



*Our Valley Voice*  
*October*  
*2020*

A word cloud graphic with a pink border. The most prominent words are "God", "Grace", and "Christ", all in large, bold, black serif fonts. Other words scattered around include "work", "love", "God's", "good", "heavenly", "advanced", "incomparable", "pr", "seated", "one", "rich", "gr", "show", "workmanship", "made", "rich", "create", "alive", "realms", "dead", "coming", "mercy", "ages", "gift", "ransgressions", "even", "might", "expressed", "faith", "boast", "order", "raised", "Jesus", "savior", "show", "advance", "pr", "rich", "gr".

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

# OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

## **Valley Presbyterian Church**

2800 S Camino Del Sol

Green Valley, AZ 85622

(520) 625-5023

[vpc-office@valleypres.net](mailto:vpc-office@valleypres.net)

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

Member of Presbytery de Cristo in The Synod  
of the Southwest,

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

### **Pastors**

**Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey,**

Pastor/Head of Staff

**Rev. Diane Christopher,**

Pastor of Discipleship

**Rev. Joe Hawkins,**

Pastor Emeritus

**Sunday Worship**  
**Traditional Service of Worship**  
**9:30 a.m. Online**

**Live Worship Begins**  
**October 11 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Taize Service**  
**1st Wednesday of the Month**  
**5:00 p.m. Online**

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## Taize Worship

Wednesday, October 7

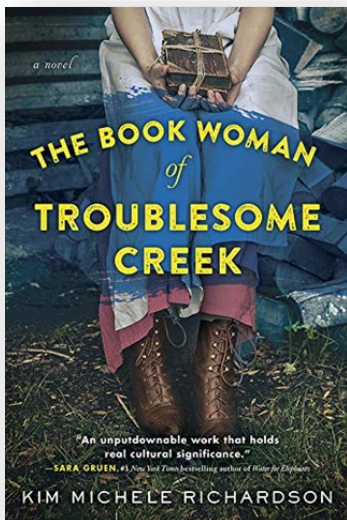
5 p.m. online

In such tumultuous times as these, we invite you to our Taize worship to hear about God's promises through beautiful music, scriptures, candles and quietness. Let it calm and feed your soul. You can find the Taize worship service on our website: [valleypresbyterian.net](http://valleypresbyterian.net) on Wednesday, October 7.

### Staff

Pastor Craig Lindsey .....Pastor/Head of Staff ..... [pastorcraig@@valleypres.net](mailto:pastorcraig@@valleypres.net)  
Pastor Diane Christopher...Pastor of Discipleship.....[dianechristopher@valleypres.net](mailto:dianechristopher@valleypres.net)  
Jamie Reed ..... Director of Music.....[jamie@valleypres.net](mailto:jamie@valleypres.net)  
Wes Moulton .....Organist/Accompanist.....[wmoulton@valleypres.net](mailto:wmoulton@valleypres.net)  
Chris Erickson .....Parish Nurse..... [parishnurse@valleypres.net](mailto:parishnurse@valleypres.net)  
Suzanne Mandeville .....Bookkeeper ..... [suzanne@valleypres.net](mailto:suzanne@valleypres.net)  
Laurie Allen .....Executive Secretary..... [laurie@valleypres.net](mailto:laurie@valleypres.net)  
Carla Goings .....Administrative Specialist..... [carla@valleypres.net](mailto:carla@valleypres.net)  
Joe Snow .....Lead Custodian ..... [custodians@valleypres.net](mailto:custodians@valleypres.net)  
Ray Esparza.....Custodian ..... [custodians@valleypres.net](mailto:custodians@valleypres.net)  
Bob Lopes .....Custodian ..... [custodians@valleypres.net](mailto:custodians@valleypres.net)  
Alice Sanchez .....Nursery Attendant..... [vpc-office@valleypres.net](mailto:vpc-office@valleypres.net)  
Gee-Gee Smith .....Valley Voice Editor ..... [tubacgee@gmail.com](mailto:tubacgee@gmail.com)

## **Valley Readers 2:00 PM -- Monday, October 26, 2020 Classroom 1**



As we mask up and have social distance guidelines in place, we hope to start meeting again on Monday, October 26th.

One of the New Deal programs during the 1930s was the Pack Horse Library Project in rural Kentucky. A heartfelt homage to the program and the power of books, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson is the story of fictional character Cussy Mary Carter, who is also one of the “blue people” of Kentucky. As she attempts to reach the people of backcountry Appalachia with the transformative power of books, Cussy Mary has to confront disapproval and prejudice both for the color of her skin and

the job she’s trying to perform. Join us for a discussion of this highly anticipated novel, led by Gee-Gee Smith. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

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



Thank you each and everyone for your forbearance and cooperation throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic. Different from many places, everyone has cooperated and tried to work together. There have not been divisions over wearing masks and not wearing masks. We have all respected our leadership and tried to work together in very high anxiety times. You have submitted to having your temperatures taken, washing your hands while praying the Lord's Prayer, worshipping in our homes, preparing your own communion, singing solo, and mastering internet video conferencing. Good job! Please keep up the good work and we will keep working to join together safely as the people of God anew. Thank you for making my first year with you so very welcoming. You hosted Judy and I in your homes and NOC's. You welcomed us as trusted friends and listened to our Session's leadership. Thank you.

