

THE VALLEY

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



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!

- **Wednesdays in Lent begins - March 1 (page 6)**
 - **Potluck meal at 6:00 PM, Lenten Service at 6:45 PM**
- Adult Education begins March 5- Full schedule on page 9
- **Easter Flowers! Order by March 20 in Fellowship Hall or [click here](#)**
- Fridays in the Valley (page 10)
 - Friday, March 10 @ 7 PM
- **Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-10)**
- New Members Class- March 25 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
- **Crafting Retreat- March 25 from 10 AM-6 PM (page 5)**

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **SAVE THE DATE Empty Bowls Event - March 7, 2023**
- Immigrant Task Force update (page 8)
- **PTCA Anti-Racism Task Force update (page 8)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers - call the Church Office if you can volunteer

A Letter From The Pastor

MARCH 2023

Dear Valley Family,

After the amazing Sunday you created to celebrate my 20th year with you, I want to say thank you to all of you who made it happen. One member said to me, "we just had a lot of love in the sanctuary on Sunday!" I wholeheartedly agree!



Rev. Richard Buller

Our staff likes to surprise me with the various photos used in our newsletter each month, and so I had to laugh that the toddler-town Buller family was our chosen cover photo for March! (Additionally, in the early mock-up of this issue, Mariah threw a big photo of the Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach as our office rivalry continued with my cheering on the Philadelphia Eagles!)

The photo book you created was a perfect memory. All of the children I have baptized... and seeing pictures of our boys when they were in grade school. This church has continued to maintain a very high level of ministry by our outreach and generosity toward so many important causes. My greatest goal in my ministry has been to partner with people who want to make a difference. I am amazed at all you have accomplished in the last 20 years.

And so our newsletter is a testimony to the fact that we are always ready for the next great thing here at Valley. **March 1 begins our Wednesdays in Lent preceded by our potluck suppers at 6pm.**

Come and celebrate the Global Church with messages from Bill Davnie, John McCall, Paul and Jennie Minter, Deb DeMeester, and Rebecca Tollefson. I am so grateful that everyone was excited to share their experiences. It will be a great way to worship this Lent.

Lent also means that we are back to our educational hour for adults at 11:00am. On page 9, there is a handy list that takes us to May 21st. We have many great speakers lined up.

Then also, our Teams and Youth group is resuming! I hope that we can continue to encourage each Valley kid to take the step to commit to this amazing fellowship that has shaped so many of our children through the years.

Through all of Lent, Valley has committed to making a firm pledge to **"pack the pews"** with food and provisions for PRISM. March is always the lowest month for food collection and the need is very high.

So we will be asking you so donate generously so families can meet the nutritional needs of their households. Please check out the Holy Week schedule on page 7.

Rev. Richard and Jean Ann Buller celebrating 20 years of ministry together at Valley on January, 29, 2023.



April 2 is Palm Sunday, and **April 9 is Easter**. Since the original shut down for the Pandemic occurred 3 years ago at the same time, we can celebrate that God has walked with us during this entire journey.

I remain uplifted by your love and faithful service. See you in church!

Remember you are loved,

Richard

P.S.- Have you noticed all the new visitors these past few weeks? I want to challenge all of you to do the "two-minute drill" by taking the first two minutes after worship to welcome a new face to Valley. We were all new faces at one time or another in the life of this church, so let's all work to create a welcoming spirit for each new person in our midst!

Valley
Community
Presbyterian Church

NEW MEMBER CLASS 2023
Saturday, March 25
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Contact Rev. Richard Buller
richard.buller@valleychurch.net | 763-588-0831

*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.

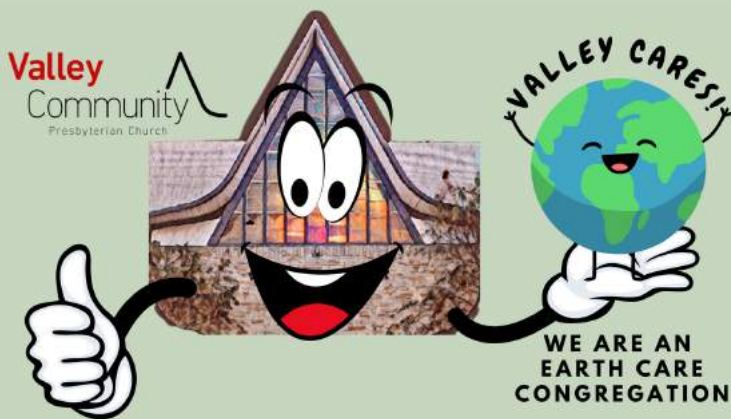
Valley Connects- February 2023



Richard's 20 Year Celebration



Craft-A-Thon Retreat!



