

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER OF VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2021

Doors!

Ordinarily throughout the summer, life in the desert is quiet. It is hot and sunny, even snakes look for somewhere to sleep. But in the summer's heat, Rick Nau took on refinishing all of the exterior doors of the Church. After initial work on one set, Rick wanted something better for all those entering our doors, so he stripped and sanded and wire brushed every door, before applying layers of varnish.

Rick, the doors are spectacular! Thank you.



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

October 31 Book of Ruth 1:1-18 Pastor Craig Reformation Sunday/All Saints Noisy Offering

November 7 Letter to the Hebrews 9:42-28 New Member Reception/Communion Pastor Craig Food Bank Sunday

November 14 Hebrews 10: 11-25 Pastor Craig

November 21 Pastor Craig Christ the King Sunday

November 28 "God's Gates "Matthew 24:3-35
Advent 1 Pastor Diane

December 5
Advent 2
Communion Sunday &
Food Bank Sunday

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

October 31 Gospel Hymn Sing 4:00pm

November 4 Taize, 5:00pm Pastor Diane

electronic copies are available on our website: www.valleypresbyterian.net



Pastor Craig

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

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.)

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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

stor/Head of Staff	.pastorcraig@@valleypres.net
stor of Discipleshipdia	nechristopher@valleypres.net
ector of Music	jamie@valleypres.net
ganist/Accompanist	wmoulton@valleypres.net
rish Nurse	parishnurse@valleypres.net
okkeeper	suzanne@valleypres.net
ministrative Specialist	cjohnson@valleypres.net
ministrative Specialist	Ihester@valleypres.net
stodian	custodians@valleypres.net
ıstodian	custodians@valleypres.net
stodian	custodians@valleypres.net
stor Emeritus	
eb Designer	rrhorn@mac.com
rsery Attendant	vpc-office@valleypres.net
	stor of Discipleshipdia ector of Music ganist/Accompanist rish Nurse okkeeper ministrative Specialist stodian stodian stodian stodian stor Emeritus



The Fountain!

The fountain was painted with pool paint donated by Bob Campbell.
The color is Bikini Blue!

The custodians did a beautiful job cleaning, prepping and painting two coats of paint.

Make sure to wear your sunglasses when you are checking it out.

Thank you Bob Campbell for the paint and thank you to our wonderful custodians for all your hard work.

Great Job!



Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor Head of Staff

THE CANON OF THE ORDINARY

Recently, I participated in the installation of the new Episcopal Rector at St. Francis of the Valley Church, who also had been selected two years ago in the autumn of 2019. Because he was serving a Call in Canada and the border was closed, he has now only just arrived. Painfully, I was the only non-Anglican present at his installation?! In addition to the parishioners and the Bishop, was The Canon of the Ordinary, who it turns out is the Bishop's Assistant. Where the Bishop makes all the policy decisions (similar to our Session or Presbytery, although the Bishop's claimed function is as The Pastor); the Canon of the Ordinary is a seminary trained, ordained and elected leader, who carries out all of the

day to day work of administration... which in essence is my function as your Pastor/Administrator.

In worship, I struggled over recent years, that while in 1967 the Presbyterians adopted two sets of three seasons (Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter/Pentecost) in recent years there was new recognition of Epiphany and Pentecost as being singular days followed by "Ordinary time." Here "ordinary" actually was recognition of the chiming of bells ("ordinals" for all Ordained persons, identifying when to pray); but because most believers did not know anything about the times and seasons of prayers, over half of the year just felt like "Ordinary" Sundays without a season in the life of the Messiah.

Then came this Autumn, where a reclaiming of what is ordinary felt really good and healthy. Our Choir began to sing, between in-person and on-line attendance, we averaged over 300 persons per week and climbing. Every day of every week on the Church Calendar is filled with meetings and activities. Our Administrative and Custodial Staff have our church open and receptive Monday through Friday and on Sundays. Ordinary, seemed high praise! Recently, someone commented fearing that persons would return to their behaviors of complaining about one another, and finding fault. I truly believe, we are not returning to the past, but I thank God for the opportunity to minister to you, to lead you with our team, and to no longer have to fear hugging someone, or going out for coffee, singing or laughing!

Years ago, a Session had had an Interim Pastor for a very long time, and someone without thinking remarked, I cannot wait until we can get our "real" Pastor. I am very thankful to serve alongside Pastor Diane as your "real/ordinary pastors!"

Craig Lindsey

Cont.. on page 3

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

PERMISSION GIVING

We are living into a very scary and wonderful experience. Instead of Administrative Commissions, imposed structures that did not make sense to most people, having to vote on authority; instead we are practicing "permission giving" and "reporting." In essence, nothing has changed, at 9:30am on Sundays we still Worship God with joy. But we are having to learn to trust one another, to accept that those with authority will get the job done. This means that we need a great deal more communication and prayer.

CLARIFICATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL RENOVATORS

The last two Sundays members' returned having been gone for 19-20 months, who went out of their way to describe how well they could hear worship! Architecturally we have an aesthetically spectacular Sanctuary, which is problematic for sound. Theaters throughout history have used the trumpet-design with small stages or projection booths projecting to larger audiences or screens. Our Sanctuary is the opposite, our Chancel having a 20 ft ceiling narrowing to the Narthex at 12 ft high. Instead of a square room with predictable reverberations, our Sanctuary has angled walls, making sound behave like billiard bank shots. Added to which the floors are carpeted and pews are padded both seat and back, the result of which is a fur-lined funnel, which we attempt to push sound from the horn to the narrow end. At some point, we would greatly benefit with Systems Engineers addressing these issues.

