THE VALLEY VOICE

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH June 2023



No Reason to Be Bored

Submitted by: Pastor Diane Christopher

During the summer, our population grows smaller, committees don't meet, and times are slower in the Arizona heat. However, the Faith Formation Committee and the Fellowship Committee are bringing you some crazy new things this summer.

Are you ready?

Fun on Fridays (1 pm beginning June 16)
For several years now, we have been talking about having a board (and card) game day at Valley. It is finally happening! The Fellowship Hall will be filled with tables set with all different kinds of games. Get out of the heat and wake up your brain every Friday this summer. I expect lots of laughter.

Adult VBS (mornings of July 18, 19,20) You all have heard of VBS, right? VBS stands for Vacation Bible School, and it is usually for children. Not this year! We are bringing you a VBS designed specifically for adults.

And we will still have snacks, camp songs, activities, and of course, learning opportunities. Add on to all of this, we are turning the sanctuary into a labyrinth for walking meditation. How can you resist? Registration begins Junes 25th.

Jesus Eats! (Thursdays in August, 10 am) Lately, I have been thinking about the meals Jesus had with people (no, I am not hungry). Jesus ate a lot of meals in the Gospel. Even the resurrection didn't stop Jesus from eating. We are not only going to take a deep look at these meals, but we will also be sampling the kind of food Jesus ate. Come to have your soul and body nourished.

And of course, we are bringing back some old standbys, such as Line Dancing and the Movie Ministry, both Wednesday afternoons. This newsletter contains more details on all the events I mentioned in this article.

You have no excuse to be bored this summer.

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4th of July Celebration

Summer Activities

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

OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol Green Valley, AZ 85622 (520) 625-5023 vpc-office@valleypres.net www.valleypresbyterian.net Member of Presbytery de Cristo in The Synod of the Southwest, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey,
Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Diane Christopher,
Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Joe Hawkins,
Pastor Emeritus



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

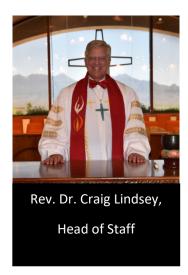
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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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Cindy Johnson-Administrative Specialist	cjohnson@valleypres.net
Linda Hester-Administrative Specialist	<u>lhester@valleypres.net</u>
Steve Hart-Custodian	steve@valleypres.net
Randy VanHyfte-Custodian	<u>randy@valleypres.net</u>



From Pastor Craig

What a fractured world we live in! We are all human creatures dependent upon one another and upon GOD and God's creation we call Earth. Yet Democrats and Republicans have difficulty sitting down together to agree on leadership and the paying of our debts? Florida and Texas have been shipping people seeking asylum to Washington DC, New York and Massachusetts. Everything has become a competition. I love playing games, but the problem with competition is that there can only be one winner and everyone else loses. How do we set the reset, to begin again? The next election is still a year and a half-away, and already the candidates within each party are arguing with each other.

We will not all agree about everything, but if we have a willingness to respect one another, to compromise, then there can be hope. I am naïve enough to believe that when the military came home from WWII there was a celebration that they had survived. In more recent wars, it seems as though, there has been little thanksgiving for their survival, replaced by a militaristic attitude toward one another.

The end of May/ beginning of June, is set aside for a Memorial Day, on which we give thanks for those who risked everything, risking sons and daughters in fighting WWI which was to have been "The war to end all wars"; the Civil War which tore our nation apart fighting between States; WWII which was a war against tyranny... The Berlin Wall came down, the USSR collapsed, and yet fear and hostility seems to have become a cancer growing out of control.

I have come to love living in the desert SW, especially in the spring and summer months. Where else can we witness Cacti coming to bloom with almost neon colors? Where do we greet each new day with the hope and expectation of not having a cloud in the sky? We have fresh produce year-round. We feel the increasing temperatures confident monsoon rains are building for summer rains. I have even come to marvel at the rattle snakes and lizards which keep down the number of bugs.

Please join me in trying to find sabbath. Trying to stop the anxiety and fear. Breathing deeply, as we survey the beauty all around us and our great good fortune to be here at this stage in our lives.

Pastor Craig

WELCOME JAN BRACHEL

Organist/Accompanist



Jan Brachel is not a stranger to Valley Presbyterian Church, as she has subbed for us on occasion and accompanied Jamie Reed in duets. Unknown to most of us, our former Organist's intent in replacing the organ included recognition of how difficult it would be to find a quality Organist who would need to play around the deficiencies of the old instrument.

Our thanks to Sheila Frahm, Carmen Nylund, Bill Entwistle, Pam Coggins, Joan Dakin, with the support of Jamie Reed, Pastor Diane and Pastor Craig, who advertised our needs, reviewed resumes from 8 Candidates, auditioned and interviewed 4, and made the decision to hire Jan.

We look forward to wonderful music!

The photos to the right are of First Presbyterian church.

The first of FPC taken at night as Venus rose over the moon. The second photo is of FPC smoldering after the fire on Tuesday, May 23, Morning.

FIRE IN DOUGLAS, AZ

For a hundred years on the corner in Douglas have stood four churches, much like the four Gospels. Monday, May 22nd at 10am a fire was started at the Episcopal Church, which quickly spread to the Presbyterian Church. That evening it the after seemed fires extinguished, the fire in the attic of the Presbyterian Church began again. By morning the roofs of both churches were gone. Wednesday morning, the news announced that a man had been arrested for arson. This is a tragedy. If you would like to contribute to the rebuilding of these churches, please make the check out to Valley Presbyterian Church in in the Memo line or on the envelope note that this is for Douglas Churches, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will put your support to use. The one good that seemed to have come of this tragedy is that as the fires raged, members of these churches gathered together to pray, people who had not set foot in a church since they were married there, prayed.





