

THE VALLEY

OCTOBER 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!

- **Stewardship Kick-Off | Sunday, October 22 @ 9:30 AM (pages 5, 7)**
 - **Rev. Jim Cook preaching at 9:30 AM**
 - **Stewardship newsletters and pledge information will be available beginning Sunday, October 15**
- Fridays in the Valley (pages 6, 10)
 - Friday, October 13 @ 7 PM | Guitarists Pavel Jany and Dean Harrington
- **Apple Orchard Meet-Up | Saturday, October 7 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 6)**
 - Afton Apple Orchard (14421 90th St S, Hastings, MN 55033)
- **Fall Festival | Saturday, October 14 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM (page 6)**
- The Successful IEP Workshop | Saturday, October 21 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM (page 7)
 - **CLICK HERE** to learn more and to RSVP (childcare available with RSVP)
- **Valley Craft Club | Saturday, October 21 | 10 AM - 4 PM (page 7)**
- Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 29 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM (page 7, 8)
 - Email Mariah if you would like to decorate a trunk! (Mariah.Messer@valleychurch.net)
- **Mission Sunday | Sunday, November 12 (page 10)**
 - **Rev. Aliko Galloway preaching at 9:30 AM**
 - **Presentations by all of our community partners and a chance for everyone to get signed up to serve during Fellowship Hour!**
- Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th - Fall Back!
- Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-8, 10)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 29 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM**
 - **Bring pantry items, diapers, and wipes to donate!**
- Earth Care & Solar Panel updates (page 9)
- **Hāha Wakpadan / Bassett Creek Oral History Project updates (page 9)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

OCTOBER 2023

Dear Valley Family,

As most of you know, I have announced my decision to retire as the pastor at Valley. My last Sunday will be January 14th, 2024. But I believe that sending out a timely newsletter with all our comings and goings is a wonderful thing to do in this time of change. The timeline of my last months with you was developed with the support and advice of my most trusted colleagues and friends. By including the seasons of Stewardship, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, we cycle through our belief that God's hope and plans follow us wherever we go.

October at Valley will be full of wide-reaching ministry as we celebrate **World Communion Sunday on October 1st**. If you have any cultural clothing or jewelry that you enjoy wearing, please put it on! We will remember how much we love this world and how God holds the whole world through our open hearts and our outreach.

Two Fun Family Events for October include our **annual Apple Orchard adventure on October 7th**, and then **October 29th is our fun Trunk or Treat for PRISM event**. Our kids enjoy this time



Rev. Richard Buller

of costumes and candy in a familiar and safe place. Please plan to attend and bring along shelf-stable pantry items or diapers/wipes to donate to PRISM! If you would like to decorate your trunk and hand out candy, email Mariah to get signed up.

Sunday, October 8th is Indigenous Peoples' Sunday. This will be a time to celebrate our Land Acknowledgement Task force and all of its creative work. When I asked our friend Jim Rock if he had any ideas for music, he started coming up with some great connections and ideas! Our Adult Education time will also offer updates by our committee.



Seeing the Chancel full of kids on Sunday morning for the Children's Message never gets old. (Sept 17)

Fall Festival is coming fast on Saturday, October 14th from 5-7 PM and the theme is Come On Down! This is the week before MEA to make sure kids and families can participate. This year's Fall Festival will be fun for whole the family. There will be a silent auction, just like in years past, with a variety of services, gift baskets, tickets, and more. *This year there will also be a live game show with prizes, a bouncy house, cake walk, and carnival games!* **We suggest bringing cash or check to purchase your game, food, and raffle tickets at the door when you arrive.**

Then I am offering a **New Member Class on Saturday, October 21st.** We do have some folks and family members who have voiced interest in joining Valley. I also feel this is a great way to celebrate that during times of change, we can still plan for a hope-filled future!

Our parish associate Jim Cook is also coming out of his hiatus from preaching, as he is deeply committed to our Stewardship Drive. He will preach on kick-off Sunday, October 22nd. This will be a three-week campaign finishing on November 5th. Our theme is **Where Gratitude is Paid Forward**—and isn't that the perfect message to hear as we move forward as God's people?

