closed, created economic recession. Discussion of “when to open” raised questions for businesses of liability and litigation. These are not our Church’s concerns. You have generously and faithfully shared support of the stewardship of our Church in this time. The people of God endured exile for 70 years in Babylon; 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. No, our concerns as the Church are “How to love one another and to love God?” Our primary concern is your welfare, safety and spiritual support. We have prayed for the world, for our Nation, for the Medical Community, for Creation and for one another. We have stretched our theology to celebrate “Communion virtually.” Some shared their stockpile of toilet paper. Some shared Banana bread, others cookies, shared Facebook posts, cards, letters of love and support. A few have expanded from their social isolation to a social bubble of sharing dinner with another couple, or treats with a small group of friends. There have been hopes and rumors of when and how we can be together.

Several local Churches have opened for worship. Many Churches in Tucson have announced opening in September, others next January! The decision for when to open the Sanctuary for physical worship together is up to our Session. But the ultimate decision for when you commit to being with others again is up to you, when you feel safe and want to be with others, no one can make that choice for you.

### **LEVELS OF TRUST**

Thank you for your trust. We have been through so much together already, but trust is a difficult commodity in our world today. You trusted me to become your pastor. You invited us into your homes to meet your NOC and Cluster Dinner Groups. Was it only five months ago, you trusted you could come to the pastor's house, and there would be enough cookies for everyone? Then, the lock-down happened and you trusted Diane, Jamie, Wes and I, as we have learned with Dick (and Mary) Horn and Jeff Babcock about Video recording worship: You cannot just say "Action" and worship God, or preach a Sermon. More recently, several of you have gone out of your way, to lower your guard and let me know more about you or come to talk with me. Thank you! The pastoral ministry is not just a job, every pastor and congregation is unique, based on the members of that body of Christ, so your revelation of who you are is essential to me. While I am attempting to look you in the eye (through the camera) I can promise I will not repeat/disclose anything personal about you in a sermon. We are all managing our way through the current several crises and anxieties, because we are trusting one another. Thank you.

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

Decision about when it will be safe for us to congregate will be determined by the Session, June 25<sup>th</sup>, but at present in Arizona the number of cases continues to rise. We know that behind the numbers are our friends and neighbors, so we pray for one another. Recently, we surveyed the congregation regarding when we again begin to unite for worship, whether to continue Video Worship in our homes on Sundays versus attendance in the Sanctuary. What was reflected more than any other response, was your appreciation and concern for our Pastors and Staff. The Worship Committee will use this information in making a recommendation to our Session.

### **FEELING SAFE AND SECURE**

Back before the Protests and before COVID19, there was concern about safety and security in houses of worship, due to someone wanting to do harm. You may recall that we listened, considering options. While VPC has never had a problem, some encouraged hiring security guards, others that leaders might carry concealed weapons. We came to recognize that the double doors on either side of the Sanctuary were the only doors regularly used during worship services and concerts. We also came to know that different from all other exterior doors to the building, these were the only doors with deadbolts and without panic bars. Without damaging or hiding the beauty of these doors, Skip Berry and Tom MacFarlane installed the appropriate hardware to each of these doors, removing the deadbolts. This was a very straight-forward, relatively inexpensive solution, that does not require weapons, or hiring guards, as we want every stranger to feel welcome and comfortable coming to worship God. ALSO, if ever you come to worship and find worship has begun, simply push the door-button beside the door, and one of the Head Ushers will help you.

### **HELP US SOLVE A MYSTERY**

Who does not enjoy solving a mystery? The Patio Sale received an envelope postmarked Sewickley, OH., with a return address of Metropolitan Opera, New York City, NY, but no Addressee or identification. Inside was a Military Medal from the French Legion of Honor! We would like to contact the family of whom ever this belongs, but have no other clues. So we turn to the Presbyterian Sleuths of Green Valley does anyone know where this came from, or how we might follow up?

El Jefe (Pastor Craig)

### **HEARING WORSHIP**

Throughout the +40 year history of Valley Presbyterian Church there have been problems hearing the spoken word in the Sanctuary. Numerous efforts have been pursued, without improvement, usually engineers treating the Sanctuary as an Auditorium. The size and shape of the space, carpeting, windows, pews, an angled floor and angled ceiling, all proved problematic. During this COVID 19 shut-down, our Session hired an Acoustical Engineer from NOVO in San Francisco, California to make recommendations. NOVO specializes in providing technology installations to existing Sanctuaries. After 24 hours of tests and measurements, beginning with our Custodian Bob Lopes measuring the angled Ceiling Height from the angled floor with a helium balloon on a string, the Engineer made his recommendation. We will be removing the old speakers from the rafters (one of which did not work at all). We will also install new line-array speakers against the wall above the choir, with twice as many working programmable speakers in each. This is a more appropriate location, as the rafter location projected sound over all our heads. Also, the microphones suspended above the choir will be replaced, so that the Bass and Soprano sections can be heard by the Tenor and Alto sections, and reverse; where currently the choir was all amplified as one. Cost for this renovation is not to exceed \$40,000 and prior to purchase we already had two unsolicited designated gifts totaling \$15,000 for this purpose (Thank you very much). As with everything in our present time, we are moving stage by stage, waiting to re-assess. Provided this makes the anticipated improvements, and when the Session is prepared to move forward, there are at least three further enhancements of \$10,000-15,000 each. The anticipation is that with this change in speakers and location you will be able to hear even a whisper from the pastors! However, all electronic systems are limited by their weakest component, so there will be several additional upgrades possible.

