

THE VALLEY

SEPTEMBER 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!

- **Homecoming Sunday - September 10 @ 9:30 AM**
 - ***Come connect and learn how you can share of your time/talents this year.***
- Sheila Sheldon is preaching on Sunday, September 3 @ 9:30 AM
- **Rev. Bill Davnie preaching on Sunday, September 17 @ 9:30 AM**
- Fridays in the Valley (pages 5, 8, 14)
 - Friday, September 8 @ 7 PM | Crossroads String Duo
- **First Adult Ed of the Fall | Sunday, September 10 @ 11:00 AM (full schedule pages 6-7)**
 - Plant-Based Nutrition: *Eating for Health, Spirituality, and Stewardship*
- **Men's Retreat | September 15-17 | Clearwater Forest (page 9)**
- TEAMS & Youth Group Kick-off | Sunday, September 17 @ 4:00 PM
- **Apple Orchard Meet-Up | Saturday, October 7 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 14)**
 - Afton Apple Orchard (14421 90th St S, Hastings, MN 55033)
- **Fall Festival | Saturday, October 14 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM (page 14)**
- The Successful IEP Workshop | Saturday, October 21 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM (page 11, 14)
 - **CLICK HERE** to RSVP (childcare available with RSVP)
- **Valley Craft Club | Saturday, October 21 | 10 AM - 4 PM (page 14)**
- Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 29 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM
- **Mission Sunday | Sunday, November 12**
- Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-9, 12, 14)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk | Saturday, September 23 @ 11:00 AM**
 - **CLICK HERE** to register for the "Valley Walkers" Team
- Earth Care & Land Acknowledgement Task Force updates (page 10)
- **Immigration/Refugee Task Force & Church Growth updates (page 11)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer

A Letter From The Pastor

SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Valley Family,

As we were all packing up the mountains of school supplies for PRISM after church on August 13, we all commented that September is not far away! And now we are down to the wire and this newsletter says it all:

September is for back to school and back to church!

Sunday, September 10th is our **Homecoming Sunday** at Valley. As we all emerge from pandemic protocols, it is important that we create a warm welcome for all who are returning to church — especially our Valley Kids!

Here is what is happening:

- Valley's new logo will be revealed by giving free Valley T-Shirts to all in-person worshippers.
- We will be blessing all kids' backpacks and handing out Bibles to our 4th graders!
- We will celebrate communion together.
- Valley Pastries (Funner Brother's) Doughnut Holes will be served during coffee hour, at which time you'll also have an opportunity to sign up for great things in the coming year! Information tables will have people to answer your questions and help you get signed up to volunteer.



Rev. Richard Buller

Homecoming Sunday is designed to establish a healthy connection for us all and remind us how much we love fellowship at Valley. Our Church Growth Team, headed up by Susie Potter and Jay Tracy, have requested that all of us make a special effort to attend at least one Sunday a month for those who have not yet returned to regular worship.

They are recommending the first Sunday which will always include communion and Valley Pastries, but we will all understand if you want to come the last Sunday to hear our amazing organist, Jane Nienaber! However you return, you are guaranteed to be uplifted by Valley's Spirit of love and connection!



During worship on June 18, Valley kids shared about Compassion the theme of this year's VBC.

Sunday, September 17th

- Will be our return to full education and youth programming. We are excited to have Rev. Bill Davnie with us who will be travelling to Minnesota from his home in Virginia. He will be preaching as well as leading our kick-off for Adult Education concerning Christian Values and National Interests.
- Children (3yr-3rd Grade) will have Sunday School opportunities in the Sunshine Room after the children's sermon. For little ones 3 & under, space is available in the kids corner located by the bell corner & narthex for them to move while they worship. Also, NEW for littles & their grownups is a family room located inside the Sunshine Room that offers a quiet space for those who need a break from worship.
- All Youth Programming (4th -12th Grade) begins Sunday, September 17th, Late Afternoon from 4-6pm. ***Please plan on helping your child participate in this wonderful Valley tradition!***

Saturday, September 23rd will be an opportunity to support mental health efforts through the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) 5K walk at Minnehaha Falls. Valley is walking as a team, and you are invited to participate. You may also mail in checks made out to VCPC to support this important cause!