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.

To join by zoom go to https://zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 294 281 2414

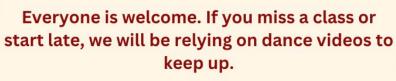
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This class is recorded and can be viewed on the church's website: valleypres.net.



FREE LINE DANCE LESSONS ARE BACK FOR THE SUMMER

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Starting June 7 - August 23. Steve Hart will be teaching five new dances.







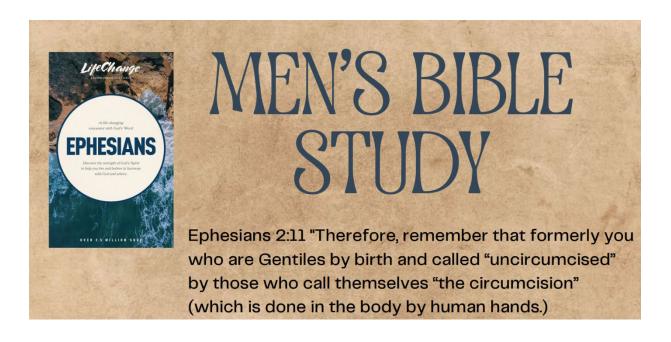
EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP CLASS THURSDAYS JUNE 29, JULY 6 & 13 AT 10:00 A.M. IN CLASSROOM 5

- Do you want to learn more about Valley Presbyterian Church?
- Are you wondering how you can get involved?
- Perhaps, you are thinking about becoming a member?

The Exploring Membership Class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership.

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

You can become an affiliate member (whereby you keep your main membership with your church back "home") or an active member (full membership here at Valley), Call to register (520) 625-5023. ⁵



Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom 1

Come join the group anytime to participate in the discussion or come to listen. In either case, your presence will be welcome.

We use the NavPres Life Change Series Study Guide, studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. This verse-by-verse study of Ephesians looks at a fuller need for Christ. It examines the truths about a believer's new identity of Christ, also focusing on unity, holiness, submission, and steadfastness. In this Bible study participants will be encouraged to apply God's Word to one's life. It includes historical insights, word definitions, discussion questions, assignments, and leader's guide. Books are available from Amazon or Christianbook.com.

The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips, 520-777-8027.

HOW MARTIN LUTHER CHANGED HISTORY



We have had several requests for the video of the class Bud Landry presented back in January 2023, "How Martin Luther Changed History".

You can find this presentation on You Tube, www.youtube.com search "How Martin Luther Changed History" or by Victor LL andry, PhD (aka Bud Landry)



Women's Ministries June 2023

Submitted by outgoing Moderator, Sue Horton

On May 16th at the final gathering luncheon for this year, Gee Gee Smith installed our new Moderator, Lesley Bruce for the 2023-24 year. Lesley is no stranger to Women's Ministries as she has been a member of the Coordinating Team and the leader of the Ruth Circle. I look forward to enjoying her contagious spirit and attention to detail. She will be a terrific leader for our group!

Also at the May 16th salad luncheon our very own Martha Ashton gave a delightful talk about what prompted her to write a wonderful little book describing how a "red dress" has passed down through the years to the young girls in her family. She spoke about her grandmother, and several ladies also talked about something special they remember about their own grandmothers. As the Presby gift went to Genesis House, it was a fitting ending to our year together.

On September 19th at La Posada (first time since pre-COVID) and our first luncheon gathering for 2023-24-year, Pastor Diane will introduce the Horizons study: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke and Acts.* It is my sincere hope and prayer that new and returning women will join one of the study Circles as these promises to be a very good study! Details about times and places for the Circle meetings will be announced over the summer.

My sincerest thanks to everyone who has participated in a Circle or attended a gathering luncheon or two over the course of the past year. The opportunity to serve as your Moderator has been a pure joy.

Sue Horton, Women's Ministries Moderator, 2022-23

NEW FILMS FOR SUMMER VIEWING 2023

AVAILABLE IN THE VPC LIBRARY



- All Creatures Great and Small season two DVD (791.45 ALL)
- The Chosen, season three (DVD 791.45 CHO)
- Jesus Revolution (DVD 791.43 JES)
- A Man called Otto (DVD 791.43 MAN)
- Where the Crawdads Sing (DVD 791.WHE)
- Wind River (DVD 791.43 WIN)



MORE SUDANESE INFORMATION FROM PASTOR CRAIG IN THE VPC LIBRARY

If you have been following Pastor Craig's experiences in South Sudan, you may wish to choose one or all related items from our VPC library.



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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.

There will be songs, classes, creative arts, physical activities, games, snacks, prizes, and we will end on Thursday at noon with lunch.

At Vacation Bible School you can

Value your bond with others in our faith community,

Build your Bible knowledge, and

Seek to deepen your spiritual nature.

Registration begins Sunday, June 25 following worship and Sundays July 9 and 16. 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!





You're invited to:

★ 4TH OF JULY PICNC ★

AFTER WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

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

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

Please pick up tickets after church on June 18 and 25, so we may have an accurate count.



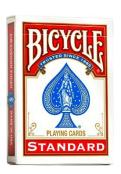
No Charge but there will be a free will offering



For more information, contact Anne Morrison gvaz1058@cox.net or 520-591-2797

Come join us in June!







