

# THE VALLEY

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Valley Community Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

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Golden Valley, MN 55422



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# Community News

## • MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Holy Week begins on April 2**
  - **Full schedule can be found on Page 6**
- Adult Education continues through May 21 - Full schedule on page 9
- **Easter Egg Hunt- Saturday, April 8 @ 2 PM (page 6)**
- Fridays in the Valley (page 5)
  - Friday, April 14 @ 7 PM
- **Parents' Night Out, April 14 | 5:30 PM-8:30 PM (page 9)**
- Crafting Day | Saturday, April 22 | 10 AM-4 PM (page 5)
- **Earth Care Sunday - April 23**
- **VBC-Compassion Camp (Tues, June 13 - Thurs, June 15: 9am - 12pm & Sat, June 17: 10am - 3pm)**
  - For kids entering Kinder - 5th Grade in Fall 2023 | Cost = \$25/family (page 9)
  - **Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or [CLICK HERE](#) | DEADLINE TO REGISTER: APRIL 14TH**
- Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-10)

## • MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Reserve your seat! Y.E.S. TEA | May 6 @ 2 PM (page 7)**
- **SAVE THE DATE Taste of the Burbs PRISM Fundraiser - May 9, 2023 (page 5)**
- **NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers - call the Church Office if you can volunteer**
- Earth Care Task Force update (page 8)
- **Land Acknowledgement Task Force update (page 8)**

## A Letter From The Pastor

APRIL 2023

Dear Valley Family,

Maybe you are like me. After worship, I come home and check on our YouTube channel to see and hear the service through the cameras of our wonderful stream team. This week, I was blown away to see our *Chancel Area* filled with so many groceries! It was abundance and love at work! PRISM sent a truck to pick it all up on Monday. At this point, we sent 2,375 pounds of food for our neighbors in need! Thanks, Valley, for all your generosity.

You also noticed how moved Shelia and I were last Sunday by the number of children who came forward—some carrying groceries, too! We thank God for each family who is working hard to re-introduce their children to the experience of in-person worship. Kids are very flexible little creatures and I also appreciate that they know how to worship from the cabin or from a sunny climate! No one brings energy to our *chancel area* like our children.

On April 2nd, we will gather for Palm Sunday. We will have palms to wave, and we will dedicate our fish banks to One Great Hour of Sharing. Next Sunday, the *Chancel* will be filled with Hosannas!

Then on April 6th, we gather for Maundy Thursday around the communion table to remember the Last Supper. With the help of our young people, the *Chancel* will be stripped of ornamentation, marking the emptiness that the crucifixion left on this world. The service begins at 7:30 pm to assure that we will be able to experience the darkness of the service, now that daylight savings time is upon us. Come and hear the moving story of Jesus in his last hours.



*Rev. Richard Buller*



On Easter Sunday, the *Chancel* will be filled with beautiful flowers and even more children, I imagine. Get ready for the pipe organ, trumpets, bells, choir, and strings. On Easter, the music carries the day and lifts our spirits after such a long and cold winter. Sheila and I look forward to celebrating the resurrection story with you and all the joy that comes to us.

Now for some highlights for the rest of the month of April:

- **Friday, April 14th** will be **Fridays in the Valley** with Sue Ruby, Karen Hansen, and Steve Staruch. The concert begins at 7pm.
- **Parent's night out will also be that evening from 5:45-8:30 pm.** So, for you parents who would like dinner and a concert, you can come back to Valley at 7pm and be surrounded by beautiful music in the sanctuary while your children are lovingly cared for in the same building!!! Whatever your plans, it is always a fun event!
- **Sunday, April 23rd is Earth Care Sunday.** We have invited Rev. Buff Grace, a Lutheran Pastor who works with the Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light non-profit agency. It is looking like we may be in a financial and logistic situation that would allow us to consider installing Solar Panels on our roof. Our previous flat roof was not built to accommodate the weight, but now it meets the regulations. Looking at our electric bill that runs \$12,000 a year, it could be a wise move for our future. Come and hear what Rev. Grace has to tell us!
- Finally, remember to put in your reservation for our **Y.E.S. Tea on May 6th.** Fifteen tables and full capacity. The Tea is a meaningful tradition here at Valley. We take pride in supporting our youth!



