

THE VALLEY

APRIL 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: "Hosannas" once again rang out in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday! Sheila Sheldon led the kids on a parade to collect fish banks and free will offering donations for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Holy Week in the Valley**
 - **Maundy Thursday Worship | Thursday, March 28 @ 7:30 PM**
 - Good Friday | Friday, March 29 | Valley Office is closed
 - **Easter Sunday Worship | Sunday, March 31 @ 9:30 AM**
- Fridays in the Valley (page 5)
 - **Friday, April 12 @ 7 PM | Lochan String Quartet with guest Chelsea Kimpton, clarinet**
- Valley Craft Club | Saturday, April 13 | 10 AM - 2 PM | Fellowship Hall
- **Commissioning Service for Sheila Sheldon | Sunday, April 14 @ 2:30 PM (page 5)**
- Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals in April:
 - **Wednesday, April 10 @ 7:00 PM**
 - **Wednesday, April 17 @ 7:00 PM**
- Valley Handbell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
- **Valley Indoor & Outdoor Spring Cleaning | Saturday, April 20 | 9 AM - 12 PM**
- Valley Brew Crew | Saturday, April 20 | 1 - 6 PM (page 5)
- **Youth Education Scholarship Tea | Saturday, April 27 @ 2:00 PM (page 8, 9)**
- Senior Sermon Sunday | Sunday, June 9 @ 9:30 AM (page 8)
- **Summer 2024 VBC | June 11-14 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 8)**

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Immigration Task Force Updates (page 9)**
- 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 (page 5)**
- Memorial Blood Centers Blood Drive at Valley | Tuesday, May 14 | Time TBD (page 5)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

APRIL 2024

Dear Valley,

Christ is Risen! As we celebrate the risen Lord, I cannot help but think of Mark's account of the Resurrection. The women discover the open tomb with an angelic messenger inside who tells them to "tell his disciples and Peter that (Jesus) is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him" (Mark 16:7).

Every version of the Resurrection story is different, but Mark's account always reminds me to keep a keen eye on where I am and what is happening around me. If Christ goes ahead of the disciples, it seems that wherever they go, Christ will have been there and they will see evidence of that presence. Similarly for us today, when we become aware that Christ walks ahead of us and the Spirit guides our feet toward him, we too can be inheritors of that beauty. Wherever we go, we can see Christ's message of love and peace, calling us to unity. And we can play a part in that story by living out that same message.

It heartens me to see the hard work of our mission partners and the many ways we live out the message to love and care for all here in the Valley. As we enter April and celebrate our 5 year anniversary as an **Earth Care congregation**, we see how God has been at work.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

The first steps we took pre-Covid have grown into an entire array of solar panels on our roof! It is a chance to remember that we are called to steward all of Creation, caring for plants, wildlife, and the whole of the environment that God has given us to oversee.

I also see how we care for one another and support each other with opportunities to grow. As the **Y.E.S. Tea** approaches on April 27th, I hope you will consider attending if you haven't signed up already. Not only will you get to see friends and fellow members of the Valley Community, but you will get to support our church's young people as they pursue further education beyond high school.

I hope you will also take the time to celebrate the way the Spirit is at work in our congregation by attending **Sheila's Commissioning Service** on April 14th at 2:30pm. She has heard God's call to serve the Valley congregation in a greater capacity by preaching, working with the deacons, and administering the sacraments, and the service on the 14th will be an opportunity to not only celebrate that call but also surround her with our love as she takes this step in her vocation.

The Easter season pairs well with the renewal of Spring: it is a reminder that hope grows despite any tumult of the world. In a world that constantly seeks to divide us, let us come together and shout our Hallelujahs as one community who loves, supports, and cares for one another!

In Christ,
Jim



Easter Worship

CHRIST IS RISEN!

