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# the **LINK**

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**FALL  
2025**



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## **Valencia** **Presbyterian Church**

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## FROM THE PASTOR



As I sit at my desk being stressed out over all the things that are out of my control, my dog, Abbie, brings me a rock and drops it at my feet. I am to pick up the rock and toss it for her to chase. I need to be quick, otherwise, she snatches the rock off the floor, does a circle or two, and

again drops the rock. This repeats until I realize that playing with the dog does nothing to solve the world's problems. So, I pick up the rock and put it on my desk. Today I now have a dozen rocks sitting on my desk. And the world still has mostly the same problems. But my stress level has gone down a few points.

As I consider the rocks, I realize that each one is different. Abbie has brought me a black rock, a white rock, a very smooth almost yellow rock, a chunk of limestone which is very rough and a few that seem to be too heavy for her to have carried in her mouth. My guess is that some have come from a riverbed and some from a quarry. But in the end, they are all rocks.

Now I'm not really thinking that God directed Abbie to bring me rocks so as to calm me down or to have me appreciate diversity in rocks. It is true that God has a way of reaching us in surprising ways. I'll let you decide if God speaks to us through our pets. No doubt Abbie would be happy to bring you a rock.

I am sure that God speaks to us every day in many different ways. Our challenge is to put aside the distractions of everyday life and listen for His voice in whatever way He decides to speak to us.

Isaiah 51:1 says, *"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord, look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug."*

We all have our black moments, our bright white moments, our moments when we are smooth and those moments when we are rough - just like the rocks on my desk. But there is never a moment when our load is too heavy for God to carry.

August can be a difficult month. Will it ever rain? Will this heat and humidity never end? Going back to school and the stresses of fitting in for a new year. Lots and lots of thing that are not really under our control, but stress us out nonetheless. If we can keep in mind that God has a plan for us and is watching out for us, we will be OK! He is our rock and Jesus is our redeemer. We need nothing more.

May God Bless You!

*Pastor Tom McMeekin*

### May 20, 2025

- **MSC 8-0** to approve reports of the Session, Treasurer, Deacons and Pastor
- Discussion on expanding our website, social media status and the role of AI in the church. Dan Kennedy and Paul Halenda will explore options.
- **MSC 8-0** to approve looking into QuickBooks training for Paul Halenda, Dana Leskovic and Mike Pasquinelli. Cost would be approximately \$400 for a 1-day session.



### June 17, 2025

- **MSC 8-0** to approve reports of the Session and Treasurer
- Continued discussion on role of AI in ministry.
- Discussion on possibility of Confirmation and New Members Classes.
- **MSC 8-0** to approve Dennis Molnar renting the sanctuary and fellowship hall on 7/12/25 for a memorial service at a rate of \$50 each.

### July 23, 2024

- Meeting cancelled due to conflict with Vacation Bible School

## Back to Church Sunday – September 14<sup>th</sup>



On Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be kicking off our VPC Fall programs such as Kids R.O.C.K., Men's & Women's Bible Studies, and Midweek Meal With A Message (MMWAM). During the worship service on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we ask that all students, teachers, and administrators bring in the backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, etc. for a **Blessing of the Backpacks**.



We are excited to be kicking off another session of

## MIDWEEK MEAL

*with a Message*

on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

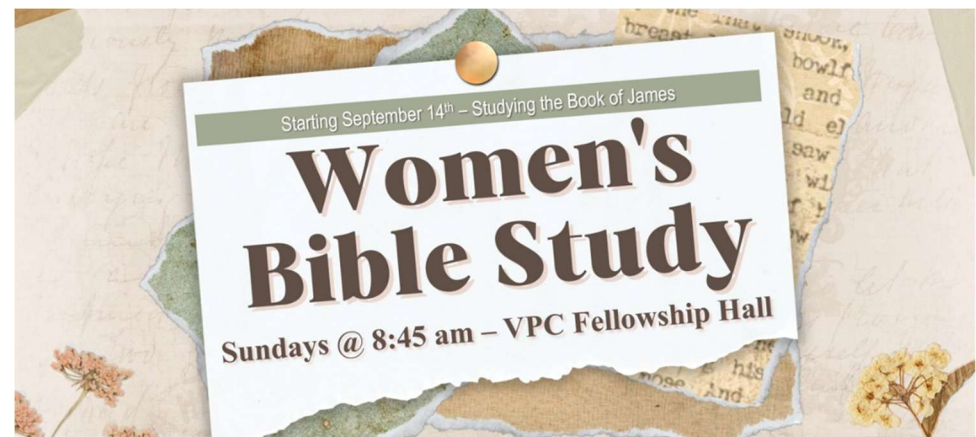
This session we will be focusing on the book of Romans, chapters 1-5. God has a lot to share with all of us through His apostle Paul, so don't miss it.