Valley kids receive their blessing from the congregation on March 26th. You are God's beloved child, with you God is well pleased!

I look forward to seeing many of you in person during holy week! So, 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!

*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- March 2023

## Valley Crafters!



## Pack the Pews for PRISM



## Learning, Fun, TEAMS!



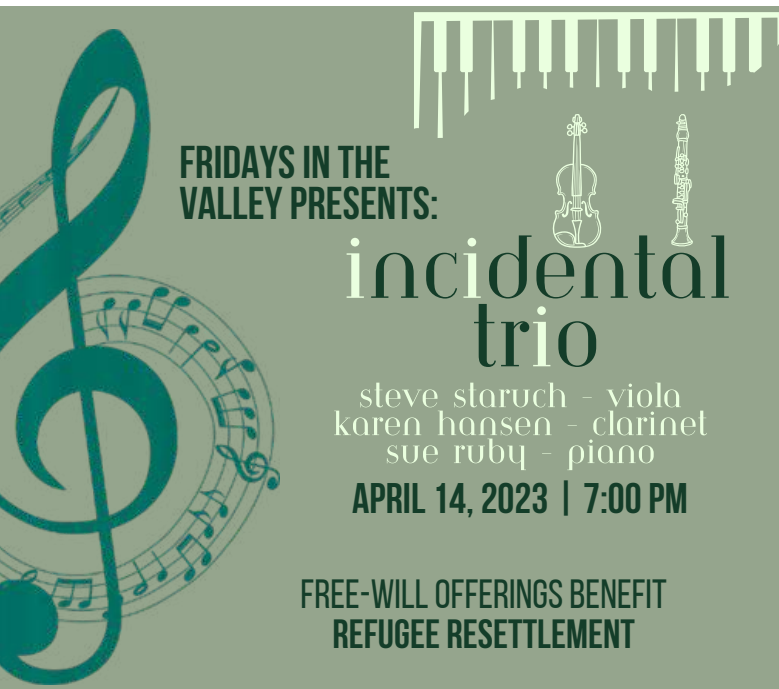
## Music at Valley



## Adult Education Spring 2023







**FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY PRESENTS:**

# incidental trio

steve staruch - viola  
karen hansen - clarinet  
sue ruby - piano

**APRIL 14, 2023 | 7:00 PM**

**FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**



**- LOOKING AHEAD -**

# THE LAST FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY OF THE 2022-23 SEASON!

**FRIDAY, MAY 12 | 7:00 pm**  
**Flutespiration**

**FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**



## Time To Get Crafty Again!

Valley crafters have had so much fun together but soon it will be too nice to sit inside. So, we are squeezing one more craft day in before summer comes. Bring a dish to share and a project or two. See you there!

**April 22, 2023  
10 AM - 4 PM**



## The Bernstein Chamber Ensemble

**Free Public Concert  
VCPC Sanctuary May 7 | 7pm**

Four extraordinary musical players by the names of Rachel Williams, Sue Ruby, John Schultz, and Sam Rudy — make an appearance in Golden Valley on Sunday, May 7th at 7:00pm!

Music of Beethoven, Moszkowski, and Brahms as inspired by dramatic readings of Leonard Bernstein and Shakespeare.

**• DRIVERS NEEDED •**

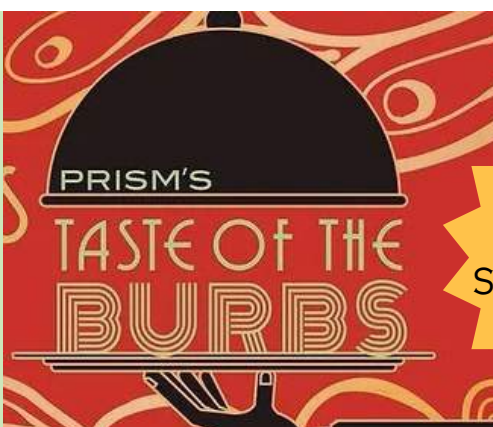
# Meals on Wheels

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

**• APRIL 20 AND 27 •**

**ROUTES INCLUDE:**  
Crystal  
New Hope  
Robbinsdale  
Golden Valley

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

**PRISM'S  
TASTE OF THE  
BURBS**


**ONLY 10 SEATS LEFT!**

**10TH ANNUAL TASTE OF THE 'BURBS**

Date: Tuesday, May 9th, 2023  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Location: The Metropolitan Club