PATIO SALE NEWS

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

Summer is here and in Green Valley and at Valley Presbyterian Church, activities have really slowed down – except for Patio Sale. We still have Pack and Sort the second Thursday of every month; we are still scheduling donation pick-ups every Friday and donations are being dropped off at the church daily. And we can use your help in several ways.

- 1. Many of our volunteers have returned to their second homes for the summer and we are looking for a few good men and women to fill in. We can use <u>help at our Pack & Sorts</u> where we sort through all the donations, box them up so they are ready to go to storage until the sale.
- 2. Our trucking crew is really slim during the summer months. Not only have some of our crew travelled north for the summer, many of our full-time residents also travel to visit family for a few weeks during the summer. If you can give just one Friday a month to help pick-up boxes and furniture from homes around Green Valley and then bring them to the church or take items to storage, we would appreciate it. Again, we encourage both men and women to help.
- 3. The cost of storage units has gone up several times during the last year, so we are being more discerning as to what donations we accept. The most important thing to remember is that <u>anything that is donated must</u> <u>be clean, in good working order, in good condition and acceptable for resale</u>. Below is a list of items we CANNOT accept per federal and state laws and items we DO NOT accept because they are not sellable.

<u>Hazardous Waste</u> (paints, cleaning solutions, etc.)

<u>Flammable Liquids</u> including propane cylinders, charcoal lighter fluid, Sterno, etc.

Mattresses and Bed Pillows

Metal Bed Frames. Note: Headboard & footboard sets in good condition are acceptable.

<u>Self-Assembled Bookshelves and Storage Units</u>

Window Blinds, Curtains, and Curtain Rods

Cathode Ray Tube TV's and Plasma TV Sets

<u>Kitchen Appliances</u> – Dishwashers, Stoves, Built in Microwaves, Built-in Ovens & Stove Tops, Refrigerators, etc.

Note: Free standing counter-top microwaves in working conditions are acceptable.

Kitchen or Bathroom Cabinets and Sink

<u>Pianos and Organs</u> – Note: Electronic Keyboards are Acceptable.

Entertainment Centers and TV Stands

Grandfather Clocks

Sofa Beds

<u>Sofas and Chairs</u> that are torn or stained.

Outside Window Screens and Screen Doors

Non-Working Electronics (computers, printers, stereo equipment, etc.)

Non-Working Electrical Items (vacuums, coffee makers, small kitchen appliances, hair dryers, etc.)

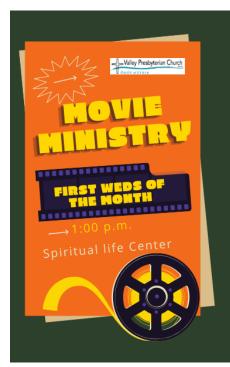
<u>Personal Care Items</u> (lotions, shampoos, make-up, feminine care items, etc.)

Food Items of any kind

Please do not ask us to pick-up any of these items, and more importantly, please do not put them in the donation bin at the church. You can help us further by sharing this list with family and friends if you recommend that they give donations to the Patio Sale.

If you have any questions about volunteering for Pack & Sort, the Trucking Crew or acceptable and non-acceptable donations, please call Carmen Nylund at 520-269-7732 or Nelda Lobb at 505-328-7223.

Thank you for your support of Patio Sale.



VPC 2023 MOVIE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

JUNE - OCTOBER June 7 - God's Outlaw - Linda Freeman, Facilitator

July 5 - Cocoon - Marie Valade, Facilitator

August 2 - Molokai - Pam Karbowsky, Facilitator

Sept. 6 - Amazing Grace - Pastor Craig , Facilitator

Oct. 4 - To Kill a Mockingbird - Eloise Fredrickson, Facilitator

COME TO THE MOVIES – FIRST WEDNESDAY IN JUNE

Submitted by: Linda Freeman

Wednesday, June 7 at 1:00 in the Spiritual Life Center

We will begin our Summer Movie Ministry with the historical drama:

God's Outlaw: The Story of William Tyndale

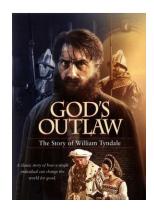
The setting: England during the 1520's.

The three most powerful men of the land

- King Henry VIII, King of England and entitled by the Pope as Defender of the Faith
- Cardinal Wolsey, the Pope's legate in England and second most powerful man in the realm
- Thomas Moore, personal advisor to the King and respected Theologian and church man All these men are afraid of one man, William Tyndale. Why? Who was he? William Tyndale translated the Bible into English. He smuggled copies of his work into his native England during a time when the Bible, and even prayers in English, were outlawed.

Come join us as we review this important part of our Christian heritage. The film will be shown with English subtitles and will last about 90 minutes. Linda Freeman will host a very short introduction before the showing and ask a few questions following it.

All are welcome!



Caring for those in our congregation Faith & Health/Parish Nurse June 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 <u>parishnurse@valleypres.net</u> 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: Do you know the difference between dehydration and heat stroke? As the temperatures begin to climb, limit exposure to the heat and stay hydrated.

June is National Safety Month

Submitted by Chris Erickson

Safety during the summer can mean quite a few different things: falls, illness, dehydration, heat, poisoning, burns, snakebites, etc.

Falls have been a concern in our community for some time, having an average of 130 fall calls per month. These are the ones that are reported and do not include the number of ones which could be happening at a far greater number. Afew years ago, falls in Arizona among those 65 years of age and older resulted in 992 deaths. One in three fall and one in four will limit their daily activities because of the fear of falling.