### **BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE**

Lent began with Ash Wednesday, gathering up and burial of our “Alleluias” from the last year. Easter morning, death could not contain God’s love; with Christ, our Alleluias were set free as butterflies throughout the Sanctuary. But sealed away in isolation and social distancing we were not able to enjoy them. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, as part of Independence Weekend, we will release a dozen live butterflies into the world. If available, come be present at 10:30am in your car in the Parking Lot. Reminiscent of Pentecost we will be released on the wind into the world. Please come join us!





## **WORSHIP PLANS**

June 28	Genesis 22: 1-14	Sacrificing Isaac
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past		687
Precious Lord, Take My Hand		834
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart		688

July 1            Taize Service  
5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

July 5 Independence Weekend	Ezra 3: 8-13
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies	338
The God of Abraham Praise	49
You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord	43

July 12	Diane Preaching	Psalms 119:105-112	How To Walk in the Dark
How Firm a Foundation			
Thy Word			
Christ Be Our Light			

July 19	Genesis 28:10-19	Surely, the LORD is in This Place
The God of Abraham Praise		49
Psalms 139    Hyfrydol		
Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah		65
God of Our Life		686

July 26	Genesis 29:15-30	Leah and Rachel
When morning Gilds the Skies		667
Psalms 104b    St. Peter		
Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!		839
O God of Every Nation		756

August 2	Genesis 32: 22-31	Jacob Wrestling
Today We Are Called to be Disciples		757
This Is My Song		340
My Hope Is built on Nothing Less		353

## **THE DESERT SHALL BECOME A GARDEN**

One of our members is a Master Gardener in Arizona, who has been donating native plantings on the church property. To provide for these, another member researched the cost and made a donation for a new irrigation system. Also, our custodians have stepped up in the midst of the heat and are regularly spraying invasive volunteer plants, to save the church from contracting to pay to have the entire property sprayed. Thank you to everyone for your help!

## **A NEW EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

Our Personnel Committee has been working to update our VPC Employee Handbook. The desire was to not have an overly corporate bureaucratic manual of litigious rules, but to be up-front and clear of our expectations for our employees, and for the church, and how we all work together. A first draft of this Handbook was given to our Session in April, for discussion at the May Session meeting, with expected adoption at the June Session meeting, for implementation by September.



# **Diane Christopher**

## **Pastor of Discipleship**

### **New Things**

Several weeks ago, I began to notice that my air-conditioner at home was running constantly and temps in my house never got below 82 degrees. I called my heating/air-conditioning company, and they were out that afternoon.

I needed a new part for my old system. The cost? An eye-brow raising one third the cost of a new system. I asked the guy for some advice. “Well,” he said, “it can be tricky putting a new part on an old system.”

“How long will my system last if I did that?” I asked. “Well,” he said, “I’ve seen it last several months to 5 years.” Not helpful.

However, once I found out I could obtain a no-interest loan for five years it was a no brainer. New system.

Within 10 days, I had a new HVAC system. The highlight, of course, was the crane placing it on my flat roof. I never thought I would hear these words come from my mouth: “I love my air-conditioner!”

Here at the church during this pandemic, I feel like we are putting new things on an old system.

We have been trying to figure out all kinds of ways to record our worship services and get them to you in the best way possible. It has been a struggle as we work with microphones, cameras, cell phones. Most of us are inexperienced as we learn to become tech “experts” to bring you a worship service in a way you are accustomed.

Ideally, we look forward to a new system in the sanctuary (which we are upgrading in small steps)....to live stream our worship services so we can all watch the worship service at the same time, whether apart or together.





I think of Jesus' parable of not pouring new wine into old wineskins. Partially fermented wine was stored in wineskins, but as the fermentation process continued, it produced more gases and stretched the wineskin. Old wineskin is no longer elastic and can no longer stretch for the new wine.

In other words, it is difficult to mix the old and the new. Maybe Jesus is saying that it is hard to teach old dogs new tricks!

We have learned during this pandemic that we cannot do church as usual (the old way). We have to find new ways to reach people with the Good News. And not just during the pandemic, but moving into the future. We have discovered that online worship reaches more people than inviting them into our sanctuary.

So be patient with us, my friends, as us old dogs (except Jamie and Wes) learn new tricks, as we seek new ways to share God's love with our neighbors while using the old.

All my love,  
Pastor Diane

# July Valley Voice Financial Update

*Submitted by Annie Stitt*

(Based on financial data through May, 2020)

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> to review the current financial activity through May. We received the SBA PPP Loan on May 6<sup>th</sup> and this has helped to keep the employees paid and the lights on in the building. The \$101,000 is not recorded as revenue, but as a note payable. We will apply for forgiveness of this loan and if the loan is waived, we will recognize that as income at that time.

The committee reviewed and accepted the outside audit report for the year ended December 31, 2019. We have notified the auditor and the audit should be available for the Session for their July meeting.

