

THE VALLEY VOICE

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2024



Presbytery Is Coming

Submitted by: Pastor Craig

Saturday, April 20th the Presbytery de Cristo and Presbytery of Grand Canyon will be meeting at Valley Presbyterian Church!

Presbyterians are known for committees and business meetings, however, by comparison this is the Presbyterian equivalent of the Bishop coming for a visit. Actually, the Greek word Presbyterian and the Latin word Bishop refer to the same identity, elected commissioners from individual churches who travel to represent the large (higher) gathering of the Church.

Approximately 60-90 Ministers and Session members will be here for Worship followed by committee reports and business of the individual churches and lunch fellowship.

The Sunday following Pastor Larry's death, when we were grieving in mourning, ministers from across our Presbytery came to our Church to witness to their support and prayers for us.

Our Presbytery is in a unique circumstance, that de Cristo Presbytery (the greater Tucson area) is quite small (29 churches with 3 larger than our congregation and the majority far smaller), so we have partnered with Grand Canyon Presbytery which covers the greater Phoenix area. When the Presbytery is meeting on April 20th, in person and by Zoom, this will represent all the Presbyterian Churches in Arizona.

In This Issue

New Member Class

Sunday Worship Schedule

Women's Ministries Updates

Mission Committee Updates

Bible Study Opportunities

Clerks Corner

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

OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622

(520) 625-5023

vpc-office@valleypres.net

www.valleypresbyterian.net

Member of Presbytery de Cristo in The Synod of the Southwest,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastors

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

Rev. Joe Hawkins,
Pastor Emeritus



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

In This Issue

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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Pastor Craig Lindsey-Pastor/Head of Staff.....pastorcraig@valleypres.net
 Jamie Reed-Director of Music.....jamie@valleypres.net
 Janet Brachel-Organist/Accompanistorganist@valleypres.net
 Chris Erickson-Parish Nurse.....parishnurse@valleypres.net
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 Steve Hart-Custodian.....steve@valleypres.net
 Chuck Dunlap – Audio Technician.....vpc-office@valleypres.net
 Rev. Joe Hawkins.....Pastor Emeritus.....
 Dick Horn-Web Designer..... rrhorn@mac.com
 Alice Sanchez- Nursery Attendant.....vpc-office@valleypres.net

SUNDAY Worship Schedule and Other Happenings

April 7 9:30 a.m.	Communion Sunday /Stephen Ministry Sunday Commissioning of New Stephen Ministers Food Bank Sunday – Noisy Offering	Pastor Craig
April 14 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship - Crossroads Misson Sunday Isaiah 6, and Luke 24: 36-53	Pastor Craig
April 16 4:00 p.m. Tuesday	Torah Scribe at Beth Shalam Temple	Rabbi J. Salazar
April 20 9:00 a.m. Saturday	Hosting Presbytery Meeting in Person and on Zoom	In the Sanctuary
April 21 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship -Youth On Their Own Sunday Acts 4: 5-12, and John 10: 11-18	Pastor Craig
April 27 9:00 a.m. Saturday	Presbyterian Women’s Presbytery de Cristo	In the Fellowship Hall
April 27 2:00 p.m. Saturday	Music in the Valley Presents “Lets Go to the Movies”	In the Sanctuary
April 28 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Acts 8: 26-40, and John 15: 1-8	Pastor Craig



Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey,
Head of Staff

From Pastor Craig

From Top to Bottom, Profane to Sacred

Ordinarily March is a busy Springtime for us, while the rest of our Nation is buried in snow and ice. This year, there was only one week between all of Patio Sale and Holy Week for meetings to occur and regular business of Lent to be transacted.

In early March 2024, 1 restroom suddenly backed up, then the Washing Machine began flooding, then a floor drain! We called Roto-Rooter who tried to snake the pipes, and with a camera diagnosed that our 45 year old Cast-Iron waste/sewer pipes were caked in rust reducing their diameter. The day before Patio Sale began, the same restrooms began backing up again. By Sunday morning, Patio Sale was done, and all except 2 restrooms and even the kitchen sinks were shut down. After Coffee Hour, the only remaining restroom functioning was in the Office-wing where most people could not find it. Monday morning, the Plumbers began work getting the building back in working order, including running chains through the rust to clean the cast iron pipes. They then added two additional Clean-out pipes, in order to pump water into the waste system to flush it out. In total, an unanticipated cost of \$17,600.

At the end of 2023, the company regularly inspecting our flat roofs alerted Session, that the Hailstorm two years ago had pock-marked the membrane of the roof. Preliminary estimates were hundreds of thousands of dollars. However, Lynch Roofing who replaced all of the perimeter tile of our roofs in early 2023 determined that what was needed was a fresh “hot-mopping” to seal and coat the roofing material. Cost of this was an unanticipated \$35,200.

Then miracles began to occur... Sharing concern with our membership about the plumbing, over \$7,000 was donated by our membership! Your generosity is incredible, thank you very much. Also, the Insurance Company, which had previously reimbursed the Church over \$100,000 for replacement of 7 air conditioners, repair to 2 more, replacement of skylights all damaged by the 2022 Hailstorm, now reimbursed our Church the full-cost \$35,200 of repairing the roof! Ultimately, while we have been forced to make \$52,8000 of repairs, this is costing the Church’s Reserves about \$10,000. Please forgive the inconvenience of our Church being under construction for these projects. We pray everything will be completed and cleaned up as we enter into the holiest time of the year, in preparation for Easter.

I hope that our celebrations will be especially meaningful for you this year, as we remember: our Church cannot travel through Israel and Palestine the week after Easter due to hatred and war, with over 1,200 Israelis killed Oct 7th and over 30,000 Palestinians killed in retaliation, and many hostages still held. Also, that this year, on Maundy (Holy) Thursday we will celebrate with a full Passover Seder dinner in Fellowship Hall; worship on Good Friday at Noon; view the film and discuss *The Passion of the Christ* at 1pm Paschal Saturday; Sunrise/Sonrise at 6am on Easter Sunday, followed by a Continental Breakfast, and the Sacrament of Communion in worship of the Resurrection at 9:30am. While we are gathered as The Church, John and Clair Howell will be taking 100 Spanish Bibles from our Church to Belize where their daughter is serving as a Missionary

FINANCES

Submitted by Pastor Craig

The handling of money always raises concerns in faith communities. The easiest and best means of resolving any concerns is full transparency, simplification, and accountability. It was not so many years ago, our Church was put on an austerity budget because an imbalanced budget was covered by Memorial Gifts. Several matters are currently in process for our Finance Committee, Patio Sale, Foundation and Session.

Last month, the Professional Audit of 2022 was completed by an outside accounting firm, assuring that all receipts and expenditures were handled and recorded faithfully. One of their recommendations was that our Church invest in an automatic Check Deposit scanner. We have done so, trying this out during the Patio Sale. Now, rather than holding checks until volunteer Counters could record checks and our Corporate Officers physically making deposits at the Bank; all checks can be scanned from our Church Offices into our Bank Accounts, identical to the Tellers at the Bank.

The week of Patio Sale, members of our Church who are not current Counters, Corporate Officers, on the Finance Committee, the Foundation, or the Session/Deacons, who were elected by the Session, provided their own Audit of the 2023 Financial records. These three members also found that there were no discrepancies or irregularities.

A clarification that needs to be crystal clear is that when you make contributions to our Church, if those donations are for a designated purpose (i.e., Flowers, your Pledge which goes to the operating Budget, Plumbing, or a Special Mission), ... we are legally required to spend those funds for that purpose and no other. If, on the other hand, contributions (like Memorial Gifts) are received without designation, those funds are then designated by our Gifts & Memorials Committee. If the Committee does not allocate those gifts within 12 months, then according to our By-Laws, any amount over \$20,000 is automatically transferred to the VPC Foundation.

The VPC Foundation is a totally separate Corporation from Valley Presbyterian Church. The Foundation has been reviewing their By-Laws and Investment Strategy and have clarified that while in the past there may have been confusion, the purpose of the VPC Foundation is to invest these Reserves to grow as Endowments of the Church.

