

# THE VALLEY

MAY 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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# Community News

## • MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Happy 72nd Birthday to Valley on Saturday, May 20!** 
- **Grad Sunday and Senior Sermons | Sunday, May 21 (page 9)**
  - **Submit graduate information to [office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net) by Monday, May 15!**
- Fridays in the Valley (page 5)
  - Friday, May 12 @ 7 PM
- **Valley Outdoor Spring Cleaning | Saturday, May 13 | 10 AM-12 PM (page 5)**
- Ladies Night Out | May 19 | 6:00 pm (page 6)
- **Pentecost Sunday | May 28**
- **Rev. Deborah Fortel (Valley's 4th pastor) is preaching on Sunday, June 4 @ 9:30 AM**
- All-Church Picnic | Sunday, June 4 @ 11:15 AM (page 6)
- **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](#)
- **Valley Day at the Twins - June 18 @ 1 PM | Sign Up by June 1 (page 7)**
- **SAVE THE DATE! Clearwater Adventure-a-Thon & LuWow! | Saturday, July 15**
- Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-10)

## • MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Hygiene Items Collection for Noble School (page 8)**
- Golden Valley Pride Festival | Saturday, June 10 @ 12 PM (page 7)
- **Refugee Task Force (page 8)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers - call the Church Office if you can volunteer

## A Letter From The Pastor

MAY 2023

Dear Valley Family,

Whenever I sit down to write a newsletter in May, I am happy to remember that Pentecost is the birthday of the church. The holiday always falls 50 days after Easter and so it is a "moving holiday" and can appear in early June if Easter falls late. This year, Pentecost falls on Memorial Day weekend and we can look forward to a wonderful worship experience!

But another prompt always shows up on my Google Calendar for May: The Birthday of Valley Church on May 20th, 1951. I always get out my calculator to figure out how old we are, and this baby-boomer congregation will be 72 years old on May 20th!

Valley is very lucky to have an archive history written when it turned 25 in 1976. It is interesting that it coincided with our country's bicentennial year. The author of this history is Elson Peter Balkema. He has a conversational style as he describes "scanning early church bulletins to dig up informative tidbits of a diverse nature!"

He describes the Service of Organization held on May 20th at Lee School where 94 new members were accepted that day. He tells us: "Indeed, this was a day of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for the new members of Valley. There was the thrill of satisfaction and gratitude that can come only from being a part of a creative force that achieves a **noble objective**."



*Rev. Richard Buller*



So, I think we can truly celebrate that creative force that still inspires us today! Here are some of our May celebrations of 2023:

- May 9th is the 10th anniversary of **Taste of the Burbs** –a major fund-raising effort of our beloved PRISM organization. Three of those years were spent in the pandemic and this year Valley will be celebrating with 50 of our members attending! We are receiving a new award called *The Light of PRISM Award*. Valley has participated in this “*noble objective*” since 1970.
- May 14, Mother’s Day, will be extra special this year as we **baptize little Gabriella**, daughter of Sadie and Jorge Macias. Sadie Magill Macias was baptized on May 30th, 2004. What a blessing to be part of the next generation of this family!
- May 21 will be our **Graduation Sunday** with three great Valley members moving on to their next chapter after committed membership in this congregation: Emily Gillette, Michael Vogel, and Max Westerlund, and deserve great rejoicing and thanksgiving for surviving the pandemic with a smile. We are so excited to see how they will make their mark on the world!
- Finally, the **Presbytery of the Twin Cities** will be meeting on May 18 for its first large in-person gathering since the pandemic. Our building is so well-equipped with updated HVAC, state of the art streaming technology, and most importantly, the 5 most **creative** and **noble** volunteers we call the **Stream Team**, that Valley was an obvious choice. It is a way of thanking our Presbytery for those early grants when the pandemic struck to keep our technology, mission, and paychecks alive in a time of worry and unknowns.

I close in gratitude that we continue to work on our *noble objective* of caring for and loving all of God’s children.

**Remember Valley, you are loved—**  
*Richard*

Easter Sunday was truly a day of celebration!  
Sheila illustrated the story of the empty tomb for a chancel area full of Valley kids!



