

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Valley Presbyterian Church

17560 Chillicothe Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023, Phone: 440-543-1071

E-mail: valleypc@netlink.net, www.valleypresbychurch.org

See, I am making all things new. (Revelation 21:5)

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write to you just days into a new decade, reflecting back on the final year of the decade just concluded, and looking forward to all that will be revealed and discovered in this year to come and beyond. I undertake this with a hopeful expectation that can only come through Jesus Christ – God’s promise of mercy, truth and life made known to us – and the community of faith that gathers in his name.

We live in uncertain times. In this decade now dawning, I expect that we will face even greater questions and challenges about social justice, environmental change, international peace, interfaith relations and the Christian faith than in almost any other era. Prayerful and thoughtful discernment will be necessary if we are to find our proper role as God’s people and this congregation amid such uncertainty. But, we believe that Christ lives in us, so we maintain hope that we live – and pray, work and serve – in Christ; within God’s power to create and re-create; to make all things new.

For some of us who have committed to reading the entire Bible during 2020, this verse from Revelation will come in the final days of this year. Just prior to those words, we encounter these:

See, the home of God is among us. Christ will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples and God himself will be with them. (Revelation 21:3)

I have had the privilege to serve as Pastor of Valley Presbyterian Church since March of 2008. In these years, I have seen how Christ has dwelt with the people of this place; how God has been guiding us along the way; how God is encouraging us to discover the new creation taking place in our midst; and how we have been blessed by God in order to be a blessing to others.

In 2020 and 2021, Valley will be participating with other churches in our Presbytery in the Vital Congregations Initiative – a process guided by our denomination to help assess, discern and then live into transformative action; specifically through spiritual practices and relationships; making disciples and being the living community of Christ here and throughout the world. This program dovetails with my ongoing Doctor of Ministry studies focusing on Leadership in a Changing World. I have begun work on a thesis project focusing on Sabbath practices and hope to graduate in the spring of 2021.

From the Pastor (continued)

I continue the privilege to work with an incredible staff: Nancy Sullivan as Music Director and John Kautzman as Organist; Rebecca Bliss as Office Manager; Harry Balcer as Sexton; Rev. Chip Steele as Parish Associate; and, beginning this past fall, Amanda PerryMiller as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Heidi Cregar continues to lead our amazing Heart of Valley Preschool staff.

I am, also, appreciative of lay leaders in the church who continue to give so much of themselves, including our co-treasurers: Mark Fagerholm and Donna Lucas; our Fellowship Team, led by Gerry and Bruce Chittock and Janet and Larry Graham; as well as our Session members and Deacons. Special thanks to Tanya Fouts, Lynn Fagerholm, Sharon Edds and Pat Nichols who are concluding their terms of service.

There are many other people to thank, including our choir members and special musicians, liturgists, ushers and greeters, guest preachers, teachers, buildings and grounds workers and volunteers at the Pass-It-On store. Without all of them, we could not practice the faith we have received; we would not have the opportunity to open our eyes and see God's new creation emerging among us.

May God continue to bless our ministry within these walls and beyond as we seek to follow the God of hope; the God who dwells with us; the God who is making all things new.

Pastor John

Buildings and Grounds

With a sprawling structure and over 12 acres of property, there is always something to be done in the area of buildings and grounds. This year, under the guidance of Elders Ron Cechner and David Rodenhausen, we were able to accomplish several important upgrades and repairs. In the sanctuary, insulation was added to gaps between the trusses and outside walls and a new fire exit sign and outer door were installed by Wayne Erickson. As mandated by the EPA, changes were made to our well in order to ensure safe drinking water by Jim Ayers. These two projects (plus a portion of the Rise Against Hunger meal packaging) were funded through a capital campaign, which collected donations totaling more than \$22,000. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

In addition to these larger items, repairs were made to our boiler system by W. H. Hann; and a new wireless transmitter was installed to our fire-sensing system. Special thanks, also, to Breezewood Garden Center, who planted flowers in our Routh 306 beds at no cost. And thanks to the many members who take on indoor and outdoor projects throughout the year. There are always projects – large and small – that need our attention. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Worship & Music

Worship is central to our faith at Valley. It inspires and informs all that we do as disciples and servants of Christ. This year, we were blessed to receive the gift of a *Last Supper* mural – painted by former member Lou Vernon – which hangs in our sanctuary, reminding us of the gift of grace offered to us in Christ. Our worship space is lovingly maintained by members including Beth Krause, Jeanne DeLaney, Dave and Marilyn Rodenhause, Jerry Moreno, Don and Nancy Sullivan.



