

THE VALLEY

MARCH 2024 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

Cover Photo: Despite the snowy weather, 40 Valley members and visitors gathered for worship on Ash Wednesday, led by Rev. Jim Cochrane.

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Last Day to Order Easter Flowers | Sunday, March 3 (page 5)**
 - **Call the Valley Office or fill out an order form and return to the Fellowship Hall**
- Fridays in the Valley (page 5)
 - Friday, March 8 @ 7 PM | Broadway Swider Duo
- **Valley Craft Club | Saturday, March 16 | 10 AM - 12 PM (page 5)**
- Valley Hand Bell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
- **Valley Choir Rehearsals in March:**
 - Wednesday, March 6 @ 7:15 PM
 - Wednesday, March 27 @ 7:00 PM
- **Gentle Yoga Class | Thursdays at 7:00 PM through March 21st (page 10)**
- Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, March 23 @ 2:00 PM (page 8, 10)
- **Valley Brew Crew | Saturday, April 20 | 1 - 6 PM**
- Youth Education Scholarship Tea | Saturday, April 27 @ 2:00 PM (page 8, 10)
- **Summer 2024 VBC | June 11-14 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 10)**

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Land Acknowledgement Task Force Updates (page 9)**
- Pack the Pews for PRISM Food and Fund Drive (page 9)
- **Empty Bowls Fundraiser | Tuesday, March 19 | 5 - 7:30 PM (page 10)**
 - **Robbinsdale Cooper High School**
 - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)**
- Formula for Hope Luncheon (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery fundraiser)
 - Tuesday, May 7 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM
- **Taste of the Burbs (PRISM fundraiser) | Thursday, May 9**

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

MARCH 2024

Dear Valley,

What a first month it has been for me here in the Valley! I cannot express enough my gratitude for the warm welcome my family and I have received as we come alongside one another in this transition time.

I have deeply enjoyed getting to know each of you whether in committee meetings, all-church events, or Sunday morning fellowship, and I look forward to the many conversations and fellowship events to come!

I joke that having a Congregational Meeting on my second Sunday is a baptism by fire, but I cannot think of a better way to get to see the strength of Valley's dedication to God and the community. As I heard about the tens of thousands of dollars that have gone out the door in support of mission partners and countless events to connect members of the church together, I could see the depth of Valley's faith and commitment to love and care for all of creation.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

As we look ahead to the spring, I see a month filled with opportunities to connect with others, deepen our faiths, appreciate music, and give back to our community. Our education ministries team has put together a line-up of Adult Education speakers that will help you tie the faith you build inside the church’s walls to the life you live outside of them. From bible studies to internet culture to climate action to affordable housing, you are certain to find something that will draw you in.

March is also designated as Minnesota FoodShare month by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, and we will once again be supporting PRISM with our annual Pack the Pews campaign! Look at page 9 for the suggested weekly donation categories this month, drop off your donations in the PRISM cart inside the main doors, and watch as your donations fill our pews throughout the month.

As we continue our journey through Lent, the Cross looms large ahead of us: there are challenges, trials, and paths we go down that we do not feel certain of. But we are reminded that the glory of Easter outshines any gloom that Good Friday can ever cast. The love of God is a gift beyond our comprehension that has been given to each and every one of us, and we are called to reflect that love in the world we live in. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Jim

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2024 SCHEDULE



| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| Wed, Feb. 28 | 6:00 PM | Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion |
| Sunday, March 3 | 9:30 PM | 3rd Sunday of Lent Worship |
| Wed, March 6 | 6:00 PM | Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion |
| Sunday, March 10 | 9:30 AM | 4th Sunday in Lent Worship |
| | | Sheila Sheldon preaching |
| Wed, March 13 | 6:00 PM | Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion |
| Sunday, March 17 | 9:30 AM | 5th Sunday in Lent Worship |
| Wed, March 20 | 6:00 PM | Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion |
| Sunday, March 24 | 9:30 AM | Palm Sunday Worship |
| Thurs, March 28 | 7:30 PM | Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service with communion |
| Sunday, March 31 | 9:30 AM | Easter Sunday Worship |

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 age 3-3rd grade and childcare for all ages during Adult Education classes.