Valley Presbyterian Church has four separate financial resources.

- Your annual Pledges and regular Contributions are used to finance the Annual Operating Costs of our Church (Salaries, Missions, Electricity)
- The Session also maintains two accounts which carry-over from year to year, for Capital Improvements and Operating Reserves in the event something like Roof repairs, Plumbing occur.
- Third, we are fortunate to have the VPC Foundation, which is invested for perpetual growth of endowments, and according to their By-Laws annually makes available about \$40-50,000 for Capital Improvement projects if needed (In the past, this paid for Painting the Church, Tiling the Roof perimeter, Repaving; and in 2024 is anticipated to not be drawn upon).
- Fourth, you The Church have always been incredibly generous and supportive of concerns which are not provided for in one of the other three.

Pastor Craig



Green Valley Organ Crawl

Saturday, April 13, 2024 10:00 a.m.

- 10:00 a.m. United Methodist Church of Green Valley
300 W. Esperanza Blvd. Linda Truesdell, Organist &
Music Director
- 11:00 a.m. Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior (Missouri
Synod) 555 S. La Canada Dr. Patricia Leege, Organist
and Director of Music
- 12:00 a.m. noon St. Francis in the Valley (Episcopal) 600
S. La Canada Drive. Michael Case, Organist & Gerald
Near, Music Director
- 1:00 p.m. Box Lunch in St Francis Courtyard.
- 1:30 p.m. Valley Presbyterian Church
2800 S. Camino del Sol. Dr. Rev. Craig Lindsey, Pastor of
Valley Presbyterian Church



Bible Reflections-Bible Study
Mondays at 1:00 p.m.
in Classroom 5
with
Pastor Craig Lindsey

This is a different kind of Bible study, one that spends as much time as we need with each chapter and book. We will try to give background that is helpful and offer ideas about interpretations (even pronunciation of names), but what is most important is what you hear in the text.

You don't have to attend every class and you may join at any time.

To join by zoom, go to <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 294 281 2414

Password: Heaven

**Previous classes are recorded and can be viewed on the church's website:
valleypres.net**

Claiming Your Church Class

Learn more about our church and community.

April 7th and 14th
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Sunday, April 7th and 14th

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

And

Thursday, April 25, 8:30 a.m.

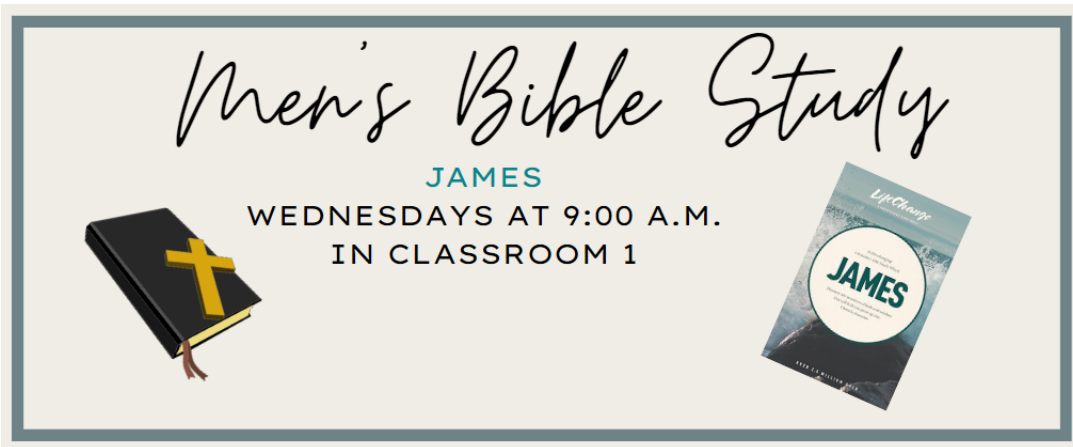
Your Teacher, Pastor Craig Lindsey

Do you want to learn more about Valley Presbyterian Church? Are you wondering how you can be more involved? Perhaps you are thinking about becoming a member. The Exploring Membership Class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership.

In this multi-week class, you will explore the wonderful reasons to join a church, and what it means to be Presbyterian. You will discover all the different service opportunities this church has to offer. You will spend time with Pastor Craig, leaders, and many others who give their time and talents to serve Christ through Valley Presbyterian Church.

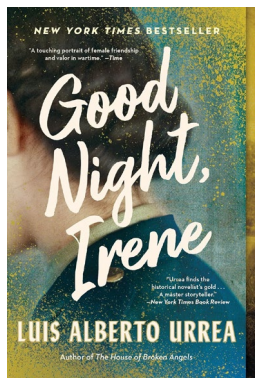
You can become an affiliate member (whereby you keep your main membership with your church “back home”) or an active member (full membership here at Valley Presbyterian).

Contact the office to register (520-625-5023;) vpc-office@valleypres.net.



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 group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying the Book of *James*. Join the group any time to participate in the discussion or come to just listen. In either case, your presence will be welcomed. Lessons are self-contained so feel free to join the group when able. The Navigators Life Change study guide is also available from Amazon or Christianbook.com.

Valley Readers 2:00 PM – Monday, April 22, 2024 Classroom 1



Novels set during World War II are very popular right now, but our April selection is about an area that has received very little attention from either historians or novelists. *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea tells the story of three fictional women who worked on a Red Cross Clubmobile. This historically factual enterprise had women known as “donut dollies” traveling in food trucks following the troops to cheer them and raise morale. Two of Urrea’s characters form a fast friendship and there is also a romance involved, but conditions are dangerous, and life is fragile on the European front after D-Day. Based on the real-life story of the author’s mother, Urrea’s novel not only provides a look at a fascinating enterprise but also confronts the danger and anguish of a perilous time and place. Please join us for a discussion led by Helen Phillips. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

stephen MINISTRY®

Submitted by: Jana Honermann, Stephen Leader Team Coordinator

The Caregiver's Compass "Skilled"



Stephen Minister trainees learn about the Caregiver's Compass in their very first lesson. The Caregiver's Compass provides direction for the journey on becoming a Stephen Minister and at the end of every lesson the trainees are asked to relate what they had learned in the lesson that relates to each "direction" of the Caregiver's Compass. This month I will give my viewpoint on what it means for Stephen Ministers to be skilled, at the bottom of the Caregiver's Compass.

For the last couple of months, I have been able to find Bible verses that pertain to compassionate and full of faith. Unfortunately, the Bible has little to say about skilled. Here is one verse I found. *If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.* Ecclesiastes 10:10. Huh? Say what? And then I thought about it and realized that I can apply this to Stephen Ministers.

Most people who gravitate to becoming Stephen Ministers have a natural affinity for caring. They generally have a desire to be a positive force in people's lives but may not always know the best way to provide the unique care the person they are trying to help may need. The dull and unsharpened ax has the ability to chop wood but would most likely take a very long time to produce mostly uneven pieces with others pulverized to splinters! However, a sharpened edge will produce gratifyingly even pieces of wood in a shorter period of time. In the same way, the potential Stephen Minister goes through a vigorous 50-hour training course where they learn to listen intently, provide a compassionate presence, validate the hurt and grief the person is experiencing, refrain from giving advice, and trust that they are merely the "caregiver" while God is the "curegiver." The training includes lots of role playing, which to be honest, I did not enjoy. But like the dull ax, Stephen Ministers' unskilled caregiving gifts are sharpened and strengthened to bring caregiving success.

Continued on page 9

On another subject, Stephen Ministry Sunday is on April 7. Many of the Stephen Ministers will be participating in the service and two of them will provide their personal testimonies on what being a Stephen Minister means to them. We also will be commissioning our new Stephen Ministers who have recently graduated from Stephen Minister training.