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 | 9:30 AM

Rev. Jim Cochrane Preaching

Special Music:
Valley Choir
Jane Nienaber, organ
Rachel Williams, piano
Paul Chouinard, trumpet

 **Valley Community**

**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 - March 2024

PALM SUNDAY



EASTER EGG HUNT



Fridays in the Valley Presents:

Lochan String Quartet

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
CHELSEA KIMPTON, CLARINET

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12
7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
**BEACON INTERFAITH
HOUSING COLLABORATIVE**

 Valley Community

- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

Only 3 concerts left in
the 2023-24 season!

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


You're Invited
**COMMISSIONING
SERVICE**

For Sheila Sheldon

as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the
Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area
to serve in ministry at
Valley Community Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, April 14, 2024
2:30 PM**

There will be an ice cream
social following the service.

 Valley Community 3100 Lilac Drive North
PC(USA) Golden Valley, MN 55422

Valley Brew Crew

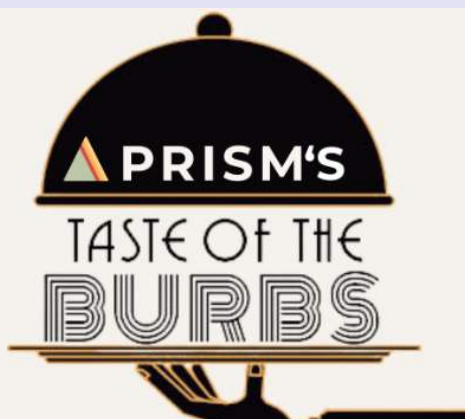
**SATURDAY, APRIL 20
1:00-6:00 PM**

Hosted at the
Goslinga's house!



If you would like to be added to
the email list or have questions about
Brew Crew, Jay Perry is the organizer of
the group.

CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS:
See Directory for contact information



10th Annual Taste of the 'Burbs

Date: Thursday, May 9th, 2024

Time: 6:15 PM

Location: The Metropolitan Club & Ballroom

Contact the Valley Office if you are interested in attending!

VALLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

MAY 14, 2024

Mark your calendar for a
blood drive at Valley on
Tuesday, May 14th with
Memorial Blood Centers.

Reach out to
Melissa
Gottschalk
with questions!

 Valley Community

»»» CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF ««« **EARTH CARE** AT VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



One section of solar panels installed October 2023 on the roof of the Fellowship Hall.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN **Earth Care Congregation?**

Valley Community Presbyterian Church was recertified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2025. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.*

This status speaks to the serious commitment that Valley has made to care for God's earth. To become an Earth Care Congregation, this congregation affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach.*

Valley member Julie Westerlund said it best: "The certification requires a balance of effort in four main areas: worship, facilities, education, and outreach. We get points for various activities we do in each category. Valley rocks it in all four areas, but we need to keep adding new points each year to maintain our certification."



Julie Westerlund teaches Valley kids about caring for the planet on Earth Care Sunday. (April 2023)



Barb Wasmoen leads an Adult Ed class about alternatives to single-use plastics. (September 2021)



Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God’s earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.*

“Valley Community Presbyterian Church is just one of the 3,331 churches in our denomination that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God’s earth this year. This congregation’s activities and commitment brings hope to their community and indeed to the world. We believe that Valley Community Presbyterian Church will inspire others to respond intentionally to God’s call to care for the earth,” says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

We see the call to care for the earth every day at Valley through things like the Community Garden, recycling and compost bins, children’s messages, and Sustainability Group meetings. But one of the most exciting aspects of this program is that there are ways for everyone to get involved. If you are passionate about something or would like to get more involved, talk to a Valley Elder or committee member to find out how!

»» ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Installation of solar panels in partnership with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL)
- Bimonthly Sustainability group meetings—sharing ideas on a wide range of topics such as household recycling, decreasing use of single use plastics, and plant based eating tips
- Variety of adult education presentations on caring for the earth
- Inclusion of earth care themes in children's activities and sermons
- There are opportunities for everyone to participate!

»» HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

- Julie hopes to continue to deliver engaging children’s sermons, teaching kids and adults alike about the wonder of God’s creation
 - Integrate practices that maintain and promote earth care throughout all VCPC committees
 - Continue to work toward a relationship with the earth that is respectful, not exploitative.
- ~ Professor Tink Tinker (Osage)

“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).



Thank you to Carolyn Anderson, Janet Triplett, and Julie Westerlund for their contributions to and input on this feature.

TEAMS BANANA BREAD BAKE WITH VALERIE R.



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room

Have you checked in with your Valley kid recently? The new Invitation to Play curriculum has us searching for things in bins of rice, watching what happens when we mix vinegar and baking soda and more. It has been hands-on and engaging fun!



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) Tuesday, June 11 - Friday, June 14; 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! Registration will open on April 1st for kids entering Kindergarten - 6th grade in the Fall of 2024. We are also looking for Valley grown-ups and youth (7th-12th grade) who would be interested in volunteering.



Calling All Volunteers!! Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings and VBC!

All of these amazing opportunities for Valley kids cannot happen without help from lots of Valley grown-ups. Talk to or email Mariah Messer if you are interested!

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



TEAMS & Youth Pack the Pews Valley TEAMS and Youth surpassed their Pack the Pews Challenge goal!

Valley young people reached out to friends, family, and neighbors to collect donations for the Pack the Pew drive and were able to bring in **57 bags** worth of food for PRISM! Great work, Valley youth! They earned a fun group outing in the spring.



Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP TEA Saturday, April 27th at 2:00pm

There are only a few tickets left to attend the YES Tea coming up in April. You can sign up in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday morning or reach out to Sheila Sheldon. **Youth Group** - make sure to mark your calendars to serve at the Tea.



Senior Sermon Sunday Sunday, June 9th at 9:30am

Mark your calendars for a Sunday celebrating our two graduating seniors, Alex Malecha and Ben Sheldon! They will share during worship and other Valley youth will also take part in the service that morning.

Immigrant Task Force Update

Valley's sponsored family, the Karwans, continue to develop their independence in our community. Silab is now taking responsibility for most of their connections for finances, early childhood education, and services. Arlene Freeberg still helps them to navigate complex medical systems.

When their toddler Razaullah is about 2 1/2 years, he will have matured enough to be able to have a **procedure to close the defect in the upper chamber of his heart.** This permanent procedure is much simpler than open heart surgery, as a device similar to a button is inserted through a large vessel and becomes fixed in the wall between the 2 chambers. But first, Razaullah must gain more weight. The family is so grateful for the expert medical care here in Minnesota.

The Karwans are moving! They have signed a lease on a home in Minneapolis that they will be renting. The family is very excited to be in a house of their own. Silab continues to work hard at achieving a specific **goal of buying a house** as soon as it is feasible. They understand the factors involved in building a good credit rating. We will encourage them to take a course in home ownership that is offered by the Afghan Cultural Center. Living in their rental home will no doubt be good practice as they continue to work toward homeownership. We are also launching them in their independence for all responsibilities of the upkeep and insurance of their car this spring.

Mina and Silab Karwan and their three children are now in the midst of observing the month of **Ramadan.** We send them good wishes for the **celebration of Eid Al-Fitr on April 9.**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

Youth Education Scholarship Tea

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH
BEGINNING AT 2 PM**

You are cordially invited to the 2024 Youth Education Scholarship (Y.E.S.) Tea. This fundraiser is a long-standing tradition at Valley, being held every year for over 20 years, even virtually and hybrid during the pandemic.

At Valley we show our support for our youth who choose to pursue further education after graduating high school by offering education scholarships. Events like the Y.E.S. Tea make this possible!

Tickets are on sale now!
\$30 per person (ages 11 & up)
\$15 per person (ages 10 & under)

Visit the table in Fellowship Hall to reserve your seat! There are only a handful of spots left, so don't wait.

VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
-- FELLOWSHIP HALL --



2024 SANCTUARY RENOVATION



MAY 2024

Cornerstone Room ceiling sanded and stained to preserve wood.

JUNE 2, 2024

Last Worship in Sanctuary until September. We will worship in Fellowship Hall for the summer.

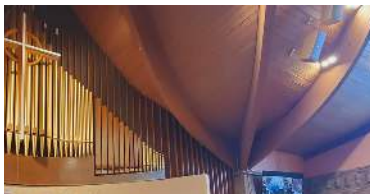


JUNE 3, 2024

Pews are removed and stored onsite.

JUNE 6-14, 2024

Flooring removed to abate asbestos.



JUNE 17-JULY 26, 2024

Sanding and sealing of ceiling to preserve wood; painting wall areas.

JULY 29- AUG. 23, 2024

New carpet and tile installed. Pews reinstalled.



SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Homecoming Sunday! First Worship in the newly renovated sanctuary.

Barbara Johnston left Valley a generous gift from her estate that has been used to preserve Valley's work of living out our faith for years to come. Some of those dollars are being used to maintain the building to prepare it for another 75 years of service to our community and world. Work will be done this summer on the Sanctuary and Cornerstone Room: removing asbestos tile before it becomes a health risk, maintaining the wood ceilings, and refreshing carpeting.

Work will begin on June 3rd, and we will worship in Fellowship Hall while the work is carried out. We are eager to see what God has in store for this congregation in the coming decades, and we are excited that our beloved Mission Station will be ready to provide support to the community for years to come!

CALENDAR

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

Monday, April 1
11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, April 2
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 4
10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, April 7
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
11:00 am Adult Ed
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, April 9
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 10
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11
10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, April 12
7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, April 13
10 am - 2 pm Craft Day

Sunday, April 14
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed
2:30 pm Sheila Sheldon Commissioning
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, April 16
11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 17
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 18
10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Saturday, April 20
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Valley Spring Cleaning

Sunday, April 21
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, April 22
6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, April 23
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25
10:00 am Bible Fellowship
10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Saturday, April 27
2:00 pm Y.E.S. Tea

Sunday, April 28
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, April 30
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

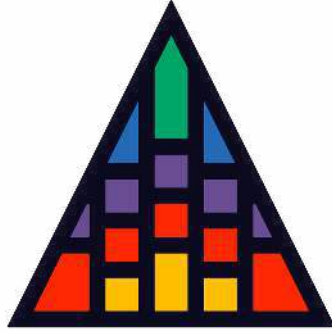
BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

Larry Johnson
Ben Fadell
Jeanine Miakotina
Colin Poynter
Ray Anderson
Marci Franz
Mikum Kunkel
Rob Morrow
Jim Parks
Larry Eklund
Mary Schuette
Tom McKeon
Alexandria Slack
Pat Daily
Jaxon Hein-Smith
Thomas Johannsen
Jim Saelens
Iris Hagelin
Jeff Lewis
Devin Smith
Emmett Soltau
Becca Pitan
Chelsie Larsen
Christopher Bauer
Andrew Gillett
Leone Johnson
Sam Sheldon
Betty Thorne
Rachel Williams
Becky Grosshuesch
Mike Pinter

Becky Brooking
Betsy Nichols
Mae Rudeen
Dede Hanson
Marlys Hawkins
Greg Van Heest
Andres Freeberg
Jeremy Lund
Charlie Rudeen
Camille Pinter
Jennifer Downs
Ben Sheldon
Elsie Grosshuesch
Brian Hole
Missy Rudeen





Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VCPC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

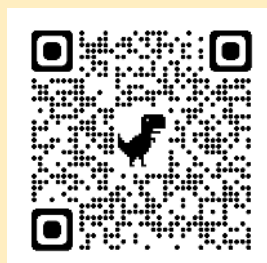
As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

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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