THE VALLEY

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS• OPEN MINDS• OPENING LIVES TO GOD

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Golden Valley, MN 55422

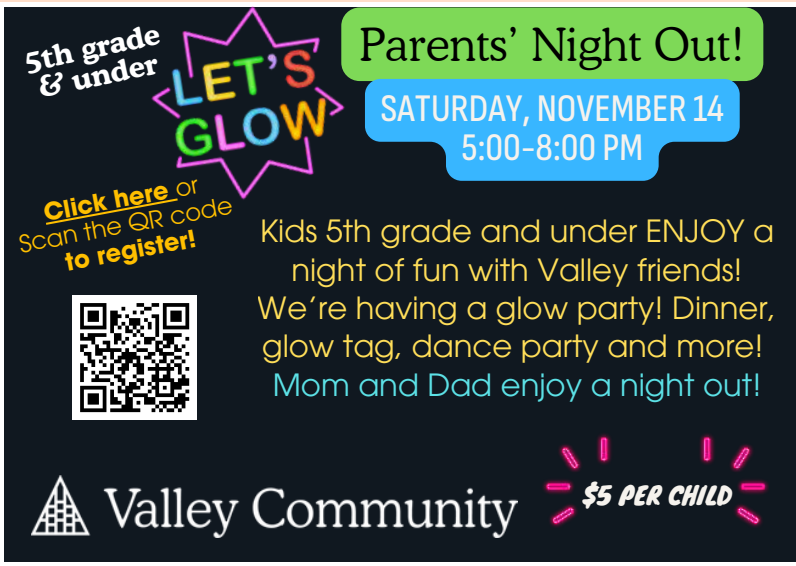
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Pastoral Care: 763-445-9665
www.valleychurch.net
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Cover Photo: Interim choir director Hsu-hui Wang, taught Valley kids *Jesus Loves Me* in Taiwanese and Carolyn Anderson taught them the sign language. They shared it with us on World Communion Sunday.

Community News

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**
  - **Sunday, November 1 All Saints' Day**
  - Monday, November 2 @ 11:30 AM | Lunch Bunch at the 50's Grill
  - **Sunday, November 8 Stewardship Dedication and Communion**
  - **Fridays in the Valley** (pages 2, 6)
    - **Friday, November 13 @ 7 PM | Pavel Jany & Dean Harrington**
    - **SUNDAY, December 6** @ 7 PM | Above Average Tuba Quartet
  - **Parents' Night Out| Saturday, November 14 | 5 PM - 8 PM (page 2)**
  - Valley Craft & Connect| Saturday, November 21 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 6)
  - **Valley Thanksgiving Potluck | Thursday, November 26 | 12:00 pm (page 6)**
  - Valley Office will be closed on November 26 and 27 in observation of Thanksgiving
  - **Valley Christmas Dinner | Sunday, December 6 | 5:30 PM (page 7)**
    - **Catered Meal - $20/adult, $10 Kids (10 & under)** Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the Valley Office
    - **Reserve your tickets here: https://forms.gle/R4pHjymVPu1MunxX9**
- **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**
  - **It's time to start bringing in toys for the PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe!**
  - **The Julie Tree will be up beginning on November 22. (pages 7)**
  - Bridging Dresser Build | Saturday, November 14 | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
  - **Holiday Toy Shoppe Volunteers Needed | Saturday, December 12 | Sign-up in Fellowship Hall**
  - Land Acknowledgement updates (page 5)
    - Learn about the community events that took place in the month of October!
  - **NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.**









A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

NOVEMBER 2026



Rev. Kyle Sandison

Dear Valley Family,

As we step into November, we find ourselves in a season that calls us to a practice of gratitude. Thanksgiving is just ahead, of course, but even now all creation is reminding us of what we have to be thankful for. We've harvested squash from our backyard gardens and picked crisp, Minnesota-grown apples.

This season of harvest displays the earth's bounty and the way God cares for us through the fruit of creation. Psalm 104 puts it this way: "You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth... and bread to strengthen the human heart." Our Indigenous brothers and sisters remind us that our relatives in the more-than-human creation make daily sacrifices so that we can live. Those sacrifices mirror the way God gives Godself for us. As Christopher Hoklotubbe and Daniel Zacharias write in *Reading the Bible on Turtle Island, "Just as more-than-human creation dies for us daily in order to sustain us, so too Creator died for the youngest of his creational family." We have been given so much.*

Gratitude reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God, and that we are stewards rather than owners of these good gifts. The beginning of November brings us to the middle of our Stewardship Campaign, and we're reminded that we do not give out of obligation, but as grateful stewards of the resources God has given to us. As we practice gratitude this season, let us consider how we might give of our time, treasure, and talents as our grateful response to all that God has given to us.

On Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints, a day set aside to remember and honor those who have recently passed and all who have gone before us. Recently we lost our beloved friend, Taichi Chen. We mourn this loss and we are so grateful for the gift he was to so many. We give thanks for his kindness, warmth, generosity, and, of course, the beauty of his music. On All Saints we hold sorrow along with gratitude. We are thankful for the example and contributions of those who came before us in the faith, and we give thanks to God for the gift their lives were to us. As we reflect on those we have lost, we are grateful to belong to a community that holds the pain of that loss together.

It's hard to believe, but by the end of November we will enter the season of Advent. We will hang the traditional greens throughout the sanctuary, adorn the chancel with the poinsettia tree, and light the candles of the Advent wreath as we anticipate the coming of Christ into the world.

Advent is a season of waiting and longing for God to act. Yet even as we wait, we practice gratitude, trusting that ours is a God who enters into our lives, carries us through hardship, and calls us ever deeper into the experience of being a beloved child.

In Christ,

Kyle



Taichi and Robin Chen and Pastor Kyle shared a moving arrangement of *Be Thou My Vision* during the Gathering music on October 4, 2026.

Valley Connects- October 2026

MENS' RETREAT 2026









FALL FESTIVAL 2026





FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY OCT. CONCERT

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SUNDAY





YOUTH & TEAMS VISIT THE ANDERSONS!







Indigenous Justice Task Force



Fourth Annual Ȟaȟá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing. Pictured: Darlene St. Clair and Jim Rock.



People walking to the Water Blessing.



People visiting the VCPC booth at the event.
All photos on this page are credited to: Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe)

WOW! WHAT A GREAT MONTH! VALLEY AND ITS MANY COMMUNITY PARTNERS ENJOYED A BUSY OCTOBER WITH MANY BIG EVENTS:

- On **Indigenous Peoples' Sunday**, the congregation enjoyed special music from Jim Rock (Dakota). We also enjoyed a Children's Sermon featuring a recording of the book "We Are the Water Protectors" by Carole Lindstrom (Anishinaabe/Métis) with illustrations by Michaela Goade (Tlingit & Haida). We said a special Lord's Prayer by Hattie Enos (Nez Perce).
- On October 12, Valley co-sponsored the **Fourth Annual Ȟaȟá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing**. More than 160 people attended and opened their hearts and minds to heartfelt words from cultural advisor Darlene St. Clair (Dakota), speakers Ronelle Siert (Anishinaabe/Dakota) and Amara Moore (Anishinaabe/Dakota), and many others. Check out the media coverage from MinneapoliMedia and a mention from MPR. Note that we're the only event in the West Metro!
- On October 17, The Loppet hosted its third **Ȟaȟá Wakpádaŋ Loopet Loppet**. This vibrant day featured race events and hiking while honoring Indigenous homelands.
- Now through November 5, check out the **landscape photography exhibit** "Four Wild Seasons: A Year-Long Photography Project featuring Ȟaȟá Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek." The beautiful photographers were taken by Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe), who shared them with Valley during Adult Ed on October 4 (recording here). As a partner on this grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Valley is helping to improve the visibility of Indigenous homelands in suburbs where Indigenous history and culture is often overlooked. The exhibit is at The Trailhead, 1221 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55422.
- Also this fall, the Indigenous Justice Task Force is continuing its learning through the program **Sacred Reckonings**. We hope to build on the truth-telling that started with the Ȟaȟá Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek Oral History Project as we move towards reconciliation and repair.





For **Thanksgiving**, read up on Indigenous history and consider incorporating Indigenous foods like wild rice and maple syrup into your recipes. Steven Peters, a Wampanoag Tribe spokesman, shares his views about how many Americans gather for a traditional turkey meal:

"My ancestors had 4 harvest festivals throughout the year. Gathering with family, enjoying our company, sharing our blessings, and giving thanks for all that we have is a good thing. I say have more thanksgiving events throughout the year. I also ask that you take a moment in that day to remember what happened to my people and the history as it was recorded and not the narrative that we had been given in the history books."



Valley Craft & Connect

Spend the day crafting without distractions! Come catch up on a project, start something new or come see what others are working on for inspiration! There will be make and take crafts available. If crafting isn't your thing, come for the fellowship or bring a book to catch up on your reading.

Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM.



SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2026
10 AM - 2 PM
LUNCH AT 12 PM

You're Invited!

To Valley's Thanksgiving Potluck

Thursday, Nov. 26th at 12:00 PM

We are hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck for those looking for a place to gather for the holiday. Come to Valley, share a delicious meal & gratitude for our Valley family. There is a sheet in Fellowship Hall to sign up for what you will bring and how many from your family will be joining you.