We are wrapping up an amazing summer at Valley where we returned safely to many normal activities. All of us who participated feel blessed. I also feel blessed to be part of a congregation who connects with each other in such loving and supportive ways!

**As we move into September,
remember Valley, you are loved—**
Richard



Valley Middle School Youth took part in three Mission Days this summer. One day in August was spent sorting school supplies at PRISM for their Back to School Success Drive.

*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- Summer 2023

Brew Crew & BBQ



Golden Valley PRIDE Festival



Valley Night Out



Learn & Work Day at Hohwoju Otunwe in Mountain Lake, MN



FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY PRESENTS:

Crossroads String Duo

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 | 7:00 PM

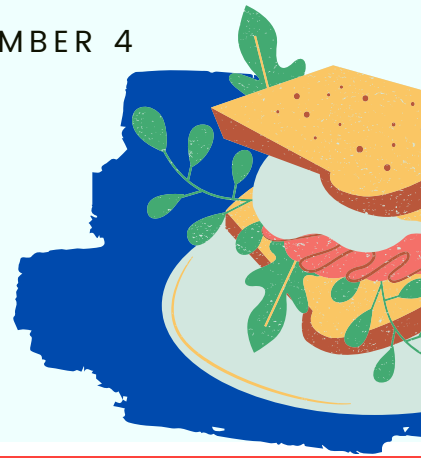
FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
EVERY MEAL

Valley Lunch Bunch

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
11:30 AM

50s
GRILL

First Monday of
every month!



NAMI WALK

National Alliance on
Mental Health

5k Walk (3.1 miles)

SIGN-UP TO WALK/DONATE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

All together for mental
health for all!

It's not how far we walk.
It's how far we have come.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Minnehaha Falls
Regional Park

11:00am - 3:00pm

Optional carpool from
Valley at 10:30am

NAMI WALK

BEATLES SING-ALONG FUNDRAISER AT VALLEY

SEPT 24 | 6-8 PM

FEATURING DAN CHIOUNARD

In celebration of Andy
Westerlund's 64th birthday,
sing along to your favorite
Beatles songs.
Each song will raise funds for
a different charity
(PRISM, Crisis Nursery,
Clare Terrace).

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

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

• SEPTEMBER 28 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:

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



Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY, SEPT 30 | 1:00-6:00 PM

ANDREW & BECCA PITAN'S HOUSE
REFERENCE YOUR DIRECTORY

IT'S CIDER TIME!

Bring apples, pears,
peeling & cutting equipment

POTLUCK & BBQ

Pitans will provide brats, hot dogs, and s'mores
Feel free to bring sides, snacks to share.
Beverages of all kinds | Kids Always Welcome



CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS:
763 438 2476 | j_perry3@yahoo.com

Adult Education - Fall 2023

- Adult Ed classes will take place at 11 AM.
- Classes will be held in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.
- Select classes will be available on our YouTube channel.

September 10 - SUSTAINABILITY GROUP, Plant-Based Nutrition:

Eating for Health, Spirituality, and Stewardship

Valley members Dawn Schuldt and Carolyn Anderson will explore ideas of wellness and present simple ways to incorporate plant-based eating. Along with a brief cooking demonstration, we will provide resources to stimulate curiosity in this transformative journey.

September 17 - WHERE CHRISTIAN VALUES AND NATIONAL INTERESTS COLLIDE - UKRAINE PALESTINE AND MORE, Rev. Bill Davnie

American Christians often see our foreign policy as an extension of our values of democracy, freedom, faith and more. But our values and our national interests – security, defeat of competitors and more – don't actually always coincide, and we quickly let our interests overwhelm our values. We'll look at how Christians here and elsewhere look at Ukraine, Palestine other aspects of our international presence.