Many people wonder why we are called “Stephen Ministers.” It was named after Stephen from the story of The Choosing of the Seven from Acts 6. In the early days of the Church, the number of converts was growing phenomenally. The apostles were taking care of the widows and providing them food along with their responsibilities of ministry and healing. Apparently, the widows who were Greek (Gentiles) were not always receiving the daily distribution of food, while the Hebrew widows were. The apostles realized that they did not have the time to fulfill all of their responsibilities, so they decided to delegate. They assigned seven disciples who were known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom to take care of the widows and orphans while the Apostles continued their ministry of the word and prayer. Stephen was the first named of the seven to become a caregiver. Thus, Stephen Ministry is named after the first official Christian caregiver.

Next month we will move on to how Stephen Ministers are “Trustworthy.”





Submitted by: Linda Piotrowski, VPC Stephen Minister

A Call to Love

On March 22, 2024, about 30 members of our congregation attended a presentation by Rev. Jerry Haas of the United Methodist Church of Green Valley. His talk highlighted the needs of persons with dementia and their caregivers. Among the many topics Rev. Haas addressed the way in which their church congregation began a process to learn about these needs and how the congregation might reach out in Christian love to be helpful was one of them.

One of the people present at the talk stood and said, "This feels like a call to action."

No Act of Love is Ever Wasted...

"The question remains, "where is the Church in all of this? But the deeper question is, "where is God in all of this?" The church's responsibility is to answer the question of a ministry for persons with dementia and their caregivers. God has already answered that question. God never forsakes the weak and needy of any generation. God is present in the souls of people with dementia and with those who care for them. So hope remains that even when love seems to be defeated, no act of love is ever wasted."

Our first step is to follow the example of the Methodist Church. We would like to begin by offering an opportunity for people to gather to read and discuss *No Act of Love is Ever Wasted - The Spirituality of Caring for Persons with Dementia* by Jane Marie Thibault, PhD and Richard L. Morgan, PhD. A similar book discussion was the catalyst for the Methodist Church to begin, among other things, their Esperanza Hope Memory Cafe for those experiencing memory loss, their caregivers, friends, and loved ones.

Esperanza Hope Memory Cafe is held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm in the United Methodist Church of Green Valley 300 W. Esperanza Blvd (corner of La Canada and Esperanza.) The program lasts about an hour. All are welcome. The next Memory Cafe is April 11, 2024. There is no charge. They do ask that you call the church office to let them know you are coming (520-625-4712).

And, so, we begin. If you are interested in joining with others to read, discuss, and formulate possible next steps for our congregation, please call the Church Office (520) 625-5023 to let them know of your interest. Then watch for more information.

Please remember that Stephen Ministers are available to listen and accompany you on your life journey. Contact the church office if you would like someone to visit you to explore how Stephen Ministry might help you.

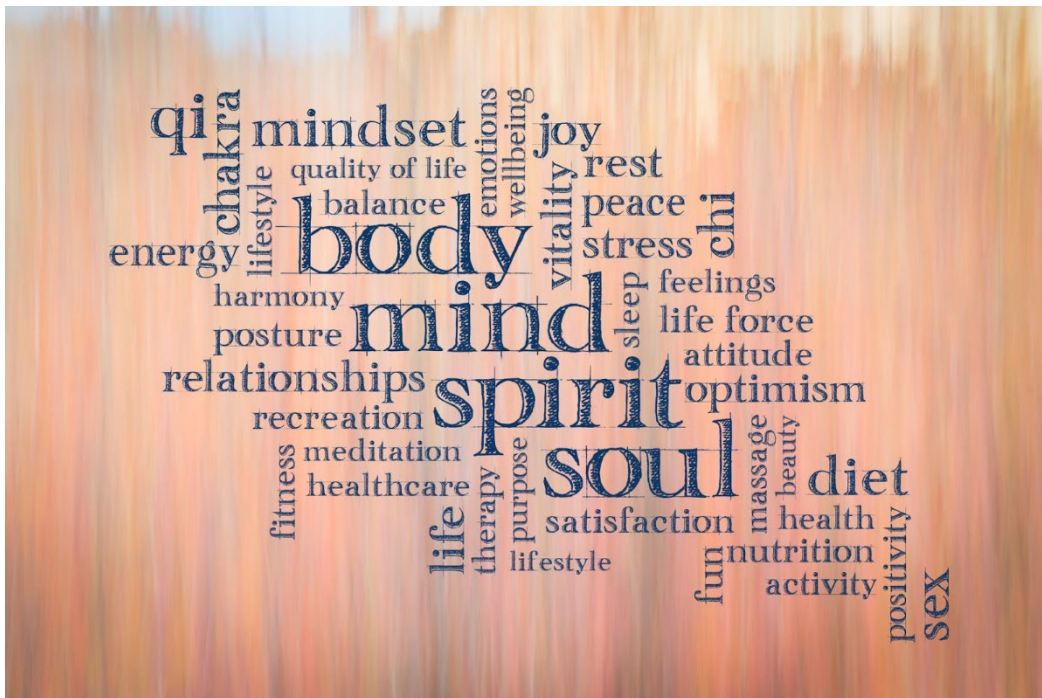


Image provided by Linda Piotrowski, via Shutterstock



Journey Through Grief

**Tuesdays and Fridays
April 30, May 3, 7, 10, 14, 17
21 and 24
1:00 p.m. in 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 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 Deb Jones, members of Valley Presbyterian Church. Carolyn facilitated this program for several years at another church and has been leading this program at VPC for three years. Both Carolyn and Deb are Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders.

The next session will start on April 30, 2024, and will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. through May 24th. Please call the church office at (520) 625-5023 to register.

Torah Scribe at Beth Shalom Temple Center
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
1751 North Rio Mayo
Green Valley, AZ. 85614

Beth Shalom Synagogue will be hosting Rabbi J. Salazar, a trained “Sofer” (Hebrew term for a Scribe who calligraphs sacred text) on Tuesday, April 16th. The Synagogue is offering opportunity (by appointment) for individuals to fill-in outlined letters on our new Torah Scroll’s parchment, with a suggested contribution of \$18 per person. You might know that in Jewish tradition, each of us is encouraged to “write” our own Torah; but since only highly skilled Sofer/Scribes can do so in the authorized style, we can all still fulfill the holy obligation (“Mitzvah”) by holding on to the Scribe’s hand as we complete a letter.

In addition, we have arranged with Rabbi Salazar to offer a program for the non-Jewish community, at which he will discuss the Torah Scroll, the ancient calligraphy style in which it is written, and demonstrate his Scribal tools and technique. We invite you and any of your congregants whom you think might be interested to attend in person: at Beth Shalom Temple Center, 4:00-5:00 pm.

There won’t be any charge, but we would like the names of all who plan to participate that day in advance (for our security guidelines).

Please phone the Valley Presbyterian Church Office prior to April 12th. 520-625-5023.

PATIO SALE NEWS

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

WOW! We held our 43rd Annual Patio Sale on March 14, 15 and 16, 2024 and it was a big success! On Thursday morning, more than 100 shoppers were lined up waiting for the doors to open. And there was a second line in front of the tent selling Furniture. Everyone wanted to be first in the door and find the best bargains. And they were not disappointed. Our dedicated volunteers were on site ready to sell, bag-up or box-up selected items and then direct them to other departments or to the cashiers. And many of these shoppers came back again on Friday and Saturday. It was amazing! Even the rain didn't keep them away. As of the end of the day Saturday, March 16 the income from the Patio Sale was **\$90,118.91**, and additional amounts continue to trickle in.

Our Patio Sale would not be such a success without our dedicated Department Heads and hundreds of volunteers who give countless hours sorting, setting up, pricing, selling, interacting with shoppers and then cleaning up. And we want to thank those who provide food for hungry shoppers and volunteers, as well as those who volunteer at our monthly Pack & Sorts. We cannot say "Thank You" enough. And a special "Thank You" to all of our VPC Staff who were there for us every step of the way. Even Pastor Craig gets into the act. He loves being part of Patio Sale.