**Contact the Valley Office if you are interested in attending!**

# 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*





PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

# *Youth Education Scholarship Tea*

**SATURDAY, MAY 6TH AT 2 PM**

We hope you will come to the 2023 Y.E.S. Tea - and maybe bring a friend or two! This fundraiser is a long-standing tradition at Valley, being held every year for over 20 years, even virtually and hybrid during the pandemic.

At Valley we show our support for our youth who choose to pursue further education after graduating high school by offering education scholarships. Events like the Y.E.S. Tea make this possible!

Tickets go on sale on April 2nd!  
\$30 per person (ages 11 & up)  
\$15 per person (ages 10 & under)

Visit the table in  
Fellowship Hall to reserve  
your seat!

**VALLEY COMMUNITY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
--FELLOWSHIP HALL--**





# EARTH CARE CORNER

Who can own the song of a spring bird? "The earth is the Lord's," Psalm 24:1. Our Indigenous neighbors remind us to care for, not "own," Mother Earth when they say, "The earth is my grandmother." Two Valley members just attended virtual presentations from the Presbyterian Just Creation conference at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. When speakers dug deep into the subjects of climate justice and the environment, it was often hard to feel hopeful.

We are the "building custodians" of the earth and not doing a very good job. If God was the "building principal," would we be fired? Speakers encouraged us to keep at it, keep showing up, be comfortable being uncomfortable when speaking up, and remember abundance for all versus exploitation to advantage the few. Professor Tink Tinker (Osage) urged us to shake up our world view – the earth is our relative and we must build a respectful relationship with her, not exploit her.

About twenty-five Valley members participated in the Hennepin County plastic-free challenge in February! In May we will have another Sustainability group meeting. **Keep "showing up"!**

**As always, your questions and ideas are welcome!**

Members of Valley's Earth Care Task Force include Janet Triplett, Andrew Gillett, Julie Westerlund, Carolyn Anderson and Mariah Messer (ex-officio).

Sustainability Group  
Meets Next On:  
**May 21**

Update submitted by Carolyn Anderson

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TASK FORCE



Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould will offer an Adult Ed class called "Native Perspectives." Please come and learn!

**Earth Care Sunday: April 23 @ 11AM  
in the Cornerstone Room**

**Earth Care Sunday is coming up on April 23rd** and we hope lots of you will be able to attend worship that day and stay for **Adult Ed at 11 am!** Earth Care Sunday is the day that Valley designates to honor the Earth and commit to caring for it to the best of our abilities. We are so excited to welcome **Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould** that morning for Adult Ed starting at 11:00 AM in the Cornerstone Room. Jim and Roxanne were interviewed for the **Hāha Wakpadan Oral History Project** and are both accomplished historians and educators. Their work and advocacy for Native communities is important and impactful. The VCPC Land Acknowledgement Task Force invites you to attend Adult Ed to learn more about Native Perspectives.

The Hennepin History Museum (HHM) is the official repository that's archiving the interviews and other materials associated with the **Hāha Wakpadan Oral History Project**. This process is well underway, and you can **access the interviews here:** <https://mncollections.org/Gallery/3964>. It is truly awesome to see this archive come into being so that more people can access these important perspectives.

Update submitted by Mariah Messer



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 Miakotina, Pastor Richard



# The Valley Education Corner



**Spring Break/Easter**  
Teams and Youth Group will not meet April 2 & April 9. We will see you back on Sunday, April 16.