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CALL THE OFFICE.

Seeing the faces of Valley's youngest members and their families makes the Advent season truly special. Please reach out to Sheila if you are able to donate your time and talents.

LITTLE CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED

If you and your family would be interested in reading the dedication and lighting a candle during an Advent worship service please contact Sheila at **Sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net**

Lighting the Advent candles is a great way to get our youngest members involved in worship.



2026 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The VCPC 2026 Christmas Pageant will debut on Sunday, December 6th during worship!

We are looking forward to getting Valley kids of all ages involved this year again! If you know your family would like to participate, please email Sheila at **Sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net**

- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

Sunday, December 6, 2026 @ 7 PM
Above Average Tuba Quartet

Friday, January 8, 2027 | 7:00 pm
Bernstein Chamber Players
(Sue Ruby & friends)

Friday, February 12, 2027 @ 7 PM
Songs in the Key of Love

Friday, March 12, 2027 @ 7 PM
Metro Brass Quintet

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Longest Night Service

The holidays are a time to celebrate and think back fondly on years past, which can be both heartwarming and difficult for those who have lost loved ones. For that reason, Valley will be holding a **Longest Night service** on **Sunday, December 20th at 4:30pm**. A light meal will follow in the Cornerstone Room.

It will be a service of music and scripture as we remember those we love and name the mixed emotions that come with the season.

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, November 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed - **Papua New Guinea**
5:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, November 2
11:30 am Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, November 3 - Election Day
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, November 4
7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Sunday, November 8 - Dedication Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service
10:30 am Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers
11:00 am Adult Ed - ***Rooted*** Documentary
12:00 pm Youth Group PRISM Hy-Vee event
1:00 pm TEAMS

Tuesday, November 10
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
6:30 pm Mission Possible Meeting

Wednesday, November 11
7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Friday, November 13
7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley: **Pavel Jany & Dean Harrington**

Saturday, November 14
9:00 am Bridging Dresser Build
5:00 pm Parents' Night Out - GLOW Party

Sunday, November 15
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed - **Funeral Planning at Valley**
12:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group Football Party
Judy Maghakian Memorial Service
2:00 pm Visitation | 3 pm Memorial Service
A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 17
11:30 am Men's Lunch
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, November 18
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 19
10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Saturday, November 21
10:00 am-2:00 pm Craft & Connect

Sunday, November 22
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am - Adult Ed - **Follow the Raindrop**
5:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, November 23
6:30 pm Session meeting

Tuesday, November 24
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, November 25
7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Sunday, November 29 - Hanging of the Greens
First Sunday of Advent
9:30 am Worship Service
5:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group Party

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Evan Miller
Carolina Michael
Joel Larsen
Sara Perry
Larry Dunham
Miranda Graham
Lotti Matkovits
Sue Modert
Diane Shenk
Gary Roback
Chuck Thurston
Everett Hagelin
Landon Goiffon
Megan Parks
Vonnie Olson
Mabel Willey
Mary Dunham
Larry Melander
Walter Messer
Jasmyn Swanson
Hsu-hui Wang
Lyn Boyd
Mary Roback
Angela Zywicki
Janelle Carlson
Karen Chancellor
Brad Pleimling

Save the Date!
CHRISTMAS DINNER
SUNDAY, DEC. 6
5:30 PM

Join us on **December 6 at 5:30 p.m.** for our annual Christmas dinner and holiday music performance by Above Average Tuba Quartet!
Tickets available in Fellowship Hall!

MENU:

VEGETARIAN AND KIDS MEALS ALSO AVAILABLE

- Fresh baked rolls with butter
- Field greens berry salad with Feta
- Roasted root vegetables
- Au gratin potatoes
- Holiday Baked Ham/Pineapple Sauce
- Oven roasted chicken w/garlic parmesan sauce

DINNER WILL BE CATERED!

TICKETS: $20 FOR ADULTS
$10 FOR KIDS (10 & UNDER)

PRISM 2026 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

VALLEY IS COLLECTING NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS AND GIFTS FOR PRISM'S HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- ACTION FIGURES
- NERF TOYS
- TODDLER TOYS
- LEGOS
- SPORTS ATTIRE
- GAMES
- BLANKETS
- TEEN GIFTS (HEADPHONES, GAMING KEYBOARDS, HAIR TOOLS, SLIPPERS)
- $25 GIFT CARDS (TARGET, AMAZON, VISA, ETC.)

DROP OFF GIFTS AT VALLEY BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

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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Scan to give online

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