It is the goal of the Patio Sale to raise money to support the Valley Presbyterian Church Mission Outreach Programs in Southern Arizona, Mexico, the Middle East and the Congo. It would be a perfect world if all of the income from the Patio Sale could go to support these deserving organizations; but in reality, we have expenses, and they continue to increase.

What's next? We are planning a Holiday-Plus Sale this fall on November 7 & 8. Not sure what the final look will be, but there will definitely be sparkly stuff and lots of books. So, stay tuned. Thank you for your continued support of our Annual Patio Sale and the Holiday-Plus Sale.

The Patio Sale Coordinating Team





From the Children's Contingent Sunday School Lessons in April "The Holy Spirit and Me"

Submitted by Pam Karbowsky



The Big Idea- Jesus loves me and gives the Holy Spirit to help me.

During the month of March, the children will learn the why behind Jesus's suffering, death and resurrection; that he endured it all because of his undying love for us.

The Holy Spirit can be difficult to understand. Jesus frequently taught the importance of knowing God through the presence of the Holy Spirit. This month we will help the children understand and experience the Holy Spirit daily.

The Holy Spirit's Presence is a Gift

Before the resurrection the Holy Spirit would "come upon" a person, giving extraordinary power, wisdom or insight. It would stay awhile and leave.

What changed after Jesus ascended?

The Holy Spirit Helps Me

The Holy Spirit helps us as we grow in our faith. Romans 8:26

".....the spirit comes to help with our weaknesses. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit Himself pleads our case...."

The Holy Spirit helps us be more like Jesus.

What does that mean?

What does that look like?

The Holy Spirit Teaches Me Truth

What happens when the Holy Spirit talks to us about Jesus and teaches us the truth about him? The Holy Spirit will open the eyes of our heart.

Now what in the world does that mean??

The Holy Spirit Empowers Me

We are empowered by the gifts God gives us. It isn't up to us to decide which gifts we receive. The Holy Spirit knows what we need and will give those specific gifts to us.

What empowers you??

The quoted Bible verse is from the Deep Blue Kids' Bible. This Bible has many unique features. The following is an umbrella note from John 14:27. It seems especially apropos in today's world.

“Right after Jesus promised his followers the Holy Spirit, he promised peace. Jesus knew the world is full of hard times and trouble, but he didn't want his followers to be worried and upset. Jesus made sure his followers didn't mistake the world's peace for God's peace. The peace Jesus gives isn't based on what happens in the world between nations or neighbors. Jesus's peace allows his followers to live without fear or anxiety. The peace comes from the presence of God in our hearts and lives.

Grandchildren coming to visit?? Great grandchildren? Nieces, nephews, etc??

There is a large collection of children's books in classroom 3. Please feel free to borrow them, anytime, on the honor system.



The library of children's books in classroom 3



We are excited to share with you the unique opportunity VPC has been given. In December 2023 the church was given \$620k in **undesignated** bequests. The Committee Charter requires us to have the monies allocated within a rolling 12-month period, or with the current gift, by the end of December 2024. Any amount remaining will be invested by the Foundation. The Gifts & Memorials Committee Charter states that all expenditures strive first to glorify God and further His kingdom, and second, to benefit VPC and its members, the Church Community, and to make a difference in the world.

How will these funds be allocated? All requests for funding may only be submitted from a VPC Committee. If you have ideas as an individual, take them to the relevant committee (Mission, Buildings and Grounds, etc.).

- The individual committees will be responsible for choosing the projects to pursue, filling out the *Request for Support*, administering approved funding and reporting to Session.
- The Gifts and Memorials Committee's responsibility is to evaluate the requests and seek approval from Session for the funds requested. Our hope is to spread these funds over a number of worthy opportunities.

We hope to have the forms used to request funds approved by the Session before our April meeting. We hope to begin evaluating requests by mid-April. It may take 1-2 months to evaluate requests and get the Session's approval. For this reason, all requests must be made no later than Oct 1, 2024.

These are **undesignated** funds given to the church. Designated giving goes directly to the committee responsible (e.g. funds for St Andrew's Children's Clinic goes directly to Mission committee.) We are excited about this opportunity to be able to enhance God's work through the generosity of those who have gone before us.

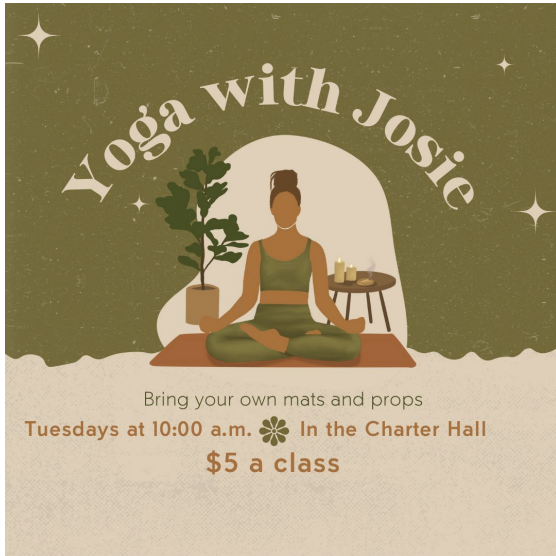
Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions.

Co-Chairs:

Judy Christensen & Ed Storey

Committee Members:

April Boysen, Helen Phillips, Bob Campbell, Jim Rusk & Trudy O'Leary



YOGA with Josie

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

In the Charter Hall

\$5.00

Josie Trobec, a certified yoga instructor, leads a yoga practice that focuses on centering ourselves in the Presence of God... to learn how to incorporate one's Christian faith with a yoga practice, the idea of melding BODY, MIND and SPIRIT.

The class opens with scripture that speaks to a practice of faith during the breath work. The body of the class is a combination of standing poses, balance poses and floor poses. The classes close with restorative yoga, a practice of calm alertness allowing a time of reflection and thanksgiving for God's Presence in our lives. This class is for all levels, modifications are offered for all poses, including practicing from a chair rather than the mat.

Please bring your own mat. Props are also welcome, such as blocks, straps, and blanket.

Line Dancing with Steve Hart

Thursdays at 2:00 P.M. & 3:00 P.M.
In the Fellowship Hall

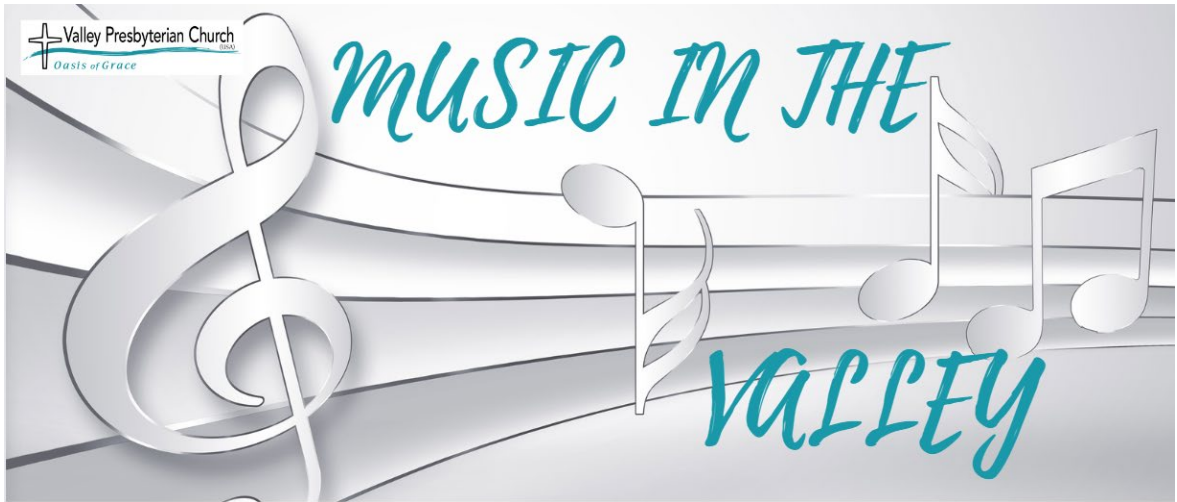


Line Dance Class
April 4th and 11th
2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Looking for a fun way to get some exercise and make some new friends?