September 24 - THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT, Sheila Sheldon

We are the reformed church, always reforming and that means things change from time to time. Sheila will share about the new things happening with education ministries and answer any questions you might have. Then she'll present Valley's new website and give a tour of where to find commonly searched content. Finally, two of our newest Parish Associates, Nancy Phillips and Rebecca Tollefson, will join us to share a little more about themselves, what they are doing now, and what they look forward to in the future.

October 1 - LOOKING INWARD, LOOKING OUTWARD, BEING A FRIEND, Rev. Nancy Phillips

October is Mental Health Awareness month. In this class we'll learn how diagnosed conditions such as anxiety and depression are on a continuum with the everyday sadness and worry that appear at times in everyone's lives. We'll also talk about friendship and walking with people through the difficult times. Nancy Phillips is an ordained clergy person in the Reformed Church of America and worked for the church in the areas of ecumenism & women's issues. She is also a licensed clinical social worker and served as an individual/family therapist in the Fairview clinic system.

October 8 - LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT UPDATES, Crystal Boyd & Jim Rock

Crystal Boyd will share an update on the 2022 oral history project and new projects that have been inspired by this important work. Then, Jim Rock will share an update on the work happening in Mountain Lake, MN with Makoce Ikikcupi. Makoce Ikikcupi, meaning Land Recovery, is a project of reparative justice on Dakota homelands in Minisota Makoce (Minnesota).



cont... Adult Education - Fall 2023

October 15 - BREAD FOR THE WORLD

We have a great opportunity this fall because the US Farm Bill is up for reauthorization. Federal nutrition programs, a part of the Farm Bill, provide 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities combined. Bread for the World volunteers will show us how to speak up so the government will listen and help feed hungry children and families.

October 22 - **PROGRAMMING SABBATH**

*We will take October 22 as our Sunday of Sabbath from programming.
Adult Ed classes will resume on October 29.*

October 29 - **WHITE NATIONALISM, Brandon Schorsch, Jewish Community Action**

Brandon Schorsch from Jewish Community Action will return to Valley to lead us in a discussion of white nationalism. This concept has been with us since the Civil War and is seeing a current and dangerous resurgence. We need to be aware and learn how to name and disrupt it.

November 5 - **RECALIBRATING OUR SPIRITUAL GPS, Rev. Anna Kendig Flores**

Our Presbytery has voted to accept the recommendations of the Institutional Race & Equity Self-Assessment Team. Come to this session to learn about the five recommendations for seeing our way forward and building our antiracist assets as a Matthew 25 Congregation. The Presbytery's Anti-Racism Institutional Assessment Coordinator, Rev. Anna Kendig Flores will lead the discussion.

November 12 - **MISSION SUNDAY**

In the Valley we believe strongly in making a difference in our local community and beyond. We don't just talk the talk, we walk the walk with our friends and neighbors. Come hear the latest news from our local Mission Partners as they share about their work over the past year and how they are continuing to serve the community today. Learn how you can get involved with our mission partners and participate in family friendly Doing Good Together service activities.

November 19 - **SUSTAINABILITY GROUP, Water Conservation**

Carolyn Anderson will lead a discussion about how water conservation is more than just turning the water off to brush your teeth or changing the type of shower head you use. Learn how even the foods and products we choose impact our water system.

CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE



DONATE TODAY!!

The PRISM Food Pantry is always in need of meal staples but another need often forgotten is grocery bags.
Bring yours bags to Valley!



PRISM



September in the Valley



Fall back in step with life in the Valley this September! After a busy summer, now is the perfect time to reconnect and recommit to your favorite spiritual group, mission partner, or fellowship event.

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

Bell Choir Practice Resumes!

DATE: Tuesday, 9/5 | 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.

Valley Choir Starting Up Again!

DATE: Wednesday, 9/6 | 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 date is 9/27.