Valley Connects - February 2024

BREW CREW



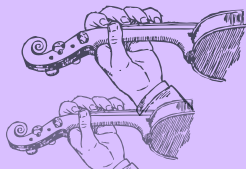
PARENTS NIGHT OUT



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



Fridays in the Valley Presents:



Broadway Swider Duo

FRIDAY, MARCH 8
7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
MINNESOTA FOODSHARE

Valley Community



- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 | 7:00 pm

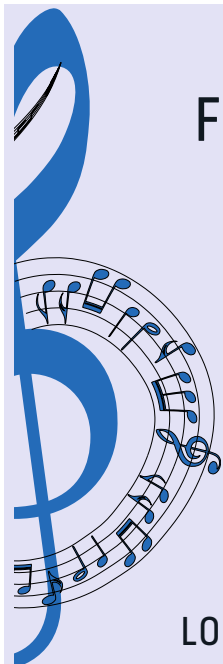
Lochan String Quartet

FRIDAY, MAY 10 | 7:00 pm

Ka Trio

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 | 7:00 pm

Marimba Bullies



FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Easter Flowers

ORDER BY SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD!

Easter Lily (white) \$12 ea

Asiatic Lily (pink) \$12 ea

Azalea \$20 each

Tulip \$12 each

Mum \$12 each



To order, fill out an Order Form in the Fellowship Hall or call the Valley Office.

Calling all Ringers!

RINGERS AND NON-RINGERS AGES 10 & UP ARE WELCOME! THE VALLEY RINGERS LOVE TO SHARE AND TEACH OTHERS HOW TO RING!

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Rehearsals held in the Sanctuary

Contact Janet Carlson if you have questions.

Valley Craft Club!

Spend the day crafting without distractions! **The featured activity of the month will be birthday and greeting card making.** We learned how to make holiday cards last fall so this month we will get to practice those skills again and improve our techniques! 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.



MARCH 16, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM
CRAFT DEMO BEGINS AT 11 AM



13TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS EVENT

Tuesday, March 19
5-7:30 pm

Robbinsdale Cooper High School

DONATIONS BENEFIT
PRISM & NEAR FOOD SHELVES

Volunteers are needed!
[CLICK HERE](#)



Join our presenters for some amazing learning opportunities this spring!

ADULT

EDUCATION

SPRING 2024

1

MARCH 3

Bible Study - Peter's Story
Rev. Jim Cochrane

Simon Peter is one of the most relatable figures in the Bible for Christians. He is a dedicated follower of Jesus, he is everything we strive to be! But cracks begin to emerge when diving deeper into his story. Peter struggles with his faith: he wants to believe but he is challenged by Jesus' messages and occasionally fails to comprehend the gravity of what is being asked of him. Sound familiar?

2

MARCH 10

Celebrating 85 Years and Beyond of Welcome

with Karla Leitzman, Philanthropic Advisor for Global Refuge

For 85 years, Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, has lived out our vocational calling of welcoming the stranger. Come learn about the history, present, and future of this ministry of welcome and how you can join us as we live out our mission in an increasingly tumultuous environment.

3

MARCH 17

Internet Culture and Disinformation

with Brandon Schorsch, Jewish Community Action

In this session Brandon Schorsch, Combating Hate Organizer at Jewish Community Action, will walk us through a brief history of internet cultures, how the structure of today's internet creates opportunities for violent extremism, and introduce several resources for building a healthy digital literacy toolbox. Internet Culture and Disinformation.

4

MARCH 24

Sustainability Group
How Can I Make A Difference?

Have you wondered what you can do as an individual, as part of a group, and/or as part of wider systems change? Come and share your resources, what you are doing, and which organizations you learn from and support to make an impact for climate justice.

EASTER SUNDAY - NO ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

5 APRIL 7

Voices for Climate with Sarina Partridge MN Interfaith Power & Light

Let's Sing! Voices for Climate is a song circle workshop, where we will get to know one another, sing and learn about climate justice actions we can plug into. We sing for joy and connection, not performance or perfection. All voices are welcome and needed. You don't have to read music or think of yourself as a singer to participate! Please join us!

Sarina Partridge teaches original, simple, satisfying songs in a way that is welcoming and accessible to all. Songs will be chosen to help us connect to the seasonal moment and root into our collective power.

6

APRIL 14 Getting to Know Missions Inc.

Sarah Busch Community Engagement & Outreach Manager for Missions Inc. and Kari Hitchcock Program Director for Home Free Shelter

Missions Inc. Programs provides housing, emergency shelter and supportive services to domestic abuse survivors and those seeking recovery from substance use disorders. Together, Kari Hitchcock and Sarah Busch will share information about the various services available at Missions Inc. Programs as well as opportunities to get involved.

APRIL 21

7 Moving Mountains Together: Affordable Housing in the Twin Cities with Chris LaTondresse President & CEO, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Learn more about the challenges of meeting the growing need for affordable housing in the Twin Cities that will include the scale of the need, current challenges, and solutions when we decide to move mountains together.

