

THE VALLEY

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



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www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **2023 Plastic Free Challenge - Join Team VCPC! (page 9)**
- Women's Winter Chrysalis | Feb. 24-26 | Registration Opens January 1 (page 7)
- **New Members Class - January 7 | 10 AM - 12 PM (pages 3, 5)**
- Youth & TEAMS Holiday Party- January 8 | 4 PM - 6 PM (page 9)
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 5)**
 - Friday, January 13 @ 7 PM - Gail Olszewski (piano) & Julie Johnson (flute)
- **Craft-A-Thon Retreat - January 28 | 10 AM - 6 PM (page 6)**
- Rev. Richard Buller 20th Anniversary Celebration - Sunday, January 29 (page 10)
- **Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-10)**

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Habitat For Humanity Work Day - January 16 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM (pages 6)**
- Paint-A-Bowl Souper Sunday for Empty Bowls - January 22 | 11:00 AM Fellowship Hall (page 6)
- **SAVE THE DATE Empty Bowls Event - March 7, 2023**
- Refugee Task Force Update about the Karwan Family (page 8)
- Silab needs behind the wheel driving experience! Please talk to Jan Sacco or Arlene Freeberg if you can help with this need.
- **PTCA Anti-Racism Task Force Update/Opportunities (page 8)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers - call the Church Office if you can volunteer

A Letter From The Pastor

JANUARY 2023

Dear Valley Family,

As we look beyond the Christmas Holiday into the new year of 2023, I feel so very grateful for all we have accomplished together. To have the sanctuary filling up with families and children has brought a special spark to worship together.



Rev. Richard Buller

Our Christmas Pageant was a wonderful demonstration of how children can bring joy to the season. Seeing our littlest ones dressed as parts of the story reminded all of us of our call to teach our children these important Bible Stories and their meaning for today.

Then we had our music Sunday with the rich traditions of holiday music. Our extended musical team means that many participants were able to bring us such joy! Our choir, the bells, the organ, the strings, and our soloist all inspired us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Eve included a full complement of children participating in speaking parts and the Children's sermon. Their energy and joy were surely contagious. So many of you made it a point to thank our speakers who read with confidence and poise. Because our sanctuary was so full, I believe we will be able to offer a 9:30 pm service next year. By live-streaming the 4:30 pm service for use throughout the holiday, our Stream team will be able to take a break from having to be present again to record a second service.

Looking forward to January, I am very excited about a new Member's class on Saturday January 7th at 10:00 am. We will take in the group to membership the following day in worship.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we will be ordaining and installing our new deacons and elders.

Then on the holiday Monday, January 16th, we will participate in a day of service as we lend a hand to a local Habitat for Humanity House from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Valley kids did a wonderful job telling and acting out the Christmas Story during the Christmas Pageant.



Following worship on January 22, the Educational Ministries Team invites you to attend a Paint A Bowl event in Fellowship Hall where you'll have an opportunity to enjoy a bowl of soup and Paint-A-Bowl to donate to the March 7th Empty Bowls Event to help fight hunger in our greater community.

On January 28 there will be a special crafting day as members gather to share their creative skills and enjoy fellowship together. It is wonderful that these kinds of events are once again a possibility.

Finally, on January 29, the session is planning a celebration for my 20 years of serving this wonderful congregation as your pastor. This will also be a chance for me to say thank you to all of you for all your energy and participation in the mission of this church. We have had a wonderful partnership through the years and Valley has continued to be a vibrant church full of committed Christians! I look forward to all that lies ahead!

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your kind greetings this Christmas and I wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Remember you are loved,
Richard

*Join us
for
worship!*

Sundays
at 9:30 AM

or anytime on our
YouTube Channel

We are worshipping in-person and via live-stream.

WORSHIP SERVICE OVERVIEW.

- At this time under CDC guidance, masks are optional and available at the entrances. Anyone who is sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or has had a positive test or recent exposure, should worship from home.
- Offering and Prayer Request cards are once again being collected by an usher during the service.
- The Nursery is always available with a TV to watch the service for parents whose little ones need a break.
- Activity Bags and Children's Bulletins are available in the Narthex. Sunshine Room is staffed for children 3 and up.