Illnesses can occur and COVID is still among those. Ten percent of adults in Arizona have asthma. Valley Fever is a disease/illness that is caused by fungus that grows in the soil in the Southwestern US. This can present like flu and may be treated with medication if symptoms do not clear.

Dehydration can progress and lead to an urgent situation. The American Red Cross states that a person needs to drink about ³/₄ of a gallon of water daily. The increased temperatures and not limiting time in the heat can lead to excessive sweating, which will deplete your overall hydration, but it also will deplete salt and minerals. Stay hydrated, limit time in heat and cool down, and combine water replacement with snacks or a sports drink if able.





Prevent burns by limiting exposure to the sun and using sunscreen. Poisonous plants, household poisons, and bites and stings are a call to the Banner poison and drug information help center 1-800-222-1222. If a snake does bite, call 911 immediately, remain calm and move as little as possible, and remove jewelry, shoes, or tight-fitting clothes from the bite area.

Many things can cause safety risks. By watching your footing, what is around you, decreasing exposure to heat and sun, and being educated/informed of different illnesses/conditions, a person can be safer. An urgent safety situation should be a 911 call. Stay safe and stay healthy.



by Jana Honermann, Stephen Leader Team Coordinator

Casting a Vision to Engage People's Hearts

Stephen Ministry is an important way we as a congregation carry out our mission - a tangible way we can share God's love with those going through painful times in life. Think of all the hurting people in our congregation:

- experiencing grief after losing a loved one
- dealing with cancer, heart disease, or other major illnesses
- caring for someone with a chronic condition
- picking up the pieces after a broken relationship
- coping with the pain of financial difficulties
- struggling with feelings of loneliness or unworthiness
- facing other life difficulties or stressors

Also think of the unchurched people in our community dealing with these issues - perhaps people you know in your neighborhood or in your social group.

With Stephen Ministry, our congregation has a great opportunity to reach out to people who are hurting and minister to them during their times of need by matching them with a Stephen Minister, who will walk with them for as long as needed, providing emotional and spiritual support. It's part of our mission as a congregation, our calling as Christians.

If you know of someone who may want a Stephen Minister, please let them know what Stephen Ministers do and ask them if they would be willing to have a Stephen Leader contact them about being matched with a Stephen Minister. If you are someone who may want a Stephen Minister, contact the church office who will forward your request to Stephen Ministry.

We also are looking for potential Stephen Minister to help meet the needs of hurting people. We need people with gifts of caring, compassion, patience, faith, listening - who feel called to serve, who want to make a difference in people's lives, who want to be part of a life-transforming ministry.

Our vision is to meet all these needs for care and share Christ's love with those who are hurting. And to make this vision a reality, we need people to prayerfully consider becoming Stephen Ministers.

Our next training will begin in January 2024. That gives you several months to prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. In the meantime, if you have any questions about Stephen Ministry, please talk to a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister.

Scholarship News

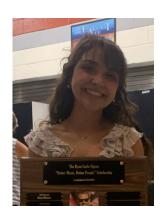
Submitted by George Curtis, Chair of the Scholarship Committee

The Larry DeLong Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that scholarships have been awarded to the following Students.



Meghan Erickson (daughter of our Parish Nurse) a graduate of University High School in Tucson AZ. Meghan achieved a 4.3 GPA and has been admitted and registered at Arizona State University. She is a member of Valley Presbyterian Church.

Sophia Szabo (granddaughter of Lynn Szabo) a graduate of Walden Grove High School in Sahuarita, AZ. Sophia achieved a 3.7 GPA and Received a Scholar Award. She has been admitted and preregistered at Arizona State University. Sophia is a member of Valley Presbyterian Church.





Chuck Dunlap is an employee at VPC as our Sound technician, operates the sound system during Sunday Worship, during special events, and concerts. He also provides technical support. Chuck is a graduate of Walden Grove High School and received recognition for his academic achievement. Chuck has been admitted and preregistered at Pima Community College.

Afour-year program scholarship is \$5600, payable at \$700 a semester. Atwo-year program scholarship is \$2000, Payable at \$500 a semester. The funds to cover these scholarships are encumbered when they are awarded. The Larry DeLong Memorial Scholarship Fund is supported by gifts and donations. If you would like to contribute, your check should be made out to VPC with Scholarship noted in the memo line.



BELIEVING AND SUPPORTING IN DIFFICULT TIMES

By Tito Bojorques, Compa Leros en Misi=n

I am Gilberto "Tito" Bojorquez, one of the Directors of the Board for Compa leros en Misian. I send my greetings and blessings to all those who have the opportunity to read these words, which come from the depths of my heart.

For many years, God has given me the opportunity and blessing to serve and collaborate in the binational program of the Presbyterian Church called Compa leros en Misin, located in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora (often called Ambos Nogales, or "both Nogaleses"). During all these years, I have lived all kinds of experiences, both good and not so good, in this call to serve the helpless of the world, particularly migrants and the homeless who inhabit this border at Nogales.

It has been a great adventure and binational experience, and I have to say that I have never traveled this trip alone. Rather, I have traveled it with God and with many people with great hearts who have always been committed to continue believing and supporting. I am referring, of course, to those people who donate their lives serving, donating their resources, working, planning, organizing, communicating, and above all, building binational relationships that help to grow and extend this great network of collaborators on both sides of the border. They make it possible, every day, to make this world a better place for all those who suffer the painful realities of a system that excludes them.

The present times are very difficult and challenging. The post-pandemic world has left us with great pain and sadness for all those who were victims of this virus. It has also left us with social and community realities that are very difficult to bear today. Even the church has suffered the ravages of this pandemic, since there are many congregations that have lost members due to social isolation and loss of lives everywhere.