### **RAISING THE BAR**

There was a famous poem titled "Crossing the Bar" by Lord Tennyson that if I recall correctly, in nautical terms described becoming an adult, taking responsibility for our lives and preparing to meet our Master. The reality of 2020 is that we have had to Raise the Bar, just to stay current and connected. (Here "raising the bar" refers to Pole Vaulting, and the height of the horizontal bar one has to clear to stay in competition.) We have over a summer transformed, from: a congregation which worshipped on Sunday, worked together in committees, and accomplished marvelous things through the Patio Sale; to becoming a High Tech congregation who meet together to share ideas and make decisions via Internet Video Conferencing from around the world; who Worship God together through televised services, even sharing the Sacrament of Communion in each of our many homes. At the same time, when you come home to Valley, we hope you will now notice many improvements. Outdoors in September a new Irrigation System has been installed to water and care for all the native desert plantings around the church building and grounds. When we bow our heads and worship begins, new emergency handles have been installed on the Sanctuary doors, allowing us to leave whenever needed, to re-enter by pushing a silent doorbell for the Head Ushers, while ensuring that we are safe and secure from any threat.

## **FROM THE PASTOR con't**

Anywhere and everywhere you enter the Sanctuary to Worship God, you will be able to hear clearly and succinctly with new speakers mounted so even the Choir and pastors can hear what is going on. The Choir loft has been modified slightly for our Choir, and the Organ Console and Piano have swapped for the grand piano to open appropriately for the congregation and for Wes and Jamie to have eye contact during their marvelous duets. Even with an International Pandemic, VPC has continued to help people move and downsize through the Patio Sale while raising funds for Missions. We have expanded in video Adult Education and Bible Study. AND our NOC leadership have kept tabs on how people are doing and where they are, even when the world was isolated and shuttered. We will never be able to go back, instead the bar has been raised and we will pray for you personally, care for you intentionally, and even when you travel the world we will be able to share together. Recently, we heard from several members that we missed seeing one another and sharing fellowship, so began having coffee hour outdoors before worship from 7am until 8:30am on Sunday mornings.

## **DOING THINGS DECENTLY AND IN GOOD ORDER**

Attempting to encourage greater representation, in late 2018 our Interim Pastor encouraged expanding representation of the Nominating Committee to be six persons at-large from the congregation, plus two Session members and one Deacon. Even a year later, a nine member Nominating Committee had not become natural for us at VPC, as there were no at-large members on the Nominating Committee in 2019; or elected at-large from the congregation for the 2020 Nominating Committee. This concern was brought to our Session, and the Pastor and Clerk consulted with our Presbytery Stated Clerk for what to do. The Stated Clerk assured our Session that similar concerns are being faced because of the Pandemic in every congregation across the Country. The Stated Clerk provided guidance to our Session, for how to proceed “decently and in good order” at the next Session Meeting, and our hope is to elect new Elders and Deacons and a reasonable number of at-large members of the Nominating Committee, at a Congregational Meeting to be Called when we can safely gather at least a quorum.

## **FROM THE PASTOR con't**

### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**

While many of us only see and know the work of our church at Valley Presbyterian Church, and some consider "Administration" a "bad word," the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) empowers us to do a great deal more in ministry and mission than any local church could ever accomplish. When there are problems/concerns larger than what a local church can resolve, these are ministered to by the Presbytery. Pastor Diane is a member of the Preparation for Ministry Committee encouraging Seminary Students and those being trained as Commissioned Lay Pastors for pastoral ministry. Pastor Craig is serving on the Committee on Ministry, which listens to and guides concerns of congregations and the Calling of pastors. When there are matters larger than the Presbytery, these are ministered to by the Synod.

For us the Synod is the Synod of the Southwest comprising all of Arizona and New Mexico. Recently, Pastor Craig has been nominated to serve on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod, which resolves disputes within congregations and with pastors, as an Appellate Court from the Presbyteries. As a denomination, the General Assembly, located in Louisville, Kentucky has six different agencies: The Board of Pensions (Administering the Health Insurance claims and Retirement investments of all pastors and many church staff); the Presbyterian Foundation (managing finances and investments of the PC(USA) just like our VPC Foundation); the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP: which loans money for New Church Development and Redevelopment of existing churches); the Presbyterian Mission Agency (which supervises and funds all of our Missionaries around the world, and makes grants available for local mission projects); the Presbyterian Publishing House (which prints books and magazines); the Office of the General Assembly (which in addition to managing the every-other year Assembly meeting, includes the Office of the Stated Clerk and their committees). The ONLY funding for the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly is our Per Capita Giving, or Designated Giving from local churches. Per Capita simply means "per head" and is an equal distribution of costs per member. When Presbytery Disaster Assistance came to help us; whenever there is a flood, fire, hurricane or earthquake; all the Presbyterian Missionaries in every country around the world; the only source of funding for all of this is our Per Capita Giving. VPC has a wonderful tradition of members paying their own per capita, which if this is not done must be funded through VPC's Operating Budget. Our annual cost of per capita is \$46.00 please give generously.