Valley member Andy F. led an Adult Ed presentation titled *Living on the Spectrum*. Thank you to Andy for sharing his story and experiences with all of us!

*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- April 2023

## Easter Egg Hunt



## Palm Sunday



## Easter Sunday



## Brew Crew!



## Adult Ed - Native Perspectives





FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY PRESENTS:




**Flute Spiration Quartet**

TRUDI ANDERSON PEGGY DOERRIE  
MARK BRUDEVOLD DAWN SAXTON

MAY 12, 2023 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
CRISIS NURSERY

FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY  
**SUMMER SUNDAY SERIES:**



**SUNDAY, JUNE 11 | 7:00 PM**  
Prelude Alumni Performance  
Lydia Wagner, Open Pages Cabaret

**SUNDAY, JULY 9 | 7:00 PM**  
Chris Becknell, Irish fiddle  
David Crittenden, guitar

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS


**SATURDAY, May 13**  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Exterior cleaning of the church grounds




**VALLEY CHURCH  
SPRING CLEANING**




**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

• MAY 18 AND 25 •

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

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




**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

If you are free on one or more days of Compassion Camp and would like to help, we would love to have you! We are looking for group leaders, camp counselors, snack helpers, and everything in between.

Sign up online [HERE](#) or in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you are interested. Info meeting date/s to come.

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

# The More We Get Together

## On the Road to Fellowship at Valley!



### VALLEY UNITED SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| May 3 - 6:15pm  | May 31 - 7:15pm  |
| May 10 - 6:15pm | June 7 - 6:15pm  |
| May 17 - 6:15pm | June 14 - 6:15pm |
| May 24 - 6:15pm | June 21 - 7:15pm |

**COME SUPPORT VALLEY'S SOFTBALL  
TEAM! HIT A HOME RUN!**

MARSHALL TERRACE  
2740 MARSHALL STREET NE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418



### Ladies Night Out

**FRIDAY, MAY 19TH  
6:00PM**

### SCHULLER'S TAVERN

7345 Country Club Drive,  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

## SAVE THE DATE! All-Church Picnic 2023

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 | 11:15AM - 12:30 PM**

The Fellowship Team invites you and  
your family to join Valley members for  
an all-church picnic!

CALL THE VALLEY OFFICE  
WITH QUESTIONS



We have a  
reservation for 12.  
Please sign up in the  
Fellowship Hall or  
EMAIL SHEILA so  
that we can add  
seats if needed.



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 - 6th Grade in Fall 2023.**  
**Cost \$25 per family.**

Please fill out [THIS REGISTRATION FORM](#) (one per child you are registering) or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

**MN TWINS  
 ---VS---  
 DETROIT TIGERS**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18 | 1-10 PM**

**\$26 Per Ticket | Payable to VCPC**  
**50 Tickets Total | Deadline June 1**

**Sign up in the Fellowship Hall**



## FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY SUMMER SUNDAY SERIES:

**SUNDAY,  
 JUNE 11  
 7:00 PM**

**Prelude Alumni  
 Performance**

**Lydia Wagner,  
 Open Pages  
 Cabaret**

**FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
 THE FATHER PROJECT**



## 5th ANNUAL GOLDEN VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH  
 12:00 - 6:00 PM  
 BROOKVIEW PARK**

**After taking several years off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Golden Valley Pride Festival is back for its 5th Annual celebration! Valley will have a booth run by volunteers to support the event and meet folks in our community.**

The festival is family-friendly with music, food vendors, bounce houses, inflatable obstacle courses, games, and MORE!

Mark your calendars and come support this amazing event in our GV community.

# the happier we'll be!



# Immigrant Task Force Update



**The Karwan family is growing and thriving!** In February, their third child, a little boy named **Aryanullah**, arrived. Big sister Razia and one year old brother Razaullah welcomed him with love.

Razia has been enjoying her **weekly class with other Afghan preschoolers**. An interpreter assists the teachers as they work with Afghan mothers and children to learn English words and build their cultural competence.