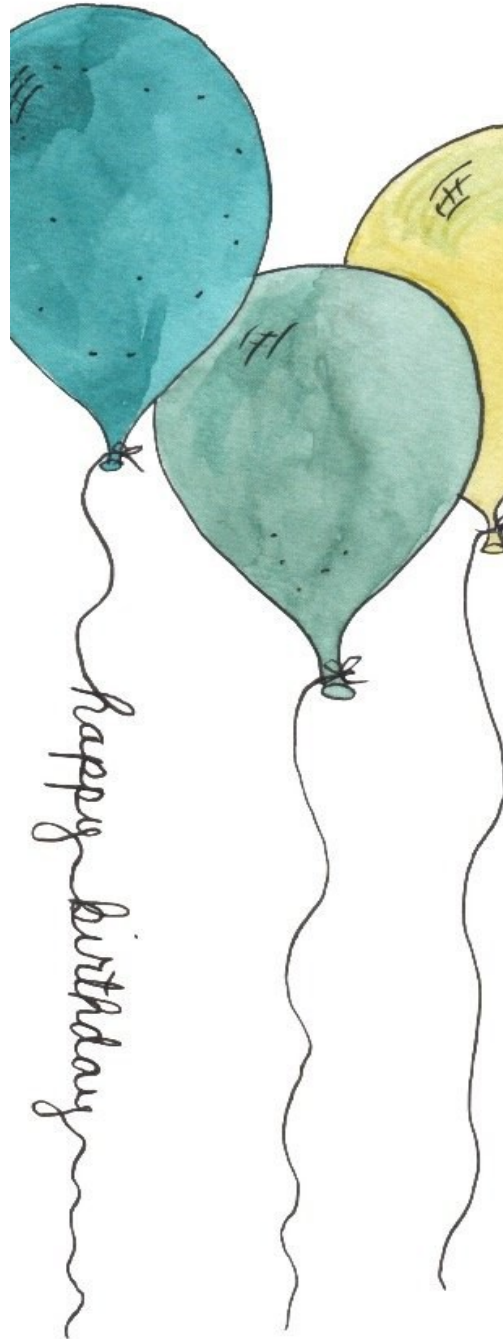
We continue to remain in a positive position. In the following report we have defined “Giving Support” as contributions for current operations and “Other Support” as Patio Sale Fund or other Funds support for operations, investment income, fees for services (memorials, events, concerts etc.):

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving support	\$314,042	\$379,533	(\$65,491)
Per Capita support	8,588	10,300	(1,712)
Other support	<u>44,036</u>	<u>43,049</u>	<u>987</u>
Total support	366,666	432,882	(66,216)
Expenses	<u>334,876</u>	<u>353,360</u>	<u>(18,484)</u>
Net	<u>\$ 31,790</u>	<u>\$ 79,522</u>	<u>(\$47,732)</u>

This report shows that we are behind the 2020 Budget. No surprises here because of the State shutdown. We have had a significant loss of collections for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Green Valley churches normally receive the majority of their support during the high season November through April. We are seeing that many are still sending in their pledges and that the online giving has increased significantly. For this we thank you.

## Birthdays for June, 2020

Janice Stracke 06/02/1932 (87)  
Margaret Preston 6/03/1927 (92)  
Georgia Puttock 06/03/1941 (78)  
Diane Garnett 06/04/1934 (85)  
K. Annie Stitt 06/04/1947 (72)  
Jean Heap 06/06/1928 (91)  
Beverly Carey 06/06/1930 **(90)**  
Donna Reimer 06/06/1932 (87)  
John Bentley 06/06/1945 (74)  
Lee Ann Calhoun 06/06/1950 (69)  
Raymond Setterlund 06/08/1948 (71)  
James Eberhardt 06/09/1938 (81)  
Michael Wigent 06/09/1948 (71)  
Patricia Pearson 06/10/1945 (74)  
B. Grant Stitt 06/10/1947 (72)  
Edwin Kroon 06/11/1930 **(90)**  
William Sauder 06/11/1930 **(90)**  
Dave Tompkins 06/12/1942 (77)  
Karen Holthofer 06/13/1942 (77)  
Wayne Brumm 06/14/1929 **(90)**  
Joe Hawkins 06/14/1937 (82)  
Leona Aardema 06/15/1935 (84)  
Janet Landis 06/16/1926 (93)