8

APRIL 28 Understanding Poverty Today

Natletha Sumo Kollie, Children's Defense Fund

Natletha will share and explain Minnesota's Deep Poverty report. This class will also discuss the work that the Children's Defense Fund and other advocacy organizations are doing to reduce poverty for families and children in Minnesota.

9 MAY 5 Valley's Land Acknowledgement Logo Wóokiye Win, Artist & Graphic Designer and Crystal Boyd, Valley member

Join us to learn more about Valley's new land acknowledgement logo! Graphic designer Wóokiye Win (Katie Bendickson, Sisseton Wahpeton Dakhóta) will speak about her artistic process and the inspiration for her artwork. Like the logo says: We Are On Native Land. Also, Crystal Boyd will give an update from Valley's Land Acknowledgement Task Force.

TEAMS & YOUTH GROUP



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23rd at 2:00pm

Mark your calendar for this fun annual event! We'll hunt for eggs and then decorate cookies in the Fellowship Hall. Invite friends, family, and neighbors!



INTERGENERATIONAL ADULT ED - VOICES FOR CLIMATE

Sunday, April 7th at 11:00am

Let's Sing! Voices for Climate is a song circle workshop, where we will get to know one another, sing and learn about climate justice actions we can plug into.



INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM

Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room

Illustrated Ministries creates all of the curriculum we use for Faith Formation and VBC and they recently released a new Invitation to Play curriculum. We will be integrating these lessons into Faith Formation so you might catch us playing more!

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



YOUTH FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Friday, March 22nd | 6-8:00pm

Let's get together to enjoy dinner together, hide Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, and play night games!



Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP TEA

Saturday, April 27th at 2:00pm

If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Sheila at sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net Tickets will be on sale beginning Sunday, March 24th in the Fellowship Hall!



YOUTH COOKIE SALE UPDATE

The youth were able to raise over \$2,138 in TWO DAYS!

Thank you to everyone who purchased cookies and baskets and helped with the Youth Cookie Sale this year especially Katie Decker, Deb Poynter, Valerie & Scott Robinson, Sheila Sheldon, Mariah Messer, and the Brew Crew. Thanks also to the youth and their families for all of their hard work.

Land Acknowledgement Task Force



The Land Acknowledgement Task Force is already celebrating an eventful 2024!

In January, Valley **donated \$50,000** from Barbara Johnston's estate to [Makoce Ikiqcupi](#), a Dakota land recovery project. Thank you to Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould for introducing us to this organization! The funds will be used to help re-establish a spiritual and physical relationship between Dakota people and their homeland.

In February, Jen Biggs introduced **Valley's new land acknowledgement logo** (left) during the Annual Meeting. We're grateful to **Dakota artist Wóokiye Win** (Katie Jo Bendickson) for designing the beautiful logo that references Ĥaĥá Wakpádan (Bassett Creek). More information about Wóokiye Win is available at www.wookiyewin.com. The logo is already being displayed in several locations throughout the church.

Also in February, Valley's Endowment Committee approved a grant for a textile artist to create a **land acknowledgement banner** for the downstairs entryway. The Task Force looks forward to starting the creative process with **Anishinaabe artist Summer Sky Cohen**. Please enjoy [this short video](#) to learn more about her artwork.

Looking forward, please mark your calendars for these upcoming events. We're grateful for support from the Endowment Committee, and we hope to see you there!

- **Wednesday March 20 at 6:30pm - Presentation about Ho-Chunk history** in Minnesota by author Cathy Coats at the Ridgedale Library (more details to come)
- **Sunday May 5 at 11:00am - Artist talk** at Valley during Adult Ed by Wóokiye Win, the designer of Valley's land acknowledgement logo.
- **Saturday May 19 at 10:00am - Ĥaĥá Wakpádan 5K run and walk** with the Loppet Foundation. More details coming soon!
- **Saturday July 13 at 10:00am - Invasive species pull and park clean-up** near Ĥaĥá Wakpádan (Bassett Creek) at James I. Rice Park in Minneapolis.

Finally, Hennepin History Museum received another grant to continue working with Valley to **raise awareness of Ĥaĥá Wakpádan**, the Dakota name for Bassett Creek. Thank you to the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board for supporting this work!

