

THE VALLEY

MAY 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
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Cover Photo: The 2024 Youth Education Scholarship (Y.E.S.) Tea was held on Saturday April 27th with over 100 guests in attendance. It was a lovely day to come together in support of Valley Youth!

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Ministry and Mission Study (MMS) Congregational Listening Sessions (page 3)**
 - Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 PM
 - Sunday, May 19th at 11:00 AM
 - Sunday June 9th at 11:00 AM
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 5)**
 - Friday, May 10 @ 7 PM | Ka Trio
- Ladies Night Out | Saturday May 18 at 6:30 PM | New Bohemia, Golden Valley (page 6)
- **Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals in May:**
 - Wednesday, May 8 @ 7:00 PM
 - Wednesday, May 15 @ 7:00 PM
- **Valley Handbell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM**
- Gentle Yoga Class | Thursdays @ 7 PM through May 30 (page 5)
- **All-Church Picnic | Sunday, June 2 @ 11:00 AM (page 6)**
- Senior Sermon Sunday | Sunday, June 9 @ 9:30 AM (page 8, 10)
- **Summer 2024 VBC | June 11-14 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 5, 7, 8)**
- **Valley Day at the Twins | Sunday, June 16 @ 1:10 PM (page 7)**
 - Deadline to purchase tickets: May 31st (\$26/ticket)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Land Acknowledgement 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 6)**
- Memorial Blood Centers Blood Drive at Valley | Tuesday, May 14 | 2:00 - 6:00 PM (page 5)
- **BBQ at Clare Terrace | Saturday, May 18 @ 2:00 PM**
 - **Contact Sarah Fadell with questions or to volunteer**

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

MAY 2024

Dear Valley,

Spring is in full swing here in Minnesota: trees are budding, flowers are blooming, and birdsongs are returning to our ears. In this season of rebirth and renewal of nature, we also remember the renewal that we have through Christ. Not only have we received the promise of eternal life through the Cross and Resurrection, but we have also been called to be the community that offers hope and renewal to all people.

It always amazes me to see how Valley rises to that call day-in and day-out. We care about our members through programs like the **Y.E.S. Tea** that took place on April 27th for the benefit of our young people seeking post-secondary educational opportunities. And we cannot forget as well the continued efforts of our dedicated board of deacons who reach out to and care for individual members of our church community. But our care for God's beloved community does not stop at the doors of our church. Our **Pack the Pews** campaign in March totaled 1,840 pounds of food for our community partner PRISM. That equates to over 25% of their total donations from all area churches and countless mouths that will be fed with your generosity.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

Just as our generosity never ceases, needs never cease as well. I encourage you to find a way that you can support our church in its mission to open hearts, minds, and lives to God by caring for all. **Meals on Wheels** is in a deep need for drivers if you are available on Thursday mornings, our community **Blood Drive** will take place on May 14th in which we can give tangible support to our own church members who rely on blood transfusions. Finally, I hope you will share Valley's welcoming heart with a community that has historically been hurt by organized religion during the **Golden Valley Pride Festival** on June 8th.

As we look forward to the rest of spring and summer, I also hope you will engage with our community through one of the many opportunities available to you. On pages 6 and 7 you will find a host of fellowship opportunities available, whether it is the **All-Church Picnic, Ladies' Night Out, or Vacation Bible Camp** for your child!

Please see below a short update regarding our pastoral transition. As we step into a new future as a congregation, I hope you will lend your voice in sharing your experiences of Valley and where you see God calling us as a congregation in its next chapter!

In Christ,
Jim

Update on the Pastoral Transition

A major step in the transition process is completing a **Ministry and Mission Study (MMS)**. This document is the product of an information-gathering process from the congregation that **outlines who we are as a church, what we see our mission as, and how God is calling us in the next chapter of our life together**. A large amount of that information gathering takes place in congregational listening sessions that will take place on the dates listed below.

Those sessions are scheduled to take place on:

- Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00pm
- Sunday, May 19th at 11:00am
- Sunday June 9th at 11:00am

If you cannot make one of these sessions, have no fear! A congregational survey will also go out to collect information from those who are unable to attend one of these meetings.

Additionally, if you are interested in serving on the Mission Study team that will build this document, please contact Jim at jim.cochrane@valleychurch.net.

IT'S TIME TO LOOK AHEAD AND SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING IN OUR MIDST!