More immediately, the Session, acting on recommendations from the Pastors, and Building & Grounds and Worship & Music committees have made several significant investments over the last 3 years. We have long desired to have video conference meetings, allowing those traveling to participate; we created Zoom, accounts and brought everyone on-line for limitless meetings for \$200.

The Sound System was not functioning and had to be replaced at a cost of \$38,800. No longer are there any dead spots in the Sanctuary, nor are there reverberations, but our choir can now be heard better than when we had over 100 voices. We also have a hearing impaired system that somehow had been turned way down, and when adjusted, works fine without any cost!

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

As a people who look East, many have complained about staring into the sun, which we have balanced with Par-can lights. We continue to work to eliminate the walls having a pink or green tint, but have resolved this sunlight problem. The old 15 Fresnel Spot Lights used an enormous amount of electricity, and as they burned out, parts were no longer available. These were replaced with LED Spot lights at a cost of \$15,000. All of the Chandelier bulbs were replaced with LED for a cost of \$2,000.

For decades persons less able to travel to worship have wanted to have our worship broadcast, as well as for those traveling during Arizona summers. Especially with the pandemic, this became an important resource, and we have generated several regular attenders/supporters who have never yet been to Arizona, all for a cost of \$3,700

We have repaired a great deal of what did not work, and attempted to meet people's stated needs. There is still work to do and much for our volunteers to learn, but all of this has been accomplished using less than \$60,000 from the Capital Improvements Fund set aside for this purpose. Truth be told, we have done a great deal of scrounging, finding an unused speaker to use as a monitor speaker, finding scaffolding which may eliminate the cost for renting Scissor or Boom lifts, finding new light-fixtures for the choir listed at \$45. each, which we bought for \$13. Thank you for your patience and support as we have tried to make improvements for your benefit, to glorify God.

Craig Lindsey



Sanctuary Flowers

Have you noticed the beautiful flowers in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings? These flowers are purchased by our congregation:



- to honor special people in their life
- to celebrate a special day such as an anniversary or birthday
- in memory of a loved one

After worship, the flowers are then broken down into 3-4 smaller arrangements and brought to the homebound or those in need.

We are taking orders for the year 2022 beginning November 14. If you would like to reserve a bouquet, sign up in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. The cost for the large bouquet (\$50) is due when you sign up. If you are not able to come to church on Sundays, you may call the office to reserve a date. If you have a specific date in mind, make your reservations early as flowers are reserved on a first-come first-served basis.

Rev. Diane Christopher Pastor of Discipleship

Gates

Last month for several weeks, I cat-sat for a neighbor. One night, I arrived at the house after dark using my flashlight to go through the gate to get to the front door. Most of us have gates to keep large animals from entering our patios. However, they do not work with smaller



animals. There, right in front of the door I needed to enter to get into the house, was a huge rattle-snake (at least, he looked big in the dark) all curled up. We startled each other, and he raised his head and the tail went up...but no rattle. I backed up as fast as I could and walked back to my house, my heart pounding.

Now what? I needed to enter the house to feed the cat. I remembered I had the snake number on my phone and called: "Do you come and get snakes at night?" She said yes, but I needed to go back and make sure the snake was still there. Not exactly what I wanted to do, but I went back. As I prepared to open the gate, I heard a startled rustle and a rattle in a bush right next to me...outside the gate. Is this the same snake, or is there more than one? If it was the same one, he had traveled fast.

I called the snake number, and this time it went to the fire department. "Is this the snake person?" I asked. "Sure is!" he said gleefully. They were there in less than 5 minutes with the fire engine (really?). I shined my light by the gate. "That's a big one!" he said. As he grabbed the snake with his pole, the snake let out a loud hiss and was placed in the fireman's box. We looked for other snakes inside the gate so I could enter the house to take care of the cat (remember the cat?). Finding none, he left.

I texted the owners of the cat (Sassy) about my little adventure and said I did not want to enter their house by the gate any more. I took a garage door opener from one of their cars, and from then on entered their house through the garage.

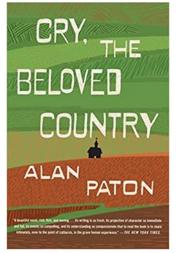
As we prepare to enter into the holiday season of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas and a New Year, I think about gates. We often do not know what lies on the other side of our gates. As I look over this past year, I entered the gate of death in my family and home. Many of you entered that gate this past year. Some of you are facing the gate of death (or illness or pain or financial stress or...) and wonder what the other side of that gate is like.

And yes, there are gates of joy, too. In our Thanksgivings this year, what gate did you enter that brought you joy? During Christmas, God opened the gates of heaven by coming to earth in Christ to show us God's great love. In the coming New Year, may God open the gates of your hearts and heads to receive the flood-gates of divine blessing.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

Psalm 118:19

Valley Readers



November 22nd, 2021 2:00pm in Classroom 1

For November, the Valley Readers Book Club will turn to a classic novel, *Cry, The Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton.

Written in 1948, this is one of the enduring pieces of literature to come out of South Africa, as it reflects the apartheid society of that time and the people who had to live within it.