PACK THE PEWS FOR PRISM

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) has announced its 42nd March Campaign in partnership with Minnesota FoodShare. That means it's time to **PACK THE PEWS, VALLEY!**

Donation deadline: **MARCH 24**

SUGGESTED WEEKLY SHOPPING CATEGORIES

WEEK 1 (March 1-5)

CANNED GOODS

canned fruits, vegetables, meats/fish, soups

WEEK 2 (March 6-12)

BAKING

flour, sugar, baking soda, oils, boxed cake/bread mixes

WEEK 3 (March 13-19)

PANTRY STAPLES

rice, pasta, sauces, cereal, boxed dinners, mac n' cheese

WEEK 4 (March 20-24)

LUNCHBOX

nut butters, jelly, fruit snacks, granola bars, juice boxes, raisins/dried fruit, nuts

***Shopping categories are meant to be helpful. Needless to say, any and all donations are needed and will be accepted at any time!**



GENTLE YOGA CLASS

WITH SAMANTHA SCHELLHAAS

You are invited to join us for a Gentle Yoga class at Valley on Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the Community Room. Class will be led by Valley member Samantha Schellhaas.
COST: Free-will donation

THURSDAYS
7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 29
MARCH 7, 14, 21

EASTER EGG HUNT

VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 23, 2024
@ 2:00 PM

Cookie decorating & refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the egg hunt . All are welcome! Invite family, friends, and neighbors for this fun community event!

 Valley Community

• **DRIVERS NEEDED** •

Meals on Wheels

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

• **MARCH 28** •

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:

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



Youth Education Scholarship Tea

APRIL 27 | 2 PM

Hostesses Needed, contact [Sheila](#)
or [Mariah](#) to host a table.

Youth Servers needed - Grades 6-12



VALLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
DONATING BLOOD THIS SPRING?**

Before we can set a date for the blood drive, we need to make sure there is enough interest!

Sign up online
[CLICK HERE](#)
or in the
Fellowship
Hall!

 Valley Community

SAVE THE DATE

VBC 2024

JUNE 11-14

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

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

Juliana Vogel
 Randee Melander
 Alvian Bi
 Roger Graphenteen
 Gary Malinowski
 Marge Thurston
 Katya Miakotina
 Barbara Wasmoen
 Joe Sacco
 Soma Datta
 Karen Harms
 Art LaPoint
 John Gonsior
 Kyle Soens
 Abby Malecha
 Grace Perry
 Mikey Vogel
 Alex Malecha
 Brian Smith
 Helen Dechaine
 Syndy Nyongkah
 Leah Zywicki

Judith McKay
 Diane Schmidt
 Nikolas Fields
 Gabriel Gottschalk
 Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau
 Abigail Toering-Peters
 Jim Payne
 Riley Brooker
 Lizzy Van Heest
 Roberta (Bobbie) Watson
 Gabriella Macias
 Cooper Graham
 Chris Marshall
 Jennie Minter
 Julie Westerlund
 James Robles
 Mark Toering
 Janet Carlson
 Joanne Jenson
 Neil Jurgensen
 Rev. Rebecca Tollefson
 Kate Toering-Peters
 Jim Falbo
 Eleanor Johannsen
 Gwyn Lang
 Atemafac Nti
 Nick Rude
 Jan Fedora
 Emily Gillett
 Neiko Griffin
 Chelsea Gusek
 Brian Boyd
 Gerald Phelan
 Tyler Priem
 Kendyl Graham



Sunday, March 3
 9:30 am Worship Service with communion
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, March 4
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, March 5
 6:30 pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 6
 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner
 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 7
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship
 7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

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

Sunday, March 10
 9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, March 12
 6:30 pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 13
 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

Thursday, March 14
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship
 7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Saturday, March 16
 10 am - 2 pm Craft Day

Sunday, March 17
 9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, March 19
 11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
 5:00-7:30 pm Empty Bowls
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 20
 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

Thursday, March 21
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship
 7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Saturday, March 23
 10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday
 9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 *TEAMS & Youth Group SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 25
 6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, March 26
 6:30 pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal

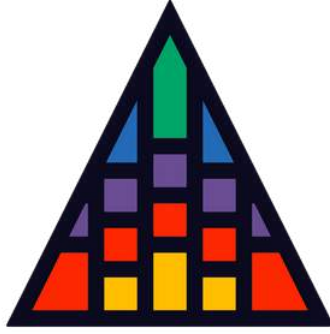
Wednesday, March 27
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday
 10:00 am Bible Fellowship
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels
 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday (Office Closed)

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday
 9:30 am Worship Service
 *Adult Ed, TEAMS & Youth Group BREAK

CALENDAR



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VCPC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

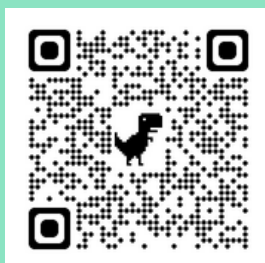
As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

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.



3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



Scan to give online

763-588-0831
www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net