In addition, at a global level, we are afflicted by other harsh realities such as the war in Ukraine; the political, economic, and military tensions between countries; natural disasters such as the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; and a fragile world economy that threatens a global recession.

All these catastrophic scenarios are causing fear and uncertainty in many of us regarding what may happen in the immediate future. It is unfortunate that this uncertainty and fear diminishes the desire to continue supporting the helpless of the world; specifically supporting the thousands of migrants and homeless that every day increase in number everywhere, even on our border between Mexico and the United States.

It is for this reason that I write and send these words to all of you—to those who have supported this binational ministry of Compa leros en Misi n for many years, as well as to those who have never had the opportunity to do so, so that even in these difficult times that we live in as a global society, we continue to have compassion for those who suffer. Always remember that the element of compassion towards those in need is what really gives true meaning to this life and to this common home in which we all live.

Sometimes we think that in order to support programs like Compa leros en Misien, we have to do huge things or donate huge amounts of resources; but it doesn't necessarily have to be that way. At Compa leros en Misien, we believe in the solidarity of many, in the small efforts of many, in the small donations of many, in the small services of many, and in the small prayers of many. Cumulatively, they hold this community together. We firmly believe that a little faith and support of many is more effective than a lot of faith and support of just one. In other words, the unity of all in the most difficult moments is the most important thing to continue believing and continue supporting.

And now I thank you for taking the time to read and reflect on these words, because that is the best way to begin serving others—to learn about the difficult situations that many experience as well as reflecting on them. And I invite you to continue believing and supporting them, despite the difficult situations we are going through as a global society.

With love, Tito

Gilberto "Tito" Bojorquez, Compa leros en Misi⊨n

The King will answer, 'Truly I say to you, as you have done it for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you have done it for Me.'—Matthew 25:40







Students receiving help through after-school programs.

Introducing YAV to the Congregation

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people (ages 19–30) in 22 sites across the United States and around the world. YAV is a program of Presbyterian Missions (PCUSA) which accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. Alongside this work, volunteers explore the meaning of their Christian faith and accountability to their neighbors in the community with peers and mentors. The YAVyear occurs from August to August. Benefits during the year of service while in-person include a regular stipend, housing, all program-related transportation costs covered and student-loan assistance.

Typically, YAVs:

- Serve for one year accompanying local people of faith both in the United States and at sites around the world.
- Meet regularly for faith-development, vocation and deep-reflection practices.
- Work with mentors to explore and grow in their expression of their Christian faith.
- Engage in addressing root causes of poverty and reconciliation in their site-context.

YAVis a new program to Valley Presbyterian Church which was suggested by Pastor Craig and approved by the Mission Committee and the Session replacing our previous involvement and support for PCUSA Seminary Support through Presbyterian Mission. VPC will supply \$5,000/year to support 50% of cost for one volunteer for one year. The program we will join in August is the Tucson Borderlands Young Adult Volunteer Program (TBYAV) which is celebrating their 20th year of border ministry. TBYAVis the only binational site focusing on building relationships and community on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border. Volunteers have increased involvement within Presbytery de Cristo in such border ministries as Frontera de Cristo, Iskashitaa Refugee Network, and Southside Worker center. With these activities YAV's motto-"A Year of Service for a Lifetime of Change"—comes to life. Learn more at a Mission Breakfast November 18, 2023.



Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO

On Sunday, April 23, Bethany Neumann, Director of Development & Communications spoke to the congregation about YOTO in our Minute for Missions. She visited with people from the congregation at the YOTO table after the service. Magnets, cow bells, brochures, and YOTO pens were available! Bethany shared that she is enthusiastic that several current YOTO Board Members were themselves YOTO students.



Inspirational Card Makers met Wednesday, April 26, and completed 78 cards. Acombination of ladies working at home and together that day. We delivered the cards and $2\frac{1}{2}$ large bags of contributions from the congregation to Mini Mall to YOTO on Friday, April 28. Ladies will be making cards from home during May, June, and July. Our next Inspirational Card Making session will be Wednesday, August 23 from 1-3:30 in Classroom.5.



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

St, Andrews' Children's Clinic Mission – June 2023

Fifty years ago, seven cerebral palsy children and their mothers gathered in a home in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. St. Andrew's Children's Clinic was born. 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. This clinic is one of the agencies served by our Valley Presbyterian Church congregation through the Mission Committee.



Patients waiting to be seen in the large room.

On May 4, 2023, Jim Fitzpatrick visited the clinic with Mike Brouwer and Kay Brouwer. Laura Romero, St Andrews' Director gave us a personal tour of the facility and the activities. 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. Some of you may want to volunteer to work at the Thursday Clinic. Laura is planning a way to enlist interested individuals.



Pictures left to right is Mike Brouwer, Laura Romero, and Kay Brouwer taking a tour of the clinic.

On May 4, there were about 60 children with families with appointments for diagnosis and treatment. There were too many for the front entry room, 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.



One of the children getting a home baked cookie.

St. Andrews Clinic continued.

On May 2nd, Jim Luhring, Ron Erickson, and Bruce Nylund installed a television donated by VPC Missions at the front of the entry room above windows. Les Walter began working on this donation soon after the new location opened last December. Laura Romero wanted a television which the children can watch while they wait for their appointments. Laura is now in search of a streaming device to hook up to the television. She is very thankful to our church for making this donation.



Pictures to the left is Ron Erickson and Jim Luhring putting the finishing touches of the T.V. they installed for the children at the St. Andrews' Clinic that was donated from the VPC Missions.