## Diane Christopher: Pastor of Discipleship

As I write this, the church building has technically been closed for 6 months. We never guessed that this pandemic would last this long. When we first closed (mandated by the governor), we didn't know what to do. How are we going to do worship? Are we going to have meetings? Classes?



We took it step by step. First, worship. Do we use the sanctuary or Spiritual Life Center? Should we even do it from the building? Do we record from our homes? Those of you who remember the early weeks of our recordings, you couldn't hear very well. The music was too loud. Craig was too loud and I was too soft. The soloist was hard to hear over the music. We tried different cameras, different microphones. We slowly figured out what worked best for us, and it was the simplest of all: a cell phone with a little microphone plugged into it. I humbly admit we now produce a pretty wonderful recorded worship service.

We did the same thing with meetings. Step by step. We taught many of you how to use Zoom. Including me. We started having classes and committee meetings over Zoom. We figured out how to live and do things differently during this pandemic.

Now the time is coming to open again. We want to be careful. We want to take it step-by-step just as we did in closing. Lord willing, by this writing we have met under the solar panels for a couple of weeks, and prayerfully by Sunday, Oct 11, we can invite you into the building for worship. With restrictions, of course. Step by step.

This has been an incredible learning experience on how to do ministry in new ways. I pray that we will continue to do ministry in new ways. We've learned that our recorded worship services reach more people than inviting them into the sanctuary. How do we keep doing that? Many people are worried that people are so used to watching worship at home that they will not come back again. I am not worried because I know you all long to see each other, and we have come to appreciate each other more fully.



## **Pastor Diane con't**

We continue to look towards God for direction and guidance from the Holy Spirit. May we not go back to the way things were, but move forward in new ways because we are different people. Our faith has changed. We are changed. Therefore, may we be better people. May we be deeper followers of Christ. May we think more outside the box. May we be more creative in how to bring the love of God to others.

So pray for us. Pray that we will live up to what God is expecting of us and leading us to do. Not just our church but every church in the world, so people will truly come to know the love of God through Christ.

**See you soon!**

## **Pastor Diane**

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# **We are opening for Sunday Morning Worship! Sunday, October 11, 9:30 a.m.**

Get ready! This has been a long time coming....7 months to be exact. If all goes well, we will open the sanctuary for worship on Sunday, October 11 at 9:30 a.m. We have put safety measures in place, so here is what you can expect:

**Please make reservations.** We are limited in how many people we can put in the sanctuary as we practice social distancing. To reserve, contact Pastor Diane at [pastordiane@valleypres.net](mailto:pastordiane@valleypres.net), or call the church office (625-5023).

**We will have Fellowship time underneath the solar panels from 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.** (This new time will start Sunday, Oct 4.) Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

**When you walk into the church building,** here is what will happen.

- Please wear a mask
- Your temperature will be taken with a forehead check.

- Give your name to one of our ushers/greeters. It will be written down in case we need to contact you.
- Use the available hand sanitizer
- Pick up a bulletin

**What to expect in the sanctuary and during the worship service:**

- Ushers will help in seating you (you will sit at the blue tape on the back of the pew)
- There will be no congregational singing; instead, enjoy our cantor.
- Communion will not be served on the first Sunday (however, communion can be viewed on the recorded worship service)
- Ushers will not pass an offering plate (however, you will have the opportunity to leave your offering in a basket at our exits)

So yes, things will be different, but we will get to worship with one another. We recognize many of you are not ready to return, so we will continue to have the worship services available on our website ([valleypres.net](http://valleypres.net)). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are so excited to see you and worship together!

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## **Worship in October**

### **October 4**

<b>The Ten Commandments</b> (Exodus 20:1-20)	Pastor Craig
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### **October 11**

<b>The Wedding Feast</b> (Matthew 22:1-14)	Pastor Craig
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### **October 18**

<b>Returning From Exile</b> (Psalm 126)	Pastor Diane
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### **October 25**

<b>The Great Commandment</b> (Matthew 22:34-46)	Pastor Craig
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## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, September 16th to review the current financial activity through August. We continue to remain in a positive position. In the following report we have defined "Giving Support" as contributions for current operations and "Other Support" as Patio Sale Fund or other Fund transfers in support of operations, investment income, fees for services (memorials, events, concerts, etc.)

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving support	\$460,152	\$489,532	(\$29,380)
Per Capita support	9,189	10,600	(1,411)
Other support	<u>58,734</u>	<u>58,604</u>	<u>130</u>
Total support	528,075	558,736	(\$30,661)
Expenses	<u>499,032</u>	<u>528,582</u>	<u>(29,550)</u>
Net	<u>\$ 29,042</u>	<u>\$ 30,154</u>	<u>(\$ 1,111)</u>

This report shows that we are behind the 2020 Budget. Again, no surprises because of the State shutdown. Green Valley churches normally receive the majority of their support during the high season November through April. We are seeing that many are still sending in their pledges and that online giving has increased significantly. To date, the 2020 pledges are 72% collected. For this we continue to thank you.