Praised for its lyricism and humanity, this story led one reviewer to comment on its "powerful simplicity, poetic poignancy and deep moral integrity."

Please join us for a discussion will be led by Margie Williams and Helen Phillips.

Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.



Have you ever been hungry? Really hungry?

We all experience hunger but rarely on a daily basis.

The annual "Hunger Walk" was a huge success but need continues and will do so indefinitely.

The Food Bank needs your help in forms of food (canned and packaged goods) and monetary Donations.

Food Drive Sunday

November 7th

Did you know that you can write a check to Valley Presbyterian Church and have the funds go to the food band? Just comment in the notes section "Food Bank".

Bless you all for your continued efforts in helping stamp out hunger in our community.

Article submitted by Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens

Being Presbyterian – Thoughts About the Brief Statement of Faith By Linda Freeman

Next month: Sharing Thoughts about Being Presbyterian



Last month I wrote about some of my favorite phrases from the Creeds and Confessions that we Presbyterians have adopted. Continuing in this vein, the Brief Statement of Faith (adopted in 1983) has a special place in my heart. It came out when my focus and time started to concentrate on service to the church at above the congregational level.

This statement of faith follows the format of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds by stating our beliefs about the Triune God. I particularly appreciate the broader definition and characterization of the Holy Spirit.

Here is the beginning of that section – take a few moments to enjoy how rich and encouraging the starting paragraphs:

We trust in God the Holy Spirit.

Everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit

justifies us by grace through faith.

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit

who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

Here are some pondering points:

- 1. Note that the Spirit both sets us free and binds us together.
- 2. Take a moment to think about the verbs in the next section: inspires, rules, engages, claims us, feeds us, and calls us.

And these are just the beginning of the Holy Spirit section!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse)

Submitted by Joan Bolin

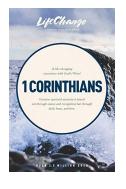
After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

For over 25 years, Samaritan's Purse has been distributing Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box gifts to millions of children in over 100 countries! The aim is to make known, through children and their families, the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Valley Presbyterian Church has been participating in this wonderful ministry for years. Don't you want to make a needy child happy and put a smile on his/her face? This is probably the only gift they will receive at Christmastime.

Stop by our table located in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 7th 2021, and pick up a Christmas Shoe Box(s) to fill. Shoe Boxes will also be available at the church's office November 8-12, 2021, during office hours only.

ALL FILLED CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THEN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021.



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

With about six to thirteen men attending each week, the group meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m.

They meet at the church for one hour in classroom 1.

The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (520-777-8027) but focuses on the group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

Join the group any time to participate in the discussion or just to listen. In either case, your presence will be welcomed. Lessons are self-contained so feel free to join the group when able. The study guide is available from Amazon or Christianbook.com.

Music In The Valley Concerts 2021/2022

Saturday, November 13 @ 3:00 PM

Harpist, Christine Vivona will be performing a program of French Classical and Jazz Music.

Saturday, December 18 @ 3:00 PM

Our very own Chancel Choir will be "Singing" in the Holiday Season with a program of Holiday Music.

Saturday, January 15 @ 3:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of favorite String Quartet Music!

Sunday, February 13 @ 3:00 PM

For this Valentine Weekend, we have University of Arizona's Professor Darnell Roulhac singing an array of Broadway, Opera, and Jazz Love Songs!

Sunday, March 6 @ 3:00 PM

All the way from Colorado we bring you Caleb Collins! He will be singing and playing a program filled with a variety of material, not to mention he has a very sweet connection to our Chancel Choir.

Sunday, April 3 @ 3:00 PM

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

Tickets are on sale starting in the fellowship hall following Sunday services.

\$75 for Season Tickets or \$20 per concert ticket

We are so excited to have a full program of musical talent! Please Mark Your Calendars!

The Joyful Spirit Ensemble and The Valley Ringers December 5, 2021

A Varity of music with Melodic percussion instruments.

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. At Valley Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship Hall

Join Us, its Free!!!!! Includes Christmas cookies and punch.

GIVING THANKS FOR BOOKS

Submitted by: Anne Morrison

November is traditionally a month for giving thanks.

Valley Presbyterian Church is most fortunate to have a library which is funded by the Faith Formation

Committee within the annual church budget. With these monies, the library is able to provide materials that are current/up to date to support the church programs and classes, the various Bible studies, the Stephen Ministry, the



reading group, personal requests, plus the clergy needs and other entities.

Here are some of the latest additions to our library collection:

- Dessert first: preparing for death while savoring life. J. Dana Trent. (306.9 TRE)
- For Sabbath's sake: embracing your need for rest, worship, and community. J. Dana Trent. (263 TRE)
- From judgement to hope: a study on the prophets. Walter Brueggemann. (224 BRU)
- Gray matters: 100 devotions for the aging. Edwin Ray Frazier. (242 FRA)
- Holy troublemakers & unconventional saints. Daneen Akers. (JUV 920 AKE)
- Morning and evening prayers. Cornelius Plantinga. (242 PLA)
- One year book of hymns: 365 devotions based on popular hymns. (264 ONE)
- Out of many, one: portraits of America's immigrants. George W. Bush. (757.6 BUS)
- The scandal of forgiveness: grace put to the test. Philip Yancy. (234.5 YAN)
- The soul of the family tree: ancestors, stories, and the spirits we inherit. Lori Erickson. (929.1 ERI)
- Speaking peace in a climate of conflict. Marilyn McEntyre. (241.5 MCE)
- Te Deum: the church and music. Paul Westermeyer. (246.7 WES)



"Our researcher can find that book. What did it smell like?"



