

THE VALLEY

JANUARY 2024 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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Cover Photo: Valley Parish Associates perform a special skit at Richard's Retirement Party (Dec. 1, 2023) Thank you to photographer Cameron Deutschendorf for capturing all of these special moments.

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Congregational Meeting to end the pastoral relationship with Rev. Richard Buller | Sunday, Jan. 7
- **Pastor Richard's last day at Valley | Sunday, January 14**
 - Ordination and installation of new Elders and Deacons
- **6-Week Gentle Yoga Class | Thursday, January 11 @ 7:00 PM (page 10)**
 - Led by Valley member Samantha Schellhaas, COST: free-will donation
- Valley Office will be closed on January 1 (New Year's Day) and January 15 (MLK Jr. Day)
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 5)**
 - Friday, January 12 @ 7 PM | Tre Amici
- Valley Craft Club | Saturday, January 20 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 10)
- **Annual Meeting | Sunday, February 11**
- Parents' Night Out | Friday, February 16 (Save the Date - more details to come soon!)
- **Clearwater Chrysalis | February 23 - 25 (page 9)**
- Couples' Retreat at Clearwater Forest | March 1-3 (page 9)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Habitat for Humanity Work Day - January 15 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM (page 10)**
 - **Sign up in the Fellowship Hall, contact Andrew Pitan with questions**
- Update from the Immigrant/Refugee Task Force:
 - Silab Karwan has been approved for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) so he and his family can safely stay in the US permanently. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.
- **Land Acknowledgement updates (page 9)**
 - **Dr. Kasey Keeler speaking about her new book at the Minnesota History Center**
 - **Saturday, January 6**
 - [Please register here \(virtual or in-person\)](#)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

JANUARY 2024

Dear Valley Family,

Yes, this is **my last newsletter** to you as your pastor! We are winding down as I will be finishing my time with you on January 14.

I have been looking forward to this letter as an amazing **chance to thank all of you** for the Celebration Dinner on December 1st!

In this newsletter are many fun pictures and a link to more. All of our staff worked very hard to make the event so special. Who knew it would turn into a crowd of 300+? No wonder Sheila broke out in hives!

I know I am not an easy person to surprise, but there were the delightful details of the full-sized cut out of me for a "selfie station," and yes, my very own personalized Bobblehead Pastor Richard! The music offerings made us cry...Taichi and Robin with The Beatles on Strings, Andrew Fleser working his magic, and our choir being led by Peter Buller. Our skilled parish associates showed us their best at moving us forward with a smile and a strong sense of hope. Thank you all for the evening. Our family and friends who attended were blown away by your warmth and humor.



Rev. Richard Buller

So, we have three Sundays ahead of us:

- **Dec. 31** is the busy baptism Sunday and new members! If that doesn't make you show up, then surely the Sermon title will: *An Old Man and a Baby!*
- On **January 7th** we will celebrate Epiphany and communion will be served during worship. That afternoon, it will be worth a trip back to Valley for Chuck Meyer's Birthday Organ Concert with Jane and Bob Nienaber! Cake and coffee will be served, and we will all have a chance to support PRISM's Birthday Supplies for kids!
- On my last Sunday, **January 14th**, we will have organ, piano, the Valley Choir, and Lynn Deichert on trumpet. We will ordain and install our new elders and deacons, a strong symbol of our trust in Valley's amazing future. Ralph and Alika Galloway will be at the service and will speak, so remember your fresh supply of Kleenex! Refreshments and additional speakers will round out our Coffee Hour.



Christmas Eve worship at Valley Community, singing Christmas hymns by candlelight.

Your last two Sundays in January will be in the capable hands of **Jim Cook**. January 28th will be our Remembrance Sunday as we read the names of those who have passed in 2023.

If you open to the center spread of the newsletter, you will see these words:

***If you're brave enough to say goodbye,
there comes the promise of a new hello.***

Valley Church is about to be led by **Rev. Jim Cochrane**. Please read his bio and see the photo of his beautiful family. God is leading you into a new future. I have been extremely honored to be a part of your last 21 years.

Valley, you are loved—

Richard



The carpet in the downstairs hallway was removed along with all of the asbestos tile. (Dec. 26, 2023) Ready to start 2024 with fresh, smooth carpet!