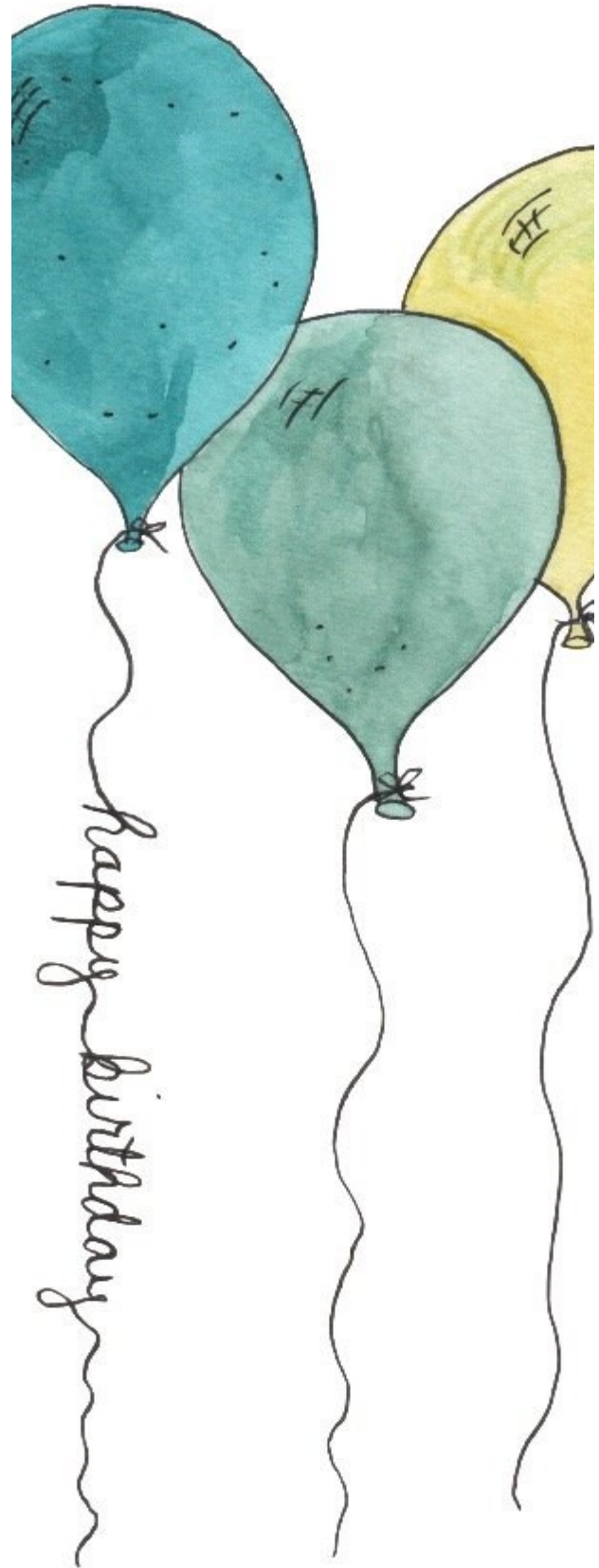


### Special 90th Birthday Milestones!

**Wayne Brumm  
Beverly Carey  
Yvonne Frash  
Edwin Kroon  
William Sauder**

## Birthdays For June 2020

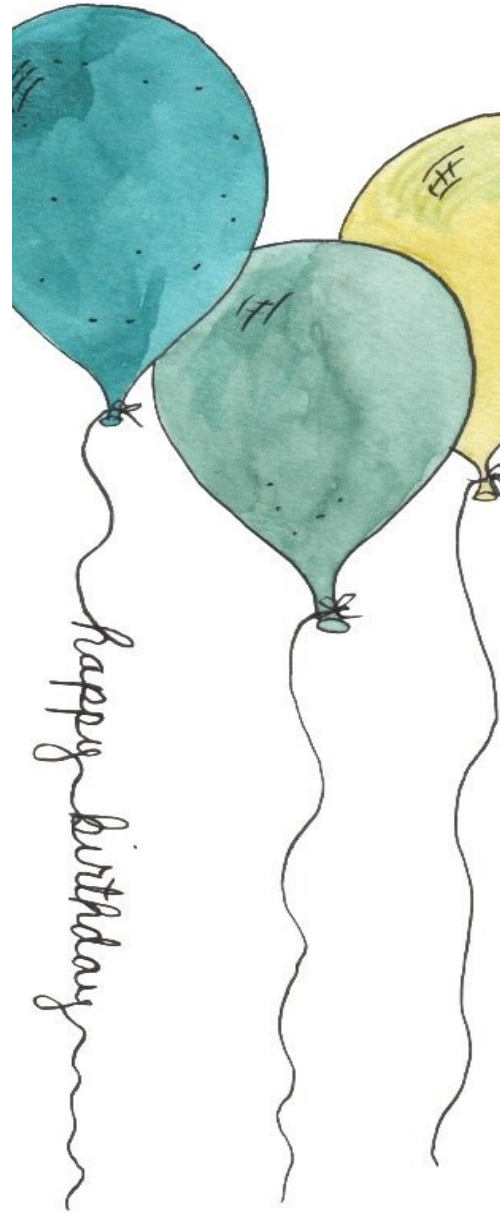
Gee-Gee Smith 06/17/1950 (69)  
Gretchen Pyburn 06/18/1943 (76)  
Steven Ball 06/18/1946 (73)  
Yvonne Frash 06/19/1929 **(90)**  
Robert Kern 06/19/1935 (84)  
Jeanne Cochran 06/20/1953 (66)  
Edwin Smith 06/21/1934 (85)  
Judith Richards 06/21/1959 (60)  
Alan Lee 06/22/1922 (97)  
David Stepp 06/22/1941 (78)  
Elsie Ophorst 06/22/1955 (64)  
Richard Luce 06/23/1933 (86)  
Margaret Babcock 06/24/1957 (62)  
Lana Adrian 06/25/1947 (72)  
Patricia Nau 06/26/1944 (75)  
James Rusk 06/27/1939 (80)  
Michael Cochran 06/27/1951 (68)  
Richard Barney 06/28/1935 (84)  
Melvin Mounts 06/28/1940 (79)  
George Gibson 06/29/1934 (85)  
Bernard Tameling 06/29/1940 (79)  
Tommy Calhoun 06/29/1946 (73)  
Laurel Erickson 06/30/43 (76)





## **Birthdays for July, 2020**

Emilee Erickson 07/01/1999 (20)  
Rev. Craig Lindsey 07/02/1958 (61)  
Arleen Boyuls 07/05/1942 (77)  
Ross Bright 07/05/1944 (75)  
Jo Huntsinger 07/05/1934 (85)  
Donald Bahnick 07/06/1938 (81)  
Daniel Gnau 07/06/1947 (72)  
Ruth Deobler 07/07/1928 (91)  
Barbara Beyer 07/09/1951 (68)  
Mary Ann Johnson 07/10/1935 (84)  
Ann Bont 07/11/1950 (69)  
Donald Brooks 07/12/1938 (81)  
Ken Davenport 07/13/1948 (71)  
Paula Chervenka 07/15/1949 (70)  
Lorna Kitchak 07/15/1948 (71)  
Julie Pryor 07/15/1960 (59)  
Shirley Younker 07/15/1939 (80)  
William Woodrow 07/16/1941 (78)  
Howard Brown 07/17/1934 (85)  
John Miller 07/18/1933 (86)  
Verla B. Bakker 07/19/1946 (73)  
Leah Bohor 07/19/1941 (78)



### **Special 90th Birthday Milestones!**

**Ruth Deobleer  
John Void  
Doris Steffy  
Elizabeth Phillips  
Marilyn Walters  
Phyllis Moore**

## **Birthdays for July, 2020**

Cynthia Krantz 07/19/1948 (71)

