



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday, September 24, 2023

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# GATHERING US IN

## PRELUDE

*Blessed Assurance* Rachel Williams, piano  
Phoebe Knapp, arr. Victor Labenske

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

## GATHERING MUSIC

*I Surrender All*  
Henry Malan, arr. Bill Wolaver

## OPENING SENTENCES

Erin Kopischke & Becky Grosshuesch

## HYMN #31

*Let Us With a Gladsome Mind* (verses 1-3)

*Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind:  
for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.*

*God, with all-commanding might, filled the new-made world with light:  
for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.*

*All things living God does feed; with full measure, meets their need:  
for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon

Dear God, We say we will live to serve others, but often we end up only meeting our needs. When we are out in public or on the job, we often leave our faith at home behind locked doors. As we live out our faith, we ask you to forgive us when we act and speak in ways that do not reflect your love for us or for others.

How can we grumble when we have pledged to follow you? How can we complain when we know you are the one who reaches out to us in love and grace? We ask for your kind compassion as we find our way in the world of work and everyday challenges. Help us to be faithful disciples and ready to share your love with those we meet in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening. May all that we do carry compassion to the hurting, and those in need of daily bread. Amen.

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

## RESPONSE TO THE GOOD NEWS #441

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

## HEARING THE WORD

### TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

Congregational Blessing: You are God's beloved child.  
With you God is well pleased.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*He Leadith Me* Valley Hand Bells  
William Bradbury, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 20: 1-16

### SERMON

*Blessed Beyond Our Wildest Dreams* Rev. Richard Buller

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN #649

*Amazing Grace* (verses 1 & 4)  
*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.*  
*The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Peace and Global Witness*

Jan Sacco

### OFFERTORY

*Mountain Spring*  
Sondra Tucker

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God of abundant care, we give because we can. We serve because it is our call. We are thankful for this community of faith that inspires us, wherever we are, to witness to your son who calls us to love. In the name of Jesus, bless our offerings, bless our lives, and help us to bless others through our generous giving. Amen.

## SENDING US OUT

HYMN #716    *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (verses 1 & 2)

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                      *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*  
                                        Frederick Atkinson, arr. Mark Hayes

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

# Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Rev. Rebecca Tollefson** who is at Unity Hospital with lung complications.

Prayers for **Valerie Robinson** who will have knee surgery on Sept 28.

Prayers for **Shirley Toering** who is recovering at home from surgery she had Sept 11 to remove a section of her colon. She is thankful for all the prayers from her Valley family.

Prayers for **Charlotte Davnie** who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will have surgery on October 17.

Prayers for **Mary Roback** who will have shoulder surgery Sept 27.

Prayers for **Doug Smith** who is finally home after 4 months of rehab.

Continued prayers for **Lisa Kummer** whose last CT scan was stable and some of the cancerous nodes even shrunk! Lisa will continue her chemotherapy.  
Click [HERE](#) to visit Lisa's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** as he is set to start the clinical trial Sept 26. It will be a long day, but we feel our hope being fanned a bit by this opportunity. It's a bit unsettling, and full of so many unknowns. But, we are grateful we have something to do/try. We never expected to be grateful for the opportunity to participate in the beginning stages of a clinical trial. This roller coaster of life is quite the ride.  
Click [HERE](#) to visit Taichi's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Rick Carlson** as he continues to exercise, working on building strength and balance while waiting for a new heart and kidney donation.  
Click [HERE](#) to visit Rick's Caring Bridge site.

## EASY WAYS TO GIVE TO VALLEY AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GIVE ONE TIME OR RECURRING

### 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK TO VALLEY

- In the memo of the check, indicate what your donation is for (i.e. Pledge, PRISM, etc.)

### 2. ONLINE GIVING

- Visit Valley's secured online giving by clicking [HERE](#) to make a one-time or recurring gift to Valley or our community partners.

RECURRING GIFTS: Sign in, or create a new account.

ONE-TIME GIFTS: Click "[Quick Give](#)" to send a one-time gift.

### 3. AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

- Contact Chelsie Larsen: 507-272-1914 | [chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) to set up withdrawals directly from your account.  
You can always adjust the amount.

# This Week at Valley

**Sunday, September 24**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Adult Ed

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

6:00 pm Beatles Sing-Along

**Monday, September 25**

6:30 pm Session Meeting

**Tuesday, September 26**

6:30 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal

**Wednesday, September 27**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 28**

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

**Friday, September 29**

**Saturday, September 30**

1:00 pm Valley Brew Crew

**Sunday, October 1**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**With Communion**

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Adult Ed

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

A special thank you to our  
Worship Team, especially Katie  
Decker, Myron Jones, Larry  
Johnson, Joel Larsen, Janet  
Triplett, Brandon Novy, and  
Roger Graphenteen for  
broadcasting the services.

# Valley Staff

## Ministers

All 414 members of this  
congregation.