**The family is now registering for continuation of this Early Childhood Family Education program next fall.** We can tell that this is a bright spot in their lives, and we hope it will continue to help them to thrive.



Update submitted by Jan Sacco



## NOBLE SCHOOL Kody's Closet Hygiene Items



May 7 and 14, Valley is collecting hygiene items for Noble School!

Valley is collecting hygiene items for Noble Elementary students. The school has a Kody's Closet for students, where they can help themselves to the hygiene items they need. Kody's Closet is inspired by Crystal student, Kody Thorn, who cooperated with his Mom to provide his friends with hygiene items they did not have at home. After Kody passed away in 2012, the charity began creating closets in schools throughout the Metro area.

### SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Body soap, either bar or liquid
- Shampoo and conditioner, including Cantu brand for natural hair and conventional brands
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant

We suggest 12 to 16 ounce bottles, because they are portable but last a while. Travel sizes are also welcome.

Your support of our Noble students is doing God's work in our neighborhood.





# The Valley Education Corner



## 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!

## Congrats

2023 graduates!

MAY 21 | 9:30 AM

Please join us in honoring our 2023  
Valley graduates  
Sunday, May 21 at 9:30 am.

If you or someone you know is  
graduating from a degree or certification  
program this spring, please notify the  
office by May 15 so we can include them  
in the Graduation Celebration.  
[office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net)



## DATES:

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

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.

**Compassion Camp is for kids who will be entering Kinder - 6th Grade in Fall 2023. Cost \$25 per family.**

# 1ST ANNUAL VALLEY NIGHT OUT!

SUNDAY, JULY 30  
DINNER - 5:30PM | SHOW - 7:00PM

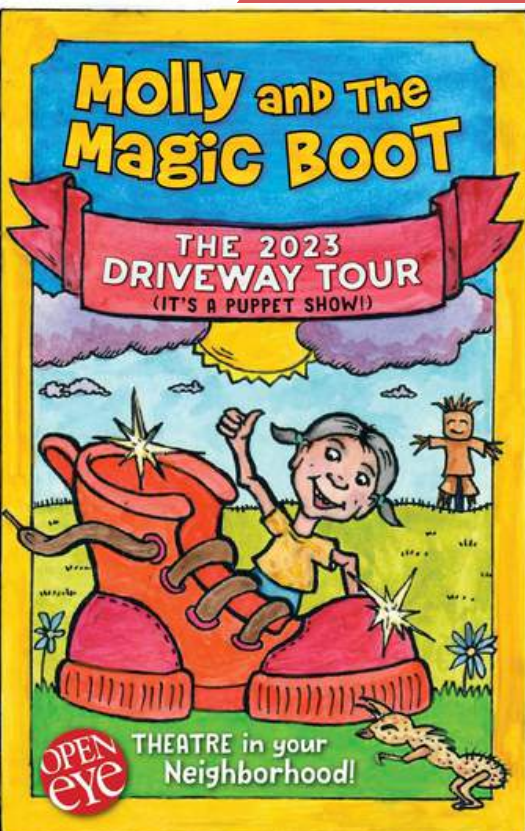
We're grilling dinner and hosting a  
performance of Open Eye Theater's  
**MOLLY AND THE MAGIC BOOT!**

We have had such an amazing time the past two summers watching Open Eye Theater artists and their puppet friends perform for us in the Valley parking lot! We figured, why not grill out and make a night of it?

Grab you friends, family, and neighbors! **Come for a potluck dinner (we'll grill, you bring a side or dessert to share) and stay for the show.** All are welcome!

## About the show:

Molly is excited to spend a whole week at Grandma's farm, but events on the journey there leave her without her gadgets. With the help of a Magic Boot and a cast of new farm friends, Molly's time with Grandma becomes a summer to remember.



# Congratulations to the Valley High School Grads!



with Emily  
Gillett

**Q: What are your plans after graduation?**

**A:** I will be graduating from Watertown Mayer High School this May. After graduation my plans are to attend the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, studying Computer Science.

**Q: What has Valley meant to you over the years?**

**A:** Valley has been a great place to learn many things over the years. Some of my first acts of community service was through Valley and some of my earliest friends have also been made here.