The games get pretty crazy at English teachers' parties.

November 2021 Valley Voice - Financial Update (Based on Financial Data through September 30, 2021)

The Finance Committee met for their quarterly meeting on October 20, 2021 to review the current financial activity. For other non-meeting months, the committee receives the financial statements and reviews them individually with questions directed to the Finance Office. We want to remind all readers what kinds of revenue are included in "Total support." "Giving Support" is contributions for current operations; and "Other Support" is Patio Sale Fund or other Fund transfers in support of operations, investment income, fees for services (memorials, events, concerts, etc.); and "Reserve Support" is what we may have to pull from the general fund reserve to support operations in order to balance the annual budget. As of September 30, 2021 our financial report appears very positive

	Year to Date	Budget	Variance
Giving Support	\$501,941.00	\$474,857.00	\$27,084.00
Per Capita Support	\$8,370.00	\$8,821.00	\$(451)
Reserve Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Support	\$46,472.00	\$51,750.00	\$(5,278.00)
Total Support	\$556,783.00	\$535,428.00	\$21,355.00
Expenses	\$527,541.00	\$589,595.00	\$(62,054)
Net Income	\$29,242.00	\$(54,167)	\$83,409.00

Seems that the year is progressing well. We are very grateful for the positive position we see currently. We were definitely discouraged as we worked on the 2021 budget at the end of 2020. Because of your faithful support, we anticipate that we may NOT need to use operational reserves to balance the 2021 budget, we will not move those reserves until it becomes necessary.

The Finance Committee will continue to keep you informed of the financial status of VPC. Thank you for your continuing support.



Supper Clusters By Carmen Nylund, Organizer

Sign-ups for Supper Clusters will continue each Sunday through November and the first Sunday of December. VPC members, regular attendees, couples and singles are invited to be part of a Cluster. We hope you will consider being part of this program which will give you the opportunity to meet new friends and renew old friendships in a small group setting.

We invite you to stop by the "Supper Cluster" table after worship to find out more about this program, sign up or just chat and enjoy your cup of coffee or lemonade.

Questions? Contact organizer, Carmen Nylund at clnylund1968@outlook.com or at 520-269-7732.



Valley Presbyterian Church Personnel Committee

We are looking for individuals to serve on the Personnel Committee who have past or present experience with personnel issues in either a church or work environment; have



proven ability to work in a team setting; be able to keep confidences, and be open-minded and fair-handed.

If the above describes you and you may be interested in serving on the Personnel Committee, please contact Frank Coggins, Committee Chair, (505) 681-6457, nord4066@gmail.com, or Rev. Pastor Craig.



By Liz Haynes

Mission Quilters!

If you like to sew, please join the group on the fourth Tuesday of the month in room 1 and in the Fellowship Hall to make walker bags and other projects that contribute to Congregational Care and Mission projects.

Jesse Setterlund is the coordinator for that project.



Care ministries!

We are in need of prayer shawls. We can provide patterns (both knit and crochet) and yarn so if that's something you like to do then please speak to someone at the Women's Ministries table on Sunday mornings.



The next Women's Ministries Gathering Luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 16th at 11:30 AM.

Our speaker will be Bill McCreery, representing Casa Community
Services on the La Posada Campus. In addition to a regular offering, the Presby Gift offering will go to Casa Community Services.

Please join us for an engaging and informative program as well as some good food and great fellowship.

We are accepting your aluminum pull tabs and unused mini toiletries.

The Women's Ministries table will be available before and after the Worship Service on the first three Sundays of the month. We are happy to answer questions and take donations for our various projects. Bible study books are available (see above) and we also sell our latest cookbook. Please stop by.

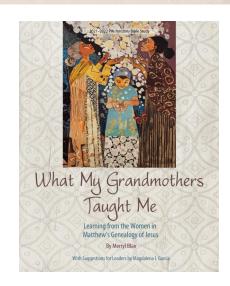




Join Circles Bible Study groups the second Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., and every third Mondays at 4:00 p.m. at Valley Presbyterian Church.

We continue to sell this year's Circle Bible study book, Lessons My Grandmothers Taught Me, which looks at the women in the genealogy of Jesus.

The cost is \$11 and books can be purchased on Sunday mornings (first – third Sundays of the month) at the Women's Ministries table before and after church. Pastor Diane also has some copies in her office.



Welcome to Our New Members of Valley Presbyterian Church



Maureen Ramsay



Chuck Ramsay



Linda Piotrowski



Ellie Hargleroad



Kurt Hargleroad



David Gay



Joy Gay



Bernie Nicholson



Don Nicholson

Parish Nurse: Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Caring for those in our congregation Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News August 2021



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

We are calculating the survey results and will let you know more about upcoming programs as they are related to the surveys.

Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.



Connections, during this time, are also essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care. Keep communications with friends, neighbors, and family during this time. Please let us know any concerns or needs that we may be able to help with.