## Pastor

Rev. Richard D. Buller

## Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon

## Office Administrator

William Glasper

## Program & Communications Coordinator

Mariah Messer

## Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

## Hand Bell Choir Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

## Sunshine Room Leader

James Decker

## Custodian

Hunter Sheldon

## PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Jim Cook

Rev. Bill Davnie

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau

Rev. David Phillips

Rev. Nancy Phillips

Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

Rev. Aron Wilterding

## SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

September 17: 259 (103 in-person)

September 10: 313 (140 in-person)



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | September 24 | 11:00 AM

THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT

We are the reformed church, always reforming and that means things change from time to time. **Sheila Sheldon** will share about the new things happening with education ministries and answer any questions you might have. Then she'll present Valley's new website and give a tour of where to find commonly searched content. Finally, two of our newest Parish Associates, Nancy Phillips and Rebecca Tollefson, will join us to share a little more about themselves, what they are doing now, and what they look forward to in the future.

**Hosted in The Cornerstone Room**

## PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

**Blessed are those who seek to make peace in home, community, and world.**



**25% of the Peace & Global Witness Offering will be retained locally to support Valley's commitment to end domestic violence.** Our partner in this effort, **Home Free**, provides a safe shelter for victims – adults and children – while the issue of violence is being addressed. Family and community education efforts seek to create both awareness of the issue and ways it can be faced and eradicated.

Your support of this special offering will provide critical assistance. Mark contributions by check or online with one word: **PEACE**. **May this act of love bring you great joy!**

# BEATLES SING-ALONG FUNDRAISER AT VALLEY

## SEPT 24 | 6-8 PM

FEATURING DAN CHIOUNARD

In celebration of Andy Westerlund's 64th birthday,  
sing along to your favorite Beatles songs.  
Each song will raise funds for a different charity  
(PRISM, Crisis Nursery, Clare Terrace ).

## Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 1:00-6:00 PM

ANDREW & BECCA PITAN'S HOUSE  
REFERENCE YOUR DIRECTORY

### IT'S CIDER TIME

Bring apples, pears, peeling & cutting equipment.

### POTLUCK & BBQ

Pitans will provide brats, hot dogs, and s'mores.  
Feel free to bring sides and snacks to share.  
Beverages of all kinds, and kids welcome!

CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS:

763 438 2476 | [j\\_perry3@yahoo.com](mailto:j_perry3@yahoo.com)





# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | October 1 | 11:00 AM

LOOKING INWARD, LOOKING OUTWARD, BEING A FRIEND

October is Mental Health Awareness month. In this class we'll learn how diagnosed conditions such as anxiety and depression are on a continuum with the everyday sadness and worry that appear at times in everyone's lives. We'll also talk about friendship and walking with people through the difficult times.

**Rev. Nancy Phillips** is an ordained clergyperson in the Reformed Church of America and worked for the church in the areas of ecumenism & women's issues. She is also a licensed clinical social worker and served as an individual/family therapist in the Fairview clinic system.

**Hosted in The Cornerstone Room**

## VALLEY'S ANNUAL ORCHARD DAY

OCTOBER 7  
10:00AM-2:00PM  
\*LUNCH @ 11:30 AM

### AFTON APPLE ORCHARDS

14421 90th St S,  
Hastings, MN 55033

Includes: orchard admission, hayrides,  
family activities & hotdog or brat combo



\$7  
person





# VCPC CHOIR

VALLEY IS EXCITED TO ENJOY OUR  
CHOIR AGAIN ON SELECT SUNDAYS!

Sunday, Oct. 1 | Rehearsal Sept. 27

Sunday, Oct. 22 | Rehearsal Oct. 18

Sunday, Nov. 5 | Rehearsal Nov. 1

Sunday, Nov. 19 | Rehearsal Nov. 15



Wednesday rehearsals will be held on the  
Wednesday the same week before the Sundays above.

## THESE DAYS

*Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*



OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | 2023

Physical copies of *These Days* can be mailed upon request.

Contact the office: [office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net) | 763 588 0831

# Happy Birthday Valley Family!

9/1 Frankline Nyongkah	9/17 Evonne Kirchenwitz
9/2 Martin Buller	9/18 Jeffrey Lund
9/3 Lennox Mead	9/21 SuAnn Bygd
9/6 Alan Wold	9/21 Mark Freeman
9/9 Aaron Craven	9/22 James Decker
9/9 Arnold Schellhaas	9/23 Jameson Johannsen
9/10 Pius Nti	9/25 Tom Jenson
9/10 Jeff Soltau	9/26 Mariah Messer
9/12 Hayden Gautsche	9/26 Andrew Westerlund
9/12 Claire Reinert	9/26 Helmut Winter
9/13 Pete Messer	9/27 Peter Brant
9/13 Christine Phelan	9/28 Paul Minter
9/14 Jonathan Schellhaas	9/28 Emily Steffel
9/15 Ted Arneson	9/29 Sarah Gonsior
9/16 Steve Bauer	9/29 Deborah Poynter
9/16 Katie Decker	9/30 Jennifer Biggs
9/16 Gwen Rouleau	9/30 Bellinda Nti





# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

**—Established May 20, 1951—**

## Land Acknowledgement Statement

Valley Community Presbyterian Church sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.

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Phone Ministry: 763-220-1455



Scan to give online!