

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JANUARY 12, 2022

Dear North Valley Community,

On behalf of the Elders and in a joint effort with the Youth Council, I (Forrest Cammack) want to invite you to **celebrate Sammy Sanders with us on Sunday, January 30th**, which will be his last Sunday as our youth pastor. We want to honor the work that he has done during his four plus years of ministry here, and will be sending him off with some sort of baked treat, words of affirmation, prayer, and well wishes.

I don't think Sammy realized that he was playing match-maker when he invited Emily and I to a youth retreat in May of 2017, but we like to give him at least partial credit for setting us up. Sammy, Ceress and Luna have been an important part of our life together. Sammy presided over the ceremony at our wedding, and then Sammy and Ceress graciously let us live in their home for the first two years of our marriage, and I have really grown to appreciate them both. I also gained an appreciation of a good Kansas barbecue, and sweet tea. Sammy has the rare ability to be both thoughtful and playful at the same time. He cares deeply about people and is gifted at making deep and meaningful connections seemingly effortlessly. He draws people in with his playful, self-deprecating humor and his insistence on being nothing but his authentic self.

Sammy, I think I speak on behalf of all the Elders when I say that we really wish we could tell you that we don't accept your resignation. We respect the fact that you have to do what is best for you, but we want you to hear, loud and clear, that you will be sorely missed. This last Sunday we had our first Elders meeting since receiving your resignation and it was pretty clear to all of us how valuable your ministry has been to this community. You have created a safe space for our youth in which they can be their authentic selves, and you have invited them in with your warmth. You have disarmed them (and the rest of us) with your snarky refusal to take yourself seriously, and have created many opportunities for our young people to ask hard questions about life and faith and the intersection of the two. You have built valuable relationships with all of us, and walked with us through some really tough times. We love and appreciate you very much.

I hate goodbyes. They are awkward and stupid and bring up feelings that I don't like to feel, like the feeling of grief. I feel grief that you are leaving us Sammy. I think we all do. You are much loved, and you will be missed. Sincerely -Forrest

CITIZENSHIP CLASS INSTRUCTORS AND ASSISTANTS: SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Unidos Bridging Community and Lutheran Community Services are calling for volunteers to facilitate their bi-annual citizenship course. This is an important program to our immigrant community and neighbors and they have been able to successfully host the classes virtually during the pandemic. However, they are critically low on volunteers to facilitate this upcoming course and would love to connect with interested community members to support this program with their time.

Unidos and LCSNW are reaching out to invite you to volunteer as a teacher or assistant for the upcoming session of **virtual citizenship classes, beginning 31 Jan 2022 at 6:30pm via zoom**. Spanish language skills are not required. Teaching experience is not required. Minimum commitment 90-120 min per week (one class with possible prep-time). The course will be from 31 Jan-14 March. The first session will be a student orientation with classes subsequently beginning, teaching 10 chapters. In addition, there will be a special presentation from Lutheran Community Services NW to provide students a detailed overview of the application process and a graduation ceremony. The available roles are: Lead teacher (requires one past session as an assistant), Assistant (everyone welcome), Tech support/assistant (anyone tech savvy!)

We will be hosting a **volunteer orientation/training on Wednesday, January 12th at 6pm (TONIGHT)**.

This training is required for new volunteers and encouraged for returning. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81310135221?pwd=MWlrdmhMdUdCemk4TWdkSCt2T0NrUT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1013 5221 Passcode: 131251

If you are interested in joining us, please email jordan@unidosyamhillcounty.org and holdmann@gmail.com. Let us know which day works best for you (Mon/Wed). You are welcome to do both if you would like!

MLK DAY CELEBRATION | JANUARY 17

An event commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the Chehalem Cultural Center on Monday, January 17. Bryce Coefield is one of the MC's for this event. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., the program with the theme "The Time is Always Right" begins at 6:00 p.m. Live Spanish interpretation and sign language interpreting will be provided. Preregistration is required for live audience. You can also live stream the event. See the flyer in the meeting house foyer for more information.

LABORATORY IN FAITHFULNESS GROUP INVITATION & JAN 23RD MEETING

A litany of issues and concerns confront us, and in my view, often have us emotionally ping-ponging from one to the next. 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 Faithfulness Lab Google forum for ongoing discussion throughout the month. 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 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. Our first gathering is planned for **Sunday, January 23rd at 6:30 pm**. If you would like to be added to the Faithfulness Lab google forum, send me an email (colinbsaxton@gmail.com). ~ Colin

NOTE FROM CHERICE BOCK | EARTH DAY BOOK STUDY

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). 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.) 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.

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME ON SUNDAYS

Emily is hosting a Google meet story time for children on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Join with others for a circle-time like check-in over Google Meet and a story together. [Google Meet LINK HERE](#). If you have any questions, please email Emily Cammack! Emily@northvalleyfriends.org

YOUTH GROUP

No middle school or high school youth group TONIGHT, Wednesday, January 12. Covid has swirled-up and we feel the need to hold off this week. After tonight, youth group will still continue on Wednesday nights unless otherwise communicated. We meet masked inside the main lobby of Wayside Friends Church with the front awning doors open. Youth group meets each Wednesday through March 16th. MS - 6:15-7:15pm ~ HS - 7:30-8:30pm. The weekly hang time for high school students is back on its regular schedule, 4-5 pm on Tuesdays at Francis Square.

Looking ahead:

***Jan. 25 - Memorial Park 4-5:30, MS and HS**, Sammy's favorite things theme. We will have some of Sammy's favorite treats. Dress for whatever the weather says and come hang out for the "hangtime all-play."

* **July 11-16(ish) - MS and HS camp at Suttle Lake**

<u>2021-2022 Budget (July-Jun) General Fund Tithes and Offering</u>	
Donations are accepted at northvalleyfriends.org	
Need more info? E-mail Ceress Sanders at ceress.sanders@gmail.com	
<u>January 2022</u> Budgeted Tithes/Offerings:	\$20,000.00
January 2022 Tithes/Offerings Received through 1.9.22	\$5,817.20
Percent of Month's Projected Tithes/Offerings Received:	29.09%
<u>Fiscal Year</u> Budgeted Tithes/Offerings To Date (July-Dec 2021):	\$130,000.00
Tithes/Offerings Received To Date(July-Dec 2021):	\$124,106.70
Percent of Budget/Offerings Received (July-Dec 2021):	95.47%
Emergency/Benevolent Fund Balance:	\$4,940.76