Valley Connects- December 2022



Christmas Pageant



Christmas Music Sunday



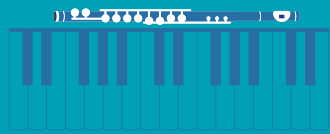
PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Valley



FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY PRESENTS:



Gail Olszewski (piano)
Julie Johnson (flute)

JANUARY 13, 2023 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LIBERTY CHURCH HEALING SPACE

- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 | 7:00 pm
FRIDAY, MARCH 10 | 7:00 pm
10th Wave Chamber Collective
FRIDAY, APRIL 14 | 7:00 pm
Incidental Trio
FRIDAY, MAY 12 | 7:00 pm
Flutespiration

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

VCPC CHOIR

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

Sunday, January 15
Sunday, January 29

Sunday, February 5
Sunday, February 26

Rehearsals on
Wed. 7:00 pm



Wednesday rehearsals will be
held only on the Wednesday
before the Sundays above.

NEW MEMBER CLASS 2023

Saturday, January 7
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Contact Rev. Richard Buller
richard.buller@valleychurch.net
763-588-0831

Valley
Community
Presbyterian Church

Valley 2023 Photo Directory

By Feb 28: Email William your updated
contact information and an updated
photo by Tuesday, February 28 to
william.glasper@valleychurch.net

By March: Completed photo directories
will be available March 2023.

Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY, FEB 11 | 1:00-6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

**More details to follow
in the New Year!**



If you would like to be added to
the email list or have questions about
Brew Crew, Jay Perry is who you need to talk to!

CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS:
763 438 2476 | j_perry3@yahoo.com

January in the Valley



Fridays in the Valley

DATE: Friday, 1/13 | TIME: 7:00 PM

The January Fridays in the Valley concert will feature Gail Olszewski on piano and Julie Johnson on the flute. Their performance is sure to make for a delightful evening of music at Valley! The free-will offering will benefit the Liberty Church Northside Healing Space.

Habitat for Humanity

DATE: Monday, 1/16 | TIME: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

LOCATION: 3504 Elm Lane, Minnetonka, 55305

Honor the memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in a day of service with Habitat for Humanity. We are looking for 12 volunteers to help with various construction projects. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and get your hands dirty! Contact Andrew Pitan or the Valley Office with questions.

Empty Bowls Supporting PRISM & NEAR Food shelves

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

Time and Location: Coming Soon!

The 13th Annual Empty Bowls event will once again take place to support local food shelves here in the Golden Valley area. More details coming in February!

Handbell & Choir Rehearsal

The Bell choir rehearses on **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** and will play once a month during worship.

The Valley Choir will rehearse on **Wednesday, 1/11 & 1/25 at 7 pm**. They sing twice each month during worship. Participants are welcome to join both choirs weekly as they are able. No experience necessary!

Paint-A-Bowl Souper Sunday

DATE: Sunday, 1/22 | TIME: 11:00 AM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship to paint a bowl for the upcoming Empty Bowls fundraiser. A suggested donation of \$10 per bowl will cover material costs, and any additional revenue & all bowls will be donated to the event. Paint a bowl then stay to enjoy a bowl of soup and bread, provided by the Educational Ministries Team. **Sign-up here** to reserve your spot!

Valley Crafting Retreat

DATE: Saturday, 1/28 | TIME: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Adults, do you like to craft but never have time to do it? Have projects you've started but never finished? **Come to our first ever Craft-A-thon where you can spend the day crafting without distractions!** While you craft enjoy the company of new and old Valley friends. Don't have a craft? No worries, there will be make/take stations for you too! Crafting not your thing? Come for fellowship or bring a book and catch up on your reading. **Cost: FREE! Sign up here!** Meals will be Potluck Style. *some make/takes will have a suggested donation.



Clearwater Forest Women's Chrysalis Retreat 2023

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

In 1984, 39 years ago, Clearwater Chrysalis was first called Clearwater Forest's Women's Health and Fitness Camp. Women exercised the entire weekend and ate only super healthy food. Thus, the Sunday tradition of stopping at Dairy Queen on the way home began!

Camp, like a chrysalis, has metamorphosed over time. Winter Chrysalis is a cozy time to relax and enjoy Minnesota's wonder and beauty. February camp is a two night event that invites women to slow down, enjoy conversation and try a few new things.

While there is still exercise at camp, it is balanced with other activities. The weekend program is designed to address body, mind, and spirit. There is a saying at camp – "Do as much or as little as you wish". This winter, in addition to our speaker, Reverend Chris Bellefeuille, drop in crafts, yoga and a special Saturday night entertainment, six workshops will be offered – Book Discussion, Walk into Nature, Cookie Flooding, Women of the Bible, Mixed Art Project, and Gardening with Native Plants. Women are able to choose two of these experiences.



“And into the woods I go, to lose my mind and find my soul.
~ John Muir



Women's Health and Fitness Camp - 1984



Valley Girls Winter 2019

The best part of Chrysalis is the beautiful women who attend. Some gals have been to almost every camp since it began. Friendships are made and bonds are created. Women of all ages attend; this adds to insightful, thought provoking conversations and relationships. Valley has always had the biggest contingency of women – we smugly call ourselves, "Valley Girls".