John Vold 07/19/1930 (89)

Doris Steffy 07/20/1924 (95)

Elizabeth Phillips 07/21/1927 (92)

Marilyn Walters 07/21/1928 (91)

Ruth Ann Ball 07/22/1946 (73)

Patricia Heinhuis 07/22/1932 (87)

Marian Coberly 07/24/1935 (84)

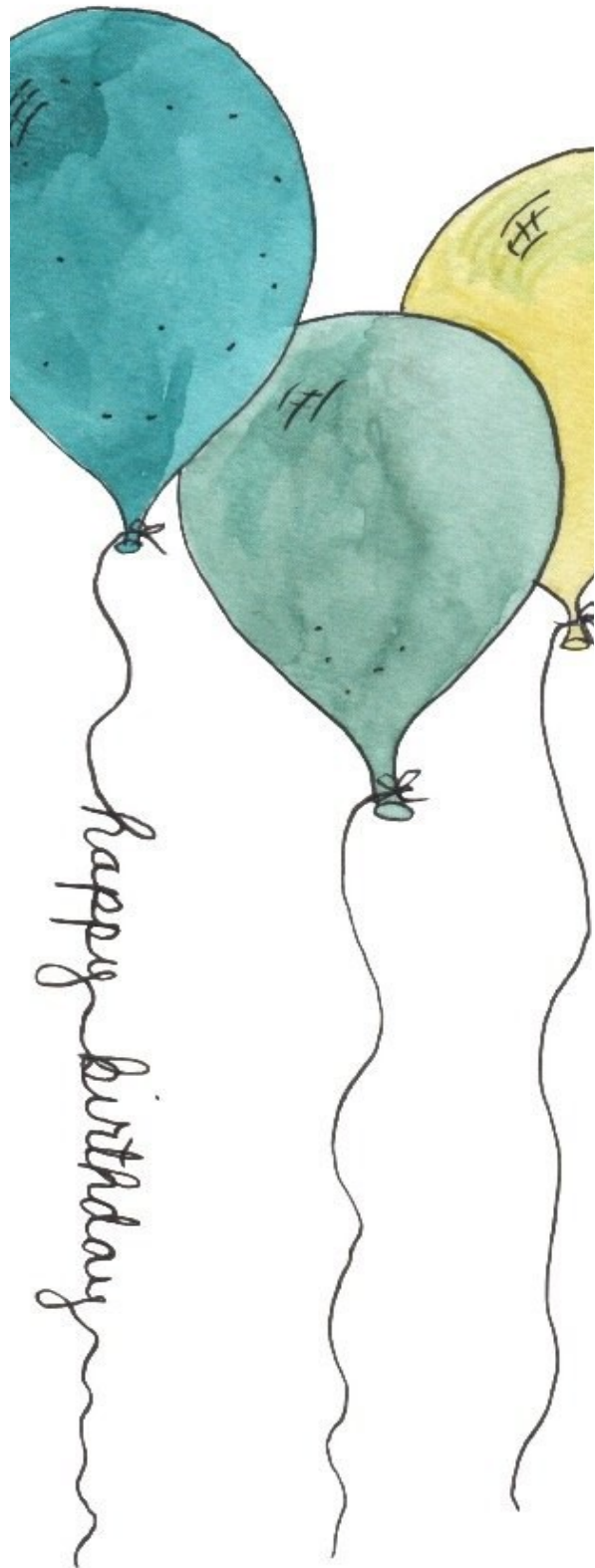
Roy Romstad 07/24/1945 (74)

Phyllis Moore 07/26/1922 (97)

Kay Brouwer 07/29/1942 (77)

Carole Breen 07/29/1932 (87)

Jeane West 07/31/1935 (84)



Promoted to Glory

Milo Burnham, May 2, 2020

Jeanne Truitt, June 19, 2020



## Capital Campaign for Solar System

For two years, about 87.5% of our church's power requirements have been met through a contract with Technology Credit Corporation (TCC) using the solar power system they installed in our parking lot. Total savings compared with what we would have paid to Tucson Electric Power during the first twenty-two months of operation amounted to \$11,075.72.

We have a great opportunity to purchase our solar system beginning in May 2023. Ownership would save the church approximately \$14,500 in yearly utility costs after paying for maintenance, annual inspection, and insurance.

The total purchase price is \$100,780. With the expected annual utility savings, the return on our investment (ROI) is about 6.9 years.

The Session approved a Capital Campaign for the purchase of our solar system. We have 36 months to accumulate the funds needed to convert from the TCC contract to a full purchase of the equipment. A special account was established for the Campaign and already has received generous contributions of \$2,500 from congregation members. You will be hearing about the progress of our solar system campaign in the coming months.

If you would like to participate in this cost-saving endeavor for the future of Valley Presbyterian Church, please note Solar System Campaign with your donation. Remember, every dollar is important.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niño's, A.C.  
Home for Children (Orphanage)**

*To the world you may be one person, but to a child, you are the world.*

**Give a Kid A Book Event**

*Submitted by Reed Olson -  
Mission Committee*

**52 children received their own  
personalized book in Spanish**



The March trip to visit the children was canceled due to covid-19 and closing the US/MX border. However, in April, we were able to deliver 52 hard cover, new Spanish books to the Home using Cal Judson's project called "Give a kid a book." Each book was personalized with the child's name inside the front cover. The project also came with two new bookcases to hold

the books. Needless to say, each child was thrilled to receive their book. Thank You Cal Judson!