Pictured to the right is Bruce Nylund handing Yadelle Valencia the remote control to the T.V.



Departments of Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Orthotics, limited Audiology and Physical Therapy were functioning at the May 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 yet possible.

Before we left, Laura expressed her joy when a doctor announced, "This feels like the REAL clinic." This is what Laura dreams of... being able to serve about 250 children on clinic days. Our support with money, service and prayers will help make it happen.



Picture of children with their parents waiting patiently to be seen by the St. Andrews Staff and Doctors.



A Surprise for a Client at St. Andrews' Clinic

In early April, Kay Brouwer was contacted about a desire of a Green Valley resident to give a Keyboard to a Client of St. Andrews' Clinic. Laura Romero, Director of the Clinic, agreed to help and, on April 28, the donor presented a new Keyboard to the young lady. It was an exciting surprise for the recipient who has been severely handicapped since birth. She wants to learn to play the piano. She is able to use her hands, and this will be a wonderful gift for her. The event was made possible because of the VPC Mission connection with St. Andrews' Children's Clinic.



In the picture from left to right, Laura Romero, Executive Director of the Clinic, Anna the mother of Luz, Helen Russo who first learned about the Luz wanting a keyboard, Deborah Cox who purchased the keyboard and Kay Brouwer who made possible the presentation at the clinic on April 28. Setting at the keyboard is Luz, recipient of the Keyboard.

Picture provided by: Kevin Murphy, Journalist Product Manager NABUR/Green Valley News/Sahuarita Sun

Needs of St. Andrews' Childrens Clinic

On April 21, 2023, Laura Romero and Kay Brouwer met to discuss needs of St. Andrews' Children's Clinic. Laura, the Executive Director, was pleased to have this opportunity to express the Clinic concerns.

The top priority is to get the Clinic back up, running smoothly as it used to be at the former location.

List of needs are listed on the next page:

Money is needed for the following:

- 1. Space needs to be remodeled to accommodate provider services. Ed Storey has offered tentative plans about which Laura is excited. Ed is continuing to work with the Clinic.
- 2. Wheelchairs need to be customized to accommodate the needs of growing children.
- 3. Cleft Palate surgeries are scheduled in Hermosillo for the last weekend in September. Hotel and meal expenses must be provided for families of children needing surgeries.
- 4. Rhino Surgery for teen-aged children will be conducted in Hermosillo. The bones in their noses need to be re-built. The initial Cleft Palate surgery was done when they were infants, but their faces have grown.
- 5. Two or three times every month, children are flown to Spokane, Washington or Sacramento, California for orthopedic appointments. Some flights are paid for by Shriners; others must be paid by the St. Andrews' Clinic.
- 6. Another office staff would be helpful, especially to conduct phone conversations with English speaking people. This is a possibility for the future, after the office is more organized.

We discussed the possibility of joining with other churches to launch an "Ecumenical Fundraiser." Besides VPC, some other Green Valley churches which have supported St. Andrews are the Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Desert Hills Lutheran, and Methodist.

As a follow-up of this information, Pastor Craig Lindsay has contacted Pastors of other Green Valley churches who like the idea of getting together to serve. Ameeting of churches was planned for May 24, 2023, at Valley Presbyterian Church.

The Prayers and support of our church helps the Clinic, and the Children get better. Thanks to all!

PRESBYTERIAN

Operation Mobilization

Submitted by: Doug Clark

PRAYING, NETWORKING, AND GOING FORWARD TOGETHER

Pam and I are in route to the Middle East as I write this. We will be meeting with about 70 leaders from across 147 countries from our organization. We will be meeting to pray, listen to the Lord, and do strategic thinking and planning for accomplishing our vision to reach the least reached peoples of the world with the Gospel.

We then piggyback on this conference and attend another conference with about leaders from 200 organizations across the world that are committed to collaborate to reach the least reached Muslims of the world. Please pray for these meetings that we clearly hear from God and our time be fruitful.



Operation Mobilization

Submitted by: Doug Clark

Ukraine: One Year Later

The World watched in horror when Russian troops were ordered to invite Ukraine over a year ago last February. For Ukrainians, it was the beginning of a year full of destruction, displacement and suffering. Continuous shelling and air strikes forced millions to leave their homes and caused a mass exodus out of the country as people sought safety. Around 10 million people – 40% of Ukraine's population – relied on humanitarian assistance and protection during this time. The almost – daily missile strikes, uncertainly and ugliness of war have left many traumatized and unable to cope.

Yet amid such devastation, there have beautiful displays of boldness, faith and love. Many Jesus followers have risked their lives to save others, bring practical aid, help transport at-risk people and comfort those who have lost loved ones and homes.

With the help of our donors and supporters, OMprovided critical assistance to over 300,000 people. OM teams delivered thousands of relief packages with food, water, medicine, hygiene kits and winter supplies to war-torn communities and to those who fled to safer areas. We partnered with local churches in east Ukraine to distribute supplies where they were most needed and established a church network all across the county to move supplies and people.

Meanwhile, OM teams in Poland, Moldova and Romania stepped up to provide food, shelter and transportation to those fleeing Ukraine. We partnered with churches to cook and deliver food at major border crossings, help with shelter and transportation needs and offer a welcoming hand. OM Poland helped train dozens of churches to provide better debriefing and psychosocial support to those they were serving. Around the world, hundreds of other OM teams have responded and helped with practical support, fundraising and prayer.

- ❖ 710 Local church partnerships
- ❖ 8,00 people mobilized 300,00 people served.