**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 - December 2023



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2023



CHRISTMAS EVE



BRIDGING DRESSER BUILD



Rev. Richard Buller's Last Sundays in the Valley




SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024:

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO END THE PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP WITH REV. RICHARD BULLER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024:

REV. RICHARD BULLER'S LAST SUNDAY IN THE VALLEY


Fridays in the Valley Presents:

TRE AMICI

MOMOKO TANNO, SOPRANO
JOSEPH LONGO, CLARINET
SUSAN HELLERUD, PIANO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
NORTHSIDE HEALING SPACE

 Valley Community

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | 7:00 pm
10th Wave Chamber Collective

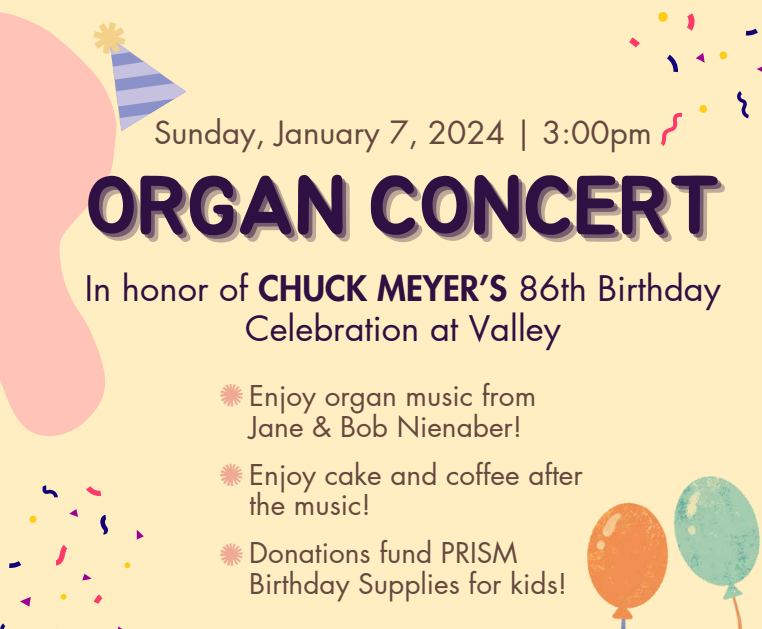
FRIDAY, MARCH 8 | 7:00 pm
Broadway-Swider Duo

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 | 7:00 pm
Lochan String Quartet

FRIDAY, MAY 10 | 7:00 pm
Ka Trio

FRIDAY, JUNE 9 | 7:00 pm
Marimba Bullies

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 3:00pm

ORGAN CONCERT

In honor of **CHUCK MEYER'S** 86th Birthday Celebration at Valley

- Enjoy organ music from Jane & Bob Nienaber!
- Enjoy cake and coffee after the music!
- Donations fund PRISM Birthday Supplies for kids!



VCPC CHOIR

VALLEY IS EXCITED TO ENJOY OUR CHOIR AGAIN ON SELECT SUNDAYS!

Wednesday, January 10
Wednesday, January 31

Wednesday, February 14
*at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 6

Rehearsals on Wed. 7:00 pm



The Choir will perform on the Sunday following Wednesday evening rehearsal.

IF YOU'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SAY

goodbye...



[CLICK HERE](#) TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM RICHARD'S RETIREMENT PARTY.
YOU ARE WELCOME TO UPLOAD SOME OF YOUR OWN AS WELL!
(PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS BY CAMERON DEUTSCHENDORF)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE INTRODUCING VALLEY'S TRANSITIONAL PASTOR, REV. JIM COCHRANE!

After interviewing three candidates in October and November (we were warned we might not even get a single candidate!), the Personnel Committee was thrilled to offer the role of Transitional Pastor to Jim Cochrane. He accepted (yay!) and Jim will be starting on February 1 at Valley.

Jim grew up in the Twin Cities area at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. He was very active in the youth group there and later was active with Clearwater Forest Camp. He actually got to know Peter and Martin Buller as they worked summers there together!

After graduating from Luther College in Decorah, IA, Jim worked as the Director of Christian Education for a church in Iowa City before later returning to the Twin Cities to run youth ministry for Westminster. In 2019, Jim moved to the Chicago area and started his studies at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and began working as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. In 2022, he earned his Master of Divinity and was officially ordained.