Although we could not experience this event, it was a great day to share the love of Jesus Christ with these children. Thank you all for the love and generosity you have given to these deserving children. The next trip to the Home will be announced once covid-19 has been contained.

Reed Olson is accepting donations of food, clothing, and health care items – he can be reached at 520-576-8597 or email: [olsonr1@cox.net](mailto:olsonr1@cox.net)



"Sabastian with his books with two donated bookshelves"

## **The New CARES Act**

As a result of the 2017 tax reform, the vast majority of taxpayers lost their ability to choose itemized deductions due to a dramatic increase in standardized deductions. That eliminated the ability for many to write off charitable contributions on their taxes. The new CARES Act allows for a \$300 above-the-line deduction for charitable contributions made to 501 (c)(3) organizations for taxpayers who take the standard deduction or those who itemize. The deduction applies to cash contributions effective the beginning of the 2020 tax year. Charitable organizations that you can consider are those the Mission Committee supports. You may make your contribution anytime during the year.



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## Companeros En Mision

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### THE WORK GOES – COMPANEROS EN MISION

Reverend Jorje Pazos, Pastor for three Presbyterian churches in Mexico has been busy serving his flock in Mexico by conducting video services similar to the way we have been Doing.

Sunday services with communion, Sunday School Classes, Wednesday evening prayer Meetings, and Saturday Women's meetings on Facebook.

They have also been serving food and drinks 3 or 4 times a week to a group of migrants who gather together. Lately, only 10 or 15 will gather together, so they go looking for others who are washing cars, or looking for other ways to get help. They have handed out many face coverings so they will be allowed to enter places to purchase food.

Please pray for these Border Presbyterian churches and Reverend Pazos and his helpers Who are certainly doing the work of Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Judy Aguayo, Co-Advisor



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## Crossroads Mission, Nogales AZ

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Submitted by Joan Bolin

I received the following information from my June 10, 2020, phone call to Ben Wenke, Crossroads Mission Director:

-Ben will have total shoulder replacement surgery on Friday, June 12, 2020, at Northwest Hospital in Tucson. He needs our prayers for a good recovery.

-The Mission people there at Crossroads are still working on the newest donated 4-bedroom women's transitional house and property. A new roof was put on and a fence was built surrounding the property.

-A new accountant has been hired for Crossroads Mission.

-Because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic no one from Valley Presbyterian Church has gone down to Crossroads Mission to prepare lunch since the middle of March 2020.

-Crossroads Mission personnel are still handing out bags of food twice a day for the people that come to the Mission for help. The donated vegetables, they receive at the Mission, are being cleaned and prepared for freezing, which they will use in soups and stews later this year when the kitchen facility is fully open.



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## St. Andrews Children's Clinic

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Submitted by Kay Brouwer

A quote from the Clinic's Executive Director, Laura Romero: "This week has really made an impact on me. With all that has been going around our world and having to come to terms with adapting to a new way of life, I have been questioning the future of our Clinic. Since our lockdown we have all been in constant fear of the unknown, but this past week has made me realize that we must move on and continue with our passion in our mission: helping children." Certainly, this is more proof that St. Andrew's Children's Clinic deserves our support!

They are working from home since they are considered a non-essential clinic. They will discontinue clinics at least through June and might be closed through August, too. They have never had clinics in July. Changes must be made to find a different way to serve the children. Departments may be functioning in separate months.

Laura plans to start Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate services on a small scale. This means screening about 40 children and, in October, taking 20 of those for surgery at CIMA Hospital in Hermosillo, Mexico. Fund-raising is under way. Children's Surgery International (CSI) volunteers from Minneapolis have said they will provide necessary services. Laura and the St. Andrew's Staff have been deciding the protocol which will be needed when the Clinic resumes services. Certainly, there will be necessary protective equipment provided. Children and families will come in much smaller numbers. Only one or two department clinics will be offered on the first Thursday of each month. However, the St. Andrew's Children's Clinic is committed to resuming its care for suffering children and families in Mexico who are in desperate need of St. Andrew's help. Through communication with the Border Patrol, Laura has been assured families with appointments will be permitted to cross into the United States on Clinic days. St. Andrew's Children's Clinic needs and deserves our prayers, support and funding. In May, the Valley Presbyterian Church Mission Committee gave \$1,000 of its Emergency Funds to help the clinic as it restructures for the future. Laura expressed sincere thanks for the generous donation from our church.



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## Bob & Kristi Rice Update

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Dear Friends at Valley Presbyterian Church,

Greetings to you in the name of our Savior! In the midst of great suffering and brokenness in our world, we take comfort that our God of love is our source of hope and strength.

We are still in the U.S., trying to stay in touch with our colleagues in South Sudan and doing what we can to support them from here. We miss being in Juba and look forward to returning! While in the U.S., Bob has been researching contextual theology and working on a proposal for a PhD program. Kristi has been attending webinars and discussions about trauma healing and community development, trying to equip colleagues in South Sudan for when workshops will be possible again. The Presbyterian Church (USA) recently extended their travel ban for staff until the end of this year, which includes all mission co-workers. If there is dramatic improvement in both Africa and the U.S. related to Covid-19, it is possible that an exception will be granted for us to return sooner, but otherwise we will be here in the U.S. until January.

To those of you who have given financially to support us this year, we are very grateful! We do depend on your designated support, and we continue to receive that support through PC(USA) while we continue supporting our partners in South Sudan from the U.S. We know that this is a challenging season for many congregations financially, as church members face unemployment and other crises. We pray that all of us can love and care for each other well as the body of Christ, and fix our eyes on Him, the author and perfecter of our faith.