Women have mentioned that they don't see how they step out of their daily lives to attend camp. Once they experience Chrysalis, women go home stronger, happier and more energized. Taking time for yourself is the greatest gift you can give yourself and those around you.

Article and photos
submitted by
Barb Wasmoen

Mark Your Calendar!

FEBRUARY 24-26, 2023

Theme: Psalms as a Way Forward

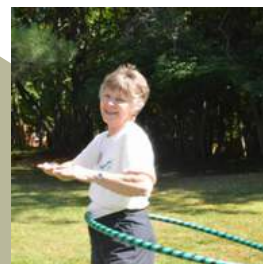
with special guest speaker Pastor Christine Bellefeuille

Workshops: book discussion, Women of the Bible, spring planting, nature walk, cookie flooding, art/mixed media, and more!

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1, 2023

visit <https://clearwaterforest.org/retreats/>

Save the date: Summer Chrysalis Aug.17-20, 2023



Immigrant Task Force Update



The Karwans, our sponsored family from Afghanistan, continue to make progress in their goals of assimilation into American culture. **Silab hopes to take his drivers license test this winter, and we continue to ask for volunteers who will ride along with him as he practices driving.**

Mina cares for her children and anticipates the birth of her third child this winter. Like so many families, they have experienced medical challenges, with trips to the clinic because of common illnesses. **They are now connected with a medical social worker to help them learn to navigate medical concerns.**

The Karwans are very grateful for everything that our Valley community has done for them. Silab expressed his gratitude recently, after he was able to select toys for his children at the PRISM holiday shop.

Silab is eager to move forward in his application for asylum, and he has long-term goals of US citizenship. He pays close attention to the news about legislation that will support the concerns of refugees and asylum-seekers. He mentions frequently that **he is disappointed that Congress keeps "canceling" the Afghan Adjustment Act because they don't think it's important.** He needs reassurance that, because they have legal documents and an attorney tracking their case, they are safe for now and will not be deported.

Several of our team members have signed petitions and sent letters to the president and to legislators. But more needs to be done because many lawmakers mistakenly believe that people like Silab and his father who risked their security and were promised by the US military that they would be protected pose a risk to the US! Silab has State Department documents verifying his status, and **it is time for lawmakers to hear from more of us.**

Update and photo submitted by Jan Sacco



PTCA Anti-Racism Task Force

**Looking for a way to continue anti-racism work?
Here's an opportunity coming up in January.**

Want to take the next faithful step with your antiracism journey? The Anti-Racism Task Force is inviting you to show your interest in a pilot antiracist accountability small group for January 2023. If there's further interest, we may be able to open up more cohorts later in the year!

Learn more about the groups HERE: <https://rb.gy/f9ddth>

... and check out the original post that goes with this artwork from antiracism educator Danielle Coke on Instagram: <https://rb.gy/o8eipv>

Interested in additional resources to further your anti-racism work? Check out the Center for Learning and Neighborhood Engagement!

According to their website, CLNE partners with community organizations to provide access to coaching, training, programming and immersion experiences that teach cultural competency and how to engage neighbors through asset-based community development.

Visit their website (<https://www.clne-mn.org/>) to learn more about CLNE programs such as the **Healing Our City Virtual Prayer Tent**, the **Come Together for Racial Justice** monthly virtual meeting, and more!



The Valley Education Corner



We Are On Winter Break!

Thank you to our AMAZING volunteers that support the programs for our children and youth.

We will resume Sunday afternoon programming on February 26th.

Monday Faith Formation Emails will continue during winter break.

Adult Education 2023

Plans for the spring schedule are underway. A complete course list with class descriptions will be available in the February Newsletter.

Classes will resume February 26 - May 21 and will meet in the Cornerstone Room at 11 AM unless otherwise noted.

We will be offering a **hybrid-virtual** option for people to join the class live, the link will be shared in the **Friday email each week**. Classes will be recorded and shared on YouTube as we are able.

✓ FOOD ✓ FUN ✓ UGLY SWEATER

YOUTH & TEAMS HOLIDAY PARTY!

Who: Youth Group/TEAMS + Families Welcome
 When: **Sunday, January 8 | 4-6 PM**
 What: Ugly Sweater Contest, Games, Food & Fun!
 *Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

RSVP by January 4, 2023

Valley's
Sustainability
 Group
JANUARY 2023
CHALLENGE

Take Action For Our Planet!

Plastic Free in 2023!