Jim and his wife Becca live in Chaska with their 19-month-old daughter Nora. They recently relocated back to the Twin Cities for Becca's job. Jim cannot wait to get to Valley and meet everyone and help us do the important work of readying the church to find our next Senior Pastor!

We are
excited to welcome
Rev. Jim Cochrane
and his family
to Valley on
Feb. 1, 2024!

THERE COMES THE PROMISE OF A NEW

hello.

Valley Education Corner

Faith Formation Update: Sunday School for kids ages 3-3rd grade is ongoing. Jamese 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!

TEAMS & Youth Baking Day!

Katie Decker is going to lead a baking day starting at **11:00 AM on Sunday, January 28th**. Come to church that morning and then stay for lunch and baking in the kitchen. We will taste-test a few of the treats and save the rest for the Youth Cookie Sale on February 4 & 11. See you there!



Valley kids in Youth Group and TEAMS had a Christmas Party on December 10th. They played games, finished up projects, and enjoyed time together.

It's time for another Parents' Night Out!

Not only are PNO nights a chance for Valley kids to connect, they also give Valley adults time to recharge.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!

**FEBRUARY 16
6:00-8:30 PM**

Adult Education

Plans for the spring schedule are underway. A complete course list with class descriptions will be available in the February Newsletter.

Classes will resume on March 3, 2024 and will meet in the Cornerstone Room at 11:00 AM unless otherwise noted.



2023 YOUTH & TEAMS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Land Acknowledgement Task Force



Jim Rock shows a young participant a map of the Watershed after the Haha Wakpadan Water Ceremony held on October 9, 2023 at the Golden Valley Library. (Photo credit: Stan Waldhauser)

In October, Valley helped to organize the **first annual Haha Wakpadan Water Ceremony** in Golden Valley. [This album](#) includes great photos from that morning by Stan Waldhauser. In 2024, the Task Force anticipates helping to organize a similar event on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

On November 11, **Valley hosted a project capstone celebration for the "Exploring Haha Wakpadan" series** that we conducted with Hennepin History Museum. Community partners gathered for an engaging discussion about how to continue raising awareness of Haha Wakpadan, the Dakota name for Bassett Creek. **Several new initiatives are taking shape** through momentum that Valley has helped to generate. Please keep your eyes open for more updates in the spring. Thank you to the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board for its support.

And exciting news! **We've completed the Haha Wakpadan / Bassett Creek Oral History Podcast.** Check it out on [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

In partnership with Hennepin History Museum, we posted 15 interviews with Indigenous people about how they experience Haha Wakpadan as part of their historic and contemporary cultures. The interviews were conducted by Dr. Kasey Keeler (Tuolumne Me-Wuk and Citizen Potawatami). Popular episodes include well-known author Diane Wilson (Dakota) and educators Jim Rock (Dakota) and Roxanne Gould (Anishinaabe). For more information, see Valley's new [land acknowledgement webpage](#).

On January 6, **Dr. Kasey Keeler will be speaking about her new book American Indians and the American Dream** at the Minnesota History Center. Tickets are available [here](#) (virtual or in person).

In 2024, the Task Force anticipates sharing **a new logo design** to accompany the land acknowledgement statement. We're also exploring other ways to **support Indigenous artists**. To join the Task Force or learn more, please contact Jen Biggs. **Pidamaya** (thank you in Dakota) and happy new year!

Coming Up at Clearwater Forest

CLEARWATER CHRYSALIS

The theme this year is "Fully Alive!" and will feature Guest Speaker Jill Emery. Clearwater Chrysalis is a balanced, faith-building program of Clearwater Forest. We welcome adult women from all Christian traditions. Our vision is to nourish and support the body, mind and spirit in community with other women. **Workshops:** Tea Party, soapmaking, Native American culture, nature walk and more!

Dates: February 23 - 25, 2024

Location: Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, 16595 Crooked Lake Rd, Deerwood, MN 56444

Cost: \$225 (double room lodging), \$325 (single room lodging) *Scholarships are available

Register and learn More: <https://clearwaterforest.org/clearwater-chrysalis/>

Registration opens on January 1, 2024

COUPLES RETREAT

Come to Clearwater Forest to enjoy a meaningful weekend with your spouse! There will be time for couples to be together on their own as well as time for large-group activities. Topics that will be addressed include communication, conflict styles, finances, parenting, dreams, and future goals.