By My Side, a support and uplifting chorus, uses the irrepressible power of singing to move people with Alzheimer's (or other dementia diagnosis) and their care partners to rediscover themselves, make new friends, laugh together, learn together, empower and support, and create something unique together. The priority is to engage and embrace people with Alzheimer's/dementia and their care partners who live at home and who have fewer opportunities to socialize and contribute. We are hopeful that this chorus can begin again in the fall.

Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy. Parish Nurse's office hours are Tuesday and Thursday mornings.



By Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Is it a rash or Shingles?



Shingles is a disease that causes a painful skin rash. About 1 in 3 people will get shingles, and your risk increases as you age. Shingles is a disease that affects your nerves and caused by the same virus as chickenpox, the varicella zoster virus. After chickenpox, the virus continues to live in some of your nerve cells. One in three adults, the virus will become active again, producing shingles. It is not totally understood what makes the virus go from inactive to active. Some things that may make it more likely are: age (about ½, the shingle cases are in adults 60 years or age and older, and/or a weakened immune system (even stress or a cold can weaken your immune system).

Symptoms of shingles may include burning, numbness of skin, and variations of pain from mild to intense pain, tingling or itching, chills, fever, headache, upset stomach, and rashes or blisters that develop on one side of the body, usually on your face or around your waist. See you healthcare provider right away if blisters are on your face, near or in eye. This may cause lasting eye damage or blindness. In general, see your healthcare provider no later than three days after rash starts. There are medicines that may help.

Adults 50 and older should talk to their healthcare provider about getting the shingles vaccine to reduce their risk. The vaccine is usually given in two doses, with the second dose two to six month after the first dose. Check with your healthcare provider if you are wondering if you should receive this. Shingles is not contagious but a person with active shingles can spread the virus when the rash is in the blister phase. It is important to keep the rash covered and to wash your hands often. Most cases of shingles last three to five weeks.

(Information from National Institute on Aging)

carbs?

Medical Minute: Sometimes the Thanksgiving Turkey causes drowsiness. Turkey contains Tryptophan, an amino acid, that might make you drowsy, however so do the many carbohydrates that are often eaten at this meal.

The question still remains is it the tryptophan or is it the



PRESBYTERIAN

Churches are multiplying!

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 the 17 VPC members who promise to pray and follow the blogs.

A member of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC) was displaced to the region of Wau, and did not have a church to worship in. She began gathering with friends to pray in her house. They wanted to start a congregation and sent a message to SSPEC leaders for support. The leadership contacted a pastor in Abyei, several hundred kilometers away, who spoke the same language and was willing to move to Wau to start the church. But SSPEC did not have funds to enable the pastor to travel to Wau. Finally, they found a portion of the funds and the pastor and congregation raised the rest. The congregation in Wau has since outgrew the house they were meeting in and is struggling now to find a place to worship.



Pastors and members in the new congregation near Juba



People gather for worship in a new congregation

Since arriving in Juba four years ago, I have been inspired by the creative solutions found by Rev. Santino and the leadership of Nile Theological College where I serve as a faculty member. When forced to leave Malakal due to war, the college campus destroyed. Rev. Santino and Rev. Michael Aban renovated a bakery in Juba and started up the college again with only five students, the number quickly growing to more than seventy-five within a couple of years. When more space was needed for classes and the chapel, they quickly erected a rakuba which provided the extra space needed.

Please consider joining this significant work by praying and contributing towards new church development in South Sudan. Pastors and church members are eager to share God's love and establish new congregations. While support needs vary by location and situation, even a small amount such as \$500 can significantly



help a congregation in securing land and covering basic expenses. Current specific needs include paying the balance on land for a new congregation in Juba, constructing a temporary shelter for a new congregation in Wau, and supporting a pastor to relocate to a village in the Pochalla region that does not have a church. You can give towards this need through SSPEC's account with PC(USA): https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/E052148/. If you donate, please designate in the comments for "New Church Development". Thank you for joining in the significant work God is doing in South Sudan!

The Mission Committee of Valley Presbyterian Church in conjunction with Pastor Craig Linsey endorse supporting a new church in South Sudan if the congregation is agreeable and supportive. If Members and friends are interested in supporting this project, please send donations to Mission Committee/ New Church Development in South Sudan.

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

FINALLY! BACK TO PAKISTAN

After almost two years, I am in route back to visit our senior leaders and staff in Pakistan for six days of leader's meetings for fellowship, prayer, reporting, teaching, coaching and other meetings. I will be teaching in six different sessions and also meeting with OM leaders, board members, and others. I appreciate prayer for these days and for Pam as she is back in Wisconsin working to help Afghan refugees there.

Thanks for praying and standing with us!

Yours for Christ and His kingdom, Dave and Pam

Great News

Pam and Dave have accepted our invitation to return to Valley Presbyterian Church the weekend of January 22 and 23, 2022. Activities will include Mission Breakfast on Saturday, message, fellowship with free books after service, and open house on Sunday. Plan to attend and be inspired.



Submitted by Kay Brouwer

Laura Romero has announced that there will probably be a Children's Clinic on November 4 this year at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Nogales, Arizona. Many adults in Mexico have received the COVID vaccine and the COVID case numbers are down from the recent past. It is now safe to bring families to the clinic. It has been a long, difficult 18 months since the Clinic could function effectively.

Andrews' Staff is excited to have seven families come to Nogales, Arizona from Mexico. The only possible issue is that the Border Patrol must give their okay to let the families cross into the United States. In the past, they have been very cooperative.