### VPC Solar Power System Purchase Funding Status:

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC) received an anonymous matching funds proposal from a member of the Congregation. The proposal reads as follows; *"I would like to pledge that I would match dollar for dollar every donation during the 4th quarter until December 15, 2020 up to \$500.00 per person and up to \$25,000.00 total during this period."* Thanks to this member, this provides an extra incentive for you to help fund the purchase of the Solar Power System from Technologies Credit Corporation (TCC) at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2023. Once the system is owned outright, VPC will no longer have to pay TCC for the power the system generates thus, saving an additional \$14,000 per year in energy costs.

#### FUNDING STATUS

Purchase Price	Date	Donations	Balance
\$ 100,097			\$ 100,097
	31-Aug-20	\$ 3,355.50	\$ 96,741.50

Donald Brooks – 520-399-3959 – [dx38@cox.net](mailto:dx38@cox.net)



James 5:13-17

*Is any among you suffering?  
Let him pray. Is any cheerful?  
Let him SING praise. Is any  
among you sick? Let him call  
for the elders of the church,  
and let them pray over him,*

*anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous man has great power in its effects.*

In March, the last anthem the choir sang before our time apart began was “None Other Lamb” by Craig Courtney.

None other Lamb, none other Name,  
None other Hope in Heav’n or earth or sea,  
None other hiding place from guilt and shame,  
None beside Thee. None beside Thee.  
Nor home, but Thee, nor home, but Thee,  
Nor home, but Thee, none other Lamb.

When my musical mind searches for similarities between this bible verse and anthem, I can’t help but hear SINGING, HOME and PRAYER. Every road leads back to prayer, even in the musical sense. While the science still states that singing in a group is not a good idea, we have to continue to find the hope, faith, and peace in the “Word” and Words. While we can’t use our voices, hear the music. Whether online or in person, while we can’t sing as a group, our home is us, together. Trust that we are in good hands. Soon and very soon we will sing together again.

*Musically Yours,*

*Jamie*

## A Red Chevy Pick-up Truck

A few weeks ago my wife and I were talking and she, out of the clear blue, suggested that I should start looking for a new pick-up truck. I wasn't very interested, I had a 2005 Chevy Colorado with 91,500 miles on it and it was running like a top and always had since I bought it new 15 years ago.

But, the thought of a new pick-up kept creeping into my consciousness every once in a while so I started researching new trucks on line. I looked up the Blue Book value of my 2005 Chevy and it was about \$3000. Not a lot, but some for bargaining with a car dealer. The new GMCs and Chevys were enticing, but I really didn't need a new truck.



Next, I checked into the car buying service my insurance company provided for us and sent in an inquiry just to see what ball park the cost for a new truck would be in.

Well, needless to say, since I hadn't looked at new trucks for 15 years, the sticker shock was intense. But that didn't matter since I didn't really need a new truck.

So, I had pretty much talked myself out of the new vehicle market. Then, I got a copy of the August 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Las Noticias news letter from the Presbytery de Cristo and in it, on the first page was a "Help Needed" message. It read:

"NOTE: Brad is on study leave this week. In place of his weekly missive, we are running this special request."

You are all aware by now of the catastrophic affect the COVID-19 crisis has had on our sisters and brothers in the Navajo Nation. In the midst of serving those in the 15 congregations and their communities, Rev. Norma McCabe and her family have lost two immediate family members to the disease and a niece died in a car wreck. Now, the truck which she uses to deliver needed supplies across the many miles, has blown an engine. If anyone has a truck in good condition that you are willing to donate or to sell, please contact the presbytery office ([pbyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pbyoffice@gmail.com)) or Norma herself ([nfmccabe@hotmail.com](mailto:nfmccabe@hotmail.com)).

## Red Chevy con't

Thank you, Norma and daughter Milinda Bennalie for your service in this difficult time. *If you would like to assist financially, the presbytery has set up a fund for our Native American churches. [Click here to donate.](#)*

Yes, I did it because when God calls we need to listen. Early in my working career I spent some time on the Navajo reservation and I also had some high school friends from the tribe. I felt this was something I needed to do. It couldn't be just an accident that this note came out in the midst of my vehicle consternation, and I couldn't imagine Norma and her daughter Milinda trying to serve 15 congregations, and deliver supplies and food to their communities when I had the truck they needed.



I am proud to announce that Norma, as of September 1, 2020 was given a bright red 2005 Chevy Colorado pick-up truck. I pray she will continue to have the same service I had with the truck as she carries out her mission of supporting the communities and churches and preaching eight services each month. And, I have a

brand new Chevy Colorado pick-up but had nothing to trade in on it.