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

## TEAMS & Youth Group

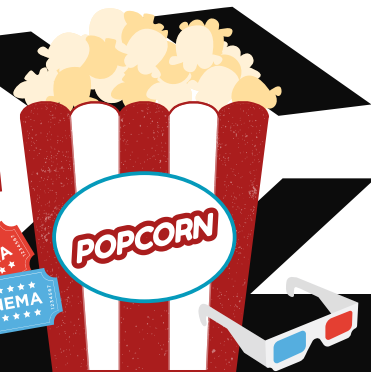
TEAMS (4th & 5th graders) & Youth Group (6th-12th grade) meets on Sundays from 4 - 6 PM at Valley.

- **Senior High Mission Trip | June 25-30**  
**Kansas City, Kansas | Sign Up with Sheila!**
- Summer Camp at Clearwater Forest Grades 3-12!  
Scholarships available. [Click here](#) for Summer Camp Info!

# PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!

**APRIL 14**  
**5:30-8:30PM**

**\$5  
PER  
CHILD**



KIDS 5TH GRADE AND UNDER ARE INVITED TO A NIGHT OF FUN WITH THEIR VALLEY FRIENDS WHILE MOM AND DAD ENJOY A NIGHT OUT.

**INCLUDES:**  
**DINNER, PLAYTIME & MOVIE**

**SIGN UP IN  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
OR [CLICK HERE](#)**



As we look around the world, what becomes clearer each day is our deep need for compassion - now more than ever. Compassion Camp's goal is to cultivate compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world. We'll follow the Illustrated Ministry's Compassion Camp ecumenical curriculum written by PCUSA clergy, educators and UCC and Methodist clergy.

### DATES:

**Tues, June 13 - Thurs, June 15: 9am - 12pm**  
**Saturday, June 17 from 10am - 3pm**

**Compassion Camp is for kids who will be entering Kinder - 5th Grade in Fall 2023.**  
**Cost \$25 per family.**

Please fill out [THIS REGISTRATION FORM](#) (one per child you are registering) to give us an idea of who we will be seeing at Compassion Camp this June! This will help us to help us plan, recruit volunteers, and more.

**We need to have a minimum of 8 participants registered by Friday, April 14th.**  
**You are welcome to invite friends, neighbors, and family!**

## ADULT EDUCATION - SPRING 2023

Classes begin at 11:00 AM and meet in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.

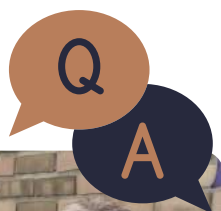
### April 2 & 9- No Classes - EASTER BREAK

- **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  
(MN Advocates for Human Rights)
- **May 14** - No Class
- **May 21** - Sustainability Group meeting

## The Kids Pew



This year we tried something new - a "pew" where Valley kids could leave their food donations during the month of March. Every year, Valley members Pack the Pews for PRISM as part of Minnesota FoodShare month. This is an important tradition at Valley and our hope was that the Kids Pew would get Valley's youngest members excited about this tradition too! The Kids Pew was overflowing with donations so we want to thank Valley kids for their hard work and generosity! Great job, kids!



with Jane Nienaber

**Q: Tell us about yourself!**

**A:** My husband (Bob) and I like to bike together and explore walking trails around Minnesota and Arizona. We work out at Life Time Fitness a few times a week, especially in the winter when we can't be outside. We have 2 sons, both married, and one grandson.

**Q: How did you learn to play the pipe organ? Why do you love it?**

**A:** I grew up in Northeast Minneapolis with my parents, twin brother and younger brother. I attended Edison High School, where they offered a class in organ. Before that, I had taken piano lessons so I knew keyboard, but I thought I would be a home economics major since I enjoyed sewing. The organ class changed all that! I went on to graduate from the U of M with a BA degree in organ. I started playing for church the week after I graduated from high school and I've led worship ever since. I love organ because of all the different sounds it makes, from the whisper soft to shaking the rafters, and every organ is different. The favorite part of my job is leading hymns.