Fridays in the Valley Concert

DATE: Friday, 9/8 | TIME: 7:00 PM

The Crossroads String Duo focuses on music performed on violin and cello from the baroque to contemporary, interweaving folk music into the classical traditions. Crossroads is also focused on contemporary creations and popular music, to bring newer textures and styles to violin and cello. Free-will offering benefits Every Meal.

Homecoming Sunday

DATE: Sunday, 9/10 | TIME: 9:30 AM

The summer has come to an end and it's time to come together and reconnect with your Valley family. We'll have communion together during worship and then enjoy coffee and pastries in Fellowship Hall. Adult Education classes also get started this week with a meeting of the Sustainability Group!



Men's Retreat

DATE: 9/15 - 9/17 | TIME: ALL Weekend

Join other Valley men for a weekend away at the beautiful Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center. Participants will enjoy fellowship and activities. There will also be time to explore topics related to the Presbyterian faith and spirituality through study and discussion.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk 5K/3.1 miles

DATE: Saturday, 9/23 | TIME: 1:00 PM

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. The NAMI Walk will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at Minnehaha Falls Regional Park in Minneapolis at 1pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to register and join our team, "Valley Walkers".

Beatles Sing-Along Fundraiser

DATE: Sunday, 9/24 | TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Featuring Dan Chiounard! In celebration of Andy Westerlund's 64th birthday, sing along to your favorite Beatles songs. Each song will raise funds for a different charity (PRISM, Crisis Nursery, Clare Terrace).

Fall Education Programming Kick-Off

DATE: Sunday, 9/24 | TIME: 9:30 AM

Sunday School starts in earnest today! Adult Ed, TEAMS, and Youth Group have started over the past two weeks, school routines are starting to get established, and it's time to get in a rhythm at Valley too.

Brew Crew

DATE: Sat, 9/30 | TIME: 1:00 - 6:00 PM

Our next event will be at the Pitan Household. We will be making cider again! If you have any apples or pears to donate, they are always appreciated. Bring slicers, cutting boards, and juicers. We will also brew a few batches of beer - let Jay Perry know if you have ideas on what to make!



Photos clockwise starting above:

- Stripping bark - Learn & Work Day @ Hohwozu Otunwe
- Donna Philippot plays Special Music on PRIDE Sunday 2023
- Brew Crew (7/23/23)
- Valley Night Out (7/30/23)
- All-Church Picnic (6/4/23)
- Valley kids at play in the Sanctuary

EARTH CARE CORNER



"We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it" (Wendell Berry, The Long-Legged House). How might we at Valley do that?

- Explore a plant based diet. New research from the University of Oxford states that people who follow a plant based diet account for 75% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than those who eat more than 3.5 oz of meat (ex: a quarter pounder) a day. Join adult education on September 10 for information on how to give it a try.
- Learn more about the solar panels that will soon adorn our own church roof!
- Look before you toss items at church. Our recycling containers are located at handy locations.
- Discover numerous topics at <https://www.valleychurch.net/adult-education-resource-page> including Barb Wasmoen's presentation on plastic alternatives.

Sustainability Group Meets Next On:
September 10 and November 19
(More info on page 6 & 7)
New members are always welcome!

Update submitted by Earth Care Task Force member Carolyn Anderson

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TASK FORCE

This group meets virtually each month. In May, Susie Potter joined the team. Through a grant from the University of Wisconsin, we're working with a Native videographer to create a pronunciation video for Hāha Wakpadan, the Dakota name for Bassett Creek. The video received support from the City of Golden Valley's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission and the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission.

The Hāha Wakpadan / Bassett Creek Oral History Project is included in a forthcoming book about Indigenous oral histories as it is considered the first suburban American Indian oral history project in the United States and Canada.

VCPC has partnered with Hennepin History Museum (HHM) to increase awareness of the creek's Dakota name. In July, HHM hosted two events at VCPC: a kickoff for community partners and a Listen and Learn session with Roxanne Gould. In November, HHM will host its capstone celebration at VCPC. We're glad to support this community networking that was inspired by VCPC's oral history project.