## Birthdays for October, 2020



Barbara Bentley	10/02
Muriel Wagner	10/03
Barbara Eidson	10/03
Bonnie Wollin	10/03
Timothy J Wollin	10/03
Esther Grimsley	10/04
Vera Anderson	10/04
Darwin Guinn	10/05
Martha Long	10/05
Michael Peake	10/05
Georgia Eberhardt	10/05
Jean Hein	10/06
Carmen Nylund	10/08
Tommy Thompson	10/08
Delores Mechem	10/09
MaryAnn Campbell	10/10
Meghan Erickson	10/11
Donald Bont	10/13
James Callahan	10/13
Betty Weide	10/15 *
LaRue Haff	10/15
Ruth Dunham	10/15
James Egly	10/17 *
Judith Patricia McKinley	10/17
Judith Pember	10/18
Edward Duthaler	10/18
Diane Leah Hartley	10/18
Sue Luhring	10/18
Hercilia Alves Hill	10/18



## SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES! Happy 90th Birthday!

*Kathleen Woodard & Phyllis Camp*

Pat Bruner	10/19
Carl Charette	10/22
Pam Peake	10/23
Janice Woerner	10/24
Raymond Sayre	10/24
Joshua Jorgensen	10/24
Del Harsh	10/25
Jean Longnecker	10/25
Joseph Chesnover	10/26 *
Kathryn Gnau	10/26
Nancy Lammers	10/26
David Appleton	10/27 *
Thomas Allen	10/28
Sherry Harsh	10/28
Russell Duane Hartley	10/29
Virginia Crook	10/29
Jennet Parker	10/29
Jenny VanTreese	10/29
Kathleen Woodard	10/30 *
Herman Klap	10/30
Herb Andrews	10/30
Gail Seibert	10/30
Gail Barker	10/30
Nancy Tompkins	10/30
Phyllis Camp	10/31 *
Doug Clark	10/31
Richard Chvala	10/31

\* indicate age in their 90's



### **More Bloggers wanted (15 and counting) Note #15 blogger**

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



### **Disasters upon disasters**

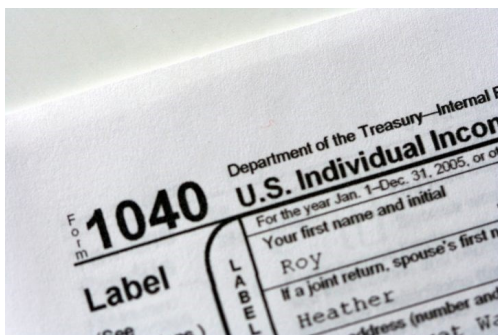
Last week there was severe flooding in several regions of South Sudan, particularly along the Nile River in Jonglei state and in the region of Pochalla in the east. In Pochalla, hundreds of homes were destroyed, crops were ruined, and thousands of people were displaced. Everything is underwater in the village, a central population center for hundreds of miles.



You can imagine how disruptive and scary this would be. In the U.S. we are learning more and more about disruption with the impacts of the Coronavirus coupled with natural disasters like hurricanes, wildfires, even a derecho that swept through the Midwest this week. So please join in praying for protection for people in South Sudan. Our colleague Rev. Philip Obang lamented this week as he shared the news that now they are facing floods, Coronavirus, desert locusts and regional, ethnic fighting. He particularly urged prayer for those who will not have food because of this flooding and the water-borne diseases (like cholera, typhoid, and malaria) that are sure to follow.

Let us join together in interceding for our brothers and sisters in Christ in South Sudan, for provision of food, shelter, and health. God sees and knows the people in these desperate situations and can turn around what looks impossible to us. **Please pray! Bob and Kristi Rice**

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



## The New CARES Act

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



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## **St. Andrews Children's Clinic**

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**Submitted by Kay Brouwer**



Laura Romero, the executive director of St. Andrews' Children's Clinic, has arranged for new office space in Green Valley for the Clinic. In early September they established an office at Valley Community Services, 3950 S Camino del Heroe. Staff is managing that office and Laura is usually working from her home or from the office in Rio Rico. Through Eloise Frederickson, our church helped find the office space in Green Valley. Donations of clothing, diapers, blankets, etc. can be taken to the new office. Laura is willing to conduct a ZOOM meeting for anyone interested. The Mission Committee is interested and will ask for a presentation in November. Let Kay Brouwer know (573 -552-2313) if you would like to learn more about St. Andrew's Children's Clinic via a ZOOM meeting. The Clinic staff and volunteers are working hard to help children, although not in the regular location in Nogales, Arizona, which is closed this month, October and maybe longer. Doctors are volunteering time and making appointments with patients in Mexico. A few Cleft lip/Cleft palate patients will be treated first. Future services will not be the same, but Laura and the staff are fully committed to continuing help to children of Mexico as they have in the past 45 years. Our concerns, prayers and donations are greatly appreciated.

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## **Crossroads Mission, Nogales AZ**

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**Submitted by Joan Bolin**

On Friday, September 4, 2020, I spoke with Bert Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, via a phone call and received the following information:

The great news is that Crossroads Mission now has their 3<sup>rd</sup> transitional house for women and children. The house is open and has 1 lady living there. This house is for working women who need a place to live for a maximum of 4 months; hopefully the women would have saved up enough money by then to get out on their own. The Mission would also help the women if they need furniture, etc., to get started at their new residence.