Dates: March 1 - 3, 2024

Location: Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, 16595 Crooked Lake Rd, Deerwood, MN 56444

Cost: \$300/couple | Register and learn More: <https://clearwaterforest.org/retreats/>

Registration now open!



GENTLE YOGA CLASS

WITH SAMANTHA SCHELLHAAS

You are invited to join us for a 6-week gentle yoga class at Valley beginning January 11 at 7 PM in the Community Room. Class will be led by Valley member Samantha Schellhaas.
COST: Free-will donation

**THURSDAYS
7:00 PM**

**JANUARY 11, 18, 25
FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15**

Habitat for Humanity

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023: MLK JR. DAY



12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

1605 Douglas Dr. N, Golden Valley, MN

**Sign up in the Fellowship Hall
contact Andrew Pitan or Valley with questions**

Valley Craft Club!

Mark your calendar for the **January Craft Day!** These days have become a treasured Fellowship opportunity at Valley. All crafters are welcome! Bring a project (or projects!) to work on and a dish to share.

**January 20, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM**



Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY, FEB 10 | 1:00-6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

**More details to follow
in the New Year!**



If you would like to be added to the email list or have questions about Brew Crew, Jay Perry is who you need to talk to!

**CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS:
See Directory for contact information**



Valley Community

**2024
PER CAPITA
\$38.50**

Your per capita supports the larger church to do their ministry in the world.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A
**CONTEMPLATIVE
ANTIRACISM
RETREAT**
AT CLEARWATER IN 2024?

The retreat will be a weekend spent worshipping, practicing, and being in reflective dialogue. The pace will not be overly heavy on "teaching/information download" but there will be moments of sharing frameworks alongside times of practice. Participants will engage in both healing & restorative work alongside healthy "stretching" of mind/body and spirit.

**Planning is still in progress.
If this opportunity interests you,
email Sheila to let her know and
discuss possible dates.**

CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

Kerrie Deef
 Alannah McCarthy
 David Kopischke
 Kurt Wheeler
 Rev. Aron Wilterding
 Matt Barbero
 Miranda Bangu
 Sammuell Decker
 William Gonsior
 Chuck Meyer
 Andrew Desarmeaux
 Janette Gove
 Gerald Kramer
 Nanette Sears
 Ashley Bi
 Karen Ripley
 Keri Wasmoen
 Susan League
 Samantha Schellhaas
 Joseph Sears
 Aurora Brooker
 Sullivan Goiffon
 Richard Sauter
 Ken Smith Jr.
 Andy Freeman
 Hunter Sheldon
 Roy Michael
 Thomas Davison
 Adam Chancellor
 Tom Wasmoen
 Lois Berhow
 Dennis Hinkle
 Jonathan Marshall
 Diane McCunn
 Cameron Smith
 Diane Cook
 Ziggy Barbero
 Sadie Macias
 Arianna Slack
 Susie Potter



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

Monday, January 1

Office is closed.

Thursday, January 4

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

**Sunday, January 7 - Congregational Meeting
9:30 am Worship Service with communion**

10:30 am Congregational Meeting
3:00 pm Organ Concert in honor of
Chuck Meyer's 86th Birthday

Monday, January 8

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 10

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 11

10:00 am Bible Fellowship
7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Friday, January 12

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, January 14

**Rev. Richard Buller's Last Sunday at Valley
9:30 am Worship Service**

11:00 am Adult Ed - Mission Sunday

**Monday, January 15 - Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Day
Office Closed**

8:30 am - 3:30 pm Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Tuesday, January 16

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 18

10:00 am Bible Fellowship
7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Sunday, January 21

**9:30 am Worship Service
Rev. Jim Cook preaching**

Monday, January 22

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Thursday, January 25

10:00 am Bible Fellowship
10:00 am Meals on Wheels
7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Sunday, January 28

**9:30 am Worship Service
Rev. Jim Cook preaching**

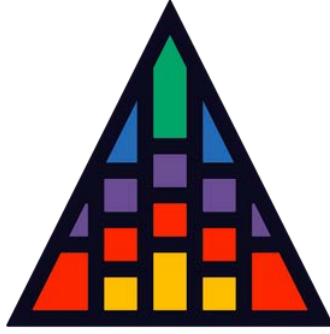
11:00 am Youth Cookie Baking

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 31

7:00 pm 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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