If this November 4 Clinic is a success, a December Clinic will be planned with a Christmas celebration and gifts. If anyone wants to help with celebration or to contribute to the St. Andrew's Mission, please send a cash donation to St. Andrews' Clinic at 75 W Calle De Las Tiendas # 129B, Green Valley, AZ 85614.

At the next Mission meeting, Kay will bring information about the building that St. Andrews' hopes to build on the grounds of the St. Andrews' Episcopal Church in Nogales, AZ.

A bright light is ahead as they plan for the first Clinic since the beginning of the COVID quarantine. St. Andrew's Children's Clinic continues to need our prayers and support.

Posada Life Community Services (formerly Casa Community Services) has served the greater Green Valley community since 1988.



Adult Day Services was one of our first programs and continues today to be an important service to our community. The program started in Valley Presbyterian Church, 2 days a week in 1991, prior to us building the current facility on the La Posada campus.

Adult Day Services provides support for adults with cognitive and/or physical needs and who typically live at home in the care of a family member. Adult Day Services can be the solution for many older adults seeking to remain at home together as they struggle to manage the effects of Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's or other issues of aging or injury. Adult Day Services provides a stimulating environment while offering respite and support to caregivers. Registered Nurses provide healthcare while our professional activity staff and health aides keep participants active, serve nutritious meals and assist participants with personal needs.

The program is open 5 days a week from 9am until 4pm. There is a \$72 daily fee for attending the program, however as a nonprofit we work with families to be sure they can attend the program regardless of their ability to pay the fee. We have a contract with the VA that provides the service at no charge for veterans. A portion of Valley Presbyterian Church's donations typically go to our "fee assistance" fund that helps those who can't afford the fee to attend the program.

Our intergenerational program, where participants enjoy time with children from our preschool, including entertainment, games and crafts, will resume when we are given the all-clear following the pandemic. Currently, Adult Day Services is following Covid guidelines to help keep participants and staff healthy. Free caregiver support groups are held to benefit the entire community, whether or not the care receiver is in the Posada Life program.



Here is a view of Adult Day Services from a Participant and Caregiver currently attending the program. (Names were changed for privacy.)

"My wife and I appreciate this so much," Thomas adds. "It's a small break for us so we get things done while she spends the day with the friends she's made. She loves it."

"I really like the ukulele players and when the dogs come to visit," Wilma adds. "I can't wait until the children can return. I know we can't meet now, but when they return it will be a happy day for me."



Crossroads Nogales Mission

The Crossroads Nogales Mission is a 501C (3) non-profit organization established as a homeless shelter in 1995. It is uniquely the only shelter in Santa Cruz County serving men, women and children. It is the mission of Crossroads to promote the social and spiritual growth of persons who are in crisis or who live in disciplined, independent, productive members of the community.

Crossroads Nogales Mission provides housing, meals, counseling, spiritual development, life skills training and other referrals for clients. Most of our clients are Hispanic and live in Nogales, Arizona or come from the surrounding area. More than 47,000 individuals (men, women and children) were served by Crossroads in 2017.

Community services offered include shelter, meals, clothing, community feeding program including holiday meals, 6-month substance abuse recovery program, 6-month in-house probation program and chapel services.

Valley Presbyterian Church supports Crossroads Nogales Mission by prayer, service and finances.

There is an opening on the Valley Presbyterian Mission Committee for one or two people to be the Committee's leader for Nogales Crossroads Mission. As a leader, you would provide monthly communication through our committee to VPC congregation of the Nogales Crossroads Mission services, activities and needs both physical and spiritual. In addition, you would arrange volunteers to prepare lunch at the mission twice a month for the Crossroads hungry people.

If you interested in helping with this mission, please contact Doug Clark via email at douglasclark68@me.com or (520) 207-4104.





Thanksgiving Dinner At Valley Presbyterian Church Thursday, November 25th, at 1:00 P.M.

Do you have plans for Thanksgiving dinner? If not, consider joining us at Valley Presbyterian in Fellowship Hall to enjoy good fellowship and a wonderful meal.

The menu:

Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Fluff Salad, Rolls & Butter, Apple or Pumpkin Pie, Coffee, Tea & Water

A sign-up sheet for this event will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship starting Sunday, November 7, & November 14 While there is no charge for the dinner, donations are always welcome. Attendees must sign up so we can determine the amount of food to prepare. If you cannot be in church to sign up, please call the office and give them your information.

A sign-up sheet will also be available for volunteers willing to help with preparing, serving, and clean-up. We will limit attendees to 125 so be sure to sign-up as soon as possible. The cut-off for signing up will be Sunday, November 21. We look forward to a good response, good food, and great fellowship!

Prayerfully yours,

The Valley Galley Crew

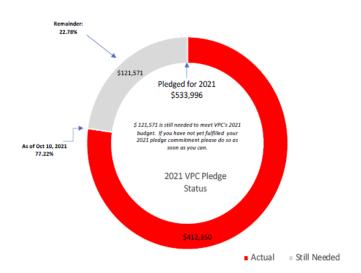
VPC Pledge Status 2021

As you can see by the adjacent chart, some members have yet to fulfill their 2021 pledge.

