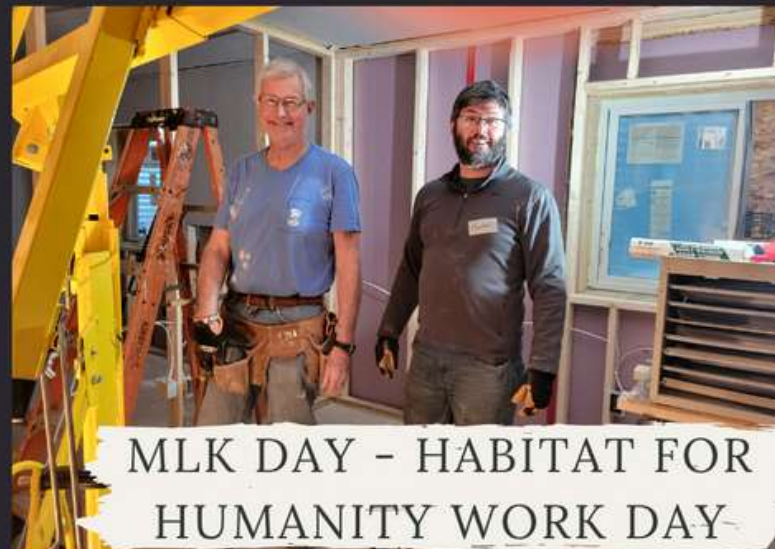


THE VALLEY

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



MLK DAY - HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY WORK DAY

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



763-588-0831
www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Rev. Richard Buller 20th Anniversary Celebration - Sunday, January 29**
- Craft-A-Thon Retreat - January 28 | 10 AM - 6 PM
- **2023 Plastic Free Challenge - Join Team VCPC! (page 8)**
- Fridays in the Valley (page 10)
 - Friday, February 10 @ 7 PM
- **Youth Cookie Sale- February 5 & 12 | 10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall (page 9)**
- Women's Winter Chrysalis | Feb. 24-26 | Registration NOW OPEN (page 10)
- **Ash Wednesday - February 22 | Worship service at 7:00 PM (page 5)**
- Wednesdays in Lent begins - March 1 (page 5)
 - Potluck meal at 6:00 PM, Lenten Service at 6:45 PM
- **Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-10)**

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **SAVE THE DATE Empty Bowls Event - March 7, 2023**
- Earth Care Corner/Sustainability Update (page 8)
- **Silab needs behind the wheel driving experience!**
 - Please talk to Jan Sacco or Arlene Freeberg if you can help with this need.
- **Land Acknowledgement Task Force update (page 8)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers - call the Church Office if you can volunteer

A Letter From The Pastor

FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Valley Family,

As we draw closer to the three-year anniversary of Covid-19 in our world, the details of life seem to be a mixture of celebration and caution. Overall, we are proceeding into our future with fewer restrictions but well-aware that the virus has not gone away. I am pleased to hear that there will be plans for yearly vaccines as determined by the CDC to help prevent serious outbreaks in the future. I am thankful that so many people are still testing if they have symptoms and staying home if they do not feel well. This is something that should always be done, but after Covid, I believe we have taken this detail more seriously in our lives.

But the good news is that there has not been a serious outbreak among us, and we have had some wonderful Sundays in these past few months. **Attendance continues to increase** and the energized conversation of the pre-Covid days seems to have returned!

Our **January 8th** worship was a high point for me as we **baptized 3 family members** and **took in 7 adult members**. The joy of our new members overflows to us all. I am so happy that Mariah was able to snap the photo of me baptizing Frankline. How could I have ever imagined that I would have a Cameroonian outfit to wear for such a meaningful day? Thanks to Vivian Bi who purchased my festive vest on her trip back home to renew her VISA. God's spirit was fully energized as we celebrated as a diverse family of God!



Rev. Richard Buller

The next few weeks will remain very exciting in our worship life. **The carefully planned undercover details of my 20th year event will become a reality this Sunday, January 29th.** There have been whispers in corners, quiet e-mails shared! What I know for sure, this Sunday will not be a day for snoozing! Come and share the joy of our amazing congregation!

Then on **February 5th** we will have our **Annual Meeting**. We will be meeting **in the sanctuary** so that live-streaming is possible. We will gather in the Narthex and enjoy some healthier snacks in addition to pastries, so no one goes hungry. This meeting will be a positive one as we have met our stewardship goals and so many people have participated in the pledge drive.

February 12 will be the Sunday **we remember the seven Valley members who passed away in 2022.** We as a congregation are so thankful for their inspiration and the way they touched our hearts.