Come to Valley Presbyterian Church on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is also an early bird class for those who would like the extra practice at 2:00 p.m.

Steve, along with the Fellowship Committee, are planning an end-of-the-season dance party. We will be dancing to our own Katie Sayre's band "Hard Scrabble Road". April 25, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Canoa Hills, Green Valley Recreation. Bring a snack to share and your own drinks, (adult beverages are ok). This is a free event, however there will be a freewill offering to defer the cost of the band and the facilities. Please sign up before April 18th.



Submitted by Jamie Reed, VPC Music Director

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

This year's Music in the Valley Concert Schedule has been a bit bumpy and inconsistent, and yet you all came and supported our music!

March's Feel-Good Musical Afternoon was so well-received that many requests were made to make this an annual Concert!

Our next and final concert of this season is FINALLY:

Saturday, April 27 @ 2:00pm

“Let’s Go to the Movies”

Featuring a fabulous quartet of professional String Musicians, Jan Brachel on Keys/Organ, and Jamie Reed on Piano.

You will hear works from Amadeus, Fantasia, Breakfast at Tiffany’s, Scent of a Woman, Wizard of Oz, Phantom of the Opera, Schindler’s List & Star Wars.

As well as

composers such as

John Williams, Scott Joplin, Bach, Mozart, Queen, Liszt and Brubeck.

And finally, our regularly scheduled March Concert Puerta-Vazquez Duo will kick off our next season’s concerts starting in November!

MUSIC IN THE VALLEY PRESENTS

* “Lets Go To The Movies” *

FEATURING A FABULOUS QUARTET OF
PROFESSIONAL STRING MUSICIANS, JAN BRACHEL
ON ORGAN AND JAMIE REED ON PIANO

Saturday, April 27 @ 2:00 p.m.



TICKET \$20 AT VPC OFFICE OR AT DOOR DAY OF CONCERT



**2800 S Camino del Sol
Green Valley AZ, 85622
(520) 685-5023**



**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Submitted by Lesley Bruce, Women's Ministries Moderator

**Women's Ministry April Gathering Luncheon
April 16, 2023, 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

The April Gathering Luncheon program will be presented by Tommy and LeeAnn Calhoun who will tell us about Café Justo, the great tasting coffee we all know and love from our own Fellowship Hall. What would Sunday morning fellowship hour be without a nice cup of that delicious coffee?

There will be the election of Officers for the 2024-2025 Women's Ministries upcoming year. We have a full slate of officers and are looking forward to having you meet and learn a little bit about them. Your Hostesses will be the Miriam & Ruth Circles, Presby gift will be a monetary donation to Frontera de Crisco, Douglas/Aqua Prieta Border Ministry. The meal will cost \$13.00, and registration will be April 7th and 14th.

The Circles, La Posada, Miriam, and Ruth, are busy meeting and discussing the Presbyterian Women's Ministries Horizon Bible Study "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts". This month we will be discussing Lesson 8: Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship. Be sure to check out Chuck Ramsay's talk on the lesson before your circle meets. In my opinion, his talks are very interesting. There is one more lesson to be covered in May and then we will take a break for the summer months.

Mission Quilters are having a good year with over 400 quilts displayed on their website. They have added additional quilters, cutters, pressers, and even a skilled embroidery quilter. Congratulations to these hard-working ladies. They meet the first, third (and sometimes the 5th) Monday of each month, even through the summer.

We have an exciting event coming up on April 27th at VPC with the Presbyterian Women de Cristo Spring Gathering. The cost is \$15.00 and the deadline to sign up is April 15th. Please see Judy Lindsey, the Moderator of PW de Cristo for additional information or Lesley Bruce for registration. Registration forms are in the Valley Voice and also on the Women's Ministries table until Sunday the 14th. There will be a worship service led by Mark Adams from Frontera de Cristo, a delicious lunch of build your own taco salad and a discussion centering on the humanitarian issues at the border followed by a short business meeting. Please join us for this informative gathering of Presbyterian Women from Southern Arizona Synod de Cristo.

Enjoy this beautiful weather – nice temperatures and gorgeous sunrises and sunsets. The BEST Arizona has to offer.

Blessings,

Lesley Bruce



Photo taken by Joyce Lambert, Picture of the Women's March Gathering Luncheon of the women in their Easter hats, and Pastor Craig.

Presbyterian Women's Presbytery de Cristo Spring Gathering

Submitted by: Judy Lindsey, Moderator PW de Cristo

Our next Presbytery wide Women's Gathering will be held Saturday April 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event will be held at Valley Presbyterian Church and will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other women from our region.

Highlights include: a worship service with communion featuring Rev. Mark Adams from Frontera de Cristo, Joyful Spirit ensemble, and a panel of women who visited the borderlands ministries to learn about the issues.

Our luncheon will feature a taco salad bar and dessert for \$15.00.

Registration forms are due April 15th.

See attached flyer on page 24

If you have questions, please call me at (315)-430-6538.

Blessings

Judy Lindsey

Moderator PW de Cristo

Presbyterian Women's, Presbytery de Cristo
Spring Gathering
Saturday April 27, 2024, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Valley Presbyterian Church
2800 S Camino del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
(520) 625-5023



PW USA Mission Experience in Arizona
Come and hear a panel of participants who visited our mission partners and learned about the issues they face along the border.

Mission Spotlight: Frontera de Cristo

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I promise you." Genesis 25: 15-17

REGISTRATION AND LUNCH \$15.00

Send Check to PW Presbytery de Cristo to Lesley Bruce

561 W. Via Rosaldo

Green Valley, AZ 85614-3974

Registration deadline: April 15, 2024

NAME _____ CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

If you have dietary restrictions, please indicate here _____

Do you need childcare? Yes _____ Number of Children _____



A VIEW FROM THE WEBB TELESCOPE. THESE ARE GALAXIES, EACH WITH 100 BILLION STARS, IN A VERY SMALL PORTION OF THE SKY THAT WOULD BE COVERED BY A GRAIN OF SAND, HELD AT ARM'S LENGTH.

ORIGINS—CREATION OR CHAOS

Tuesdays in April

Starting April 2, 2024 @ 11:00 AM in Classroom Five and YouTube

Victor L. Landry, PhD (aka Bud Landry)

Children ask the basic questions—who am I? Why am I here? And where am I going? This lies at the heart of everything. The world system says that we come from nothing, and ultimately, we go to nothing.

Shakespeare's MacBeth says it all—an individual life is meaningless.

The Christian says, however, that we come from God, and go back to Him. Our lives are full of meaning. Our origin and our destiny are important beyond measure.

For five weeks we will confront the controversy and explore the wonder of God's creation (assuming we stay on track).

April 2, 2024, Week One

"In the beginning was the Word..."

Looking at the universe; the Big Bang; lessons from the Grand Canyon; beyond space and time; the fallacy of Chance; *ex nihilo, nil fit* (a very important concept!)

April 9, 2024, Week Two

"...after their kind..."

Looking at DNA. Survival of the fittest is not the same as the arrival of the fittest. The role of mutations. Taxonomy. How evolution is supposed to work.

April 16, 2024, Week Three

"So, God created man in His own image..."

The supposed ascent of Man. Humanoids before Adam? Special creation. Why are civilizations relatively young?

April 23, 2024, Week Four

"...fearfully and wonderfully made..."

The wonder and the glory of the human body. Intelligent design. Our immune system* as an illustration of the wonderful way we are created.

* Molecular biology, including immunology and virology, were my majors for my Master of Science in Microbiology at Duquesne University (Pittsburgh) *back in the day*. Much has advanced in our understanding since then, yet the fundamental wonderment remains.

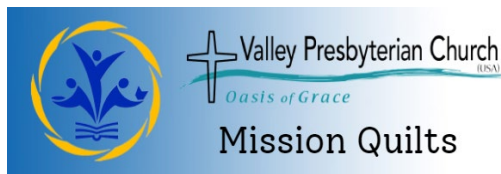
April 29, 2024, Week Five

"...professing themselves to be wise..."