This is not unusual as we all have busy lives this time of year,

it is just a friendly reminder,

Thank you, D. Brooks V.P.C. Treasurer





Casa Vida Nueva para Niño's

"Home for Children"

Submitted by Reed Olson

VPC Mission Committee

Things are getting better regarding the Home and COVID. Recently the US Government vaccinated the older children (10 of them). The adults of the Home drove the children across the border where the US Red Cross was stationed and vaccinated them - thank God and the US Government. During this event it was discovered that what seemed like about 1,000 children from various schools were also bused to this location and all were vaccinated. It was recently announced that the ARIZONA / MEXICO border would reopen sometime in November. Expect long lines as people pour across the border.

Fiber Optics are coming to the Home sometime in November. The government will pay to have the lines dug to the gate at the Home, but the Home will need to pay the cost of digging the line from their main gate to the Home. If you would like to donate to this cause, please submit through VPC and in the Memo line put in "Orphanage - fiber optic line." There will not be a December trip to the home this year. We will wait until next year to resume the trip. If you want to know more about this mission, go to the following web site: www.risesa.org



Hands of a Friend

This pass month
Hands of a Friend
received a playground
donated to their shelter, that the kids are
going to love.

They hired a yard man to clean up the yard, after the monsoon season it was necessary. Things are coming together nicely.







MISSION BREAKFASTS RETURN!! YOUTH ON THEIR OWN WILL BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!

Join us on Saturday Morning, November 13 at 8:30 in Fellowship Hall! We will share a delightful breakfast together and learn more about YOTO from our guest speaker, Bethany Neumann, Director of Development and Communications for Youth On Their Own!! After her presentation, she will welcome any questions we might have! Mark your calendars for this special opportunity.

Tickets will go on sale after Sunday services October 31, and November 7. Tickets are \$5.00. If you choose to make a donation to YOTO at the breakfast, they are an approved agency under the Charitable Giving Tax Deduction.



We will have a donation table at the breakfast for Mini-Mall Supplies for the students. Most

needed are Hygiene items: Body Wash, Lotion, Sunscreen, Shampoo, Conditioner.

We will meet at church on Wednesday, December 1 from 1 to 3:30 pm in Classroom 5 to make Inspirational Cards for Youth on Their Own students! This will be our combined November/December meeting. Lots of fun materials will be available: a variety of stamps and colored stamp pads, stickers galore, slogans, border ribbon, and colorful cards. <u>ALL ARE WELCOME</u>! Hope to see you there!

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO



Mission Breakfast



What are Mission Breakfasts?

Mission Breakfasts are an educational outreach from the Valley Presbyterian Mission Committee to the congregation to provide a better understanding about the individual mission agencies supported by our church.

What are the Goals of the Mission Committee?

Our committee's goals are to 1) grow spiritually, 2) monitor each mission our church supports, and 3) communicate the work and service which each of our 18 missions actively pursues.

When did the Breakfasts start?

Mission Breakfasts began in 2013. While our purpose is chiefly to understand each mission more thoroughly, we have also raised almost \$55,000 through profits from the breakfast and free will donations for the individual groups.

What do we hope our Mission Breakfasts will accomplish?

The real effect we hope to accomplish in the Mission Breakfasts is increasing INSPIRATION and APPRECIATION of God's work in a setting of shared fellowship!

When are the Mission Breakfasts scheduled?

For the 2021-2022 year, our 4 Mission Breakfasts will be held on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. The following Missions will be in the spotlight.

November 13, 2021 – Youth On Their Own January 30, 2022 – Casa Vida Nueva (the orphanage) February 12, 2022 – The Community Food Bank in Amado and Green Valley March 28, 2022 – St. Andrews Clinic (Cleft Palate Surgeries)





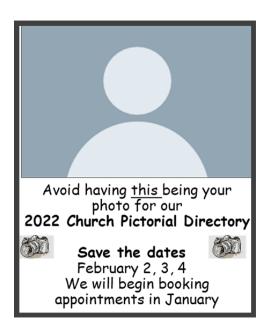
Session Meeting Notes From September 23rd

Highlights of the Session meeting included the following:

- Expression of appreciation of the wonderful job that Rick Nau has done in refinishing the front doors of the Church.
- Discussion of the budget process for 2022, which is well underway with Committees working to submit their budgets.
- Membership and Outreach Committee is working on the picture directory project. The company that we had before is no longer in business, so a new company has been selected. The goal is to have pictures
- taken in early February. More information will be forthcoming on that project.
- The Fellowship Committee is planning to have a Thanksgiving dinner.
- A new full-time Custodian has been hired.

Actions taken included the following:

- Approval to purchase two copyright licenses to allow hymns to be reproduced in writing in video streaming of services.
- Approval of flow chart and description of the Capital Project funding process.
- Approval of realignment of supervisory responsibility by Session and Deacons for various Committees and Boards.





Advent at VPC

Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, begins November 28, 2021. The Faith Formation team has several ways to help you prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. We are offering two classes and a devotional:

Advent in Plain Sight Mondays in Advent Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 19 (and beyond) 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5 or Zoom

In this class, based on the book by Jill Duffield, we will seek God in all things no matter how mundane. Scripture bears witness that God works through ALL creation. We will find new meaning in gates, tears, belts, trees, cloth, stars, water. Books are \$12.00 and can be purchased from Pastor Diane or in the church office.