We pray that God strengthens you in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ dwells in your hearts through faith, as you are rooted and grounded in God's love. (Eph 3:16-17) We are grateful to serve together with you in the body of Christ! We always appreciate hearing from you, and would be happy to join you in prayer if there are specific requests that you want to share with us.

With love and prayers in Christ,  
Bob and Kristi



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## More Blog Readers

By Doug Clark

A blogger is anyone with access to a computer who can type in [bobandkristi.blogspot.com](http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com). Have you ever wanted to read a missionary's diary? Consider blogging the real life story of Bob and Kristi Rice who share on a weekly basis the story of God working in their life.

[Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn](#)



We are hearing good news and difficult news from our colleagues in South Sudan. We wanted to share, so that you can rejoice with us and also pray.

1. PRAISE: A few new church buildings are going up - both in Juba and also in remote rural areas. One is a church plant near the edge of Juba, supported by a larger SSPEC congregation in Juba. Another is in the western town of Aweil, where a church elder from Juba visited and was inspired to give a significant contribution to help the church get their own land.

2. In Pochalla, in the remote eastern region of South Sudan, the church has begun planting their cooperative farm for the second year. This is a significant opportunity for church members to work together to increase the food security and economic security of their community. Some farmers in that area have been killed recently, so please pray for protection as people work in the remote fields.

3. We grieve to hear of more than 200 people killed when youth of the Murle tribe attacked several villages of the Nuer tribe. Cattle were taken and several people abducted in the attack. These tribes have been in conflict for some time, and it appears this was a revenge attack. Inter-communal attacks have also happened in the Rumbek region, where I visited in early March. We continue to pray for peace and an end to these attacks!

4. Covid-19 is increasing quickly, with 655 confirmed cases as of May 25. We have heard from friends and the reports that there is an increase of people dying of suspicious causes, although not confirmed cases of Covid-19. Pray for the health system to keep up with the testing and treatment needed and for wisdom in the decisions made to contain the disease. Our colleague Rev. Philip Obang also laments the increase in hunger as many people are not able to work and activities are limited.

We are grateful that in Christ we are one body with our brothers and sisters in different parts of the world, and that we join together in rejoicing, grieving, and praying.

*"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16*

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](mailto:douglasclark68@me.com).

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## **VPC's Church Library**

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### **DVDs FOR SUMMER VIEWING**

Valley Presbyterian Church Library

### **DRAMAS BASED ON ACTUAL EVENTS**

(some are more accurately-based than others)

Bridge of Spies  
Hidden Figures  
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks  
Just Mercy  
Lion  
Only the Brave  
Same Kind of Different as Me  
Sully  
Unbroken

### **DRAMAS BASED ON BOOKS**

Cider House Rules  
Cry, the Beloved Country  
Fried Green Tomatoes  
The Light Between Oceans  
Marley and Me  
Still Alice  
Wonder

### **DOCUMENTARIES**

Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me  
Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice  
RBG (Ruth Bader Ginsburg)  
Three Identical Strangers  
Won't You Be My Neighbor?

# 45 YEARS FOLLOWING JESUS! 40 YEARS SERVING WITH OM!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPORT AND PRAYER OVER ALL OF THESE YEARS!



We have had to cancel most travel for these months due to COVID-19, but keep pressing on using Zoom, Skype, and email! We hope to see you all soon! Yours in the Race, Dave and Pam Lovett

By Doug Clark

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## Music

“Music does a lot of things for a lot of people. It’s transporting, for sure. It can take you right back, years back, to the very moment certain things happened in your life. It’s uplifting, it’s encouraging, it’s strengthening.”

**The late, great singer Aretha Franklin**

Uncertainty has been the constant term on my mind these past months. When will we see each other? When will we have peace of mind? When will we feel better? During these times, the main “certainty” is music! Music has the power to create peace, to make us feel together, to look back at memories and look forward to a positive future. I encourage you to always listen to the music, whether a lyric, a note, a rhythm, an instrument.

On a personal note, no matter how long it has been or how long it will be, Wes and I feel such a closeness knowing that the music is touching so many of you. We absolutely love coming together to create peace-filled musical moments. Thank you for listening.

We are hoping to return to our Music in the Valley series come January 2021. For those that have purchased tickets, they will be redeemable at our future concerts. If you would like a refund for the March and April concerts, please contact me at [jamie@valleypres.net](mailto:jamie@valleypres.net). Thank you for you, Jamie Reed.



# PARISH NURSE

are we taking care of our family and ourselves?

Just three months ago, we were shaking hands, giving someone a hug, having Fellowship and attending Worship. As we know it, our lives have now changed. Social distancing, markers where to stand, inability to recognize those around us with face masks, paper products, cleaning supplies and meat restricted to one a family, shelves bare, long lines outside waiting to get into a store, have changed the way we are. Anxiety and fear are more often seen because of the pandemic and it is unknown. Some are symptomatic and others may not be. Testing has increased, and cases have now peaked with 54% more cases in just this last week (mid-June). It is certainly a different world. Will we ever go back to our comfort level three months ago?



We can encourage a new way of connecting, visiting, communicating and support. We just need to. How many of us have asked our neighbors- “are you doing ok?” “Can I get you anything today?” “It is great to see you, even as we stay 6 feet apart.” We need to increase connections to those congregational members, visitors, friends, and their families. Emotions run high with change, as they do with any loss or uneven any uncertainty. Keeping connections is essential, especially with those in any family, and your church family. It provides that support that is much needed. Our NOC has increased their calling to a goal of once a week to those in their neighborhood. There has been many positive comments regarding the calls and increased communication.