In my letter, I mentioned that **Valley is in a wonderful position to attract a new pastor to continue God's work in the world with you. All of the young families and children are a sign of new life and energy. Our long-term members are a solid foundation of support and dedication.**

I believe this with my whole heart. God's hand is surely at work among us.

In gratitude I remind you that **Valley, 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

- Prelude begins at 9:25 AM | Worship at 9:30 AM, followed by coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall.
- The Family Room located in the Sunshine Room 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. The Sunshine Room provides Sunday School for children 3-3rd grade and childcare for all ages during Adult Education classes.

Valley Connects- September 2023



VCPC MEN'S RETREAT



HOMECOMING SUNDAY



NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS 5K WALK



TEAMS KIDS AT WORK!

COME ON DOWN!

October 14 | 5-7 pm

LIVE GAME SHOW STARTS AT 5:30P

* FOOD * GAMES * SILENT AUCTION * LIVE AUCTION *
BOUNCE HOUSE * FUN FOR EVERYONE *

You are invited to come together with Valley friends of all ages and raise funds to paint the Fellowship Hall.

To volunteer or donate to the auction, contact the Church Office.

Tickets will be sold at the door for food and games.
(\$10 for a sheet of 12 or \$1 per ticket)

Enter a raffle for \$5/ticket for a chance to play Price is Right-style games and win prizes! Game Show starts at 5:30 PM.



STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS UPON US!

Kick-Off of the 2023 Stewardship Season will be
Sunday October 22, 2023!

It's the time of year where we are all asked to prayerfully support the ministries that have sustained us and show gratitude for the many things our Valley family does, both in the church and in the community.

Check your mailbox for information arriving the week of October 16th. You can also attend service, either in person or virtually, to hear important updates from the Stewardship Team on 10/22 and 10/29.

PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH



CPR/AED Refresher Class



Have you ever thought about what you would do if you found someone unconscious and not breathing? Would you know how to call for help, start CPR and use an AED, if available? This class is designed to give you lots of hands-on practice with the manikins so that you will leave with the knowledge and skills to be able to help in an emergency. **Instructor: Jan Fedora**

THE CLASS WILL BE OFFERED ON **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

9:00AM-11:00AM IN THE CORNERSTONE ROOM.

SIGN-UPS FOR THE CLASS WILL BE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

AFTER WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 8, 2023.

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS.



Valley kids exploring the area for young worshippers in the Sanctuary



October in the Valley

The fun of fall is in full swing in the Valley! There are all kinds of events coming up this month that will give us all a chance to connect and come together in fellowship.

There is something for everyone and new participants are always welcome.

Bell Choir Practice

DATE: EVERY TUESDAY | TIME: 6:30 PM

Have you ever considered trying your hand at bell ringing? What's stopping you? The Valley Ringers love to share and teach others how to ring! Ringers and non-ingers ages 10 & up are welcome. The Bell Choir rehearses every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Fridays in the Valley Concert

DATE: FRIDAY, 10/13 | TIME: 7:00 PM

Join us for a delightful classical guitar performance by Pavel Jany and Dean Harrington! Pavel and Dean frequently collaborate throughout the Twin Cities, playing together in such venues as MetroNOME Brewery in Fingal's Cave, St. Paul, the Loring Pasta Bar and Carbone's in Minneapolis. Free-will offering benefits And Now She Rises.

Valley Day at the Apple Orchard

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/7 | TIME: 10 AM - 2 PM

Afton Apple Orchard

14421 90th St S, Hastings, MN 55033

Join us at Afton Apple Orchard for live music, fellowship and fun with your Valley friends. \$7 per person includes admission & lunch, as well as activities for kids, hayrides and more! Click [here](#) to sign-up or in Fellowship Hall so we can get you your admission & lunch vouchers!

Fall Festival - Come on Down!