Your teacher: Pastor Diane

Wait Upon the Lord Thursdays in Advent: Dec 2, 9, 16, 23 10:00 a.m. in Classroom 3

In this study, we will look back in scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for God's promises to come to pass. By their example, how can we learn to wait upon the Lord? Study guides for this class are \$7.00 and can be purchased from Pastor Diane or in the church office.

Your teacher: Linda Norman

Wait Upon the Lord Devotional

This is a gift to all of you from the Faith Formation Committee. All members will receive in the mail this devotion booklet with readings for every day in Advent. For those who are not members, devotionals can be picked up at the Welcome Centers or in the office. If you are not a member and cannot make it to church, call the office and we will send one to you. May this booklet be an inspiration to you this Christmas season.



Christmas Poinsettias

Will be available for purchase November 14th, 2021 in the fellowship Hall.

The price is \$10.00 per plant and the deadline to sign-up for purchase will be December 19th, 2021. Payment is required at the time of sign-up.



(Poinsettias cannot be removed from the church until after Christmas)



Movember Birthdays

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

Reed	Olson		November 01
Sandra	Lichtenberger		November 01
Dan	Myers	*	November 02
Karen	Woodrow		November 03
Geneva	Halliday		November 03
Frances	Williams		November 04
*Janis	Troop		November 04
JoAnne	Newkirk		November 04
Geraldine	Pearson		November 04
Evelyn	Nielson- Mosher	*	November 06
Anita	Row		November 06
Sandra	Olsen		November 06
Mary Ruth	Jaggard	*	November 07
Betty	Chadwick		November 08
Frank	Coggins		November 08
Evelyn	McClenathan	*	November 09
Robert	Krantz		November 09
Wallis	Watson		November 12
Joan	Dakin		November 12
Lily	Johnson		November 13
Donaldina	Joung		November 13
Barbara E	Brubaker		November 14
Hazel	Kern		November 15

November Birthdays.

Bill	Bond	* *	November 16
Travis	Sayre		November 16
Pat	McFarland		November 17
Jana	Honermann		November 17
Mary	Horn		November 18
Margaret	Schloff		November 19
Lawrence	Craft		November 19
Judy	Lindsey		November 19
Chris	Ballaris		November 20
Judy	Criswell		November 21
Mark	Erickson		November 22
Roxy	Blair		November 25
Joan	Defendorf		November 26
Donna Marie	Dufour		November 27
Joan	DuDeVoire		November 28
Rev. Diane	Christopher		November 28
Constance	Conklin		November 29
Neville	Ford		November 30
Linda	Romstad		November 30
Leilani	Young		November 30



Christ caring for people through people STEPHEN MINISTRY

On Oct 24, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Stephen Ministry at VPC! We "Honored the Past" by recognizing the nearly 250 Stephen Ministers that have been trained here. We "Look to the Future" now as we prepared to train another class beginning in January 2022.

Is God calling you to become a Stephen Minister? Here are 7 reasons to consider becoming one:

- 1. Make a real difference in the lives of people who are hurting.
- 2. Help our congregation ensure that no one suffers alone.
- 3. Learn what to say and do—and what **not** to say and do—to care effectively for people who are suffering.
- 4. Be involved in meaningful ministry that uses your spiritual gifts.
- 5. Deepen your faith as you see God at work through your ministry.
- 6. Be part of a group of caring Christians who support each other as they care for those who are hurting.
- 7. Join a worldwide tradition of caring ministry.

To join us, please contact Patti Bright for an application: (520) 305-3275











Journey Through Grief November 19 – December 14, Tuesdays and Fridays 1-3 p.m. Classroom 5

Valley Presbyterian Church will be offering a Journey Through Grief program held to provide those who are grieving a loss an opportunity for discussion to understand grief, support on the grief journey, and suggestions for a healthy way to grieve.

This unique program is eight 1 ½ to 2-hour sessions, meeting twice a week. Although based in faith, the program is open to anyone in the community. The program is free of charge and all materials are provided at no cost to participants. It is being facilitated by Carolyn Eubank Hill and her husband Dick Hill, members of Valley Presbyterian Church. Carolyn has facilitated a similar program for several years at another church and Dick is a retired Hospice nurse.

Both are Stephen Ministers.

The next session will start on November 19th, 2021 and will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays through December 14th. Contact Pastor Diane Christopher at the church to register.



November Taize Thursday November 4, 2021 In the Sanctuary at 5 p.m. A Celebration of Psalms



Please join us for this celebration of Psalms. Our worship time together will focus on three groups of Psalms: Psalms of Praise, Psalms of Lamentation, and Psalms of Thanksgiving. Interspersed throughout these sung Psalms will be words of devotion, prayers, and contemplations. This will be a bit different from our usual Taize services. In Advent, we will have weekly services, on Thursday nights at 5:00PM, that are more in line with our usual practices for these services. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and families to worship with us the evening of November 4th.





Annual Holiday Sale ...Plus Much, Much More

collectibles
Clothes Framed Art
Books Linens
Jewelry



Thursday, Nov. 4 8-3 pm Friday, Nov. 5 8-3 pm Saturday, Nov. 6 8-12 noon

- Cash or US checks only.
- Breakfast & Lunch Available for Purchase
- Masks Recommended

All net proceeds go to support VPC'S area missions



2800 S. Camino del Sol, Green Valley, Az. 85622

Website: <u>www.valleypresbyterian.net</u> Phone 520-625-5023