The effect of the philosophy of Darwin, Dawkins, and Hawkins on morality, Christianity, and our Culture. The challenge of Secular Humanism.

Thesis—there is no disagreement between Genesis and true, non-speculating science.

Major Resource-- <https://reasons.org/> (Reasons to Believe)



Submitted by: Patti Bright



Reasons Why We Donate Quilts Aviva Children's Services

Some years ago, the Women's Ministry had a representative from AVIVA CHILDREN'S SERVICES speak to their luncheon group about the works of the agency. I was so impressed with what they were doing for foster children at that time. As the needs of the foster care community have changed through the years, AVIVA has adapted itself to support their needs.

Previously, a counselor told me that when she would go to a home to meet a new foster child, she loved taking a quilt especially for them as an ice breaker. These children are often taken from their homes without any of their belongings. We delivered 17 quilts to the agency this quilting season.

Aviva Children's Services' mission is to improve the quality of life for children who are victims of neglect, abuse and poverty and are in the care of Arizona's Department of Child Safety (DCS). Aviva responds to the needs of children in foster care by providing programs and resources to enhance their self-esteem and well-being as well as supplying necessity items such as clothing, shoes, blankets and personal care items.

Aviva Children's Services was founded in 1978 by a group of concerned citizens who came together to address shortfalls in Arizona's foster care system. Over the years Aviva has provided an array of support to children and families involved in the foster care system. These services have included a tutoring program for children, a supervised visitation program, a parent training program, a parent peer support program, a specialized visitation program for mothers and newborns and a community resource center for kinship and foster families.

In July of 2019 Aviva became a wholly owned subsidiary of Easterseals Blake Foundation. Together, Easterseals Blake Foundation and Aviva Children's Services will develop a **Center of Excellence** for children involved with or at high risk for involvement with the Foster/Kinship care system. The Aviva Center will be a preferred provider of system partners such as the Department of Child Safety, State Foster Care Health Plans, school systems, law enforcement and families along the continuum of risk, removal and reunification.

***Caring for those in our Congregation
Faith & Health/Parish Nurse April 2024***

Submitted by Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson

Join us at Cardio-drumming; this class has just a few more openings. Cardio drumming begins at 9 am on Tuesdays and is once a week; a 30-minute exercise program for health, stress, and balance. Please email parishnurse@valleypres.net for more information and/or for registration. Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy and strengthens ankles and quads which can prevent falls.



Drink plenty of water when you are exercising or are outside doing activities. Be careful of dehydration especially in these hot summer months.



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.



Save the Following Dates:

American Red Cross blood drive is here at VPC in 2024.

Thursdays from 9am – 2pm on:

May 16th

July 25th

and November 21st

Watch for more information on future eblasts and bulletins. If you would like to volunteer at this event to welcome those arriving, please contact the parish nurse.

Medical Minute: : April is Humor Month. People say laughter is the best medicine. Actually, humor helps our health, relaxes our muscles, stimulates circulation and may support the immune system.

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month

Submitted by: Chris Erickson, VPC Nurse

Although most people with Parkinson's first develop the disease after age 60, about 5 – 10 percent experience onset before the age of 50. Studies suggest the disease affects more men than women. Parkinson's disease is a brain disorder that causes unintended or uncontrollable movements, shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with coordination and balance. Symptoms begin gradually and worsen over time. Symptoms may include difficulty walking and talking, mental and behavioral changes, sleep difficulties, depression, memory difficulties, and fatigue.

The most prominent symptoms and signs of Parkinson's disease occur when the nerve cells in the basal ganglia become impaired and/or die. This area of the brain controls movement. The nerve cells, neurons, normally produce an important chemical, dopamine. When these neurons die or are impaired, they produce less dopamine, which causes movement problems. Those with Parkinson's disease also lose nerve endings that produce norepinephrine, main chemical messenger of the sympathetic nervous system, which controls many functions such as heart rate and blood pressure. The loss of norepinephrine might help to explain some of the non-movement features of Parkinson's such as fatigue, decreased movement through digestive tract, irregular blood pressure, and sudden drop in blood pressure when changing positions from sitting or lying positions to standing. Many brain cells of people with Parkinson's disease contain Lewy bodies, unusual clumps of the protein alpha-synuclein.

The four main symptoms of Parkinson's disease include tremor in hands, arms, legs, jaw, or head, muscle stiffness (muscle remains contracted for a long time), slowness of movement, impaired coordination, and balance, which may lead to falls. Other symptoms include depression and other emotional changes, difficulty swallowing, chewing or speaking, constipation or urinary problems, and skin problems. The symptoms and the rate of progression differ among individuals. People with Parkinson's disease often develop a parkinsonian gait that includes a tendency to lean forward, take small quick steps, and may have difficulty with starting or continuing movement. Symptoms often begin on one side of the body or even in one extremity on one side. As the disease progresses, it eventually affects both sides of the body; however, symptoms may be more severe on one side than on the other. Many people with Parkinson's disease note that prior to experiencing stiffness and tremor, they had sleep problems, loss of smell, restless legs, and constipation. Some of these symptoms may also occur with normal aging, discuss with your healthcare provider these symptoms, if they worsen, or begin to interfere with daily living. Some may also experience changes with cognitive function, memory, attention, and the ability to plan and accomplish tasks. Stress, depression, and some medications may also contribute to these changes in cognition. As the disease progresses, some may develop dementia and be diagnosed with Parkinson's dementia, a type of Lewy body dementia. Talk with your healthcare provider if you or a loved one is diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and is experiencing difficulties with memory or thinking.

For more information and for support, contact Parkinson's Support of Green Valley.

Information by NIA/National Institutes of Health



CLERK'S CORNER

MAUREEN RAMSAY, CLERK OF SESSION

The Presbytery

On April 20th, Presbytery de Cristo will hold its spring meeting at Valley Presbyterian. Many of you may not know what the Presbytery does or why we even belong to a Presbytery. The Book of Order (Section G-3.0301) states that: *The Presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district. The Presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district and assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. The Presbytery has the responsibility and power to:*

a. provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.

This includes organizing, merging, dismissing, and dissolving congregations, overseeing congregations without pastors.

b. provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.

This responsibility includes authorizing communion for meetings, fellowship groups, new church developments; authorizing and training ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper; and exercising pastoral care for congregations and members of presbytery in order that the Sacraments may be received as a means of grace.

c. nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.

This responsibility includes ordaining, receiving, dismissing, installing, removing, and disciplining its members who are ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and supporting congregations in developing missions, serving in judicial matters, etc.

Presbytery de Cristo consists of about 29 congregations spread across Southern Arizona and New Mexico. The size of the congregations ranges from 20 to over 1,000 members. According to Brad Munroe, Presbytery Pastor of Presbytery de Cristo, the Presbytery provides many services to each of its congregations. He sent me a list of over 100 tasks that the Presbytery performs. They help in Consultation and Care, Pastoral Transitions, Mission Interpretation and Support, Communication, Governance, Leadership Training, and General Assembly Resources. Like the session, Presbytery has committees where these tasks are completed.

They include Administration, Commission on Ministry, Leadership, Macedonian Ministries, Preparation for Ministry, Nominations, and Permanent Judicial Commission. The work of these committees is supported by prayers and monies donated through the per capita collected by each congregation. Any one of us can be a member of a presbytery committee.

In these days of shrinking memberships and increased dissension in main line churches, the Presbytery serves as a guide and support to congregations. In the Preface to his book *Waging Peace: Engaging Conflict and Embracing Difference in the Body of Christ*, Brad Munroe talks about striving to bring churches together by supporting a Macedonian Ministry, which is a volunteer group of pastors who meet monthly to discuss and debate, challenge, and encourage one another, a Calvinist version of Eat, Pray, Love. He relates that after Pastor Larry's death in 2016, he called various pastors, associates, lay and retired pastors to come to Valley Pres. to attend worship and to offer a ministry of presence and pastoral care to the congregation. He was hoping for five to eight pastors. Twenty-three pastoral care givers were present the Sunday following Larry's death. This is the kind of work that the Presbytery does.

