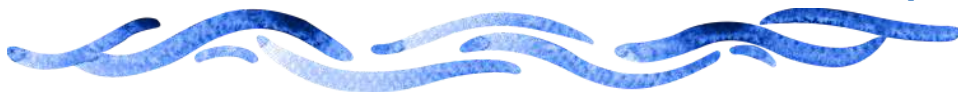


Where Gratitude
is Paid Forward



STEWARDSHIP 2024



DEDICATION SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Dear Friends,

Since this is my last Stewardship Letter with you, I want to start off by saying that I am filled with gratitude, both professionally and personally. Being your pastor has been an absolute joy for my life and in the life of my family. In our giving each year, Valley has been generous and responsive to mission needs and a faithful budget.

In 2022, we started the year with a fair amount of concern, as we had lost some of our bigger pledges through death. By the end of the year, we discovered that some of these saints were in a position to leave a large amount to this congregation in their estate.

Fast forward to October 2023. One of our long-term members, Dr. Barbara Johnston, passed away this year. We have been notified that Valley will be receiving a large sum from her estate. For those of you who knew Barbara, she was passionate about Peace, Justice, Earth Care, and Mission.

Her funds are not intended for our general budget but are there to go above and beyond through causes that were her passion. The amounts are coming in smaller payments to Valley. Our first amount has already provided us with our dream of having solar panels on the new roof we installed this year!

”
**GOD PROVIDES US WITH BLESSINGS
IN ABUNDANCE - SO WE MAY SHOW
OUR GRATITUDE THROUGH OUR
GENEROUS OFFERINGS.**
II CORINTHIANS 9
“

What does this mean to our pledging? It means we can pledge generously to this year's budget knowing that we will not have any building projects that require extra giving. This year, we are turning Mariah Messer's position into a full-time role. We are so excited that she will now be responsible for leading our Senior High Youth ministry. Our session is asking for a 3% increase to provide our staff with salary increases in response to the increased cost of living that we are all experiencing. With this transition happening, staff will be hard at work filling in duties as they arise. And yes, I am so grateful for all our staff! Each week they put their best foot forward and this shows through with our vibrant worship, engaging programs, and attention to detail that makes Valley so inviting.

My planned retirement comes at a time when this church is financially, physically, and spiritually healthy. This puts Valley in an amazing position to attract a talented candidate to help move this congregation into the future on a firm foundation.

2024 will not be a year to take a break from our call to serve. Through the giving of time, talent, and treasures, Valley will nurture all the ties that bind this congregation together. God is surely at work in this place.

Valley
Community



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Buller".

Rev. Richard Buller, Pastor

Sunday mornings at Valley are great in so many ways it is hard to know where to start. They are welcoming; they are meaningful; they are stimulating; they are uplifting....If I had to choose a single phrase, "they are fun to be part of"!!

At the center of the Sunday morning experience is the sermons. They are centered in our faith AND focused on the opportunities and challenges of the world in which we live. And, important to me, the sermons are always surrounded with the opening updates on the life of the church, the always delightful-to-see "childrens' message", the excellent, diverse music, and the after-church donuts and conversation.

NORM CHERVANY



We can worship God anywhere, but I appreciate worship with others in a space built expressly for that reason. I also appreciate the three liturgy divisions of the reformed tradition: Music, the Word of God and our response to God/s grace, guidance and hope for our lives.

We are blessed with wonderfully creative music meant to help us get into the right mindset for worship.

We often hear about "my truth." Some seem to understand truth as being incredibly elastic. No preacher's take on scripture ever puts a light on the whole truth. No one listening from the pews is ever fully willing and able to receive the whole truth.

I have cherished Sunday mornings at the Valley since my first day walking through the doors. Valley has a way of not only making someone feel welcome, but also making them feel like they belong. We celebrate our community in Christ through our love for the children, the love of wonderful music, and the love of learning more about God's teachings.

I adore the blessing of the children. Anyone I have brought to Valley always comments on this tradition. The music offers something for everyone and is never the same week to week. Being surrounded by so much talent is truly a blessing.

Our years with Pastor Richard have blessed us with meaningful messages and a love that is felt when he walks in a room. Sundays in the Valley continue to be one of the many reasons my family calls this place home.

KELSIE HAGELIN



But when we do our best to understand the Word of God, we believe we are on the right path.

Our response to God's grace, guidance and hope for our lives has been challenged. Covid has changed many things, but this has traditionally been a time when, among other things, the offering has been received. Writing a check each week is a tangible expression of our commitment to this community of faith and its work beyond the walls of the church. We leave the church building to hopefully live a life guided by the teachings of Christ.