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 - April 2024

MNIPL SONG CIRCLE WITH CONIE BORCHARDT & DOE HOYER



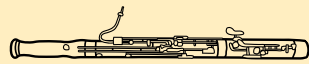
SHEILA SHELDON COMMISSIONING SERVICE



VALLEY BREW CREW



Fridays in the Valley Presents:



Ka Trio



**FRIDAY, MAY 10
7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
**GREATER MINNEAPOLIS
CRISIS NURSERY**

 Valley Community

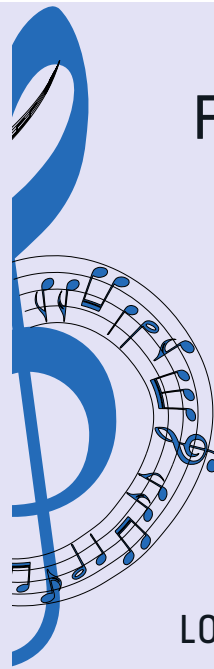
- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

Only 2 concerts left in the 2023-24 season!

FRIDAY, MAY 10 | 7:00 pm
Ka Trio

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 | 7:00 pm
Marimba Bullies

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



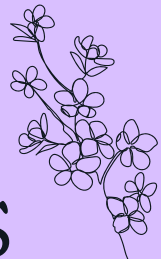
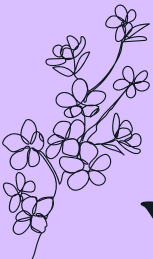
GENTLE YOGA CLASS

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**

MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30



VALLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

MAY 14, 2024

Valley will be hosting a blood drive on
**Tuesday, May 14
from 2 PM-6 PM.**



Scan the QR code above to register. All donors must register in the Memorial Blood Centers system.

 Valley Community

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

3RD & 4TH THURSDAYS OF EVERY MONTH
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

• MAY 16 & 23 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are free on one or more days of Compassion Camp and would like to help, we would love to have you! We are looking for group leaders, camp counselors, snack helpers, and everything in between.

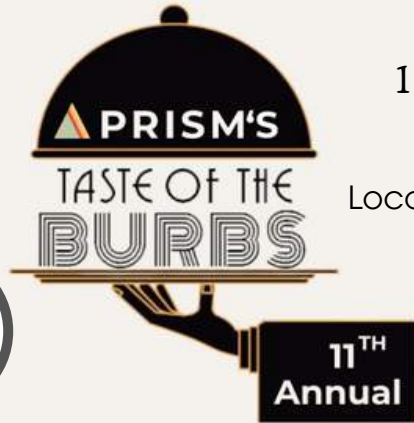
Sign up online [HERE](#) or in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you are interested.
Info meeting date/s to come.

VBC DATES:

Tues, June 11 - Fri, June 14: 9am - 12pm

The More We Get Together

ON THE ROAD TO FELLOWSHIP AT VALLEY!



11th 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!



SAVE THE DATE! All-Church Picnic 2024

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 | 11:00AM - 12:30 PM

The Fellowship Team invites you and your family to join Valley members for an all-church picnic!



CALL THE VALLEY OFFICE
WITH QUESTIONS





Through Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, participants will explore what all living things need to live—shelter, food, water, air, and community—and how they can have compassion for the living earth, especially in their local ecosystems. **We are excited to have Sustainable Safari join us on Wednesday, the second day of Compassion Camp!** Sustainable Safari Wildlife Shows last about 45 minutes and include a detailed natural history discussion about each animal.

DATES:

Tues, June 11 - Friday, June 14: 9am - 12pm

Compassion Camp is for kids who will be entering Kinder - 6th Grade in Fall 2024. Cost \$25 per family.

Please fill out [THIS REGISTRATION FORM](#) (one per child you are registering) or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

MN TWINS
 ---VS---
OAKLAND ATHLETICS
 SUNDAY, JUNE 16 | 1:10 PM
 \$26 Per Ticket | Payable to VCPC
 50 Tickets Total | Deadline May 21
 Sign up in the Fellowship Hall



Fridays in the Valley Summer Sunday Series:

SUNDAY,
JUNE 9
7:00 PM



FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT THE FATHER PROJECT



6th ANNUAL GOLDEN VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL!

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH
12:00 - 6:00 PM
BROOKVIEW PARK

Last year's Golden Valley PRIDE Festival was a huge success, with over 7,500 attendees! Valley loves participating in this important community event and will have a booth again this year run by volunteers to support the event and meet folks in our community.

The festival is family-friendly with music, food vendors, bounce houses, inflatable obstacle courses, games, and MORE!

Mark your calendars and come support this amazing event in our GV community.



the happier we'll be! 7

LEARNING IN THE SUNSHINE ROOM



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



Calling All Volunteers!!

Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings and VBC!

All of these opportunities for Valley kids cannot happen without help from our Valley grown-ups. Talk to Mariah Messer or sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested!



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC)

Tuesday, June 11 - Friday, June 14; 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! [Registration is open](#) now 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.