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/14 | TIME: 5-7 PM

You are invited to come together with Valley friends of all ages and raise funds to paint the Fellowship Hall. There will be a silent and live auction, bouncy house, cupcake walk, and more! Tickets will be sold at the door for food and games (\$10 for a sheet of 12 or \$1 per ticket). Enter a raffle for \$5/ticket for a chance to play Price is Right-style games and win prizes! **Bringing cash or checks is highly encouraged.**



Valley Choir

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10/18 | TIME: 7:00 PM

We are looking forward to having the Valley Choir singing during worship twice each month. The choir will rehearse on select Wednesdays at 7:00PM for worship the following Sunday. Participants are welcome to join weekly as they are able. The next rehearsal dates are October 18 and November 1.

Stewardship Kick-Off

DATE: SUNDAY, 10/22 | TIME: 9:30 AM

Kick-Off of the 2023 Stewardship Season will be Sunday October 22, 2023! It's the time of year where we are all asked to prayerfully support the ministries that have sustained us and show gratitude for the many things our Valley family does, both in the church and in the community.

PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

The Successful IEP Workshop

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/21 | TIME: 3 PM - 5 PM

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

2200 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, 55431

The Presbytery's Disability Concerns Ministry is hosting an Individualized Education Plan workshop open to everyone in your communities. [CLICK HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Valley Craft Club

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/21 | TIME: 10 AM - 4 PM

Valley crafters had so much fun crafting together we decided to make it a regular event & meet more often. **This month's featured craft is holiday card-making!** Carolyn Anderson will demo and share examples. We'll have all the supplies you need - suggested donation of \$5. Bring a project (or projects!) to work on and a dish to share. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Trunk or Treat for PRISM

DATE: SUNDAY, 10/29 | TIME: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

A community event with a cause! Hosted by Valley Youth. Come to Valley, trick or treat in the parking lot, listen to music, and see your friends and neighbors! Bring pantry items for PRISM and help us fill the trailer with donations.

Can't wait to see you there!



2023 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR HOME BREWED BEER, MEAD & CIDER WINNERS			
BEST OF SHOW:		2023 MINN-KASI AWARD WINNER 1000 PARTICIPATING BREWERS JACOB AND SHELLEY SALES	B.O.S. BEER WAYNE DOUCETTE GERMAN PILS
Table 10: British Bitter & Brown (16 entries)		Table 17: Belgian & French (13 entries)	Table 24: Specialty and (8 entries)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jay Perry Jacob And Shelly Sales Ross Winberg 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soren Jensen Colby Reineke Soren Jensen Garrick Van Buren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Arsenau Jim Bannan Rior Daniel Holbr Matt Cramer
Table 11: Scottish and Irish (13 entries)		Table 18: Monastic Ale (10 entries)	Table 25: Standard Cid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justin Ueland Jeremy Glowicki 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garrick Van Buren Soren Jensen Matthew Johnson Joshua Zahrbok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Meint Kevin Meint Matt Cramer
Table 12: American Wheat (9 entries)		Table 19: Saison (13 entries)	Table 26: Specialty Cid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aric Daul Brian Smith Nathan DeFrance Co-Brewer: Mark Kriz Mark Swanson Brian O'Farrell 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob And Shelly Sales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aric Daul

Photos clockwise starting above:

- Tom W and Ray A at the Valley Men's Retreat
- Brew Crew wins the Blue Ribbon in the British Bitter & Brown category
- Blue Ribbon bottle!
- Dawn S and Carolyn A kick off Fall Adult Ed with a Sustainability Group meeting
- Roger M and Paul M at the Valley Men's Retreat

Valley Education Corner

Faith Formation Update: Sunday School for kids ages 3-3rd grade has begun. It's not too late to sign up! This helps us know who might be coming! Jameese Decker is in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings to lead Sunday School activities. She does need helpers so please consider lending a hand. **CLICK HERE** to sign up to be a Sunday School Helper!

Trunk or Treat for PRISM is coming up on Sunday, October 29th from 4:00 - 5:00 PM!

This is one of our most fun events of the year and we need you to help make it a success. Here is everything you need to know:

- *Spread the word!* Share the facebook event, tell your friends, family, and neighbors. The more the merrier and this event is a great way to build community.
- *Decorate your trunk and hand out candy!* Email Mariah for more information (Mariah.Messer@valleychurch.net)
- *Bring some items to donate to PRISM!* Pantry items for the Food Shelf, diapers and wipes are always in demand.



