

**Contact Information**

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**Release Date**

May 12, 2022

**Event Summary**

Native American Community Celebration in Golden Valley. Saturday, June 4, 2022. 11:00am – 2:00pm. Hosted at Valley Community Presbyterian Church, 3100 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Rain or shine. Free. Family-friendly. Open to the public. Includes Native foods, dancers, drummers, storyteller, arts activities, speaker presentation, and more. Free snacks and blueberry tea. \$5 suggested donation for wild rice wraps (cash or check). Or bring a picnic lunch from home!

**Event Webpage**

<https://www.valleychurch.net/land-acknowledgement>

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**GOLDEN VALLEY CHURCH HOSTING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATION ON JUNE 4**

*This community event will celebrate the important stories of Native American people in the Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ (Bassett Creek) watershed*

**GOLDEN VALLEY, MN (May 12, 2022)** – Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) is hosting a day of celebration and education about Native American heritage on Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

Community members are invited to learn about the Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ (Bassett Creek) Oral History Project, and to celebrate the vibrant traditions of Native American people who have been connected to the creek for thousands of years.

The community celebration will feature Native food, drumming, dancing, storytelling, and a presentation by Dr. Kasey Keeler. Arts activities will be provided by Speaking Out Collective. The event is free and open to the public. Free snacks and blueberry tea are provided. Wild rice wraps are available with a \$5 suggested donation (cash or check). Or bring a picnic lunch from home!

Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ is the Dakota-language name for Bassett Creek. It translates to “Falls Creek,” a reference to the creek’s confluence with the Mississippi River just above St. Anthony Falls (called Owamniyomni in Dakota).

This community celebration is one component of a larger oral history project. In December 2021, VCPC received a Legacy Amendment grant of \$9,900 to interview Native American people in the Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ (Bassett Creek) watershed.

VCPC Reverend Richard Buller said, “This project provides an opportunity for the community to hear Native voices describing their lived experiences in suburbs like Golden Valley and St. Louis Park. We’re honored to work with Dr. Kasey Keeler. She is one of the only scholars of suburban American Indian history in the United States.”

Dr. Keeler is an enrolled tribal citizen of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and a direct descendant of the Citizen Band of Potawatomi. She grew up in the City of Coon Rapids and most recently lived in Crystal; she is now an assistant professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

In April 2022, Dr. Keeler began interviewing people who live, work, or play in the Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ area. Dr. Keeler said, “This project is increasing public awareness of American Indian history across the western suburbs of the Twin Cities. It’s helping to make visible today’s dynamic and growing suburban Indian community.”

Dr. Keeler leveraged VCPC’s grant to receive a \$15,000 grant from the Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. This additional funding expanded the project to a total of 13 interviews.

The interviews are being recorded and preserved at the Hennepin History Museum (HHM). Michele Pollard, the Archivist at HHM, said, “These interviews are exploring viewpoints that will enrich future education, research, and historic context studies.” At the end of the project, HHM will make the interviews available to the public.

Project manager Crystal Boyd said, “We hope this project inspires other churches and community groups to recognize, support, and advocate for Native American people. Oral history projects are one way to go beyond developing a land acknowledgement statement.”

The VCPC Land Acknowledgement Task Force credits the Native Governance Center for guiding its thinking about land acknowledgement statements and how to move beyond them ([www.nativegov.org](http://www.nativegov.org)).

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### **About Valley Community Presbyterian Church**

*Founded in 1951, Valley Community Presbyterian Church pursues its mission of opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God. In 2021, VCPC established a Land Acknowledgement Statement to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its Native members and neighbors. Learn more at [www.valleychurch.net](http://www.valleychurch.net).*

### **About University of Wisconsin—Madison**

*The University of Wisconsin—Madison is a public, land-grant institution that offers a complete spectrum of studies through 13 schools and colleges. With more than 43,000 students from every U.S. state and 121 countries, UW—Madison is the flagship campus of Wisconsin’s state university system. UW—Madison is a formidable research engine, ranking sixth among U.S. universities as measured by dollars spent on*

research. Faculty, staff, and students are motivated by a tradition known as the Wisconsin Idea that the boundaries of the university are the boundaries of the state and beyond. Learn more at [www.wisc.edu](http://www.wisc.edu).

#### **About Hennepin History Museum**

*Hennepin History Museum brings the diverse history of people in Hennepin County to life. We help people understand their world through an exploration of local history with exhibits, public programs, a magazine, and a public research library. Learn more at [www.hennepinhistory.org](http://www.hennepinhistory.org).*

#### **About Speaking Out Collective**

*Speaking Out Collective creates arts-based activities to nurture curiosity, creativity and critical thinking for all ages. We are a collective of actors, directors and teaching artists who believe that story is a vehicle for self-expression, questioning, and creating new narratives together. We dig into big ideas through storytelling, theatre, puppets, poetry, song, movement, and more. Learn more at [www.speakingoutcollective.com](http://www.speakingoutcollective.com).*

#### **About Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants**

*The Minnesota Historical Society is a nonprofit educational and cultural institution established in 1849. MNHS collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and publishing. Using the power of history to transform lives, MNHS preserves our past, shares our state's stories and connects people with history. Visit us at [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org).*

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