Hennepin County is hosting a Plastic Free Challenge in 2023. Take the challenge and join the VCPC Team! Look for more info in a special email on January 2.

Team Contact: Carolyn Anderson

FROM THE VALLEY LIBRARY



What's New? Puzzles and Games!

Looking for something to do while staying warm at home? Stop by the Valley Library and borrow a puzzle or a game! We have games and puzzles for every skill level. It's easy just pick one out, take it home to enjoy and when you're done bring it back.

Enjoy reading? We recently updated our shelves and we have a variety of books for all ages and interests. You can find everything from beginning readers, children's books, classic novels, social justice topics, faith, wellness and more.

Have something you'd like to donate? Talk to Carolyn Anderson or Sheila Sheldon.





On behalf of Valley Community Presbyterian Church's Personnel Committee, you are formally invited to join us for a celebration of Rev. Richard Buller's 20th anniversary as Teaching Elder and Head of Staff at Valley!!

We will be celebrating on January 29, 2023 at 9:30 AM during worship and afterward starting at 10:30 AM in our Fellowship Hall.

If you are unable to attend, we would be more than happy to take a message from you that we can share with Richard on the big day. If you really want to get creative, you can send a video that we can share during service or fellowship! And if you have any pictures you would be willing to share of Richard, we'd take those too for a slideshow we're building.

Messages and pictures can be sent to office@valleychurch.net. Thank you!

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF *Pastor Richard?*

On January 29, 2023 we will be celebrating 20 years of teaching, insights, encouragement, love and laughs with Rev. Richard Buller!

Do you have photos of Rev. Richard that you would like to contribute to the celebration?

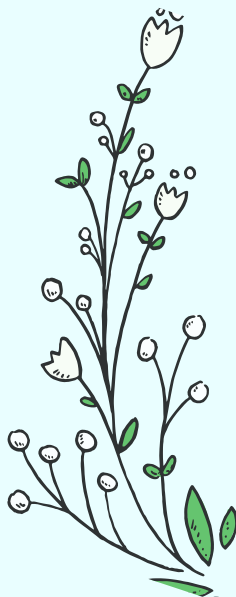
Email your photos to
office@valleychurch.net by
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15



BIRTHDAYS

1/2 Kerrie Deef
 1/2 Alannah McCarthy
 1/4 David Kopischke
 1/4 Kurt Wheeler
 1/6 Rev. Aron Wilterding
 1/7 Matt Barbero
 1/8 Sammuel Decker
 1/8 William Gonsior
 1/8 Chuck Meyer
 1/9 Andrew Desarmeaux
 1/10 Janette Gove
 1/10 Gerald Kramer
 1/10 Nanette Sears
 1/11 Ashley Bi
 1/11 Karen Ripley
 1/11 Keri Wasmoen
 1/12 Susan League

1/15 Samantha Schellhaas
 1/17 Joseph Sears
 1/18 Aurora Brooker
 1/20 Richard Sauter
 1/20 Ken Smith Jr.
 1/22 Andy Freeman
 1/22 Hunter Sheldon
 1/23 Roy Michael
 1/25 Thomas Davison
 1/26 Adam Chancellor
 1/26 Rev. Deborah Fortel
 1/26 Rev. David Sawyer
 1/26 Tom Wasmoen
 1/28 Lois Berhow
 1/28 Dennis Hinkle
 1/28 Jonathan Marshall
 1/28 Diane McCunn
 1/28 Cameron Smith
 1/29 Diane Cook
 1/29 Zack Gore
 1/30 Ziggy Barbero
 1/30 Sadie Macias
 1/30 Arianna Slack
 1/31 Susie Potter



CALENDAR

Join us for coffee and donuts on Sundays following Worship in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, January 1 - Happy New Year!

9:30 am Worship Service
Sheila Sheldon preaching

Monday, January 2

11:30 am Lunch Bunch at 50's Grill

Tuesday, January 3

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Thursday, January 5

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, January 7

10:00 am New Member Class

Sunday, January 8

9:30 am Worship Service with Communion
Reception of New Members

Baptism of Frankline Nyongkah

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Holiday Party

Tuesday, January 10

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, January 13

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, January 15

9:30 am Worship Service
Ordination and Installation of Church Officers

Monday, January 16 - Valley Office CLOSED

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

8:30 am Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Tuesday, January 17

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Thursday, January 19

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, January 22

9:30 am Worship Service
Rev. Jeff Japinga preaching

11:00 am Paint-A-Bowl Souper Sunday

Monday, January 23

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, January 24

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 25

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 26

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, January 28

10:00 am Crafting Retreat at Valley

Sunday, January 29

9:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday, January 31

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Valley Community

Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God



VCPC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

VCPC 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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