I also wanted to bring up the fact that **we are now getting regular visitors coming to Valley.** This is a new event for all of us after social isolation and lockdown. Back in the good old days, we had the **"Two-minute Drill"**. This is the idea that after the Benediction, look around you and see if there is a visitor you have not met before or if there is anyone else you could welcome. All we need is two minutes of your time. Our elders for Church Growth are Susie Potter and Jay Tracy. They are depending on all of us to approach our visitors and learn their names. If you can think back to how you were once welcomed to Valley, you will understand how important it is to extend a hand and offer a smile!

February will also bring us the **start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.** We will be having our **Wednesdays in Lent** this year. This has always been a special time for reflection and quiet worship. Stay tuned for the details of our plans for worship in Lent and Holy Week.

Until then, I do want to thank all of you for your kind wishes as we head to this Sunday. I am grateful to have served as your pastor for all these years!

Remember you are loved,
Richard

Frankline Nyongkah was baptized on Sunday, January 8 along with his daughters, Syndy and Chrisdel. It was truly a day of celebration.



*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- January 2023



New Members! January 8



Paint-A-Bowl Souper Sunday



Installation & Ordination of New Officers



Youth Bake for the Annual Cookie Sale Fundraiser



**Ash Wednesday
With Communion
February 22 | 7:00 pm
Rev. Richard Buller**

Wednesdays in Lent *The Impact of the Global Church*

Join us for fellowship and a potluck meal at 6:00pm, which will be followed by a Lenten Service.

March 1 | 6:45 pm | Rev. Bill Davnie
The Church in Sri Lanka

March 8 | 6:45 pm | Rev. John McCall
The Church in Taiwan

March 15 | 6:45 pm | Paul & Jennie Minter
The Church in Papua New Guinea

March 22 | 6:45 pm | Rev. Deb DeMeester
Walking the Camino de Santiago

March 29 | 6:45 pm | Rev. Rebecca Tollefson
The Ecumenical Church



STEWARDSHIP 2023 UPDATE

Once again, Valley members have answered the call and pledged **\$423,900** to the church in 2023. That is **100%** of the goal set by the Stewardship Team. We are grateful for the **130 renewed pledges and the 10 new pledges!**

The Breathing Life campaign wrapped up in 2022, with members donating more than **\$98,000** to support our **new HVAC system**, along with half of the funds being split evenly between our community partners: **PRISM, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Clearwater Forest and Liberty's Northside Healing Space.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2022 Annual Report to learn more about this year's budget. **The Annual Meeting will take place immediately after Worship on Sunday, February 5 (in-person & virtually).**

*Where Gratitude
is Paid Forward*



Join our
presenters for
some amazing
learning
opportunities
this spring!

ADULT EDUCATION

SPRING 2023

1

March 5

Peacemaking
Where There is
Trauma

**with Crixell Shell from, MN
Peacebuilding Institute**

Crixell Shell from the MN Peacebuilding Institute joins us to talk about the serious impact of trauma on individuals and communities. Learn about the consequences of generational trauma, how it impacts those living in our communities and why now, more than ever, peacebuilding actions are vital for our community.

2

March 12

Travel Stories
with Gwen Rouleau

Go on an adventure without ever boarding a plane! Valley member Gwen Rouleau will share photos and stories from her trip to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

Hear what it is like to travel internationally during a pandemic, insights from her experiences and enjoy the beauty far beyond the Midwest.

3

March 19

Sustainability:
From Seeds
to Salads

**with Barb Wasmoen &
Robin Chen**

The Sustainability group invites you to come learn how you can grow your own veggies and herbs right at home whether it be in a small container garden on your patio or a garden plot. You will have an opportunity to plant seeds for starter plants and ask general questions about gardening.

This is an intergenerational class and kids are encouraged to come and plant seeds to grow at home later this spring!

4

March 26

Combating
Anti-Semitism Today
**with Brandon Schorsch,
from JCA**

As we hear the news about the rise in antisemitism across the country and abroad, we ask ourselves why is this happening now. Brandon Schorsch from Jewish Community Action will help us learn how antisemitism is far more than slurs or personal hatred and is instead a structure of ideas and myths that impact our contemporary society.

5

April 16**Beacon Housing
with Ricky Kamil
Beacon Housing**

Ricky Kamil is a rabbi and congregational organizer working with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. Beacon works build deeply affordable housing in our neighborhoods and organizes faith communities to live their values in helping bring these developments to fruition. More affordable housing is needed throughout almost all areas of Minnesota.

6

April 23**Native
Perspectives
with Jim Rock and
Roxanne Gould**

Jim and Roxanne will share their experience with the Hāha Wakpadan/Bassett Creek Oral History Project and their work with Makoce Ikikcupi.