The VPC task force has been meeting since the beginning of COVID-19. We look forward to meeting each other each Tuesday, to provide ways to keep those connections in the church family strong and keep those in the church family healthy. Other support the task force helps with the church family includes: volunteers shopping, face coverings, and tips to encourage positivity during this time of COVID-19. As we continue into COVID-19 peak, please keep safe and healthy. If you are at high risk (65 years of age or older or have an existing health condition) stay home, stay safe, stay 6 feet apart from others and wear a facial covering/face mask when out with others. Please keep your regular visits to healthcare providers especially if you have an underlying health condition. It is essential that during an increased time of stress that we are connected with our healthcare providers. Keep them updated if any changes occur with your health or emotional health. Health is the one thing we should not ignore. If we take care of us, we can take care of others better.

## PATIO SALE NEWS

As with most everything in the time of the pandemic, Patio Sale plans are indefinite, but we are sure of a few plans. We **are** accepting donations to the sale that are dropped off at or near the collection box in the back parking lot. Remember, if you have more than you can handle, come to the office and ask for help from the custodians. We **are not** going to homes to pick up donations until we feel safe in doing so. We have set August 1 as the first possible date, but that is subject to change if necessary. We **are not** holding our monthly sorting sessions. At this time, just a few of us are packing what comes in during the week. If we accumulate a significant quantity of a certain type of donation – clothes or books or collectibles, for example – the department chair arranges to come in to pack those certain things. This system is working well at the present time.

It goes without saying that we miss each other and the fellowship of our activities, but the important thing is to stay safe and protect our health. Blessings on all of us as we wait out this unpleasant situation. God be with you until we meet again.

## PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

Did you have your photo taken in March? If you ordered prints, you should have received them in the mail. If you have ordered photos and they have not yet arrived, please call Lifetouch Customer Service at 1-866-756-0281.

If you **did not** order special photos, your free 8 x 10 photo is being received at the church office. We will have them available for you in the Fall. We will resume photo sessions in November.



# Stephen Ministry

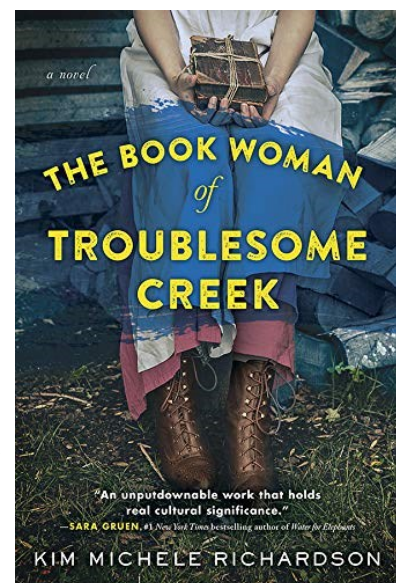
Staying in contact with one another during social distancing has been challenging. As Stephen Ministers, communicating with our care receivers has been difficult, but we keep trying. When possible we use Zoom face-to-face meetings, or phone calls. Some of our Care Receivers have hearing difficulties that make phone calls useless, so we write letters or send cards. In recent weeks, some of us have tried meeting on a patio or porch, with masks and distance between us. We persevere.

We also know that many people are suffering a sense of loss in not being able to see friends and family. Depression has affected people who have never suffered before, and those with a history of depression and anxiety have increased symptoms during this extended time of isolation. We want you to know that Stephen Ministers are available to offer support. We can interview and assign Care Givers through Zoom, phone calls or socially distanced out-door meetings, on a patio or porch.

If you are struggling at this time, do not hesitate to contact John Agner for the men (520-398-5107) or Peggy Briggs for the women (520-965-9203) to discuss receiving a Care Giver. We are in this together, and Stephen Ministers are available to listen and offer support and care.

## Valley Readers July 27, 2020 - Classroom 1

One of the New Deal programs during the 1930s was the Pack Horse Library Project in rural Kentucky. A heartfelt homage to the program and the power of books, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson is the story of fictional character Cussy Mary Carter, who is also one of the “blue people” of Kentucky. As she attempts to reach the people of backcountry Appalachia with the transformative power of books, Cussy Mary has to confront disapproval and prejudice both for the color of her skin and the job she’s trying to perform. Join us for a discussion of this highly anticipated novel, led by Gee-Gee Smith. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762. (Rescheduled from March)

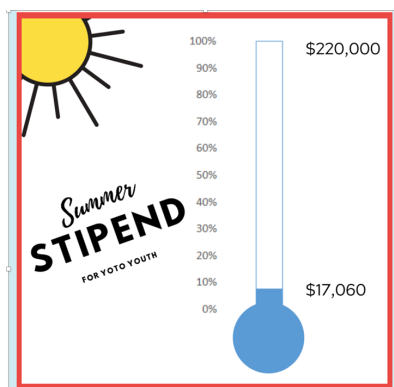




Youth on their Own is Social Distancing. For the safety of students, staff and community, YOTO's administrative offices will be closed until further notice. The Mini Mall is open to students on Thursdays from 12-5.

Meanwhile, YOTO is currently running a campaign to provide a summer Stipend of \$200 for each of their 1100 students to help them manage the Covid-19 crisis. As of early May, the amount collected was \$17,060. If with Yoto Stipend written in the memo section, or send your donation directly to YOTO: 1660 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712

## INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING



SPECIAL THANKS to all our inspirational card makers who have shared so much encouragement and joy with the youth of YOTO. Although we have not been able to meet since February, special kudos to Jane Hamby, Karen Woodrow, and Nancy Storey for their work at home to contribute 178 cards and 22.5 hours of work. These will be welcomed at YOTO to accompany the Summer stipend checks!