Please mark **Sunday October 8** on your calendar as we will celebrate **Indigenous Peoples Sunday** with special music from Jim Rock.
Hope to see you there!

In August, members of the task force participated in a hands-on work day with Makoce Ikikcupi at Hohwozu Otunwe (Village of Vibrant Growth). This new village features a traditional Dakota earth lodge and is located in Mountain Lake, MN.



Learn & Work Day at Hohwozu Otunwe
(photo credit: Richard Buller)

Left: Crystal Boyd & Richard Buller

Right: Richard Buller, Jim Rock, Roxanne Gould



Meeting with videographer at Hāha Wakpadan / Bassett Creek
(photo credit: Crystal Boyd)

In the photo (L to R):

• Laura Jester, Administrator for the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
• Joelle Allen, Chair of Golden Valley's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission

• Jennifer Biggs, Chair of VCPC's Land Acknowledgement Task Force
• Tiana LaPointe (Sicangu Lakota), videographer



Haha Wakpadan / Bassett Creek
(photo credit: Lyn Boyd)

IMMIGRANT TASK FORCE UPDATE



The Karwan family continues to thrive and survive in our community. Silab is working hard and has completed several important goals, including getting a credit card. Mina and the children are spending some time outside, and the family is using their vehicle to go to nearby parks and markets. They enjoyed the Whiz Bang fireworks in Robbinsdale last month.

Valley provided funds for an event with other Afghan families, which was held this summer. As the photos show, Mina and her children joined with other Afghan mothers and children at Theodore Wirth Park. Thanks to Gwen Rouleau, Arlene Freeberg, Sue Tracy, and Jennie Minter for helping these families to have a picnic with fun activities for kids. The women were proud to share their home cooking with each other and their new American friends.

We continue to support the Karwan family as they build their own community links with others, near and far.

Update submitted by Immigration Task Force member Jan Sacco

CHURCH GROWTH NEWS

Catch the Valley Vibe!!

Church Growth encourages you to come back and experience that Valley Vibe. Whether you've been gone for the summer or several months or even all of Covid, it doesn't matter. Valley is a Judgement Free Space! So don't stress any longer, just come as you are and get caught up with friends old and new.

This fall we challenge you to commit to one Sunday a month to fill the pews and feel the Valley Vibe once again. Valley is a family, and we have new family members you'll want to meet and familiar faces you'll be excited to greet.

Speaking of new faces, we will host a **New Members class on Saturday, October 21 from 9-11 AM.**

Mark your calendars and join us the first Sunday of the month to share Communion together & enjoy fellowship time with Funner Brothers doughnut holes. **It's kind of like a monthly Family Reunion!**



PRESBYTERY NEWS

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

THE SUCCESSFUL IEP WORKSHOP

The Presbytery's Disability Concerns Ministry is hosting an Individualized Education Plan workshop open to everyone in your communities.

Parents and guardians with students on IEPs (or perhaps needing one) are encouraged to attend to learn how to create and manage a successful IEP experience. This in-person looks to provide support and connection!

Teachers/administrators/pastors welcome to learn more about this essential process!

DATE & TIME

Sunday, October 15, 2023
3:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church
2200 W Old Shakopee Rd,
Bloomington, MN 55431

PRESENTERS

-Carolyn Anderson
(retired PACER Advocate & IEP parent)
-Rev. Stephanie Friant
(PACER Parent Leader & IEP parent)

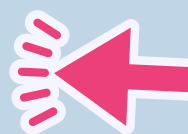
VALLEY EDUCATION CORNER

Faith Formation Update: This fall, we are so excited to once again offer Sunday School for kids ages 3-3rd grade. We recently reimagined our upstairs spaces and have created one large learning space by combining the Nursery and Sunshine Room. James Decker will be in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings to lead Sunday School activities. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up to be a Sunday School Helper!