REV. DAVID PHILLIPS

EDUCATION



Adult Education provides a time of fellowship and learning apart from our morning worship. Presentations from members, guests and outside organizations allow us to learn more about social issues and how we can faithfully respond. We become informed on many topics, including:

- Options to help those who have hunger every day
- Housing opportunities for homeless and at-risk people
- Historical issues about the land we reside on
- Reports of travels and experiences from around the world.

There is also Bible study, with information and discussion which gives us greater insight to the Word and our Lord.

MYRON JONES

I have been blessed to help set up Adult Education sessions since we joined Valley about eleven years ago. Adult Education is a great opportunity to learn about many diverse topics and participate in lively discussions with other Valley members. The offerings are not only available on many Sunday mornings but some are also on Valley's Adult Education page on our website. I value the challenge of learning more, changing my mind based on new information, and the opportunity to get to know Valley members through conversations on important topics. I understand that other churches may struggle with adult education attendance, but here we typically have at least twenty people at each session. Valley's Adult Education is one big reason I support Valley's ministry.

CAROLYN ANDERSON



For me, mission is the way my faith is lived out loud.

The commitment to mission is quite simply THE reason why I consider Valley to be my church home. Mission work is the way Valley shows how dedicated we are to the lived experiences of everyone in our community, not just those who worship inside our doors. It is how we walk the talk! And I am always so proud of how we do that well and consistently. I am particularly grateful that the mission work of the church allows me to cross paths with people who have different opinions, faiths and experiences than mine, but who are

equally committed to serving our communities.

Recently, in the work on the Land Acknowledgement Taskforce, I have noticed a coalescing of passions that I focus on in my work, personal and church life. It is a profoundly remarkable experience, and I am so thankful to be a part of these efforts.

Thank you, Valley, for your thoughtful reflection and always saying yes to important new and ongoing mission efforts.

JEN BIGGS



I am so very grateful for Valley's ministry focus of Mission! To me, this focus speaks to the very literal heart of what Jesus asks of us. Christ teaches us that His purpose, our purpose, is in the DOING. We are called to do for others the work that Jesus would do for others, especially for those who need it most. At Valley, we DO, because we can. This is the way we show the world the love that EVERYONE deserves.

SARAH FADELL

I am grateful for the fellowship my family enjoys at Valley. My husband and I connect with people after worship or in choir, on retreats, at puppet shows, Fridays in the Valley, potlucks....getting reacquainted with people I've known from my youth and starting new friendships.

Jeff and Jeremy, my brothers, come twice a month. The faces they see and the conversations they hear and are a part of are a RICH part of their lives, a bright spot in their sometimes-lackluster weeks.

JENNIE MINTER



FELLOWSHIP



One of the things that drew our family to Valley was the genuine kindness of its parishioners. Fellowship and donuts after service gave us an opportunity to get to know families in our same stage of life. It led us to build relationships and glean wisdom from families who had already had our experiences. Our kids feel so at home, and we feel connected in a world of change. Valley is made up of people who support one another and celebrate in life's joys.

ERIN KOPISCHKE



What I love most about Valley is my friends and going to TEAMS. I like that you get to make cool projects and see friends. My best memory is the one time that we made a candy machine. The volunteers are really nice.

ZIGGY B.

I learned about having compassion and playing Sardines all over the church building!

LILIANNA S.



I like that people are nice and a community. I like doing TEAMS because we get to build stuff and engineer it. It's really cool! I like hanging out with the other kids and the volunteers and staff.

HENRY G.

I love that Valley is full of community and everybody is respectful and kind to each other. You know that Valley community is always there and I really like that about it. My favorite thing is listening to all the different music in the service.

MAE R.

What I love most about Valley is TEAMS. It's fun how you can make stuff and it's always fun to do that. All the volunteers are really good and help us.

LEO K.

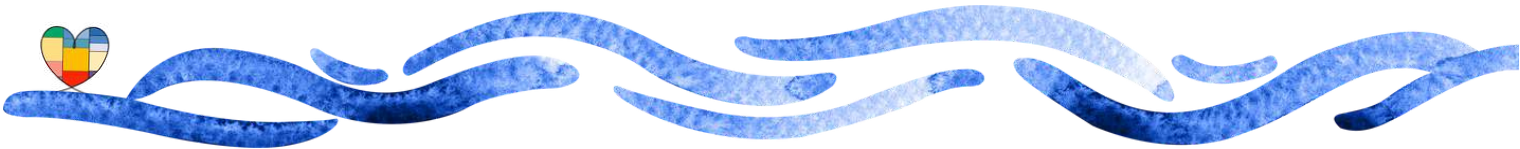


Vacation Bible Camp and Sunday School is so fun and I am learning things I never knew. I'm making friends, too! I really like to play with Duncan!