Blessing of the Backpacks on Homecoming Sunday
September 2023



Exploring solar energy in TEAMS - Sept 2023



WREATH SALES ARE BACK!!!

Valley Youth are selling wreaths to raise money for mission days and youth events!

Order yours today in the Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office. Deadline to order is Sunday, October 15th.

Adult Education Schedule

- Adult Ed classes will take place at 11:00 AM. Coffee and pastries welcome!
- Classes will be held in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.
- Classes will be recorded and available on YouTube as we are able.
- Full class descriptions available in Sept Newsletter and **online here**.

October 1 | Rev. Nancy Phillips

"Looking Inward, Looking Outward, Being a Friend"

October 8 | Crystal Boyd & Jim Rock

"Land Acknowledgement Updates"

October 15 | Bread for the World

"US Farm Bill & Feeding the Hungry"

October 22 | NO ADULT ED

Adult Ed classes will resume on October 29

October 29 | Jewish Community Action

"White Nationalism"

November 5 | Rev. Anna Kendig Flores

"Recalibrating Our Spiritual GPS"

November 12 | Mission Sunday

Hosted in Fellowship Hall.

November 19 | Sustainability Group

"Water Conservation"

Earth Care Corner



The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report was released in March. It is a stark warning for us which can cause fear. "But real action can come from meeting that fear with hope," says **climate scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe**. There is hope when we make the choice to do everything we can. Hayhoe says, "We all have something to contribute. We all live somewhere. We all work somewhere. We might study somewhere or belong to an organization." We can use that space to advocate and ask, "Why don't we do something different?" **She adds, "The report says every bit of warming matters, every action matters, every choice matters. The power is in our hands to ensure a different future."**

What steps, even small ones, can you take at home? At my house we use cloth napkins instead of disposable paper; if we have to buy something in plastic packaging, we buy the biggest size available; and we have shifted to a plant-based diet which reduces much of the pollution caused by animal agriculture. You are probably taking similar actions at your house. And **"God's House," our Valley Church, has stepped out to act as well by installing solar panels on our roof.** Hope is in the air (or on the roof)!

Sustainability Group Meets Next On:
November 19
 (More info on page 5)
New members are always welcome!

Update submitted by Earth Care Task Force member Carolyn Anderson



THE SOLAR PANELS ARE INSTALLED AND WILL BE WILL BE ACTIVATED ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH!

If you have not had a chance to take a look out the Sunshine Room windows, you should! Installation of the solar panels began on August 18 and was completed within two weeks. Here is what we can look forward to once the solar panels are turned on:

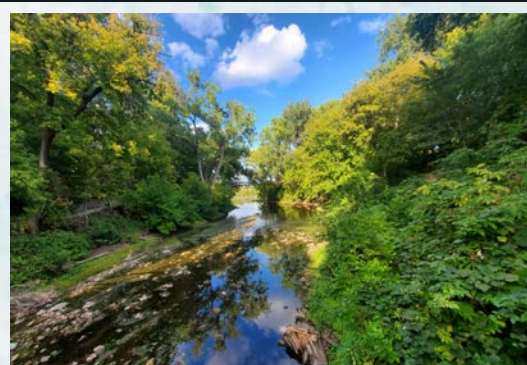
- **CO2 emissions cut by 1,050,884 lbs., which is equivalent to 16,614 trees growing for 10 years**
- **kilowatt hours down by 51,985 kWh in 1st year; 1,421,073 kWh over 30 years**
- an average of \$5,500 in annual utilities savings
- additional savings in tax rebates and incentives



THE HĀHA WAKPADAN / BASSETT CREEK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT IS NOW AVAILABLE AS A PODCAST!