**Dinner** will be at 6:00 p.m. **Bible Studies\*** begin at 7:00 p.m.

\*All ages welcome. Kids up to grade 8 will stay in the Fellowship Hall. Teens & Adults will meet in the sanctuary.

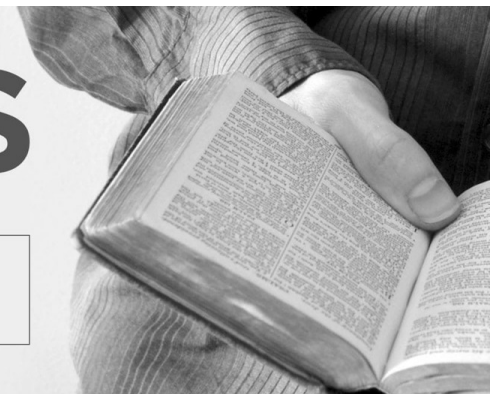
FEED THE BODY

FEED THE SOUL



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

SATURDAYS @ 7:00 am  
VPC Lounge or Zoom  
Contact: Aaron Yurek





## LATEST UPDATES

The **Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC)** has been working hard, searching through profiles of potential pastors in the Presbytery's system. We continue the work with glad hearts and strong minds, continuing our prayers that God will guide and direct us through this process. Please continue your prayers that God will bring us our next pastor soon. We would also like to thank both Pastor Tom and Pastor Jim for their continued work with our congregation. It is much appreciated. Thanks, and God bless.

*Matt McKinley, Chair of the PNC*

Thank you

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped in any way with the **RUMMAGE SALE** this summer. This is a major event for this church and it was very successful again this year. We made approximately \$2000.00. Thank you all for your help and your donations!!!!

It was another successful joint effort between VPC, Mars UP and St. John Lutheran churches to provide **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** for the young members of our community. There were 62 students, 20 preschoolers & 50 volunteers all experiencing what it means to Trust in Jesus.

The mission project this year was to raise money to provide warm clothing for the northern part of the country. Together, we raised \$800. For every \$5 raised, \$70 worth of clothing will be purchased. It is very exciting to help those in need.

The combined church service was very well received with between 100 & 125 people in attendance. It was a beautiful day to share God's love with our community and other churches.

We wish to thank everyone that was involved with this event and are already looking forward to next year!!!



### FALL LUNCHEON Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

11:30am (after worship)  
Fellowship Hall

All are invited!!!

Food, Fun and Pumpkin Painting



### Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## SEPTEMBER

16 Jim Boyce  
16 Karen Lussier  
18 Ruth Wilson  
21 Matt McKinley  
22 Paul Halenda  
23 Karla Gill  
25 Dawn Pasquinelli  
28 Katie Gill  
29 Anne Hays  
29 Lauren Lussier  
29 Maddie Lussier

## OCTOBER

9 Jason Hennessy  
10 Doris Schaeffer  
11 Jill Roda  
19 Juliet Snyder  
21 Anna Mae Farrar  
22 Mary Snow  
29 Steve Fordenbacher

## NOVEMBER

3 Tammy Maihle  
3 Helen Neese  
7 A.J. Snow  
9 Elizabeth Roda  
12 Ken Schultheis  
13 Cadence Gill  
15 John Peterman  
15 Rose Snow  
16 Kierstin Hennessy  
18 Ken Trautman  
24 Jay Maihle  
24 Crystal Yurek  
25 Jonah Snyder  
26 Rev. Gary Weston  
30 Mary Gourley  
30 Nadine Murphy

**SEPTEMBER** Harry and Karen Owens September 2, 1995

Thomas and Shelley Gammell September 11, 1971  
Mike and Karla Gill September 14, 1985  
Ralph and Carla Hardt September 18, 2004  
Dan and Shannon Kennedy September 21, 2013  
Ken and Pat Schultheis September 27, 1975  
Brian and Anne Hays September 3, 2005

**OCTOBER** Doug and Rebecca Mellinger October 16, 2010

**NOVEMBER** John and Rae Anne Bosnyak November 26, 1982