2nd Annual Valley Night Out

Sunday, August 4: Dinner @ 5:30pm, Show @ 7:00pm

Open Eye Theatre will be back again this summer with a performance of *Molly and the Magic Boot!* Even if you caught the show last year, we hope to see you again - maybe with a friend or neighbor! You can find more details on the next page (9).

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



TEAMS & Youth End of Session Party

The last day of Youth Group and TEAMS for the school year is Sunday, May 5!

All TEAMS and Youth Group volunteers, participants, and their families are invited to join us for a celebration! We'll eat dinner together and play kickball at Gearty Park. Thank you to all youth, parents, and volunteers for making this year such a success.



Senior Sermon Sunday

Sunday, June 9th at 9:30am

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



Clearwater Forest Camp

Summer 2024!

Looking for a fun camp experience? Then you will want to check out all the Clearwater Forest has to offer. Welcoming campers entering 3rd grade - 12th grade, there is something for everyone. [Learn more here!](#) Talk to Sheila about available scholarships.

Land Acknowledgement Task Force

Congratulations, Valley!



Valley member Crystal Boyd (L) and Hennepin History Museum Executive Director John Crippen (R) accept the award in Duluth on April 25, 2024.

In honor of our [Ĥaĥá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek Oral History Project](#), we've been awarded the **2024 Minnesota History Award for Museum Collections** from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM)!

In April, Crystal Boyd traveled to Duluth to **present about the project** at the annual MALHM conference. She accepted the award on Valley's behalf alongside our partner, John Crippen, the executive director of Hennepin History Museum. To help inspire similar work across the region, Crystal also presented about the oral history project to the **Presbyterian Synod of Lakes and Prairies**.

In May, [Makoce Ikićcupi](#) will close on a wild rice property on pristine Turtle Lake in Itasca County. Makoce Ikićcupi is a Dakota land recovery project that Valley has supported through our connections with Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould. Now, the Twin Cities Repair Community has set a fundraising goal of \$60,000 by May 31 to help Makoce Ikićcupi build an earth lodge and offer programming at this new site. In one week, donors have contributed more than \$55,000! If you'd like to contribute, please visit the [Makoce Ikićcupi story page at Give MN](#). For more information, please contact Crystal Boyd.

The Land Acknowledgement Task Force continues to collaborate with Anishinaabe artist Summer Sky Cohen on a **land acknowledgement banner**. This beautiful textile will feature floral designs and be installed later this summer in Valley's downstairs entryway.

Looking forward, please mark your calendars for these upcoming events. Thank you to the Endowment Committee for supporting these opportunities!

- **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 July 13 at 10:00am – Invasive species pull and park clean-up** near Ĥaĥá Wakpádan (Bassett Creek) at James I. Rice Park in Minneapolis.

2nd Annual Valley Night Out!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
DINNER - 5:30PM | SHOW - 7:00PM

We're grilling dinner and hosting a performance of Open Eye Theater's **MOLLY AND THE MAGIC BOOT!**

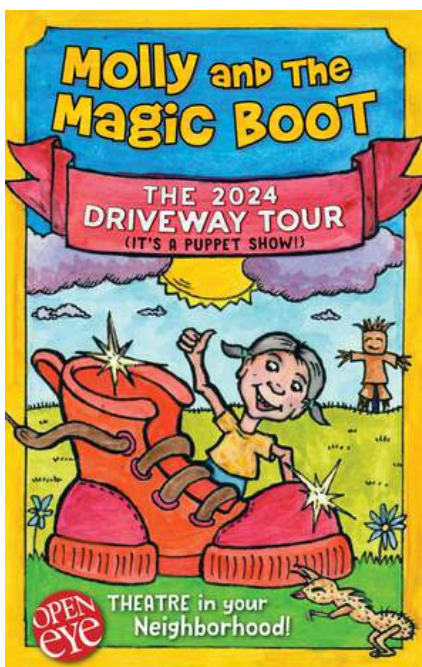
We have had so much fun the past two summers hosting Open Eye Theater artists and their puppet friends in the Valley parking lot. So Valley Night Out is back again!

The show might be the same as last year, but if you bring along a new friend, it will feel like you are seeing it for the first time. Or maybe you'll notice something you missed last year!

Grab your friends, family, and neighbors! **Come for a potluck dinner (we'll grill, you bring a side or dessert to share) and stay for the show.** All are welcome!

About the show:

Molly is excited to spend a whole week at Grandma's farm, but events on the journey there leave her without her gadgets. With the help of a Magic Boot and a cast of new farm friends, Molly's time with Grandma becomes a summer to remember.



Congratulations to the Valley High School Grads!

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I am graduating from Jefferson High School in Bloomington and will be attending the University of St. Thomas. I will be majoring in entrepreneurship and plan to be a student equipment manager for the hockey teams.