Makoce Ikikcupi, meaning Land Recovery, is a project of reparative justice on Dakota homelands in Minisota Makoce (Minnesota). The project seeks to bring some of our relatives home, re-establish our spiritual and physical relationship with our homeland, and ensure the ongoing existence of Dakota Peoples.

7

April 30**Living On The
Spectrum
with Andy Freeman**

Valley member Andy Freeman joins us to share his perspective as a person on the autism spectrum. He will describe autism to the best of his ability while touching on his life experiences.

Andy will share different points from his life, and how he's learned to overcome some of the difficult challenges of autism. Join him to learn more about his story!

8

May 7**Human Rights
Advocacy
with Lindsey Greising
from MN Advocates
for Human Rights**

Lindsey Greising is a staff attorney with MN Advocates for Human Rights working to help immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. She will share about ongoing efforts to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act. Lindsey will also talk about other ways to advocate for and engage with legislators about important immigrant rights issues confronting our community today.

9

MAY 21**Sustainability Group
Topic: TBD**

Carolyn Anderson will lead the group in lively discussion about sustainable actions we can all take to help our planet.

EARTH CARE CORNER



Our Earthcare and Sustainability Group focus for this month is going plastic-free.

Please join the VCPC Team at <https://hennepinplasticfree.ecochallenge.org/teams>. You don't need to live in Hennepin County. Search for our team VCPC Crew and enter the password *valleycares*. It's easy to participate online, and the resources the Hennepin County team share are very helpful.

You can also go to Valley's website, under adult faith formation, and watch Barb Wasmoen's presentation of practical tips for cutting down on plastic use. Examples include laundry soap sheets, dishwasher tablets purchased in bulk from stores like TARE Market, and washing/reusing plastic bags (Ray Anderson invented a clever way to dry them; ask him about it).

Sustainability Group
Meets Next On:
March 19
From Seed to Salads
(More info on page 6)

As always, your questions and ideas are welcome!

Members of Valley's Earth Care Task Force include Janet Triplett, Andrew Gillett, Barb Wasmoen, Julie Westerlund, Carolyn Anderson and Pastor Richard.



FEBRUARY CHALLENGE



**Take Action
For Our Planet!**



**Plastic Free
in 2023!**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TASK FORCE



On November 12, 2022 the Land Acknowledgement Task Force hosted a Narrator Brunch to celebrate and thank the narrators and community partners who made the Haha Wakpadan Oral History Project possible. Dr. Kasey Keeler gave a presentation summarizing the project and the information shared by the narrators. We then all had a chance to reflect on the experience and talk about next steps. It was a special day and meant so much to be able to meet the narrators and partners who trusted us enough to be a part of the project.

The project is now completed (YAY!) and the task force has received bound copies of all of the interview transcriptions. And now begins the work of figuring out what Valley should do next. Since the narrator brunch, Jen Biggs gave a presentation about the project to the Golden Valley Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Commission and Crystal Boyd also gave a presentation at the Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church.

Indeed the work continues and we are excited to figure out where it will take our congregation next!



This project has been financed in part with funds provided by VCPC's Endowment Committee, the University of Wisconsin--Madison, and the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

Sincerely,
Land Acknowledgement Task Force
Jen Biggs, Crystal Boyd, Lyn Boyd, Jan Fedora,
Mariah Messer, Jeanine MicaKotina,
Julie Westerlund, Pastor Richard

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.

Contact [Sheila Sheldon](#) or [Mariah Messer](#) if you have any questions.



February 12 at 10:45 AM

Join Sheila and Mariah in the Community Room for a brief listening session. Hear about current programs and what they envision for programming in 2023!

You'll also have an opportunity to share any ideas, ask questions and find out how you can get involved in the various programs offered at Valley.



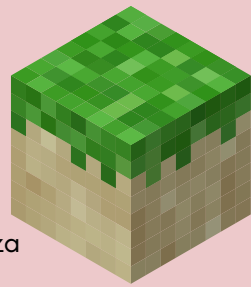
MINECRAFT

Sunday, February 12, 2023

11:30 AM-2:30 PM

Grab your device and come game with your Valley friends. We'll have some pizza and maybe share some tips and tricks.

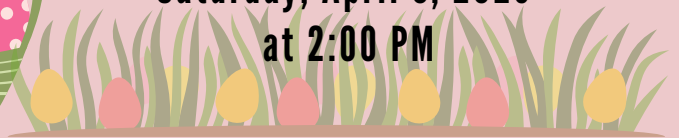
Free fun for ages 7 and up!