Presenting: The Eco Buddies!

Look for them around the church as they share ways to engage in earth care practices.

Youth Cookie Sale Fundraiser

*\$1,807
was raised for
Youth Mission
at this year's
Cookie Sale.
Thank you, Valley!!*

Easter Flowers

Order by MONDAY, MARCH 20th!

Hydrangea \$18 each

Easter Lily \$12 each

Tulip Pot \$12 each



Order by calling the
Valley Office,
[clicking here](#) or fill
out an Order Form
in Fellowship Hall.

Join Us! Craft-A-Thon Retreat

It's time to get crafty again!
Bring a dish to share and a
project or two. There will be
crafts to try if you don't have
one. See you there!

**March 25, 2023
10 AM - 6 PM**



PACK THE PEWS FOR PRISM

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) has announced
its 42nd March Campaign in partnership with Minnesota FoodShare.
That means it's time to PACK THE PEWS, VALLEY!

Deadline for donations: MARCH 26

SUGGESTED ITEMS

Sugar & Flour (5lbs)	Pasta Sauce	Cereal	Canned Veggies
Cooking Oil	Tuna & Chicken	Peanut Butter	Pasta

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

The Impact of the Global Church

Our Wednesdays in Lent will be exploring "The Impact of the Global Church" on life in many parts of our global village. Led by clergy and laity, we will "travel" to Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Papua New Guinea, and Camino de Santiago in Spain. Our Lenten Journey will also experience the impact of the church ecumenically.

These Lenten experiences are designed to give us pause to consider what our lives and this world might be without the church. Even more, we have this season of Lent to ask ourselves to contemplate intentionally what the community of the church, especially our experience here in the Valley, means to the way we live our lives.

Make Lenten services a part of your journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter, and may the enrichment strengthen your courage to be the light in the dark places of this world.

Join us for fellowship and a potluck meal at 6:00 pm, which will be followed by a Lenten Service at 6:45 pm.

March 1 | 6:45 pm | Rev. Bill Davnie

The Church in Sri Lanka: Acts 10:30-38

Music: Craig Gottschalk, guitar

March 8 | 6:45 pm | Rev. John McCall

The Church in Taiwan: John 1:14

Music: Taichi & Robin Chen, strings

March 15 | 6:45 pm | Paul & Jennie Minter

The Church in Papua New Guinea: Acts 2:1-12

Music: Rachel Williams, piano

March 22 | 6:45 pm | Rev. Deb DeMeester

Walking the Camino de Santiago: Revelation 22:1-2

Music: Lisa Beckstrom, harp


March 29 | 6:45 pm | Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

The Ecumenical Church: John 17:22-23

Music: Rachel Williams, piano & Guest(s)



HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday
April 2 | 9:30 am
Rev. Richard Buller

*Dedication of fish banks and
One Great Hour of Sharing offering*



Maundy Thursday
With Communion

*A quiet, dark, reflective service focused
on the night of Jesus' arrest*

April 6 | 7:30 pm
Rev. Richard Buller



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 8 | 2:00 pm

Cookie decorating and refreshments in
Fellowship Hall following the egg hunt.

Christ Is Risen!

Easter Sunday

April 9 | 9:30 am | Rev. Richard Buller

Special Music:

Jamie Marshall, soloist | Valley Choir
Jane Nienaber, organ | Rachel Williams, piano
Charlie and Paul Chouinard, trumpets

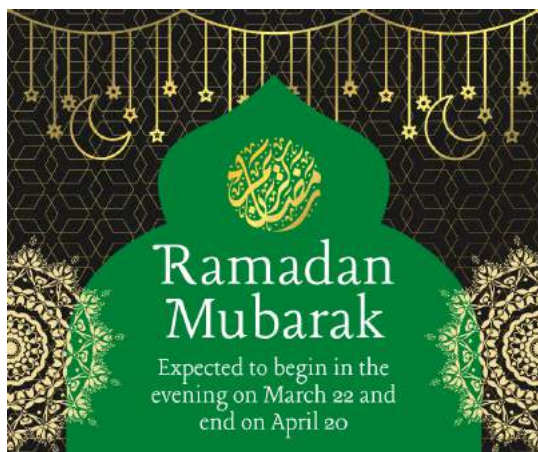


[Click here to order
Easter flowers](#)