For our youngest kids, ages 3 and under, we offer space for them to move while participating in worship in both the Sanctuary and the Narthex. Additionally, in the process of reimagining our upstairs spaces, we created a small Family Room within the Sunshine Room for kids 3 & under and their grown-ups. This spot will be perfect for kiddos who want a quiet area to get wiggles out or eat! Lastly, there will be events offered throughout the fall and winter that will be fun for the whole family and we invite families to bring our youngest members along!



**REGISTER YOUR KID/S FOR FALL 2023
EDUCATION MINISTRIES PROGRAMMING**



Click here!



Valley Youth Mission Day at PRISM - August 2023

4th Grade Bibles and Blessing of the Backpacks: On Rally Sunday, September 10, Pastor Richard and Sheila will be presenting **4th Graders with their very own Bibles and blessing backpacks** during the Worship service!

TEAMS/YOUTH GROUP | Grades 4-12

Sundays from 4-6 PM beginning on September 17

- TEAMS Program is for kids entering 4/5 grades
- Youth Group- middle school 6-9 and senior high 10-12

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE COMPASSION CAMP A HUGE SUCCESS!

Our return to in-person Vacation Bible Camp brought laughter, big messes, songs, smiles, thoughtful discussions, and lots of learning. Sheila and Mariah want to thank the 12 VBC-ers who brought their best selves to camp everyday, their families for dropping them off and picking them up, and the VBC volunteers who made the week a complete success.

Valley staff were all excited about the return to in-person VBC this year and it was even better than we could have imagined. It was nothing short of magical to watch this group of compassionate, fun, and thoughtful Valley kids share time and learn together.



Meet Our Web Design & Graphic Team- HAFI!



Q

A

Valley is currently in the process of designing a NEW website & logo. These are the amazing folks who are helping make it all possible.

Q: Tell us about yourselves!

We are Hafi, partners in life, love, and crime (just kidding about the last part).

K: Hafi is me (Kristy!) and Luke, Minnesota transplants who are currently living in Amsterdam. I call a few places home, but spent many of my formative years in Wyoming, Minnesota.

L: I lived my whole life in Minneapolis/St. Paul — starting in Robbinsdale! (near 36th and Major Avenue, by the old Tom Thumb). I went to Bethel University for college and did a double major in English and Philosophy. I worked for a corporate IT startup; ran a kinda crazy literary magazine called Revolver; presided as president of House of Mercy, an artsy ELCA congregation in St. Paul; and now live in Amsterdam with Kristy and two monsters we call cats.

Q: What are your professional backgrounds?

K: a bit scattered! Early education, special education, copywriting and editing / marketing, yoga teacher / studio manager, sports massage therapist. When Luke and I moved to Amsterdam, I envisioned myself starting a Body / Movement Therapy practice (something between yoga, massage, and physio).

L: I started my career at a corporate IT startup — we sold SAP security services and products — where I worked with really big companies. Before the company was sold, I was made a (very small) partner. I decided to get out of the corporate world (kinda boring). I launched a literary magazine that gained some local acclaim (we won Best of MN one year! also where I met Ms. Hanson) and started doing freelance design and development work. We couldn't figure out how to make money with the magazine but I got busy with design/development. That's been my main gig ever since!

Q: Where did the idea for Hafi originate?

K: We'd always worked together in a very informal way. Luke had his business, I had mine, but every now and then Luke would need an extra hand. At the start of the pandemic, Luke got very busy and I was very... not busy. We decided to work together in a more formal way and merged our talents (and names). Hafi = Hanson and Finsaas

L: Why Hafi? First, we've got rent to pay. Second, good design shouldn't be reserved for big fancy companies with billions — we believe in making good, functional websites that don't cost organizations the equivalent of a small house. Third, fun! We get to work with a lot of different companies. Recently, we've launched sites for German protein researchers using AI, an electronic recycler in Virginia, a climate advocacy campaign asking big tech companies to leave the Chamber of Commerce, and Hippo Pockets, Centro's latest mini-concept.

Q: What is the goal of the work you are doing for Valley?