**Q: Do you have one Valley memory that stands out to you?**

**A:** Some of my favorite VCPC memories came from my childhood at Vacation Bible School. We always had cool snacks, and made fun crafts and science projects.

**Q: What are your plans after graduation?**

**A:** I am graduating from Armstrong High School this spring and am planning on going to University of St. Thomas.

**Q: What has Valley meant to you over the years?**

**A:** For me, Valley has been a safe place to relax and forget about the troubles of daily life, like school and homework.

**Q: Do you have one Valley memory that stands out to you?**

**A:** I really liked anytime we played Grog, but especially the first time when Andy [Gillett] was chasing me and he fell down the stairs!



with Michael  
Vogel

**Q: What are your plans after graduation?**

**A:** I am graduating from Minnetonka High School. In the fall, I'll be going to University of St. Thomas and studying exercise science along with running division 1 cross country and track.

**Q: What has Valley meant to you over the years?**

**A:** Valley has been a family and a community that has always had open arms and a safe place for me as I have grown and developed as a person.

**Q: Do you have one Valley memory that stands out to you?**

**A:** My favorite memory would be my mission trip to Milwaukee in 7th grade. I loved the community service work we did, and the group of people I was with.



with Max  
Westerlund



# CALENDAR

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

## Monday, May 1

11:30 am Lunch Bunch at 50's Grill

## Tuesday, May 2

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Wednesday, May 3

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday, May 6

2:00 pm Youth Education Scholarship Tea

## Sunday, May 7

**9:30 am Worship Service with communion**

**11:00 am Adult Ed** - "Human Rights Advocacy" with Lindsey Greising (MN Advocates for Human Rights)

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

7:00 pm The Bernstein Chamber Ensemble concert

## Tuesday, May 9

12:00 pm Formula for Hope Luncheon (Crisis Nursery)

6:00 pm Taste of the Burbs (PRISM)

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 11

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

## Friday, May 12

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

## Saturday, May 13

10:00 am Valley Church Spring Cleaning

## Sunday, May 14 | Mother's Day

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**Baptism of Gabriella Macias**

## Tuesday, May 16

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Wednesday, May 17

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 18

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

4:00 pm Presbytery Meeting

## Friday, May 19

6:00 pm Ladies Night Out



## Saturday, May 20 | Happy Birthday, VCPC!

## Sunday, May 21 | Graduation Sunday

**9:30 am Worship Service**

## Monday, May 22

6:30 pm Session Meeting

## Tuesday, May 23

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 25

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

## Sunday, May 28 | Pentecost Sunday

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**Monday, May 29 - Valley Office CLOSED**  
**Memorial Day**

## Tuesday, May 30

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Wednesday, May 31

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

# BIRTHDAYS

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Greg Rom 5/1           | Abigail Bauer 5/17     |
| Crystal Boyd 5/2       | Len Biggs 5/17         |
| Bobby Tripet 5/4       | Kevin Hagelin 5/18     |
| Walt Hanson 5/5        | Haley Brooker 5/19     |
| Annette Nichols 5/5    | Amy Matthews 5/19      |
| William Dudley 5/6     | Thomas Schuette 5/19   |
| Marissa Anderson 5/7   | Lloyd Olson 5/20       |
| Ana Freeberg 5/9       | VCPC! 5/20             |
| Jackie Goiffon 5/9     | Jan Sacco 5/21         |
| Earl Shenk 5/10        | Herb Nichols 5/22      |
| Shirley Toering 5/10   | Jennifer Soens 5/22    |
| Brian Hassel 5/12      | Dan Priem 5/23         |
| Sue Tracy 5/12         | Carolyn Anderson 5/24  |
| Lucas Kopischke 5/13   | Oliver Buller 5/25     |
| Elizabeth Brooker 5/14 | Sandra McCarthy 5/26   |
| Vivian Bi 5/15         | Kiersten Rude 5/26     |
| Suzan Gibson 5/15      | Lynn Thier 5/26        |
|                        | Alexander Gillett 5/31 |
|                        | Ellis Mead 5/31        |



# 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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