Q: What has Valley meant to you over the years?

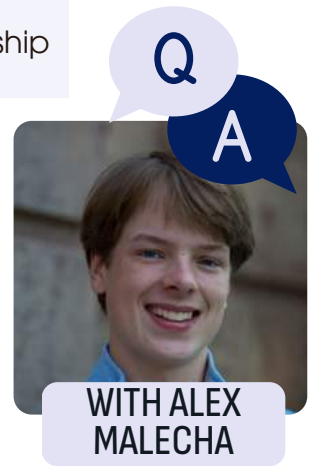
A: Valley has always been an open community that I feel a part of and I always looked forward to pastoral counseling on the golf course with Richard every summer.

Q: Do you have one Valley memory that stands out to you?

A: My favorite Valley memories are the mission trip that I took to Milwaukee and attending VBC every summer.

Q: Would you like to give a special thank you to anyone?

A: I would like to give a special thank you to my confirmation mentor, Lisa Tarbell. She has provided great support throughout my faith journey.



Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I am graduating from St. Paul Johnson Senior High School. I'll be attending Hamline University, studying criminology, and playing football.

Q: What has Valley meant to you over the years?

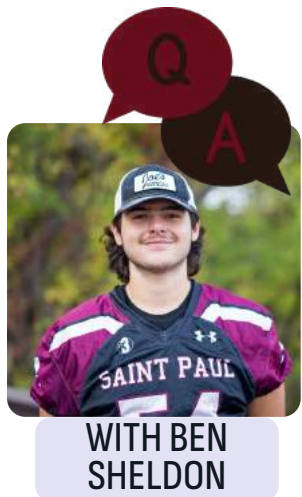
A: Valley has been like a second home and it's been a place where I knew I was always welcome.

Q: Do you have one Valley memory that stands out to you?

A: The middle school mission trips to Milwaukee and Manitowoc, Wisconsin were a lot of fun. We played some great rounds of night games, like Grog, and came home with Mother Hubbard.

Q: Would you like to give a special thank you to anyone?

A: My family for always being there and supporting the things I do.



Do you have a graduate to celebrate this spring?

Please join us in honoring our 2024 Valley graduates
Sunday, June 9 at 9:30 am.

If you or someone you know is graduating from a degree or certification program this spring, please notify the office by May 22 so we can include them in the bulletin. office@valleychurch.net

CALENDAR

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

Thursday, May 2
10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, May 5
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
Sheila Sheldon preaching
11:00 am Adult Ed - Land Acknowledgement
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, May 6
11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, May 7
12:00 pm Formula for Hope Luncheon
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 8
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 9
10:00 am Bible Fellowship
6:15 pm Taste of the Burbs Gala

Friday, May 10
7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, May 12
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed - Sustainability Group

Tuesday, May 14
2:00 - 6:00 pm Blood Drive
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 15
6:00 pm MMS Listening Session #1
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 16
10:00 am Bible Fellowship
10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Saturday, May 18
2:00 pm BBQ at Clare Terrace
6:30 pm Ladies Night Out

Sunday, May 19
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am MMS Listening Session #2

Monday, May 20
6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, May 21
11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon @ 50's Grill
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 23
10:00 am Bible Fellowship
10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, May 26
9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, May 27- OFFICE CLOSED

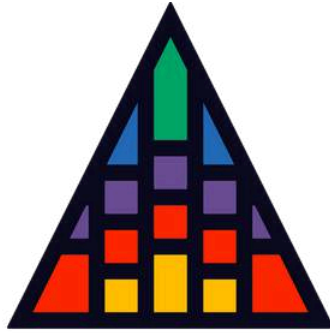
Tuesday, May 28
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 30
10:00 am Bible Fellowship

BIRTHDAYS

Greg Rom
Crystal Boyd
Bobby Tripet
Walt Hanson
Annette Nichols
William Dudley
Ana Freeberg
Jackie Goiffon
Earl Shenk
Shirley Toering
Brian Hassel
Sue Tracy
Lucas Kopischke
Elizabeth Brooker
Vivian Bi
Suzan Gibson
Abigail Bauer
Len Biggs
Kevin Hagelin
Haley Brooker
Amy Matthews
Thomas Schuette
Lloyd Olson
Jan Sacco
Herb Nichols
Jennifer Soens
Dan Priem
Carolyn Anderson
Sandra McCarthy
Kiersten Rude
Lynn Thier
Lillian LaBelle
Alexander Gillett
Ellis Mead





Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VCPC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

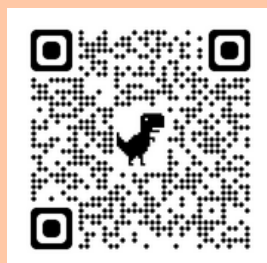
As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

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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