Music is an integral part of our worship. We are blessed with the talents and commitments of many musicians, led by Nancy Sullivan and John Kautzman. Throughout the year, adults, youth and children – including guest musicians – allow us to experience the beauty of song. Through the generous gifts of congregation members, the grand piano and organ are regularly maintained and repaired.

During the summer months, we explored the spiritual truths behind the 12 Steps and enjoyed three Sunday services in the outdoor chapel. We have, also, been blessed to welcome to our pulpit this year Rev. Joyce Lawson (pulpit exchange), Rev. Chip Steele (Parish Associate), Rev. Dean Myers, Rev. Peter Lawson, Rev. Charlie Hurst (pulpit exchange), Rev. Aland Smith.



Children & Youth

At Valley, our children and youth do not just represent the future, they are the now! We are blessed to have fantastic young people involved in all aspects of the church: worship, learning, serving and growing in fellowship and love. Elder Tanya Fouts has led our Christian Education ministries with the help of many parents and church members.

This year's youth activities included the Montreat College Conference; an Escapology excursion; a summer youth mission



trip at the Pittsburgh Project; serving meals at North Church; and participating in other church events such as Rise Against Hunger, Vacation Bible School and the Christmas Program.

In May, six young people joined the church as confirmands: Will Belew, Bella Bush, Hayden Gallagher, Matthew Louis, Paige Spicuzza, and Cooper Timmons.



At Vacation Bible School (June 17-20), we welcomed over fifty children on an Athens Holy Land Adventure, thanks to the dozens of adult and youth volunteers who make it happen.

In September, we welcomed Amanda PerryMiller, who joined the staff as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries – leading and encouraging our young people into a deeper relationship with God and God's people in the church.



Fellowship

Scripture teaches us that as God loves us, we are to love one another. At Valley, love often is expressed around tables and good food. We are so blessed to have people in and around the church who willingly provide these opportunities for meaningful fellowship, one of the most important aspects of our care and outreach to others. Thank you to Elders Gary Brockett and Roy Nichols who oversee these ministries.



In addition to weekly Sunday fellowship, we have, also, enjoyed this year: Deacon's brunches, a Lenten soup supper, ice-cream social, all-church outdoor picnic, chili cook-off and Christmas dinner. Our thanks to the Chittocks and Grahams, who coordinate fellowship events, as well as everyone else who has contributed food, helped with set-up and clean-up and continues to invite and welcome people into our church family.

Heart of Valley Christian Preschool

Heart of Valley Christian Preschool (HOVCP) is a mission outreach of Valley Presbyterian Church, with a staff of nine employees and five classrooms. The preschool is licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), and frequent scheduled and unscheduled departmental visits ensure our continued regulatory compliance.

This school year (2019-20) we have 49 students ranging in age from 2-to-6-years old. As a mission of Valley, we have been able to help three families in financial need with discounted tuition. We were, also, excited to be able to "give back" to Valley this year with a \$2,000.00 contribution.

As Heart of Valley grows and continues to touch lives in our community, we are keenly aware that our ministry could not be done without Valley Church's continuous support. We thank our Board of Directors (including Amy Belew, Dusty Timmons and Brenda Wahl), Pastor John and the entire congregation for your help and encouragement – God's love is strong here at Heart of Valley!



Missions

Mission takes many forms at Valley. From the vegetables raised in the Faith Garden, to coats that are donated to North Church, to service opportunities provided for adults, children and youth and so much more. Our mission commission, led by Elder Lois Urban, coordinates these projects that make an impact in our community and around the world.



This year, some of our largest mission efforts focused on addressing hunger and food insecurity, including 1) a night at Edwin's Restaurant in Shaker Heights on February 19 to support this job-training enterprise for the formerly incarcerated; 2) a Food Fight on July 27 in the Valley parking lot where hundreds of pounds of food was donated to stock our local pantries; and 3) a Rise Against Hunger event on November 3 where over 90 volunteers – ages 2 to 94 – packaged 15,000 meals that were eventually delivered to a school and relief camp in Africa.