## **Crossroads Mission con't**

The Mission has stayed open during the virus pandemic because it is the only shelter in Nogales. All the sanitary precautions are being taken, and masks must be worn by everyone who enters any of the Mission's properties.

Bert stated she would really like to have the churches start sending their volunteer cooks to the Mission's kitchen to prepare the take-out meals. They are making lunch and dinner meals which are packaged in clamshell containers and handed out to the needy people that come into the Mission. Starting September 5, 2020, they began distributing clothes again (clothing has not been available because of the COVID-19 virus).

The Mexican Border is closed, so Mexicans must have a United States ID card to proceed through the Border. This does affect some of the people that come to the Mission for food.



### **Crossroads Mission stats for January - June 2020**

-Shelter Guests: 5,542

-Meals (served or handed out): 12,298

-Food Bags Handed Out: 3,398

-Evening Chapel Attendees: 2,402 (Morning chapel hasn't been held because of the COVID-19 virus.)

Bert gave thanks for the money Valley Presbyterian Church generously gave to the Mission in 2020. They are always in need of money to keep all the Mission properties in good condition. Canned food is needed to keep the Mission's pantry stocked so lunch and dinner meals can be prepared. Bert can be reached on 520-470-3860 or 520-264-8434 if you have any questions about a monetary or food donation.

Please keep praying for Crossroads Mission, it is a vital part of Nogales, Arizona.

# **Hands of a Friend has New Leadership**

## **Introducing Colleen Hansen**

Hands of a Friend (Manos Amigas) provides shelter for victims in need of escaping domestic violence, human trafficking, and sex trafficking. Genesis House is our domestic violence/sexual assault & human trafficking shelter, which serves Green Valley and the local areas.

It is only 12 months since the untimely and tragic death of Patti O'Berry, founder and Executive Director of Hands of a Friend. In that short time there have been changes in leadership, downsizing, moving office space, closing of Dazee's II, and the effect on all of the Covid-19 virus.

Colleen Hansen, the new Executive Director, has worked with victims and families of domestic violence sexual assaults, and trafficking for 36 years. She began her career counseling incest victims in Utah. After moving to AZ with her family, after volunteering with victims she became the first designated Domestic Violence (DV) Victim Advocate in Coconino County. After several years, her husband was transferred to Pinetop, AZ. She worked as Family Service Director for Whiteriver School District and during this time she was appointed to the newly formed Victim Services Rapid Deployment Team (VARDT) of the FBI. For the next 17 years she worked with victims of federal crime and crisis throughout AZ, Sovereign Nations, and National Trafficking Operations. With prior military service, she retired in 2017. Colleen worked with Patti and come to value each other's roll in the fighting against domestic violence. She joined the Board of the Hands of a Friend and has now assumed the role of Executive Director.

As Hands of a Friend moves forward there has already been changes. The website and Facebook have been updated. There is a designated 24/7 crisis line in place. The Hands of a Friend Foundation and the revised DaZee's re-sale shop provides proceeds, which help the running of Genesis House.

Valley Presbyterian Church is proud to welcome Colleen Hansen, new Executive Director, as she serves Hands of a Friend which we actively support as one of our vital missions.



## **Casa Vida Nueva para Niño's** **(children's home)** **Submitted by Reed Olson**

Casa Vida Nueva para Niño's has the same educational challenges as we do in the USA. Do we decide to send the children to school? Or keep them at home and educate them on line? Or a combination of both? Right now the Mexican government is still deciding what the best solution will be going forward. To complicate the decision, several of the children do not have a birth certificate and do not know their birth date. Hence, they are not allowed to go to school without one. I talked with Elias Herrera, Director of the Home and Julio Durazo, from New Life Church of God about this challenge. They do not have the equipment for schooling from home nor the educators to help them with all the children.



RISE Scholastic Achievements decided to step up and help. RISE has donated 6 new lap top computers with related software for the children to use. Also RISE is paying for 2 in-house, certified educators to come to the Home twice per week to help teach the different levels of education needed by all the children. Your donations to RISE helped make these actions possible. Bless you. If you want to know more about RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc. please go to: [www.risesa.org](http://www.risesa.org)

**NEWS FLASH!** Regarding the upcoming Christmas donations for the orphanage: This year we are not able to physically collect donations or have people sign the children's Christmas cards due to COVID-19.

However, the need is still great. You can still support the children by sending your check to VPC. Please address it to: "Valley Presbyterian Church" and in the memo section write, "Orphanage Christmas donation." VPC will collect the checks, then forward the collection to the orphanage to help pay for the children's Christmas gifts. All donations need to arrive at VPC no later than December 8. Thank you all for your support.





## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES**

(sponsored by Samaritan's Purse)

Submitted by Joan Bolin



The shoeboxes will be available in Fellowship Hall (that is if the church is open for Sunday services) before and after church service on three Sundays: October 25, November 1, and November 8. Shoeboxes will also be available at the church's office on October 26 through November 9 during office hours only.