L: I want to design a resilient identity — timeless or at least never ugly — for Valley Community, a look that reinforces all the good stuff "Da V" [VCPC] is up to: friendliness, service, and getting good stuff done. On the web front, we're looking to deliver a site that's easy for the congregation and public to use, easy to maintain, and helps the community stay connected.

K: Always at the forefront of my thinking and action with Valley is conveying the friendliness and warmth of spirit I've already felt from Mariah and Sheila (and I agree with what Luke said above!)



with Kristy Hanson & Luke Finsaas (Hafi)

- 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

VALLEY'S ANNUAL ORCHARD DAY

OCTOBER 7, 2023

10:00AM-2:00PM

*LUNCH @ 11:30 AM

AFTON APPLE

\$7
per person



Family
Activities,
Food and
Fun!

14421 90th St S,
Hastings, MN 55033

Includes: orchard admission, hayrides,
family activities & hotdog or brat combo

SAVE THE DATE



OCTOBER 14 FROM 5 - 8 PM

FOOD | DRINKS | LIVE MUSIC

THE SUCCESSFUL IEP WORKSHOP

Full workshop description on Page 11

DATE & TIME

Sunday, October 15, 2023
3:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church
2200 W Old Shakopee Rd,
Bloomington, MN 55431

PRESENTERS

-Carolyn Anderson
(retired PACER Advocate & IEP parent)
-Rev. Stephanie Friant
(PACER Parent Leader & IEP parent)

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Childcare available with RSVP

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!

October 21, 2023
10 AM - 4 PM



Valley
Community
Presbyterian Church

Hosted by
Valley Youth

Candy

A
Community
Event
with a
Cause!

Oct
29
4-5 PM

DJ

Trunk
or
Treat
for PRISM



Bring pantry items for PRISM and
help us fill the trailer at our annual
Trick or Treat for PRISM drive.
Can't wait to see you there!

3100 Lilac Drive North | Golden Valley MN 55422

BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Frankline Nyongkah
 9/2 Martin Buller
 9/3 Lennox Mead
 9/6 Alan Wold
 9/9 Aaron Craven
 9/9 Arnold Schellhaas
 9/10 Pius Nti
 9/10 Jeff Soltau
 9/12 Hayden Gautsche
 9/12 Claire Reinert
 9/13 Pete Messer
 9/13 Christine Phelan
 9/14 Jonathan Schellhaas
 9/15 Ted Arneson
 9/16 Steve Bauer
 9/16 Katie Decker
 9/16 Gwen Rouleau
 9/17 Evonne Kirchenwitz
 9/18 Jeffrey Lund
 9/21 SuAnn Bygd
 9/21 Mark Freeman
 9/22 Jameese Decker
 9/23 Jameson Johannsen
 9/25 Tom Jenson
 9/26 Mariah Messer
 9/26 Andrew Westerlund
 9/26 Helmut Winter
 9/27 Peter Brant
 9/28 Paul Minter
 9/28 Emily Steffel
 9/29 Sarah Gonsior
 9/29 Deborah Poynter
 9/30 Jennifer Biggs
 9/30 Bellinda Nti



CALENDAR

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

Sunday, September 3
9:30 am Worship Service,
Sheila Sheldon preaching

Monday, September 4 - Labor Day
Office Closed
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, September 5
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 6
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 8
 7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, September 10 - Homecoming Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
 11:00 am Adult Ed - Sustainability Group:

Tuesday, September 12
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 14
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, September 15 - Sunday, September 17
 Men's Retreat at Clearwater Forest

Sunday, September 17
Education Kick-Off Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service
Rev. Bill Davnie preaching
 11:00 am Adult Ed - Rev. Bill Davnie
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, September 19
 11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 21
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, September 23
 11:00 am - 3:00 pm NAMI Walk
 (10:30 am Optional carpool meets at Valley)

Sunday, September 24
9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed - Sheila Sheldon
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group
 6:00 pm Beatles Sing-Along Fundraiser
 feat. Dan Chiounard

Monday, September 25
 6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, September 26
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 27
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 28
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, September 30
 1:00 pm Brew Crew @ The Pitan's House

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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