**Q: What are some of your hobbies and interests?**

**A:** My hobbies involve the arts. I make all our cards - Christmas, birthday, sympathy, get well, etc. I embroider (it keeps me from falling asleep while watching the news) and 2 years ago I joined a church quilting group and I love it. We donate all the quilts to needy organizations. It's good we have a ping pong table in the basement because that's where I lay out my patterns and a lot of the fabric is stored underneath the table! I clean it off by every Saturday though, because my husband and I play ping pong on Saturday nights (that started during the pandemic).

**Q: What is your favorite time of year?**

**A:** My favorite time of year is definitely spring, although I love the fall colors. I like spring because I love seeing the earth come alive. Tiny flowers push their way through the snow. It's a reminder of the Resurrection - after death comes life.

**Q: What is your favorite Bible verse?**

**A:** My favorite book of the Bible is Romans, and my favorite psalm is Psalm 139.



# CALENDAR

## BIRTHDAYS

Larry Johnson 4/1  
 Jeanine MiaKotina 4/2  
 Colin Poynter 4/2  
 Ray Anderson 4/4  
 Marci Franz 4/4  
 Mikum Kunkel 4/4  
 Rob Morrow 4/4  
 Jim Parks 4/4  
 Larry Eklund 4/5  
 Mary Schuette 4/5  
 Tom McKeon 4/6  
 Pat Daily 4/7  
 Jaxon Hein-Smith 4/8  
 Thomas Johannsen 4/8  
 Whitney Mead 4/8  
 Claudia Herring 4/9  
 Jim Saelens 4/9  
 Iris Hagelin 4/11  
 Carol McCarter 4/11  
 Jeff Lewis 4/12  
 Devin Smith 4/12

Emmett Soltau 4/14  
 Becca Pitan 4/15  
 Alexandria Slack 4/16  
 Chelsie Larsen 4/17  
 Andrew Gillett 4/18  
 Leone Johnson 4/19  
 Sam Sheldon 4/19  
 Betty Thorne 4/19  
 Becky Grosshuesch 4/20  
 Mike Pinter 4/20  
 Becky Brooking 4/21  
 Betsy Nichols 4/21  
 Aaron Freeman 4/22  
 Mae Rudeen 4/22  
 Abby Zieska 4/22  
 Peter Buller 4/23  
 Deanna Hanson 4/23  
 Marlys Hawkins 4/23  
 Chelsea Knutson 4/23  
 Greg Van Heest 4/23  
 Andres Freeberg 4/24  
 Jeremy Lund 4/24  
 Charlie Rudeen 4/24  
 Rev. Richard Buller 4/25  
 Camille Pinter 4/26  
 Jennifer Downs 4/29  
 Ben Sheldon 4/29  
 Elsie Grosshuesch 4/30  
 Brian Hole 4/30  
 Eric Moen 4/30  
 Missy Rudeen 4/30



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

**Sunday, April 2 | Palm Sunday**  
 9:30 am Worship Service

**Monday, April 3**  
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch at 50's Grill

**Tuesday, April 4**  
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, April 5**  
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 6 | Maundy Thursday**  
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship  
 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion

**Friday, April 7 - Valley Office CLOSED**  
**Good Friday**

**Saturday, April 8**  
 2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday, April 9 | Easter Sunday**  
 9:30 am Worship Service with communion

**Thursday, April 13**  
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

**Friday, April 14**  
 5:30 pm Parents Night Out  
 7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

**Sunday, April 16**  
**9:30 am Worship Service**  
**Sheila Sheldon preaching**  
**11:00 am Adult Ed** - "Beacon Housing"  
 with Ricky Kamil of Beacon Housing  
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

**Tuesday, April 18**  
 11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

**Thursday, April 20**  
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels  
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

**Saturday, April 22**  
 10:00 am Crafting Day

**Sunday, April 23 | Earth Care Sunday**  
**9:30 am Worship Service**  
**11:00 am Adult Ed** - "Native Perspectives" with Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould  
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

**Monday, April 24**  
 6:30 pm Session Meeting

**Thursday, April 27**  
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels  
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

**Sunday, April 30**  
**9:30 am Worship Service**  
**Rev. John Curtis preaching**  
**11:00 am Adult Ed** - "Living on the Spectrum" with Andy Freeman  
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

# 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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