Immigrant Task Force Update

Our sponsored Afghan family, **Silab and Mina Karwan**, welcomed their new baby boy, **Aryanullah**, on **February 7, 2023**. Now the family is returning to their Early Childhood Family Education classes every Tuesday. Many thanks to Valley volunteers who assist Mina and her kids as they enjoy the **ECFE classes**, which are supported with Afghan interpreters. **These classes are specifically for Afghan mothers, with topics about American culture, such as our libraries or health systems.**

Silab anxiously awaits the results of his application for asylum, but it might take several months until the decision is known. In the meantime, he is working 46 hours a week at his two jobs, continuing with his goal for a driver's license, and finding time to work out at a gym nearby.



He has explained that physical fitness was an important part of his work in security to support the American forces in Afghanistan. **After he was wounded in the attack on the security building, his fitness deteriorated so he wants to regain his physical health.**

We continue to be amazed by the resilience of the Karwan family as they work hard to build a new life for themselves. **They will celebrate Afghan New Year on March 21** and then will observe the Muslim sacred season of **Ramadan from March 22 until April 21**. We wish them a happy and healthful year ahead.

Update submitted by Jan Sacco



PTCA Anti-Racism Task Force

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

Want to take the next faithful step with your antiracism journey? The Anti-Racism Task Force is inviting you to join an antiracism accountability small group beginning in late summer or fall.

Learn more about the groups and fill out the interest form **HERE**:
<http://bit.ly/3k77hRH>

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

Don't miss all of the chances to learn about and discuss issues related to social justice this spring in Adult Ed!

Sheila Sheldon and Carolyn Anderson have worked hard to put together an informative, interesting, and relevant Adult Ed program for Spring 2023. Mark your calendar now! You will not want to miss any of these fascinating discussions.

- March 5 @ 11:00 AM - "Peacemaking Where There is Trauma" with Crixell Shell from, MN Peacebuilding Institute
- March 26 @ 11:00 AM - "Combating Anti-Semitism Today" with Brandon Schorsch, from Jewish Community Action
- April 23 @ 11:00 AM - "Native Perspectives" with Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould



The Valley Education Corner

TEAMS & Youth Group

TEAMS (4th & 5th graders) and Youth Group (6th-12th grade) meets on Sundays from 4 - 6 PM at Valley, February 26th-May 21st unless otherwise noted.

Look for weekly Faith Formation emails on a new day - TUESDAYS!

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



EASTER EGG HUNT

VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 8, 2023
@ 2:00 PM

Cookie decorating & refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the egg hunt.

**Event will be held outdoors weather permitting.*

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 6 | 2 PM

Youth Education Scholarship Tea

Hostesses Needed, contact [Sheila](#) or [Mariah](#) to host a table.

Youth Servers needed Grades 6-12

ADULT EDUCATION - SPRING 2023

Begins March 5 at 11:00 AM and meets in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.


- **March 5** - "Peacemaking Where There is Trauma" with Crixell Shell from, MN Peacebuilding Institute
- **March 12** - Travel Stories with Gwen Rouleau
- **March 19** - "Sustainability: From Seeds to Salads" with Barb Wasmoe and Robin Chen *This is an intergenerational class - kids are encouraged to come and plant seeds to grow at home later this spring!
- **March 26** - "Combating Anti-Semitism Today" with Brandon Schorsch from Jewish Community Action
- **April 2 & 9** - No Class
- **April 16** - "Beacon Housing" with Ricky Kamil of Beacon Housing
- **April 23** - "Native Perspectives" with Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould
- **April 30** - "Living on the Spectrum" with Andy Freeman
- **May 7** - "Human Rights Advocacy" with Lindsey Greising from MN Advocates for Human Rights
- **May 14** - No Class
- **May 21** - Sustainability Group meeting

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.