Special thanks go to the many volunteers who support the Pass-It-On store, a mission of Valley that enables us to do many of these mission projects, as well as providing much-needed resources to many individuals, families and other service providers in our community. These include more than 190 backpacks donated for back-to-school and helping to furnish the apartment of a North Church member transitioning from homelessness. Thanks be to all those who give, and thanks be to God!



The 2019 Mission Budget was allocated as follows:

	\$17,674.00
Mission Pledge to the Wider Church	12,000.00
Chagrin Falls Park Community Center	1,604.66
Dougbe River School	1,584.67
North Presbyterian Church	1,584.67
Community Fund Partnership (United Way)	500.00
Theological Education Fund	400.00

Missions (continued)

Special Offerings, Projects and Non-budgeted Giving:	\$11,696.45
Souper Bowl of Caring	622.40
Blankets Plus (Church World Service)	1,253.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,115.00
Rise Against Hunger	5,140.80
Pentecost Offering	643.00
Peace and Global Witness Offering	272.25
Christmas Joy Offering	861.00
\$5 for Feet and Fingers	135.00
Chili Cook-off	454.00
Dougbe River School Fundraiser	900.00
Spring and Fall Crop Walks (Team Greg)	300.00
Projects funded by Pass It On:	\$7,062.70
Youth Group Mission Trip (Pittsburgh Project)	3,605.18
Edwin's Restaurant Night	2,202.92
Chagrin Falls Park Prom	568.80
Dougbe River School Gala	400.00
Chagrin Falls Park Backpacks	285.80

Membership Report

Membership as of January 1, 2019: **192**

Confirmands	6	
New members	5	
Increase Total		11
Deaths	3	
Transfers of Membership	0	
Decrease Total		3

Membership as of December 31, 2019: **200**

Confirmands:	Will Belew, Bella Bush, Hayden Gallagher, Matthew Louis, Paige Spicuzza, Cooper Timmons (May 5)
New Members:	Dale Cooper, Aprille Laupan, Patty Setlock (April 28), Sara and Dallas Provost (June 16)
Deaths:	Donald Stallneckt (February 15), Paul Heineman (Feb. 22), Margaret Switzer (April 4)
Baptisms:	Bella Bush (May 5), Summer Provost (June 16)
Weddings:	Sadie Poe / Zachary Ledford (May 25)

Annual Budget Summary

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
<u>Revenue:</u>			
Offering	216,600	211,697	220,100
Pass-it-on	4,900	20,849	18,900
Total Revenue	221,500	232,546	239,000
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Pastor salary & benefits	82,870	82,673	83,486
Staff salaries & benefits	53,530	57,518	60,814
Utilities & maintenance	39,400	39,051	45,700
Finance & personnel	9,000	21,532	12,200
Mission	17,200	17,200	17,200
Insurance	10,300	11,231	10,300
Other commissions / expense	9,200	11,337	9,300
Total Expenses	221,500	240,542	239,000
Excess/ (deficit)	\$0	-\$7,996	\$0

Balance Sheet Summary

<u>Assets:</u>	
Cash	101,694
Total Assets	101,694
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balance:</u>	
Liabilities	9,621
Total Liabilities	9,621
Fund balances	
Operating Fund	53,916
Other Fund Balances	38,157
Total Fund Balance	92,073
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	101,694

Telephone: (440) 543-1071
www.valleypresbychurch.org
Office e-mail: valleypc@netlink.net



Staff

Pastor Rev. John Wahl revjohnwahl@netlink.net, Cell: (216) 287-2405
Director of Children, Youth, Family
Ministries Amanda PerryMiller aperrymiller@icloud.com
Office Manager Rebecca Bliss valleypc@netlink.net, Office: (440) 543-1071
Director of Music..... Nancy Sullivan
Organist John Kautzman
Sexton..... Harry Balcer

Heart of Valley Christian Preschool

Director..... Heidi Cregar hovcp@netlink.net, Office: (440) 708-2572