I think of the Presbytery as the next step in church leadership after the Session. The Presbytery reports to the Synod, which is a group of Presbyteries, and the Synods report to the General Assembly. The Session sends representatives to the Presbytery meetings to vote and have a voice in its decisions. The Presbytery sends representatives to Synod meetings and then to the General Assembly. This year, our Presbytery has voted to send our own pastor, Rev. Craig Lindsey, and elder Judy Aguayo as their representatives to the General Assembly meeting in Salt Lake City in June. They will decide the major issues that are facing the Presbyterian church. We are privileged to have so many elders in our congregation willing to serve on Session, as commissioners to Presbytery and General Assembly meetings.

For more information about our Presbytery, please visit their website: <https://www.azpresbyteries.org/>





Hands of a Friend *DaZee's Resale Boutique*

Submitted by: Jan Farrington, Mission Liaison



Volunteers Needed

Fun weekly positions to volunteer at DaZee's Resale Boutique are available!

We are in need of clerks and intake room help. 2-, 3- and 5-hour shifts. We are a high-end boutique resale shop located at 231 W. Duval Mine Road, suite D. open Monday Through Friday, 10: 00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. DaZee's is run by volunteers. Our proceeds support The Hands of a Friend's Genesis House, a safe house for women and children of domestic abuse located in the Green Valley Sahuarita area. Please stop in at DaZee's, for an application or go to <https://dazees.org> and download the application.

Genesis House "Wish List"

The women & children's shelter can always use and very much appreciate:

- ❖ Toilet paper
- ❖ Paper towels
- ❖ Trash bags (13-gallon size)
- ❖ Laundry detergent
- ❖ Body wash 12-16 oz size
- ❖ Bar soap
- ❖ Body lotion 12 oz or larger
- ❖ Cleaning supplies (disinfectants)
- ❖ Twin size bed sheets & pillowcases (must be new, in packaging)
- ❖ Baby diapers & baby wipes, all sizes
- ❖ Canned/nonperishable foods (no industrial size please)
- ❖ Kid's clothing (new, sizes 6 months to youth XXL)

Shelter women are able to shop at DaZee's in they are in need of clothing or outfits for job interviews.

DaZee's Resale Boutique Needs

Women and men's clothing, all sizes, clean, gently used or new (no underwear) jewelry, handbags, belts, hats, shoes, sandals, and boots.

Nogales, Arizona

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brouwer, St. Andrew's Clinic liaison.

April 2024

On March 7, Kay Brouwer visited a very busy St. Andrew's Clinic in Nogales, Arizona. There were five doctors and many staff volunteers helping children with their health issues. This happens on the first Thursday of every month, except July. The numbers vary according to appointments and the doctors available who come from all over the United States and from Mexico. Please contact Kay Brouwer (573) 552-2313 if you would like to join her for a visit on May 2 or June 6.



Some of the families waiting to see a Doctor at St. Andrew's Clinic.



A young patient in pediatrics with his mother.



Picture on the left is a young boy with a tablet.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic is looking for computers and iPads, 2022 and newer that you would like to donate. The iPad Pro is especially helpful for children needing communication skills.

Donations help pay for prostheses, which change as a child grows. Financial help is needed to pay for trips of several days to Hermosillo for Cleft Palate/Cleft Lip surgeries. Children needing orthopedic surgeries are flown to Sacramento or Spokane. The Clinic schedules these procedures and is very grateful for the support of Valley Presbyterian Church.



Free Memory Screening

Submitted by Regina Ford, Development Specialist, La Posada

Do you or someone you know have memory concerns? La Posada Community Services is offering free walk-in memory screenings on Tuesday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the La Posada Community Center, 780 S. Park Centre Ave. on the La Posada campus.

A memory screening is a simple and safe evaluation tool that checks memory and other thinking skills. It can indicate whether an additional check-up by a qualified healthcare professional is needed.

La Posada Community Services is partnering with Dementia Capable Southern Arizona, anchored at Pima Council on Aging, to help create a welcoming, compassionate community in which people with dementia can connect and thrive. This collaborative effort supports people with dementia and their caregivers through coordination and availability of resources, community education, and effective policy change.

Dementia Capable Southern Arizona works to increase the community's understanding of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias by creating dementia-friendly communities, thus making southern Arizona a better place for people living with dementia and those who care the goal of the free screenings may help increase the identification of people with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias and make referrals to appropriate resources. For people who are not able to make the April 16 screenings, you can schedule a memory screening appointment by visiting: dcsa.pcoa.org or call 520-790-7573, Ext.1748.

It's Just "Fellowship" Lunch

Biblical fellowship takes time and involvement! How do you get to know fellow Church members on more than a superficial level? Activities of VPC are numerous and available with women groups, committee meetings, Bible study, and even line dancing. Fellowship may begin with coffee in Fellowship Hall, passing of the peace during church worship or even outside of church. Our charge is to love one other; but mature fellowship takes T-I-M-E and effort. One of our Church Missions is Posada Life Community Service which offers a \$3.00 lunch every day. Since reservations are helpful, on Sunday April 14, 2024, a sign-up sheet for two tables for 12 people for lunch on Friday April 19, 2024. We plan to continue this pattern of sign up on Sunday for the following Friday for It's Just "Fellowship" Lunch.

The Senior Lunch Program begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Posada Life Community building, 780 S Park Centre Ave, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Come for Green Valley's best salad bar, hot meal options, and mostly fellowship. Remember "It's Just Fellowship Lunch".

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Bob and Kristi Rice are our supported missionaries to South Sudan. Their communication tool to our congregation is through their blog- bobandkristi.blogspot.com- which they write twice per month. Only a portion of their inspiring story can be shared in the Valley Voice. Join VPC members who promise to pray and follow the blogs.

Submitted by: Doug Clark

If My Wife is Holy Enough, Can I Take Another?"

The “long semester” at Nile Theological College began earlier this month. I am teaching Contextual Theology, one of my favorite courses. Some rightfully argue that all theology is contextual, that is, our understanding of God is birthed from our experience, from our context. Stephen Bevans describes contextual theology as “dialogue” between two realities: the experience of the past as recorded in Scripture and church tradition, and the experience or present to which we who do theology now live (Bevans, 1992). David Bosch, the noted South African missiologist, describes contextual theology as “theology from below,” from the underside of history, informed by the social sciences, a theology who’s primary “interlocuter” or communication partner is the poor and the socially marginalized (Bosch, 1991).

As my students and I are learning together, we recognize the need to understand the Gospel and how it relates to our cultures and peoples. On that note, at the end of class during our second week together, John, a pastor, who sits in the front near the door, asked a personal and culturally informed question when he asked, “If my wife is holy enough, can I take another [wife]?” Despite some chuckles from a few classmates, I assured John that his question was appropriate and helpful. When I asked the class if John’s question was a question shared by other members of John’s people group (the Nuer), everyone affirmed that to be the case. As we were at the end of the day, I suggested that we return to John’s question at the beginning of class the following week.

Before we met the following week, I prepared a worksheet which listed several questions and a list of scripture references concerning marriage to help us. My goal was threefold: to discuss the meaning of marriage according to the Nuer and other people groups in South Sudan, to discuss what Jesus says about marriage and God’s original intention for marriage, and to compare the two. As we began the discussion about the purpose of marriage according to local Nuer culture, these dominant themes emerged: the priority of children, protection, status, power, and overpowering others through procreation of sons. We discussed the reasons a man would have more than one wife, all of which can be identified in the above themes. When we looked at what Jesus said about marriage, we observe that he cites the creation account in Genesis.

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. (from Mark 10: 6 – 8)

One important distinction between the purpose of marriage defined by Jesus and by the Nuer lies in the idea of companionship and becoming 'one flesh'. This idea was not cited as a purpose for marriage according to Nuer tradition and culture.