Shoeboxes are available for boys or girls, ages 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. There will be instructions inside each shoebox showing how to fill a shoebox for a child. Directions

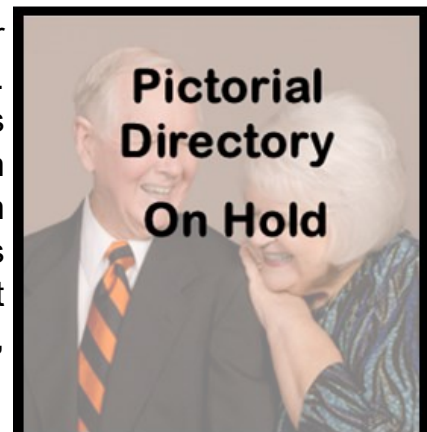
include what items may or may not be included in your shoebox. All filled Christmas shoeboxes must be returned to the church by November 15, 2020. These shoeboxes are distributed to needy children in more than 100 countries. One girl remarked that the pair of socks she received was the first brand new piece of clothing she had ever had. Don't you want to make a needy child happy and put a smile on their face?

Any questions, contact Joan Bolin 206-465-3944 or Kay Brouwer 573-552-2313.



### **Pictorial Directory On HOLD**

We just got word that [Lifetouch](#) is putting all their photography teams "on hold" because of the virus. It looks like we will not be holding photo sessions during November. As soon as more information comes out, we will pass it on! The article in September's Valley Voice was written before this decision was made, so please disregard that information. When more information is available, we will let you know.



It

## **Parish Nurse**

### **Flu Season and COVID**

October will soon begin and with that, the Flu Season is once again starting. Can you get the Flu as well as COVID? According to the CDC, It is possible to test positive for flu as well as other respiratory infections and COVID -19 at the same time.



COVID is thought to be spread from person to person through respiratory droplets, coughing, sneezing, talking and even singing. The Flu can be spread similar to COVID. Some of these droplets can stay on an object or surface and live for short periods of time. Masks are helpful in slowing the spread of COVID. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces may be helpful as well. Some of the symptoms may look to be the same: fever or chills, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. The symptoms, besides these listed, that they are seeing in COVID are shortness of breath and new loss of taste or smell. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds ( to the tune of Happy Birthday twice) is a good everyday prevention. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol -based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Testing is available for both COVID and the Flu. Talk to your healthcare provider if you are not feeling well.

At Valley Presbyterian Church, we will be having a Flu Clinic on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 4 pm, observing social distancing. Please sign up by either call the church office at 520-625-5023 or emailing [parishnurse@valleypres.net](mailto:parishnurse@valleypres.net).



**Medical Minute:** Exercise is a good way to stay positive, stay healthy, and work off stress. Walking is a great way of exercising. Don't forget to stay hydrated while you walk.





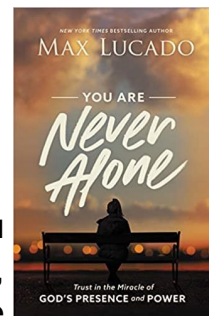
## **PATIO SALE NEWS**

Surprisingly, those of us who work with the patio sale have been keeping very busy. The results of all the time the public has had to clean out closets and drawers are evident in all the donations we sort and pack each week. We have packed up the belongings in several residences, keeping both packers and truckers busy. We are now gently easing into picking up items from homes, preferably from garages, but our biggest problem is finding the number of men we need to lift and carry the heavier items. Anyone who would like to join us is most welcome. Just call the church and leave your name and contact information. If you have items you want us to pick up, please call the church with that information.

We are also in need of people to help in our electronics department. Anything that runs by electricity or battery goes through a testing process before it gets packed for storage so that we know it works when it gets on the shelves for the sale. All lamps have to be tested and fixed if they don't work. Vacuum cleaners are also tested, as are phonographs, radios, disk players, phones, toasters, ovens – the list goes on and on, so you can see the amount of work in this department. At present, one person is trying to handle it all, so here is a real opportunity for two or three people to step up and help. The work schedule is flexible enough to fit anyone's schedule. Again, please call the church and leave your contact information.

**You are Never Alone:**  
**Trust in the Miracle of God's Presence and Power**  
**by Max Lucado**  
**Class begins Tuesday, October 13**  
**10:00 a.m. in Classroom 5 (or by Zoom)**

You are stronger than you think because God is nearer than you know. In this class, you will be comforted by the living, loving, miracle-working God who doesn't think twice about stepping into the thorny thickets of your world to lift you out.



This six-week session looks at the miracles of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. As John states, he recorded many of these signs for an express purpose: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). John chose the stories and events from Jesus' life that he believed would give his readers strength, empower them, lift them up, and speak life into their situations.

Contact Pastor Diane for reservation (625-5023) and let her know if you want to attend the class in Classroom 5 or by Zoom.

Max Lucado's book is \$20. It be purchased in the church office or in class.





## YOUTH ON THEIR OWN's -Mini Mall is now open to students on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12pm – 5pm.