The Hennepin History Museum has taken the recorded interviews conducted by Dr. Kasey Keeler and turned them into podcast episodes that you can access on Spotify, our new [Valley Website](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN ON SPOTIFY!](#)



Hāha Wakpadan (credit: Sean Gosiewski)



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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 7:00 pm
Dean Harrington &
Pavel Jany, guitar

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | 7:00 pm
Carleton Woodwind Quintet

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 7:00 pm
Above Average Tuba Quartet

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



Fall Clean Up

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Exterior cleaning of the
church grounds**



**YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR
VOICE.
BE HEARD.**

**Vote in the General Election
Tuesday, November 7.**

Mission Sunday

NOVEMBER 12

A Sunday all about Mission and Outreach at Valley!

Rev. Alika Galloway will lead us in Sunday worship, which is sure to be meaningful and thought-provoking. We are always grateful to welcome Rev. Alika!

Following worship in the Fellowship Hall you will have a chance to learn more about mission at Valley and how you can get involved!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!

NOVEMBER 17 • 6:00-8:30 PM

KIDS 5TH GRADE AND UNDER ENJOY A NIGHT OF FUN WITH VALLEY FRIENDS!

THEIR BIG PEOPLE ENJOY A NIGHT OUT!



\$5 PER CHILD

INCLUDES: DINNER | PLAYTIME | MOVIE

SIGN UP INFO COMING SOON!



Valley Craft Club!

Valley crafters had so much fun crafting together we decided to make it a regular event & meet more often.

New this Fall! We will demo a craft & have materials for you to do it too or bring your own project to work on. Bring a dish to share.

See you there!

**November 18, 2023
10 AM - 3 PM**



BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Cawhorn 10/1
 Lonnie Johnson 10/2
 Brayden Rude 10/2
 Reid Nichols 10/3
 Margaret Sandberg 10/5
 Gail Smith 10/5
 Rachel Hole 10/6
 Brandon Novy 10/6
 April Kovacovich 10/7
 Cathy LaPoint 10/7
 Valerie Craven 10/8
 Nancy Husnik 10/8
 Aubrie Larsen 10/8
 Karen Sauter 10/10
 Thom Reinert 10/11
 Madelyn Soens 10/11
 Alexander Kara 10/12
 Jack Perry 10/12
 Earl Robertson 10/12
 Max Westerlund 10/12
 Ginger Jackson 10/13
 Benjamin Gillett 10/14
 Myron Jones 10/14
 Chrisdel Nyongkah 10/15
 Cheryl Smith 10/15
 Peggy Meyer 10/17
 Eli Matthews Doering 10/18
 Linda Wold 10/18
 Lilianna Schellhaas 10/19
 Andrew Freeberg 10/22
 Les Freeberg 10/22
 Ann Keen 10/23
 Earl Michael 10/24
 Alex Graham 10/25
 Nancy Olson 10/25
 Mary Ann Winter 10/25
 Janet Triplett 10/26
 Myrle Reiswig 10/27
 Catherine Paulson 10/28
 Norman Chervany 10/29
 Ann Van Heest 10/31



CALENDAR

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

Sunday, October 1

9:30 am Worship Service with communion

11:00 am Adult Ed - Rev. Nancy Philips

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, October 2

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, October 3

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 5

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, October 7

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Valley Day at the Orchard

Sunday, October 8

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed - Jim Rock & Crystal Boyd

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, October 10

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 12

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, October 13

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, October 14

5:00 pm Fall Festival

Sunday, October 15

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed - Bread for the World

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, October 17

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 18

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 19

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, October 21

10:00 am Valley Craft Club

Sunday, October 22 - Stewardship Kick-Off

9:30 am Worship Service

Rev. Jim Cook preaching

NO ADULT ED, TEAMS, YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Monday, October 23

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 24

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 26

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, October 29

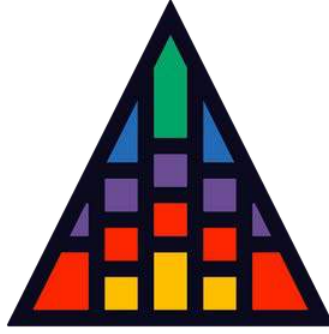
9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed - Jewish Community Action

4:00 pm Trunk or Treat for PRISM

Tuesday, October 31 - Halloween

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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