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 8, 2023

at 2:00 PM



**FEBRUARY 5 & 12
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Youth Cookie Sale

***COOKIES \$5/BAG (1/2 DOZ)**

***COOKIE TRAYS \$5/\$10/\$20**

****NEW** YOUTH SNACK MIX**

***ASSORTED VALENTINE BASKETS
\$10-30**

VALLEY LIBRARY



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.

FRIDAYS IN THE
VALLEY PRESENTS:



A DELIGHTFUL EVENING OF MUSIC

FEBRUARY 10, 2023 | 7:00 PM

More details coming soon!
Check your bulletin or the
Valley website for updates.

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
EMPTY BOWLS

- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

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, February 5
Sunday, February 26

Sunday, March 5
Sunday, March 19

Rehearsals on
Wed. 7:00 pm



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



Clearwater Chrysalis Women's Retreat

FEBRUARY 24-26, 2023

PRESBYTERIAN CLEARWATER
FOREST

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!
Visit clearwaterforest.org/retreats/ to
register or click this ad if viewing
online

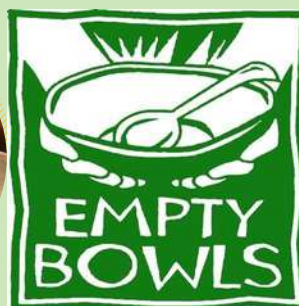
Contact 218-678-2325 with questions



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.



13TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS EVENT

**Tuesday, March 7
5-7:30 pm**

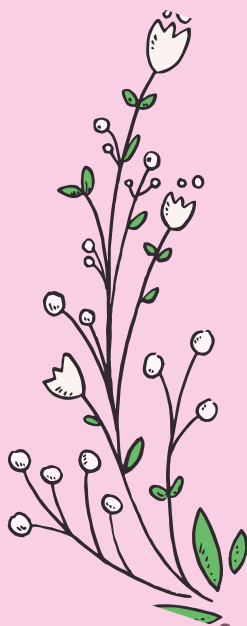
**Robbinsdale Cooper
High School**

Donations benefit
PRISM & NEAR food shelves

BIRTHDAYS

Bonnie Goslinga 2/1
 Bill Holman 2/2
 Cheyenne Smith 2/2
 Mike Herring 2/3
 Joan Chenoweth 2/4
 Katie Hestness 2/4
 Connie Freeman 2/5
 Pat Hoehn 2/5
 Diane (Stueven) Knox 2/5
 Warren Linc 2/5
 Egbe Nti 2/6
 Anna Parks 2/7
 Toshiko Nishida 2/8
 Donna Hewitt 2/10
 Carolyn Kaehr 2/10
 John Zieska 2/10
 Dawn Hill 2/12
 Craig Gottschalk 2/14
 Valerie Robinson 2/14

Evan Smith 2/16
 Scot Michael 2/17
 Jay Tracy 2/17
 Todd Decker 2/18
 Louise Driver 2/18
 Connor Craven 2/19
 Juanita Loubert 2/19
 Sharon Olson 2/19
 Karen Gillett 2/20
 Veronica Freeberg 2/21
 Bennett Goiffon 2/21
 Sarah Fadell 2/22
 Beverly Collins 2/23
 Doug Malecha 2/23
 Don Roach 2/23
 Sam Rudeen 2/23
 David Dechaine 2/25
 Anna Zieska 2/25
 Richard Gibson 2/26
 Diane Morningstar 2/26
 Judy Rathje 2/26
 Jeanne Reinhart 2/26
 John Nyongkah 2/27
 Colston Rude 2/27
 Charles Kovacovich 2/29



CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, February 1 - Black History Month

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 2

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, February 5

9:30 am Worship Service with Communion

Annual Congregational Meeting

11:00 am Youth Cookie Sale

Monday, February 6

11:30 am Lunch Bunch at 50's Grill

Tuesday, February 7

7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal

Thursday, February 9

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, February 10

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, February 11

11:00 am Brew Crew

Sunday, February 12

9:30 am Worship Service - Necrology

10:45 am Educational Ministries Listening Session

11:00 am Youth Cookie Sale

11:30 am Minecraft Gaming Session (ages 7 & up)

Tuesday, February 14 - Valentine's Day

7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal

Thursday, February 16

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, February 19

9:30 am Worship Service

Rev. Rebecca Tollefson preaching

Tuesday, February 21

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 23

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, February 24 - Sunday, February 26

Clearwater Chrysalis Winter Retreat

Sunday, February 26

9:30 am Worship Service

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, February 27

6:30 pm Session Meeting

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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Golden Valley, MN 55422



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