Although YOTO offices

remain closed to the wider public, we can help the students during this Covid-19 Crisis by making donations to their Mini Mall. Below are listed the supplies that are requested. Dick and I will deliver all needed items to YOTO each Monday. If you would like to contribute, please leave your gifts in the church office in a bag labeled:

YOTO, or bring them to our house – 930 W. Rio Magdalena, Green Valley.

Thank you for remembering these kids in need.

## INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING



Our next inspirational card making event will be Wednesday, October 28 from 1 pm to 3:45 pm . We would like to RE-START our gathering, but we also want to be cautious in this climate where cases of the virus continue to rise in our state. We will hope to be able to proceed with “in person” gathering in Classroom 5 at church. If you would like more information, or would like to join us, please call (520-282-1390) or email me ([mmhorn@me.com](mailto:mmhorn@me.com)).

# Stephen Ministry

## How do you become a Stephen Minister?



Times are different this year as we seek to redefine who we are coming out of the isolation of the pandemic. The Stephen Ministers have been continuing to minister to their care receivers throughout this time and have met via ZOOM for their continuing education and peer supervision.

As we seek new Stephen Ministers, much of the interviewing may be done by ZOOM as well. It will take time, so we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

What is the process we go through to select our new class of Stephen Ministers?

- Get and complete an application from Patti Bright our recruiting coordinator at 305-3275 or [ross.pattibright@gmail.com](mailto:ross.pattibright@gmail.com).
- After prayerfully reviewing the application, an interview is set up with 2 Stephen Leaders.
- References are checked.
- The Stephen Leader team then prayerfully again evaluates and decides to invite those who fit the calling of being a Stephen Minister.

What are we looking for? A caring nature, humility, kindness, ability to maintain confidentiality, nonjudgmental attitude, patience, teachability, assertiveness, faith, mercy, encouragement. Not everyone has all these characteristics, but they are important to caring out the ministry.

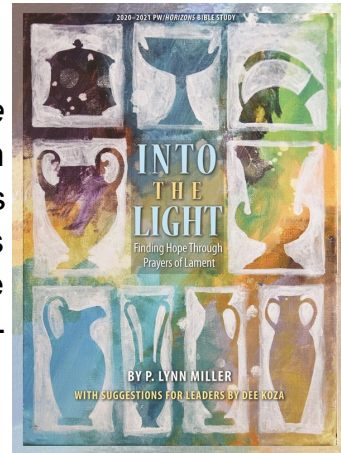
Finally, when you are notified of your acceptance into the program, we need to do a background check (done on all people working in the church's ministries).

As you can see, this takes time and deliberation. That's why we ask you begin now to pray about your calling and get your application process started now for the January 2021 class!

## Women's Ministries

Our Circles will start meeting in October at their

regular times. The Bible study this year is entitled *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. The nation-wide Bible study topic is usually chosen at least three years in advance, so the Lord must have been leading us to this extra-timely theme. Study books will be on sale through the Circles and after church services, once they begin in-person.



**The schedule for the Circles is:**

**La Posada - Second Tuesday at 12:30 pm (Esther Grimsley, chair)**

**Lois - Second Wednesday at 10:30 pm (Sue Horton, chair)**

**Miriam -- Second Wednesday at 1:00 pm (Martha Ashton, chair)**

**Ruth -- Third Monday at 4:00 pm (Ann Erickson and Lesley Bruce, chairs)**



**Three Circles meet at the church, and La Posada meets at La Posada. If you are interested in joining a Circle, please contact Liz Haynes at 601-606-1738.**

The Women's Gathering will be on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 and will be a brown bag lunch. Anyone is welcome to attend but please notify Liz Haynes at 601-606-1738 or [ehaynes62@mac.com](mailto:ehaynes62@mac.com) to reserve a

seat. The speaker for our October Gathering will be Debby Acuña,

Manager of the Amado-Green Valley Food Bank. Our Presby gift for that day, which will be money only (no food, please), will go to the Food Bank. Cash or checks are accepted.





## **Mission Quilters 2020-2021 Schedule**

Due to the Patio Sale and the tragic occurrence of Covid 19, the quilting women left a lot of unfinished projects which they are looking forward to finishing while seeing each other again. However, we will need to start by having a Come and Go meeting in October on our regular

quilting days. How long we Come and Go will depend on how long Covid 19 hangs around. Pictured here are a few of the women at one of our quilting sessions last February.



Starting out, come at 10:00 to pick up a quilt kit or leave the quilt tops that you have completed. For those of you who know how to turn a layered quilt, you could take layered quilts home to turn and stitch. There will be plenty of quilt kits to take home and sew. Wear your mask at all times at the church and keep the safe social distance of 6 ft.

Mark your calendar with the following dates:

Mission Quilters meet the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month from October 5<sup>th</sup> through May 3, 2021

(Except during March due to the Patio Sale or the week of Christmas)

In VPC Fellowship Hall to Exchanging kits/quilts from 10-11:00 am

Once Covid restrictions are lifted, we will meet from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm each session

Snack furnished by a participant.

Any questions, call Patti Bright 520-305-3275