

## ANNOUNCEMENTS | DECEMBER 22, 2021

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | DECEMBER 24

Join the NVFC community at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 24th for our annual Christmas Eve worship celebration. This year we will gather under the covered outdoor pavilion next door at Veritas so please bundle up! We will stand for this short service; however, there will be some seating for those that need it. This is a family-friendly service of singing, reflection, celebration and candle lighting. No childcare provided.

### NO CHILDREN'S STORYTIME THIS WEEK

Emily is on vacation this week and there will not be a storytime this Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.

### LABORATORY IN FAITHFULNESS GROUP INVITATION & JAN 23<sup>RD</sup> MEETING

Recently, on the NVFC Google group, a string of conversations emerged in response to the Kyle Rittenhouse trial. This case was, of course, just one more expression of our deeply divided culture, revealing it is in deep crisis. A litany of issues and concerns confront us, and in my view, often have us emotionally ping-ponging from one to the next. I hear many people express an overwhelming fear that has them feeling paralyzed or consumed by underlying anxiety to “just do something” to make a difference. I’ve heard Friends wonder what faithfulness is in the face of these or even “more simple” challenges—like navigating marriage conflicts, dealing with our dysfunction, and not losing our connection to Christ in all the stress. How do we best work for change? Is there only one way, or are there multiple strategies related to calling, giftedness, and station in life? How do we learn together to walk faithfully in the way of Jesus personally, communally, and in light of our social context?

We have created an optional Google group for all who wish to join an ongoing conversation and regular gathering. I am calling it a Laboratory in Faithfulness. Our initial plan is to have a monthly gathering at the meetinghouse on the fourth Sunday of each month from 6:30pm –8pm. We will use the monthly meeting to learn together by having someone(s) talk with us about a topic, issue, spiritual practice, etc. We will create space for conversation, deep listening in an environment where we can learn to discern how we each, and in some cases, all may be led to respond in action. We will use the Faithfulness Lab Google forum for ongoing discussion throughout the month. It can be a place of mutual encouragement, an avenue to share our leadings, successes, and failures. It will be a space to continue our experiments as we learn to move from conversation to action. One of my hopes for this forum is that we will use it wisely and well, and avoid the pitfalls of so many other social media forums that often become abusive and needlessly divisive. Maybe we can create a place for conversation that allows for honesty, humility, and honoring one another—even when we disagree. Oh, perhaps we can sprinkle in one more h-word—humor—just to keep us from taking ourselves too seriously.

Our first gathering is planned for Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. If you would like to be added to the Faithfulness Lab google forum, send me an email ([colinbsaxton@gmail.com](mailto:colinbsaxton@gmail.com)). ~ Colin

### NOTE FROM CHERICE BOCK | EARTH DAY BOOK STUDY

With the approval of the pastoral team, I wanted to see if others would like to join me (and people from all over Oregon and elsewhere) in reading Randy Woodley's new book this January–April, [Becoming Rooted: 100 Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth](#) (Broadleaf Books). Some of you know Randy, who along with his wife, Edith, runs [Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice](#) in Yamhill, OR, and he teaches at Portland Seminary. Even though we know him personally, he's a nationally sought-after speaker and leader who is a Christian and of Cherokee descent. The 100 days is intended to go from January 13–Earth Day (April 22).

There are a range of ways we could structure this (one or all of these):

- Everyone buy the book and read it on their own
- Gather (virtually or in person) to discuss it weekly or every couple weeks
- Join with the monthly Oregon Interfaith Power & Light [Green Circles](#) I'm facilitating for work, and Randy will be at the gatherings in Jan, Feb, and April (third Tuesdays, 6:30–8pm on Zoom)
- Attend book launch and closing gatherings with Randy on Jan 12 and Apr 22 (livestreamed on Facebook, [follow his author page](#) for info)

I also contributed to a Lenten devotional called *A Grounded Faith: Reconnecting with Creator and Creation in the Season of Lent*, which will be published (digitally and on paper) by Barclay Press, so if people want to just commit to the 40 days of Lent (starting March 2), this is designed as a companion to the book, something to read as a spiritual practice as we journey toward Easter. There will be bulk ordering options for the Lenten devotional, so can you let me know if you would want one so I can gauge interest? (Leslie suggests we buy a chunk of them so people can purchase one if they can, or just pick one up if money would be an obstacle to participation, I just want to know about how many we should order.)

I know we're in Advent right now (not Lent), but I wanted to see if there's interest in this at North Valley! You can just [sign up to attend the monthly gatherings](#) I'm already facilitating, or let me know your interest and we can form a North Valley group to read and discuss the book and its implications. ~ Cherice (chericebock@gmail.com)

### **GATHERED WORSHIP HYBRID IN PERSON (AND ON ZOOM)**

We are meeting in person on Sunday mornings and on zoom for those who need to stay home. We are committed to finding ways to make our hybrid model as connective as possible. In order to keep each other safe as we gather we are expecting that we will honor these shared values:

- ❖ We expect that we will all wear masks the entire time we are inside.
- ❖ We will have people sit in small family groups/pods with space between groups. We expect children to stay with their family groups, we will not have children's programming for the time being.
- ❖ We hope that people would find their spot and generally stay there during meeting.
- ❖ We expect that the community can agree that adults who come should be vaccinated.
- ❖ We expect that people would not come if they AND/OR any family members they live with are having any COVIDish symptoms.
- ❖ No eating or drinking in the building.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

- ❖ Youth group will meet masked inside the main lobby of Wayside with front awning doors open each Wednesday (except December. 22/29 & Jan 5) through March 16th. MS - 6:15-7:15pm ~ HS - 7:30-8:30pm
- ❖ Dec. 30th, New Years Eve party at Wayside, 12-2 with pizza and white elephant gift exchange.

<b><u>2021-2022 Budget (July-Jun) General Fund Tithes and Offering</u></b>	
Donations are accepted at <a href="http://northvalleyfriends.org">northvalleyfriends.org</a>	
Need more info? E-mail Ceress Sanders at <a href="mailto:ceress.sanders@gmail.com">ceress.sanders@gmail.com</a>	
<b><u>December 2021</u></b> Budgeted Tithes/Offerings:	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
December 2021 Tithes/Offerings Received through 12.19.21	<b>\$23,668.20</b>
Percent of Month's Projected Tithes/Offerings Received:	<b>78.89%</b>
<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b> Budgeted Tithes/Offerings To Date (July-Nov 2021):	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
Tithes/Offerings Received To Date(July-Nov 2021):	<b>\$93,008.50</b>
Percent of Budget/Offerings Received (July-Nov 2021):	<b>93.01%</b>
<b>Emergency/Benevolent Fund Balance:</b>	<b>\$4,850.76</b>