ARNOLD S.

My favorite thing about Valley was going to Compassion Camp this summer. I loved having fun, doing projects and singing the songs.

MARIT W.



GIVING FROM THE HEART

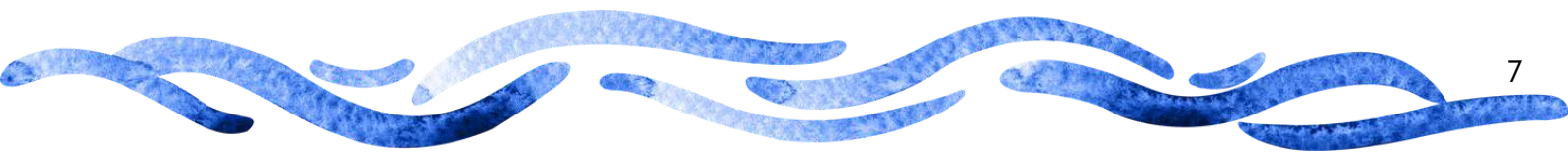


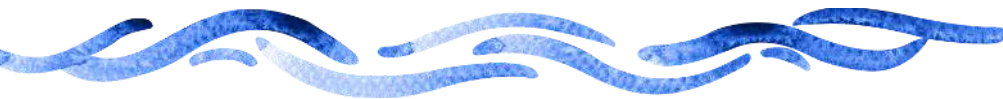
Stewardship season gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past year, and to be grateful for all the ways Valley enriches our lives and those in our community. We are grateful for an amazing staff and for all of the volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to do God's work.

Over the past two years, we experienced the loss of several members of our congregation. These members gave of their time, talents, and treasures greatly over the years, and we are grateful for the time they spent with Valley. Some of these members left funds to Valley in their estates, which help to eliminate the need for a capital campaign to fund special projects. However, the majority of these funds do not contribute to the annual budget, so your pledge is still needed to ensure Valley can continue to serve the community and the congregation as it does today.

This year, the Valley Stewardship Committee and Session asks you to consider a pledge increase of 3%. This increase will help us 1) close the gap created by the members who are no longer with us; 2) increase budget for staff salaries due to the adjustment of Mariah's role and the need for more support during the upcoming transition; and 3) pay for a cost-of-living increase for our staff.

We thank you in advance for your gifts of time, talent, and treasures!





Guide to Growth Chart

This guide has been developed to reflect your giving level this year, and how much your pledge would increase given a range up to 8%. A family or household can choose to be represented as one pledging unit, or expand into individual units.

Units may include one or more people living in the same family or household. They may even include children who live elsewhere but are still considered part of the household. Please contact the church office if you need additional pledge cards.

IF MY/OUR 2023 PLEDGE WAS:	AND MY/OUR INCREASED COMMITMENT THIS YEAR IS:							
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%
	THEN MY/OUR ANNUAL PLEDGE FOR 2024 WILL INCREASE BY:							
\$100	\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8
\$300	\$3	\$6	\$9	\$12	\$15	\$18	\$21	\$24
\$500	\$5	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40
\$700	\$7	\$14	\$21	\$28	\$35	\$42	\$49	\$56
\$1,000	\$10	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$60	\$70	\$80
\$2,000	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100	\$120	\$140	\$160
\$3,000	\$30	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$150	\$180	\$210	\$240
\$4,000	\$40	\$80	\$120	\$160	\$200	\$240	\$280	\$320
\$5,000	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400
\$6,000	\$60	\$120	\$180	\$240	\$300	\$360	\$420	\$480
\$7,000	\$70	\$140	\$210	\$280	\$350	\$420	\$490	\$560
\$8,000	\$80	\$160	\$240	\$320	\$400	\$480	\$560	\$640
\$9,000	\$90	\$180	\$270	\$360	\$450	\$540	\$630	\$720
\$10,000	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800



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Your Stewardship Team

Lisa Kummer, Chair
Craig Gottschalk
Nancy Husnik
Brian Parks
Mariah Messer
Rev. Richard Buller