Praise the Lord:

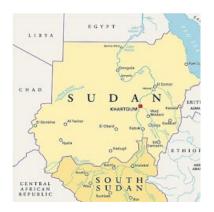
- ❖ For the unity among churches unlike anything seen before, in Ukraine and in neighboring countries.
- ❖ For the miracles of protection and provision for refugees.
- ❖ The power of LOVE and continues to be bigger than the power of war!

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

War in Sudan!

In mid-April, violence erupted in Khartoum and across Sudan as two sides with powerful forces fought against each other. Hopes that the violence would end are diminishing, while more than 500 civilians have been killed and more than 100,000 have fled the country.



This map shows Sudan and South Sudan, with the location of the capitals.

We live in Juba, South Sudan, relatively far from the conflict but also the country next door. Life in Juba feels relatively 'normal'. But Juba is already feeling the impacts of the conflict. This week I talked to one friend here in Juba, who is worried about his elderly father and sister in Khartoum and is trying to convince them to come to South Sudan. "They do not want to leave," he said, "They say 'we fled from the war in South Sudan in 2016. Now there is war in Khartoum. We don't want to flee again." Our friend explained that civilians are not being specifically targeted, but that the bombs can fall anywhere, and people are killed in the crossfire. In addition, it is nearly impossible to find water, food, and fuel for power. To stay is very risky.

Many of our friends and colleagues in Juba have relatives in Khartoum, some of whom are now coming to South Sudan, and specifically to Juba to escape the war. Achurch leader we know moved his wife and children to another part of Sudan to escape the war. There was already a financial crisis in South Sudan along with floods in rural regions that made many people in a desperate, fragile situation. Now, residents in Juba are hosting relatives fleeing war or looking for funds to help their relatives leave Khartoum. This week it was reported that more than 50,000 people have entered South Sudan from Sudan because of the conflict.

There are many churches in Khartoum, even though it is a majority-Muslim country, and they are particularly vulnerable in this conflict.

Continued on page 29.

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, barely 12 years ago. The people of South Sudan have a long and complicated relationship with the government of Sudan and the city of Khartoum, in particular. Most South Sudanese leaders, including church leaders, were raised or educated in Khartoum. South Sudan's primary source of revenue is its oil, which is exported through Sudan. Political leaders from Sudan helped to negotiate the current peace agreement in South Sudan, and now leaders from South Sudan are working to negotiate a cease-fire and resolution between the conflicting parties in Sudan. Even though we are not in the midst of war here in Juba, we expect the tragic consequences and impacts of the war to be increasingly felt here in South Sudan in coming days.

Please join us in praying for the people in Sudan. We offer this prayer by deacon Noha Kassa in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Bahri, Khartoum, which was damaged by munitions fire last week.

For the families displaced from their homes, unable to return.

For the sick and injured who cannot find medical care.

For the poor and those trapped inside, lacking food.

For those who lost a loved one, to have God's comfort.

"Pray for all of this to stop soon," said Kassa. "And for all who have lost hope, that they might find it again."

Photo source: https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2023/apr/30/us-conducts-1st-evacuation-tfp/

The past blogs read like a real-life novel, chronicling God in action through the writings of Bob and Kristi Rice. Please join me in following and praying for our missionaries and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by emailing me douglasclark68@me.com.

MISSION 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 YAVprogram
- ➤ January 13, 2024 Valley Assistance Services
- February 17, 2024 Youth On Their Own
- ➤ March 23, 2024 In House Missions



Nogales, Crossroads Mission

Submitted by: Les Walter, Crossroads Liaison

ALetter from Executive Director, Alejandra Martinez,

Spring is finally here, and with it comes a renewed sense of hope and growth. At Crossroads Nogales Mission, we are grateful for continued support in helping us provide a safe and caring environment for the men, women and children that come through our doors.

Psalm 148:1-4

Praise the name of the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun, and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Yes, praise to God is our amen at Crossroads because of all the good that is taking place.

Recently, the lovely voices of beautiful elementary school children filled the chapel as they sang for guests who come every day to hear the gospel, find clothing, and have a wonderful meal. There is something innocent, wholesome, and may I say heavenly, about young children. Their smiles and enthusiasm remind us of more important things in life like love, joy, tenderness, and inspiration for the future. That's what Crossroads is about. I wish you could have been there to share in the joy.

PLEASE KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS! THE MEN AND WOMEN'SHELTERS ARE FULL.

We are making plans to renovate one of our houses to host more women and children.

PLEASE WRITE A GENEROUS CHECK SO WE CAN GET IT DONE.

May the Lord surround you and keep you during this season.

Blessings, Alejandra Martinez

Lives touched this month: Over 600-night lodging,

more than 2450 meals provided, 870 families received food baskets.



For more information of ways, you can help.



Just as you'd expect from a vibrant community center, ours is the social hub for seniors in Green Valley. Each weekday at lunchtime, La Posada Community Center is abuzz with folks 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.

NOISY OFFERING

Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, paper monies, and checks are all welcome on the 5th Sunday of the month for the Noisy Offering. Our last giving was for YOTO on April 30, 2023, and we raised \$2,480.60.

Loose change adds up since in the last 11 years over \$36,000 has been raised for various mission programs. We make noise again on July 30, 2023, for Posada Life Community Services.

Save to Give!



Submitted by: Reed Olsen, Mission Committee Liaison

Elias Herrera, Director of the Home, Julio Durazo from New Life Church of God, and some RISE Board members met Reed at his house last week for an update on the Home.

- 1. New Life Church of God is having their 60th anniversary May 21 and invited Reed Olsen and Rise Board Members to attend the worship and celebrations.
- 2. Reed asked for an update on Dulce, the girl that the Mission Committee is trying to connect with St Andrews to help with her deformed forehead. Bottom line it is a complicated process. Elias is working with DIF (Mexico's Child Protection Services) to secure special permission for her to cross the border for help.
- 3. The expanded solar system project is on hold until they can find a reliable organization to install the panels.
- 4. Jan Farrington has donated a slightly used IMAC computer. The photo below shows Elias accepting the computer at Reed's home and the second photo shows the children at the home ecstatic with the new computer thanks Jan!
- 5. The Home currently has 36 children. All are going to school at the grade level appropriate for their age.
- 6. There are currently four young adults attending college.
- 7. RISE wrote a check to help pay for the first quarter education costs and gave it to Julio for processing.







Submitted by: Kylene Joplin & Carol Stephens

Every time we go to the grocery store and see the continuously rising prices or hearts go out to families facing hunger. They are being pushed far beyond their means.

Too many of our neighbors are looking at empty cabinets and refrigerators and wondering how and when they'll get their next meal.

Your gift now will help provide the foods they need.

Packaged fruits and vegetables, low sodium soups, healthy proteins like lean meats, beans, rice, whole grain pasta and sauces are needed.

Every \$10. will provide 4 meals.





SNACK SACK REPORT FOR SPRING 2023



The above picture shows Ann Ball, Mary Horn and Daniella Moreno, Director of the Hospitality House of the Salvation Army with our Church's 240 Snack Sacks

On May 3rd we delivered 240 SNACK SACKS

assembled by our Mission Committee

and volunteers from our Congregation

for the Salvation Army's "Operation Chill Out" Summer Program.

This summer, as our AZ temperatures reach 102 and greater, the Salvation Army will be giving SNACK SACKS to the homeless. In addition to the bags we packed, we gave a check for \$179.86 to the organization to help with the purchase of t-shirts and ball caps to help keep people cool.

THANK YOU for supporting this, Mission Project!

Ann Ball, Ed Storey, Mary Horn



** Turning 90 * Over 90

		Birthdate
First Name	Last Name	Month/Day
Jan	Stracke	June 02 *
Bernie	Nicholson	June 03
Peggy	Preston	June 03
Georgia	Puttock	June 03
Chuck	Ramsay	June 03
Diane	Garnett	June 04
Annie	Stitt	June 04
John	Bentley	June 06
Lee Ann	Calhoun	June 06
Beverly	Carey	June 06 *
Kara	Fitzpatrick	June 06
Dick	Hill	June 06
Donna	Reimer	June 06 *
Steve	Setterlund	June 08
Karen	Pitts	June 09
Mike	Wigent	June 09
Patricia	Pearson	June 10
Edwin	Kroon	June 11 *
Bill	Sauder	June 11 *
Jim	Brownlee	June 13 **
Phil	Green	June 13
Karen	Holthofer	June 13
Joe	Hawkins	June 14
Leona	Aardema	June 15
No. of Street,	The same	200

June 2023 Birthdays

** Turning 90 * Over 90

		Birthdate	
First Name	Last Name	Month/Day	
Janet	Landis	June 16	
Sara	Pedersen	June 16	
Gee-Gee	Smith	June 17	
Steve	Ball	June 18	
Gretchen	Pyburn	June 18	
Yvonne	Frash	June 19 *	
Bob	Kern	June 19	
Bob	Zauel	June 19	
Jeanne	Cochran	June 20	
Jim	Fitzgerald	June 20	
Judy	Richards	June 21	
Edwin	Smith	June 21	
Chriss	Bell	June 22	
Elsie	Ophorst	June 22	
David	Stepp	June 22	
Richard	Luce	June 23 **	
Peggy	Babcock	June 24	
Lana	Adrian	June 25	
Pat	Nau	June 26	
Jim	Rusk	June 27	
Dick	Barney	June 28	
Melvin	Mounts	June 28	
Tommy	Calhoun	June 29	
George	Gibson	June 29	
Bernie	Tameling	June 29	
Laurel	Erickson	June 30	

•	Sat	3 8:00am Communion Prep	10	11	24	
	Fri	2 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises	9 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Stephen Ministry Zoom	16 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Fun Fridays	23 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Fun Fridays	30 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Fun Fridays
June 2023	Thu	~	8:00am Patio Sale Sort		8:30am Session Meeting	10:00am Exploring Membership Class
Valley Presbyterian Church Ju	Wed		9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise Class 12:30am Worship Committee 1:00pm Summer Movie Ministry 3:00pm Line Dance Class	9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Deacons Meeting 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 10:00am Personnel Committee 1:00pm Membership & Outreach 3:00pm Line Dance Class	9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 3:00pm Line Dance Class	9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:30pm Worship Committee 3:00pm Line Dance Class
	Tue		6 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:00am Women's Ministries Meeting 9:30am Prayer Ministry 1:30pm Buildings and Grounds	13 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Prayer Ministry 11:30am Women's Ministries Coordinating Team	20 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	27 9:30am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry
	Mon		9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am Patio Sale Coordinating Team Planning Meeting 1:00pm Bible Reflections	9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections	19 9:00am Parkinson Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections	9:00am Parkinson Chair Bxercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections 2:00pm Valley Readers
•	Sun		4 Food Bank Sunday 9:30am Worship Service with Communion 9:45am Children's Sunday School	Nogales Crossroads Mission Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	18 Father's Day 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School