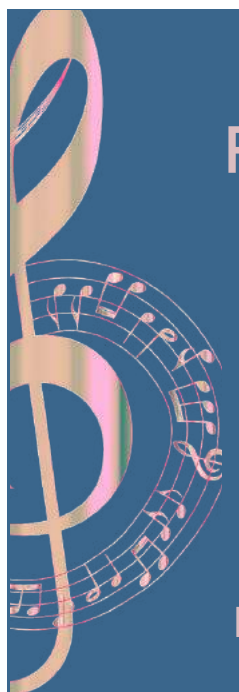


FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY PRESENTS:

10TH WAVE CHAMBER COLLECTIVE

MARCH 10, 2023 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
MN FOOD SHARE



**- LOOKING AHEAD -
FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY**

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, March 5
Sunday, March 19

Palm Sunday, April 2
Easter Sunday, April 9

Rehearsals on
Wed. 7:00 pm



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



*Chancel Flowers
Sign-up*

SPONSORS NEEDED
2023 | SUGGESTED \$30 MINIMUM

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall
or call the Church Office

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

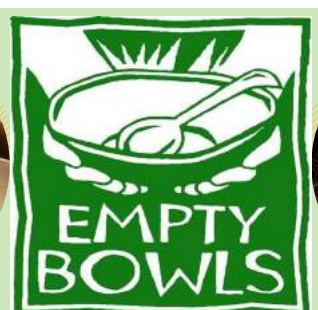
3RD & 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

• MARCH 16 & 23 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:
Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:
Gail Smith
Marge Thurston
use your directory
or call the office.






**13TH ANNUAL
EMPTY BOWLS EVENT**

Tuesday, March 7
5-7:30 pm

**Robbinsdale Cooper
High School**

Donations benefit
PRISM & NEAR food shelves

CALENDAR

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

BIRTHDAYS

Juliana Vogel 3/1	Syndy Nyongkah 3/11
Randee Melander 3/2	Leah Zywicki 3/12
Alvian Bi 3/3	Judith McKay 3/13
Roger Graphenteen 3/3	Diane Schmidt 3/13
Gary Malinowski 3/3	Nikolas Fields 3/15
Marge Thurston 3/3	Gabriel Gottschalk 3/15
Katya Miakotina 3/5	Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau 3/15
Barbara Wasmoen 3/5	Abigail Toering-Peters 3/16
John Gautsche 3/6	Jim Payne 3/17
Joe Sacco 3/6	Riley Brooker 3/18
Soma Datta 3/7	Roberta (Bobbie) Watson 3/18
Karen Harms 3/7	Rhett Anderson 3/20
Art LaPoint 3/7	Cooper Graham 3/22
John Gonsior 3/8	Chris Marshall 3/22
Kyle Soens 3/8	Julie Westerlund 3/23
Barbara Johnston 3/9	Betty Brooking 3/24
Abby Malecha 3/9	James Freeberg 3/24
Grace Perry 3/9	Mark Toering 3/24
Mikey Vogel 3/9	Janet Carlson 3/25
Alex Malecha 3/10	Joanne Jenson 3/25
Helen Dechaine 3/11	Neil Jurgensen 3/25
	Rev. Rebecca Tollefson 3/25
	Kate Toering-Peters 3/26
	Mary Eckberg 3/27
	Jim Falbo 3/28
	Eleanor Johannsen 3/28
	Gwyn Lang 3/28
	Atemafac Nti 3/28
	Nick Rude 3/28
	Jan Fedora 3/29
	Emily Gillett 3/29
	Chelsea Gusek 3/29
	Brian Boyd 3/30
	Gerald Phelan 3/30
	Tyler Priem 3/30
	Kendyl Graham 3/31

Wednesday, March 1

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent potluck & Worship
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 2 | 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, March 5 | Second Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Worship Service with Communion

11:00 am Adult Ed - Peacemaking Where There is Trauma with Crixell Shell from MN Peacebuilding Inst.

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, March 6

11:30 am Lunch Bunch at 50's Grill

Tuesday, March 7

5:00 pm Empty Bowls- Cooper High School

Wednesday, March 8

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent potluck & Worship

Thursday, March 9 | 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, March 10 | 7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, March 12 *Daylight Savings 1 Hour Ahead

9:30 am Worship Service | Third Sunday in Lent

Rev. John McCall preaching

11:00 am Adult Ed - Travel Stories with Gwen Rouleau

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, March 14

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 15

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent potluck & Worship

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 16 | 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, March 19 | Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed - Sustainability: From Seeds to Salads with Barb Wasmoen and Robin Chen

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, March 21

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

Wednesday, March 22

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent potluck & Worship

Thursday, March 23

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, March 25

10:00 am Craft Retreat

10:00 am-12:00 pm New Members Class

Sunday, March 26 | Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed - "Combating Anti-Semitism Today" with Brandon Schorsch, from JCA

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, March 27 | 6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, March 28

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 29

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent potluck & Worship

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 30 | 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

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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