The root question we discussed was whether it was good for a Nuer man, or even a pastor, to take a second wife, commonly practiced here in South Sudan. It seems that the motivation for John taking a second wife is that his wife is becoming old. One of the students, half-humorously and half seriously, quipped, "Well, if a wife's husband is getting old, shouldn't she also be able to marry a second husband, a younger man?"

One experienced pastor felt that despite church law, which permits lay church members to have more than one wife, that the practice of marriage within the church should be for all men to have one wife only, that being the case for pastors/elders and for everyday Christians. Considering scripture, his view rings true, but the culture is still so strong. How do we make sense of the two? Although I am not sure we fully satisfied John in response to his question, I do believe that as a class we had a meaningful discussion, addressing John's question from many important angles.

A couple of days later I was asked by an Ethiopian neighbor concerning how I had advised my student. I told him that my goal was not to give advice, but rather to help my student and the class meaningfully explore this issue for themselves, finding solutions and owning decisions. Advice from a missionary might be helpful in the short run, but long-lasting and transformative change will result from thoughtful and scripturally informed decisions made by local Christians themselves. As Christians, we invite the light of the Gospel and the Person of Jesus Christ to speak into our contexts and our cultures. Jesus must be Lord overall. In the end, as my professor at Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) says, "Our faith becomes our culture." Lord, may it be so!

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.



Nogales Crossroads Mission

Submitted by: Les Walter, Crossroads Liaison

Nogales Crossroads Mission just completed their annual Easter Dinner. A big “Thank you” for all donations of hams and other items and for those who volunteered to prep, serve, and help clean up. . 150 people were fed.

visit Crossroads website at
crossroadmissionnogales.org





COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



Submitted by: Kylene Joplin in Memory of Carol Stephens

Our Patio Sale is now behind us as well as the Mission Breakfast for the Green Valley/Amado Food Banks. Both events were well attended as hoped.

Spring is already here once again but unfortunately many of our parishioners leave Green Valley to return to their “other homes”. We will indeed miss each and every one of you and look forward to your return.

While life itself can be difficult at times we need to be reminded that most of us have a lot to be thankful for but this is not true for everyone. For instance, have you ever experienced waking up hungry or going to bed hungry? This happens all too often BUT it need not be this way.

Your donations are appreciated more than you may realize. The items that are especially popular are CANNED FOOD! From tuna fish and soups, to corn and beans, canned food is by far what people are looking for the most.

Shelf staple proteins like peanut butter, as well as dry staples like pasta, rice and flour are extremely helpful.

A sincere thank you for your generous participation.



Artwork by Averyana, age 12- “My drawing was inspired by the times my mom would take us to get food boxes and wait in line in our car. I would see people helping get boxes out of the Food Truck. My dad is a Truck Driver, and he would tell us stories about people loading and unloading his truck.”





NEW HOME: 2525 N Country Club Road

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO



Rachel and Bethany

Pastor Craig invited Bethany Neumann, Director of Development and Communications for YOTO and several YOTO students to come to our PATIO SALE and assist with translating for Spanish speaking shoppers. Bethany and four students were able to come and help. We hope it will be a tradition!!

Our February Mission Breakfast raised a total of \$1,131.30 for Youth On Their Own! HIP! HIP! HURRAH!!

Our MINI MALL Collection on Sunday, March 17 brought in 21 boxes of the kids' favorite cereals. We will continue collecting boxes of CEREAL this month. The kid's favorites are: Reese's Puffs, Honey Nut Chex, Golden Grahams, Cocoa Puffs, Honey Nut Cheerios, and Lucky Charms!

YOTO CARD MAKING: Wednesday, April 24, from 1-3:30.

Come join us in Classroom 5 as we make Inspirational Cards for the YOTO student.

April Birthdays

First Name Last Name Birthday

Bob	Campbell	April 01
Carol	Willie	April 01
Marilyn	Barney	April 03
Dianne	Burke	April 03
Don	Christensen	April 03
Monte	Crook	April 03
Jack	Troop	April 03
Larry	Phillips	April 05
Maureen	Ramsay	April 05
Roger	Conroy	April 06
Betty	Singleton	April 06 Turning 90
Gretta	Tameling	April 06
Sam	Eidson	April 07
Jeff	Babcock	April 08
April	Boysen	April 08

April Birthdays

First Name Last Name Birthday

Sophia	Szabo	April 08
Helen	Phillips	April 09
Donna	Watt	April 10 Turning 90
Dave	Biggers	April 11
Joyce E.	Lambert	April 11
Bud	Landry	April 11
Marcia	MacDonald	April 11
Donna	Faulkner	April 12
Seth	St John	April 12
Bill	Thies	April 15
Meagan	Jorgensen	April 17
Dick	Van Treese	April 17
Ernest H.	Bakker	April 18
Karen	Brumm	April 18
Lynn	Potter	April 18

April Birthdays

First Name Last Name Birthday

Karen	Backus	April 19
Carol	McDowell	April 20
Colton	Sayre	April 20
Marvin	Clark	April 22 Over 90
Joan	Bolin	April 25
Hilda	Trickey	April 25
Karen	Curtis	April 26
Carolyn	Sittnick	April 26
Gail	Gesell	April 27
Barbara	ZaueI	April 27
Carolyn	Joling	April 28 Over 90
Lela	Pavlick	April 28
Jean	Picard	April 28
Carol	Wilhems	April 29

Valley Presbyterian Church April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am Mission Quilters 10:00am Fellowship Committee 1:00pm Bible Reflections	2 8:00am Gifts & Memorial 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:00am Women's Ministry Meeting 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am Yoga with Josie 11:00am Creation/Chaos Class 1:30pm Buildings & Grounds 2:30pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble 6:00pm True Concord Rehearsal	3 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 2:00pm Valley Ringers 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 10:00am Patio Sale Department Meeting 2:00pm Line Dance Class Early Session 2:00pm Line Dance Early Session 3:00pm Line Dance Class	5 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 9:00am Stephen Ministry 12:00pm True Concord Concert	6 8:00am Communion Prep
7 Food Bank Sunday Stephen Ministry Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School 11:00am New Members Class	8 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am Patio Sale Coordinating Team 9:30am Valley Fiber Arts Guild 1:00pm Bible Reflections	9 8:45am Mission Committee 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am Yoga with Josie 11:00am Creation/Chaos Class 2:30pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble	10 9:00am Deacons Meeting 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 1:00pm Membership & Outreach 1:00pm Miriam Circle 2:00pm Valley Ringers 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 10:00am Personnel Committee 2:00pm Line Dance Class Early Session 3:00pm Line Dance Class	12 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 1:00pm Memorial for Roy H. Romstad	13 9:00am AGOrganist
14 Nogales Crossroads Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School 11:00am New Members Class	15 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am Mission Quilters 1:00pm Bible Reflections 1:00pm Women's Lunch Prep. 3:00pm Ruth Circle	16 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am YOGA with Josie 11:00am Creation/Chaos Class 11:30am Women's Ministry Luncheon 2:30pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	17 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:30pm Worship Committee 2:00pm Valley Ringers 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 1:00pm Set-up for Presbytery Meeting	20 8:00am Hosting Presbytery Meeting
21 YOTO Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	22 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections 2:00pm Foundation Committee 2:00pm Valley Readers	23 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am Finance Committee 10:00am YOGA with Josie 11:00am Creation/Chaos Rehearsal 2:30pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal	24 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 1:00pm YOTO Card Making 2:00pm Valley Ringers 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal	25 8:30am Session Breakfast/Meeting 5:00pm End of Season Dance Party	26 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:00am Stephen Ministry 1:00pm Set-up for Presby De Cristo	27 8:00am Presby De Cristo Women's Gathering 2:00pm Music in the Valley – Let's Go to the Movies
28 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	29 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:30am Mission Quilters 1:00pm Bible Reflections	30 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 10:00am YOGA with Josie 11:00am Creation/Chaos Class 1:00pm NOC Meeting 1:00pm Journey Through Grief 2:30pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble				