



Our Valley Voice
December, 2020



Christmas Eve Services

**4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Candlelight Worship**

To make a reservation, email Pastor Diane at
pastordiane@valleypres.net

The worship service can also be viewed on the church website:
valleypres.net

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

OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

Valley Presbyterian Church

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Green Valley, AZ 85622
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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 & In-person
(Covid permitting)

Taizé Advent Services
December 2, 9, 16, 23
5pm Online

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Advent Taizé

Wednesdays in December

Advent is a time that prepares us for Christmas. To walk the journey of Advent, we are offering 4 Taizé worship services on Wednesdays in the month of December. Taizé worship is a beautiful worship service in candlelight with scripture, prayer and music.



The Taizé worship services can be viewed on our church website (valleypres.net) at 5 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: December 2, 9, 16, 23.

Staff

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PATIO SALE NEWS

By Dick Christensen

The Patio Sale Amigos met recently and shared various thoughts about having a March 2021 Patio Sale. It was pretty much agreed that in order to make an informed decision regarding having a March sale, we needed to develop a well thought out plan(s) that incorporated COVID-19 best practices. It should be noted that we have until the first of February before we must make commitments regarding tents etc. To get the ball rolling for developing a best plan(s) a December 8th Departmental Heads meeting has been scheduled. Department Heads have received a notice by email.

Recently, we were asked how much did we net from our 2020 March Sale. The question, apparently, is often asked but seldom answered. The answer for this year (2020) is \$57,000 (\$88,600 March gross sales minus \$31,600 expenses for tents, storage, truck, labor, etc.) In the future we will plan on providing this number shortly after the end of the sale. It should be noted that, in addition to the March sale, Patio Sales activity occurs throughout the calendar year, activities such the holiday sale, internet sales, miscellaneous sales to individuals, individual donations, etc.

Again, thanks to everyone who has helped us continue our storied Patio Sale with their generous help. Special thanks to Dave Tompkins and his faithful crew for continuing to pick up and store donations using safe and acceptable protocols.

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor, Head



The last few months I have been discussing with the Missions Committee, what had been the focus of my Doctoral Research, a concept called “The Missional Church.” Rereading the JAG Report that was completed during the Administrative Commission and Interim Pastor, Recommendation Number 1 was that Valley Presbyterian Church become a Missional Church! Being “Missional” not only means having a Mission Statement and adhering to this, being Missional is counter-cultural. Our culture emphasizes specialization over generalists, going to an expert. Being Missional emphasizes our listening to what is important to our community, which may or may not be nuanced differently from the rest of the world.

Case in Point, in this greater Green Valley parish we are related to our own members, persons who are part of our church community for part of the year, and neighbors who live in this community and may or may not attend another church. Also because of our demographics, there is a need among people in this area, that when there is a death or persons move to assisted care, our Church sends volunteers to pack; regardless of if you are part of our church community or the larger community. If the Patio Sale did not exist, this is a ministry we would want to create for Green Valley! A supplemental part of the JAG Report (Recommendation 29) was that we work on the long-term viability of the Patio Sale. Simultaneously, the Amigos have been at work 1. To write down an Instruction manual for who does what when and how. 2. That each of the Amigos is working in partnership with others to train them to carry on this work for perpetuity.

I love God’s sense of humor, that as being “Missional” had been my training and experience, Pastor Larry, Pastor Diane, Pastor Mark and the JAG Task Force had been working in the same direction!

Craig Lindsey

FROM THE PASTOR con't

PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY

In September, after months of isolation, we began sharing Fellowship outdoors following basic Public Health Protocols. After weeks of experimentation with external Thermometers and sharing together, we opened the Sanctuary for people to attend worship. After the first two weeks of asking for Reservations, we came to know whom to expect. November 15th we moved to having Coffee Hour fellowship at our regular after worship time, but still outdoors. Everything is not as it once was, or will be, but for now we proceed with an abundance of caution. What COVID has meant, is that while we had Internet connectivity at our church for word-processing and emails; we now have Video-Conferencing for Committee Meetings and Bible Study on Zoom; and we have Video-Recorded Worship on our Website. With the Sound System now working, so we can hear clearly everywhere in the Sanctuary, we are proceeding with replacement of the Chancel Spotlights. Once sound and lighting is working, the Deacons had set aside funds several years ago for our Church to expand with Live-Stream Worship. Because of health safety, we are not able to have our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner in the Fellowship hall this year. Because of COVID19 we are not able to have the Holiday Sale. HOWEVER, on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm and at 7pm WE WILL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH CANDLELIGHT.

BEING THANKFUL

This is a year to recognize all we are thankful for. Many times we have gathered at the Table, uncertain how we could talk together, and now we know to be thankful just to be together. For years we had to teach our children to wash their hands before eating, now we wash our hands while saying the Lord's Prayer. For years we wondered about making Mom's recipe correctly for this or that dish, this year we recognize what a gift it is to have food on the shelves. For generations, we as Americans have taken our Right to Vote for granted, this year we realize how important it is for all of us to vote. Many years we paused in silence during prayer, now we have many relationships and resources for which to be thankful to God.



FROM THE PASTOR con't

VIDEO LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP

A recurrent theme during the Interim was "Let us wait until the New Pastor is here." The Deacons had discussed and set funds aside for Live-Streaming Worship long before we knew how. Over the last eight months, volunteers from our church have worked in partnership with our pastors and staff to Record, Edit and Produce video recordings of Worship. During this time we were able to begin posting our Worship Video to La Posada for those who could not leave that campus. Our church has developed a regular viewership of parishioners in Green Valley and around the world through video, so truly we cannot differentiate between year-round attenders, snowbirds, desert rats and those around the world. We have been in conversation with leaders at other churches, how they are live-streaming, to learn from their wisdom and experience. Now that our Senior Pastor has been here a year, we have dedicated Internet connectivity to the Sanctuary, our Sound System is functioning clearly, once we have replaced all 14 of the Chancel Spotlights, we then will be able to use the funds set aside by our Deacons to Live-Stream, meaning for those who once described attending worship Sunday mornings as "Church," we will have "Live Church!"

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DVDs

These items can be found on the red book cart in the church library along with a selection of books for the season.

NON-FICTION

A clear view of the birth of Christ.

Great people of the Bible: Jesus: his birth & ministry.

The star of Bethlehem.

DRAMA

The Christmas blessing.

The Christmas card.

Christmas child.

The Christmas miracle of Jonathan Toomey.

The Christmas shoes.

The fourth wise man.

The homecoming.

The house without a Christmas tree.

The gathering.

Homeless for the holidays.

The Nativity story.

A song for the season.

Diane Christopher: Pastor of Discipleship

Waiting

Waiting. We have gone through much waiting this year. Waiting for the pandemic to end. Waiting for a vaccine. We waited for the results of the election. We waited for when the church would open. What have you been waiting for these past nine months?



Waiting. I guess this year is preparing us for Advent, because Advent is all about waiting. Advent is the 4 weeks before Christmas. It is the journey toward Christmas. It prepares us for Christmas, and it is a gift. It teaches us to embrace the entire season of waiting, which can be a good thing.

As a church, we are here to help you on that journey of waiting. Advent begins November 30. At the end of November, just before Advent begins, you will receive a gift in the mail given to you by the Faith Formation committee. We know many of you are not ready to come to the church building, so we are coming to you through the mail. You will receive an Advent devotional with daily readings to help you in this time of waiting. Along with our Sunday worship, the worship staff will record four weekly Taizé services to be viewed each Wednesday in Advent, starting December 2. You can view them on our website (valleypres.net). The Taizé services will follow the theme of the “Incarnation” class (see the Incarnation article in this newsletter) and follow the themes of the candles on the Advent wreath. I know many of you are not able to see family this year due to the pandemic. This Christmas will be different, and for many of you, difficult. As we wait, I encourage you to enter into the season of Waiting, the Season of Advent, using all that we (the church) offer. And prayerfully, it will be a time of hope, peace, joy, and love.

All my love, *Pastor Diane*

Welcome our New Members



Carol Stephens



Gerry Pearson



Len Defendorf



Joan Defendorf

Highlights from October Session Meeting

*To use money from the Deacons fund plus additional donations for Live Streaming of Worship Services.

*To open the building for church programs and exercise classes for the first month.

*Approved spending up to \$15,000.00 for the replacement of six ellipsoidal LED Fresnel lights to light the pulpit and Communion Table, and eight Parnel fixtures (LED) to illuminate the choir.

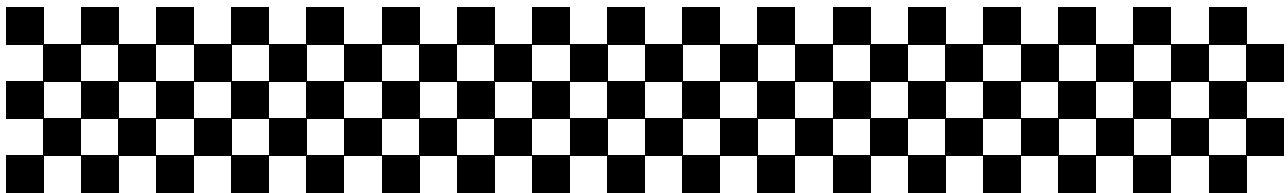
Finance Committee



Pledge Status as the ending of Week #44, 2020:

As reflected in the chart below, VPC has currently received 85.04% of the 2020 pledges. We are 7.77% (\$79,782.99) behind this time last year. There are numerous reasons for this shortfall. In some instances, folks have just merely forgotten to fulfill their pledge. So, please take this communication as a friendly reminder. This applies to membership pledges only.

2020 MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE STATUS (Through Week #44)					
Year	# of Pledges	Pledged	Received	% of Pledged	\$ Shortfall
2019	209	\$ 503,204.56	\$ 467,030.89	92.81%	\$ (36,173.67)
2020	214	\$ 533,281.00	\$ 453,498.00	85.04%	\$ (79,783.00)



Solar Panel Update

I just completed the update of VPC's Power Usage / Production / Costs through October, 2020. Our Solar System continues to produce in excess of the guarantee. So far this year by 12.85%. Last year production exceeded the guarantee by 8.98%. I suspect some of the increase in production can be attributed to the "NONSOON". In any case this is a good argument for the purchase of the system as we have a pretty good idea that it will continue to perform as advertised by the installer. Speaking of which we currently have had a total of \$18,450 donated to the purchase. \$5585.00 of the donation is matching funds. With these donations the additional funds we would need to purchase the system from Technologies Credit Corporation in the 3rd QTR of 2023 is currently projected to be \$81,686.50.

Reported by Jim Brooks

VPC Solar Power System Purchase Funding Status:

On September 16th, 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 2nd 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.

Solar Funding Status

Purchase Price	Date	Donations	Matching Funds	Total Donation	Balance
\$ 100,097					\$ 100,097.00
	8-Nov-20	\$ 13,325.50	\$ 6,085.00	\$ 19,410.50	\$ 80,686.50
Received Matching Donation eMail on 16 Sep 2020 - Matching affective 1 Oct 2020					

2020 has definitely been a year like no other!



In such uncertain times, and for very serious reasons, we have had to postpone, adjust, or cancel opportunities to come together. After much discussion, Wes and I have decided to postpone “Welcome Home for the Holidays” that was scheduled for Dec. 6. As of now, we will bring you a concert filled with classics, mid-week favorites, and holiday music on Dec. 20 at 1:00pm and 5:00pm. For those that have made reservations, I will be contacting you all personally via email. Please continue to email me at jamie@valleypres.net if you would like to make a reservation for December 20. As always, we are very much looking forward to making music in the presence of all! See you Soon!

Jamie

Birthdays for December, 2020

The background of the page is a light blue gradient, decorated with various festive elements. There are several colorful balloons in shades of yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, and red, some with long, curly streamers. Scattered throughout are small, multi-colored confetti dots and star-shaped decorations. The overall theme is celebratory and festive.

Richard Nau		12/1
Ronald Bell	**	12/2
Helen Triplett		12/2
Betty Kiesle-Yoder		12/2
Ruth Kroon	**	12/4
Larry Grove		12/4
Ellis Earl Yarborough		12/5
Robert Pearson		12/6
Donna Allen		12/7
John Agner		12/8
John Dunham		12/8
William Case	**	12/9
Carol Yarborough		12/12
Louise Netherton	**	12/13
Larry Root		12/13
Sadie St John		12/13
James Montgomery		12/14
Ronald Erickson		12/14

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Happy 90th Birthday!

*Ruth Kroon, William Case,
& Carol Cikanek*

Gary Yanamura		12/14
Hank Pedersen		12/16
Carol Claton		12/16
De Etta Haynes		12/20
Judy Aguayo		12/21
Jeannie Moore	**	12/22
Carol Peeler		12/22
Elizabeth Johnson	**	12/25
Carol Cikanek	**	12/25
Peggy Klap		12/27
Ron Darrah		12/27
Bette Stevenson	**	12/28
Joyce Johnson		12/28
Carol Gutenkunst	**	12/29
Mary Lou Browne		12/29
Christina Baxter		12/29
Thomas Macfarlane		12/30
Anne Morrison		12/30

* * indicates 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. 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.

Resilience

What does resilience mean to you? How would you describe it? I just finished a course called STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience), and one thing that I really appreciated was exploring what resilience is, hearing from those who have gained it, and learning some ways to build resilience. A few descriptions of resilience that we used were:

Ability to bend and not break

Ability to adapt to challenges or change;

Healthy power amidst vulnerability and uncertainty

While living in Congo and now South Sudan, Bob and I learned some of the history of those places, which includes horrible exploitation, conflict, and suffering. 'Resilient' was often the first word that we would use to describe people in those countries who have survived, persevered, and adapted in the face of so much challenge.

But now I am realizing that simply surviving is not enough, because unhealed trauma continues to affect a person and their relationships for many years, even being passed down to their children genetically and affecting whole groups as historical or cultural trauma. Resilience does not mean merely surviving trauma – it means finding ways to heal and learning practices to maintain perspective and stability in situations that might be traumatic.

Rev. Peter Yien Reath is one person in South Sudan who has embodied resilience. He was falsely accused, imprisoned, and nearly killed in Khartoum because of his faith and his work as a pastor. After he was freed,

he attended college in Nairobi and was trained in an approach to Trauma Healing. He now serves in South Sudan, starting and facilitating healing groups in rural areas. He has had to adapt to living in different places and respond to various challenges and threats. He has experienced the peace and strength of God that sustained him through those times of challenge.

Rev. Peter Yien Reath

We learned in our class about a concept called the “Window of Tolerance,” a zone where our nervous system is relaxed, calm, and engaged. When our ‘window of tolerance’ is open, we can respond thoughtfully and more calmly to bad news or frustrations. But when we are already stressed, tired, or depleted, our window closes, and we might erupt in anger at a slight provocation or go into despair from bad news.

So how do we build resilience? I have fresh appreciation now for the amazing, complex brain that God designed to help us perceive threats and stress and regulate our emotions and our nervous system. Our brain is integrally linked with the rest of our physical bodies – so sometimes physical actions (deep breathing, movement) can help to relieve mental or emotional stress, or physical pain can be a source of psychological or mental stress. This is why we are told that it is important to exercise, get good sleep, and eat healthy to promote mental and emotional well-being. Prayer, meditation, and being in nature are also important for me to nurture my spiritual life and relationship with God, which helps my ‘window of tolerance’ to stay open by reminding me of God’s perspective and presence. What are practices that you have found helpful? I’m sure that during this pandemic and election season we all need to have a few positive practices to help quell the anxiety and maintain hope.

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 .



MOMENTUM: SPOTLIGHT REGIONS



Sindh Region and Church Planting

We will continue to focus on the Sindh region in Pakistan. Currently, OM has three teams serving through health and holistic ministry in three different cities.

Nabor* and Jasmine* have served in this region for 16 years with the goal to see a church planting movement among the Sindhi people who number more than 35 million. They are one of the least reached Muslim people groups in the world.

This couple worked in Sindh for three years before they saw the first family come to faith in Christ. It took another 7 years until they saw seven house churches started. Nabor* said, "It was very tough to reach whole families. We would meet the men who had become believers in parks and hotels but not at their homes. Finally, we decided that as family we will meet with their families. My kids even spent time with their kids. It was very effective. After that, entire families came to the Lord."

Some Pakistanis, like Sajid*, have come to the Lord through dreams. One day, Sajid* shared with Nabor, "I saw a person in a white robe who met me in my dream. He said that a person at the university will tell me about Him." Nabor was surprised, because in that university

Sajid was their contact. Yet, Nabor followed up with Sajid and gave him the *Jesus* movie and New Testament. They started a Bible study in a park. Sajid took the NT home and at first was secretly reading it.

Then, Sajid and his mother read it together, and they both accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Nabor said, “After a year, Sajid and his wife came to our home to visit us. We were happy to see that his brother-in-law also came with them to study the Bible with us. Now, his brother-in-law, uncles and friends all have taken Bibles and are starting Bible studies!”

Today, Nabor and Jasmine have about 40+ house groups that are meeting together with both Jesus followers and those still seeking Jesus.

Their vision is to see a VCJF in “walking distance for everyone”.

**name changed*



WAYS TO PRAY:

For churches to take more responsibility for missions and break free from fear to impact least-reached Muslim people groups with the gospel.

For more workers and quality Christian leaders who can be a role model for the next generation.

For the vision to plant more than 35 000 communities of Jesus followers—so there is a church in walking distance—to still become a reality in spite of COVID-19 and the lockdown in Sindh.

For missionaries in this region who continue to reach out virtually and through other outlets where often temperatures soar to 45° C (113° F).

St. Andrews Children's Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

On November 10, Laura Romero, the Executive Director of St. Andrews' Children's Clinic, told the Mission Committee about how the Clinic is functioning during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Clinic in Nogales is not open, but staff have been going weekly to sort the many boxes of client files. They hope to scan all records and be "paperless" by the end of 2021. Children have been receiving help in Mexico, but they cannot cross the border except for an emergency. Laura, the clinic staff and volunteers have been taking "Goodie Bags" to families in Mexico. Laura meets regularly with staff and volunteers to generate ideas on how to better help the children. Plans for future clinics include smaller groups each month, personal protective equipment and more services provided through telephone conversations. Volunteer doctors have made trips into Mexico to help some of the children. Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate surgeries have not been performed since March, the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic. St. Andrews' Clinic and the hospital in Hermosillo, Mexico, hope to resume these services in October of 2021. The list of children needing Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate surgery and orthodontic work continues to grow. Laura expressed thanks to VPC for support and donations. That has helped the clinic provide service during these desperate times.



On Sunday, November 22, Laura talked to the congregation about St. Andrews' Clinic because our Noisy Offering on November 29 was donated to this Mission. The Mission Committee and St. Andrews' express sincere gratitude for your generous donations.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales AZ

Submitted by Joan Bolin

On November 5, 2020, I had a phone conversation with Ben Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, and the following information was received:

Crossroads Mission is still struggling financially during this Coronavirus pandemic. The police department has requested Crossroads stay open during this time of great need. There is no other recovery facility or shelter in Nogales.

Crossroads con't

The women's transitional houses are still operating, accepting women (with or without children). A furnace had to be repaired in one of the houses in October.

Donovan, one of the men in the Missions recovery program was just hospitalized. Donovan has been addicted to Heroin and Morphine for so many years that his body is having a difficult time coming off these drugs. Donovan is determined to "kick the habit" that has afflicted his body. Ben asked for prayers for Donovan's recovery.



In this month's conversation with Ben, he was adamant the Mission would serve Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. He has faith that money and food will be donated to the Mission for those dinners. If there are still Coronavirus pandemic restrictions in serving meals buffet-style, the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners will be put in individual clamshell containers for the needy to pick up at the Mission. If the United States/Mexico border is still closed the dinner attendance will be less, but the meals are needed in the local area.

The Mission is in desperate need of canned foods, especially canned vegetables. There is a plastic container (marked Crossroads Mission) sitting on the table in the church's Fellowship Hall awaiting donations of canned food. Turkeys are needed for the Thanksgiving dinner. The Mission's kitchen help are roasting turkeys now with the turkeys they have received so far. After roasting, the turkeys are carved and the meat and carcasses are put in the freezer so the meat will be ready when needed. If people want to donate money for the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners send a check to: Crossroads Mission, 338 N Morley Avenue, Nogales, AZ 85621. Please mark your check and mailing envelope with the designation "For Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners). A gift of \$20.70 will feed 10 people a holiday dinner.

Special Note: At our November 10, 2020 Mission Committee meeting, it was voted to give Crossroads Mission \$500.00 to help supply the food for their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. The money will be taken from the Mission Committee's Emergency Fund.

Christmas Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child – Year 2020

Submitted by Joan Bolin



Every year in November, Valley Presbyterian Church participates in this program. This year, of the Coronavirus pandemic, church members and friends filled 77 Christmas shoeboxes. What a great accomplishment!

This project is an opportunity to make a child happy when they open your Christmas shoebox (see photo below). Hope each person who participated in this project got a happy feeling shopping for items to fill their shoebox knowing the shoebox was going to a child who probably has nothing to open at

Christmastime. Also enclosed in each shoebox will be literature about Jesus, and saying you are not forgotten.

On November 16, 2020, I delivered all the filled shoeboxes to Calvary Chapel of Sahuarita, the collection point in our area (see photo below of my SUV full of shoeboxes).



A big
“THANK

YOU” to all the people who took a box, filled the box, and returned it to Valley Presbyterian Church by November 15th.

Also, a big “THANK YOU” to those who donated money through the church for this Christmas shoebox project. Great Job!



Network of Caring

Network of Caring (NOC) started in 1979 to enable members and visitors to become better acquainted with other members of the congregation through phone calls, letters, or emails, and by meeting together in small neighborhood groups. NOC has grown in its ministry as the church and community have grown and changed. We endeavor to minister to and with each other; to share in joyous occasions and to respond in times of need; to care for and about each other in a significant and meaningful way. God has truly blessed this caring ministry.

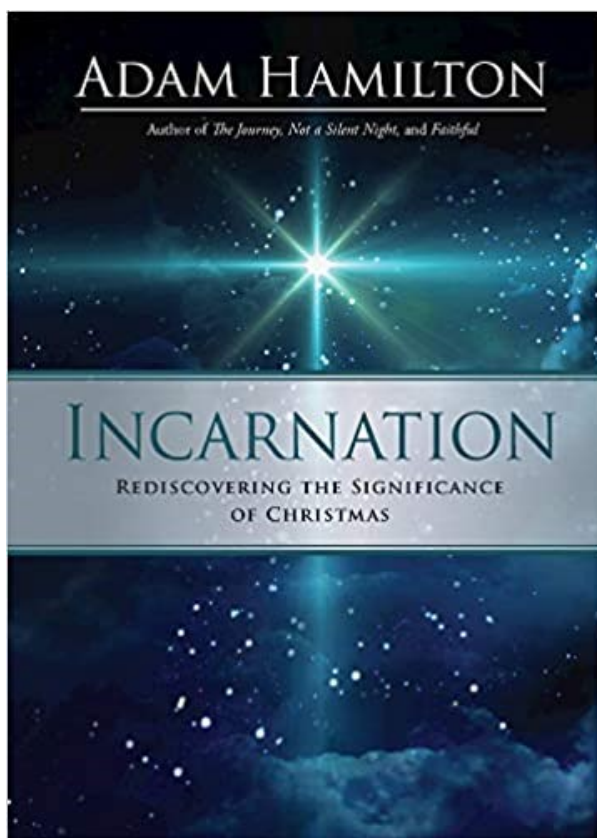
NOC is needed now more than ever during this time of the COVID Pandemic. We may not be able to meet in small groups in person, but phone calls, letters and emails are essential. Neighborhood Contacts are continuing to make calls and letting those know we care for them. As the Holidays approach, this connection of caring helps so many in our congregation. If you are interested in participating in NOC as an Area Leader or Neighborhood Contact, please call Jean Hein 520-625-1489.

Thank you to all those who make calls, and contacts, and those in this ministry: the Area Leaders as well as the Neighborhood Contacts. Have a safe and blessed Holiday Season and Christmas.

The next meeting of the NOC Leadership team will be held January 5th at 11 AM.

Galatians 5:14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."





Advent Study: Incarnation Beginning November 30

As we come back together, it seems appropriate to do so something together this Advent. To celebrate our all-togetherness. Together we will look at the most foundational, and yet most scandalous claims of the Christian faith: that the creator God who sustains the universe came to us in Jesus. Incarnation.

This 4-week study by Adam Hamilton examines the meaning behind the names of Christ, giving historical and spiritual significance of his birth, and

how the meaning behind the names make a difference in our lives. In an uncertain world, we will look towards the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.

We will offer multiple classes, both in person and virtually:

Mondays, 1 p.m., starts Nov 30 (Zoom)

Teacher: Linda Norman

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., starts Dec 1 (Classroom 5 – limit of 8 people)

Teacher: Marcia MacDonald

Wednesdays, 2 p.m. starts Dec 2 (Zoom)

Teacher: Diane Christopher

Thursdays, 10 a.m. starts Dec 3 (Classroom 5 – limit of 8 people)

Teacher: Linda Freeman

Contact Pastor Diane (pastordiane@valleypres.net; 625-5023) to register and let her know which class you wish to attend. Books are \$15, and can be purchased from Pastor Diane in the office or in your class.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños

(children's home)

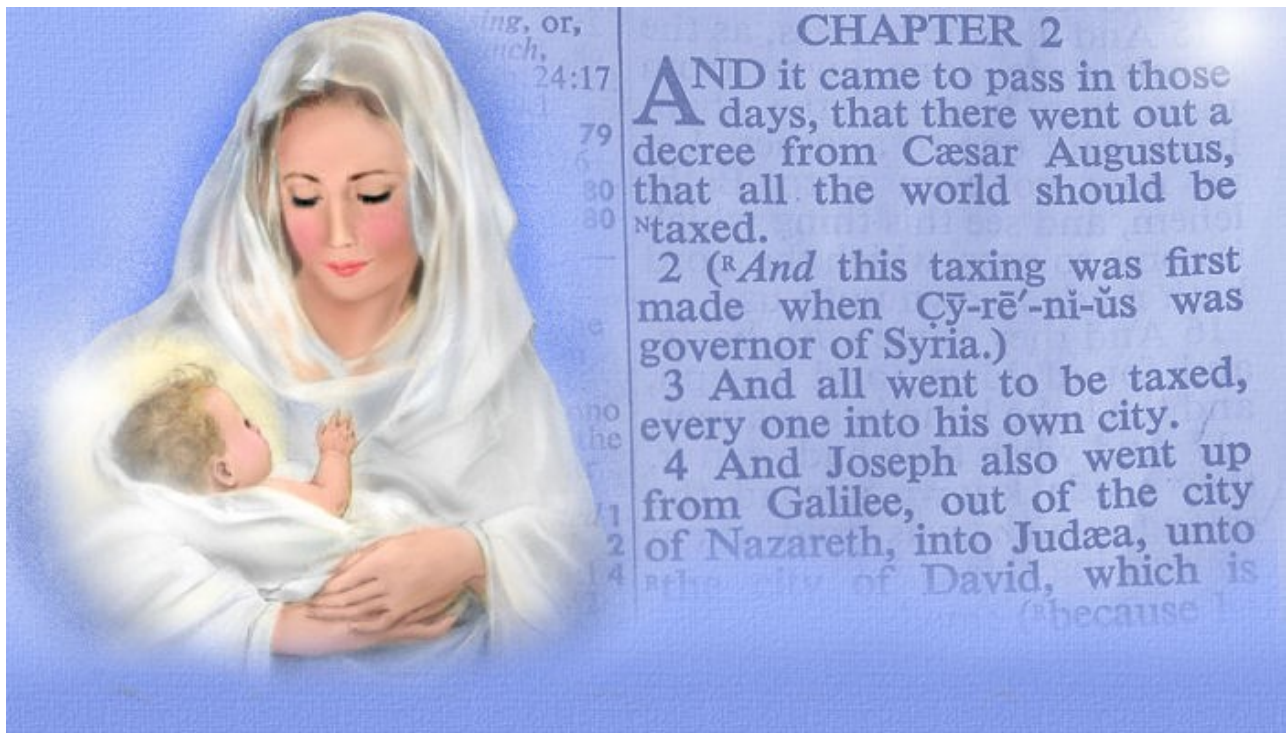
Submitted by Reed Olson

NEWS FLASH

**regarding the upcoming Christmas donations
for the children's home!**



This year we are not able to physically collect donations or have people sign the children's Christmas cards due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, the need is still great. You can support the children by sending your donation to VPC. Please address your check/envelope to: "Valley Presbyterian Church" and in the memo section write, "Orphanage Christmas donation." VPC will collect the checks, then forward the accumulated donation 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.



Stephen Ministry

According to Matthew 22, 34-46, we are the body of Christ. We long for the presence of our other body parts during this long COVID-19 confinement. Seeing each other at church or elsewhere satisfies our desire to commune with like minds and enjoy the feeling of presence of other human beings. This is the way it feels for a number of us. However, there are those that are in the midst of people and they still feel alone, because no one is stopping and giving their entire attention to them for any longer than it takes to do something for them, and then they need to move on. Sadder yet, for those who live alone, no one is ever around. Aloneness is a cross that we are bearing during this time of keeping safe and is the same cross that some people have been bearing for years.

What matters in this world of aloneness? What matters is that there are people who care. There are some people who choose to serve these parts of the body that need attention by becoming Stephen Ministers or by being active members in one of Valley Presbyterian's other pastoral ministries. Stephen Ministry is preparing for their training season, which starts the first Friday of January and each Friday through March 26. If we are unable to have a class together due to Covid-19, we will wait until 2021 to offer class. If you are interested and want to know more about Stephen Ministry, you may call Patti Bright: 520-305-3275.



What a small gift it is to give to another human being your entire attention for approximately one hour a week knowing this is the highlight of the entire week for that individual. We, givers, are blessed to have our health in order to give these gifts of love.

Women's Ministries

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE!

The Women's Ministries Gathering will not be held in December. Individual Circle leaders will notify members as to whether their Circles will meet.

Caring for those in our congregation: Congregational Care

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News December 2020



Many of our classes are still on hold as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues. We will continue to update you with more information.



Congregational Care is creating ways for our church to continue its care to others and to address the needs we are seeing.

Connections, during this time, are also essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care.

Keeping active during this time helps to stay positive and healthy. Talk a walk outside or just simple stretching can help.

Caring for those in our congregation: Congregational Care

PLEASE JOIN US

THE LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

A Service of Healing, Hope and Prayer,
which will be held on December 22nd at 11 AM.



This Service will be held in the Sanctuary due to social distancing. Please wear a mask if attending.

Please watch for more details and information in the E-Blasts.

COVID UPDATE

“Here we go again”, “the numbers are getting higher” and “are we going to be shut down” are just a few of the statements or comments in our community. As you watch the local news channels, they are reporting numbers of Arizona, which are very much higher than we were. North Dakota and other states are mandating masks, and starting to restrict activities. Tucson school district has canceled hybrid learning. According to the AZDHS (Arizona Department of Health Services), the number of cases have gone up across Arizona. This website is a good resource to use, www.azdhs.gov. Another website is CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) www.cdc.gov.

Being informed about the most current information on COVID is essential. COVID is thought to be spread from person to person through respiratory droplets, coughing, sneezing, talking and even singing. 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, and in most areas required. Masks should fit snugly around the nose and chin, not under the nose since COVID is spread from droplets. Face shields are for prevention of splattering droplets, but leave an opening around them, which may expose that person to COVID. The CDC does not recommend using face shields or goggles as a substitute for masks. Please reference the CDC website for more use on face shields and masks, and proper use of them. For more information on the face shields, please visit the CDC website.

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces may be helpful as well. Some of the symptoms may look to be the same as a cold or the flu: 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 are being seen in COVID are shortness of breath and new loss of taste or smell. Prevention including social distancing of 6 feet, and wearing masks are good hand sanitation and not touching your eyes or face. 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.

Please stay home if you are ill or not feeling well. Talk to your healthcare provider if you are not feeling well and have any symptoms. They might be able to test or order the test at the local lab site, as well as other sites like Kino Sports Complex, Next Care and other urgent care centers. Most of the sites are by appointment. Please call them and verify that they will be able to test you. Take your form of insurance and find out if appointment is required. If you have been exposed to someone with COVID, self-isolate and call your healthcare provider.

Please stay safe and stay healthy. Masks are essential as well as social distancing. One should not replace the other. Also washing your hands or use of hand sanitizers.





Christmas Joy Offering

Christmas Joy Offering. What a great name for an offering. What is the Joy Offering? Our denomination has four denomination-wide offerings. The Joy Offering, taken at Advent/Christmas time, is one of them.

In simple terms, it develops and sustains leaders in our denomination by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need. It also develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

If you would like to give to the Joy Offering, special Joy envelopes are available on the desks of the Welcome Centers. They are purple with the three kings and Mary, Joseph, and Jesus on the cover. If you prefer to mail in an offering, write "Joy Offering" in the memo line of your check made out to "Valley Presbyterian."