

THE VALLEY

OCTOBER 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: Homecoming Sunday on September 8 brought the return to the Sanctuary! It was a joyous day as we broke bread together in the newly refreshed space. Thanks to **Dawn Schuld** for the photo!

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Stewardship Kick-Off | Sunday, October 27 @ 9:30 AM (pages 5, 7)**
 - **Rev. Jim Cochrane preaching at 9:30 AM**
 - **Stewardship newsletters and pledge information will be available beginning Sunday, October 20th**
- Fridays in the Valley (pages 6, 10)
 - Friday, October 11 @ 7 PM | The Metro Brass Quintet
- **Valley Kids Club | Sunday, October 6 | 11 AM - 2 PM (page 10)**
 - Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or [click here!](#)
- **Valley Craft Club | Saturday, October 12 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 6)**
- Fall Festival | Saturday, October 26 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM (pages 5, 7)
- **Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 27 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM (page 7, 8)**
 - Email Mariah if you would like to decorate a trunk! (Mariah.Messer@valleychurch.net)
- Fall Clean Up Day | Saturday, November 2 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Rev. Alika Galloway preaching at 9:30 AM | Sunday, November 17**
 - **Adult Ed also led by Rev. Alika Galloway that day starting at 11:00 AM**
- Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3rd - Fall Back!
- Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-8, 10)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 27 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM**
 - Bring pantry items, diapers, and wipes to donate!
- **Land Acknowledgement Task Force updates and events (page 9)**
- **Immigration Task Force Update (page 9)**
- **Bridging Dresser Build | Saturday, November 16 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (page 10)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers! To volunteer, call:
 - Gail Smith to sign up to deliver on the 3rd Thursday of the month
 - Marge Thurston to sign up to deliver on the 4th Thursday of the month

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

OCTOBER 2024

I'll show what it's like when someone comes to me, hears my words, and puts them into practice. It's like a person building a house by digging deep and laying the foundation on bedrock. When the flood came, the rising water smashed against that house, but the water couldn't shake the house because it was well built. – Luke 6:47-48 (CEB)



Rev. Jim Cochrane

I don't know if it is all the construction that has been going on in the church these past few months, but I have found myself thinking more about foundations as of late. When I walk through the church in the early morning sunlight before Sunday worship, there is a quiet energy. No one else is in the space, but it is alive nonetheless with the anticipation of those who will soon fill the room, the eyes that will log on to the livestream, and all the prayers, concerns, joys, and hopes they will bring with them. Everything that will happen each Sunday is built on a solid foundation such that nothing can shake it.

That solid rock is more than freshly polished pews and new carpet, however. Luke reminds us that the rock we build our house on is our action following the words of Christ. We are called to love one another, offer grace, and serve those around us, so it is not surprising when people walk in on Sunday morning to a welcoming environment with people of all ages who have come together to worship God in authentic community.

There is no shortage of floods or rising waters in our world today. As a contentious election looms large in just a month's time and heated rhetoric leads to hatred and violence, it can feel like the division that plagues our communities might never be exorcised. But our hope is in a God that sees beyond what we can.



Welcome to the Valley family, Baby Goslinga!
You are God's beloved child. (Sept 15)

We welcomed a new life to the household and family of God as we baptized Baby Goslinga on September 15th. In that service, we reminded ourselves of the promise we make to every one of God's beloved children to guide, nurture, love, and pray for them. **Nurturing and supporting one another is the work of being the "rock."**

We will celebrate the Fall Festival on October 26th, with another live game show in addition to all the activities we are so used to! There will be a number of services, gift baskets, and tickets to help support both Valley's fellowship programs and our community partners. We suggest bringing cash or a check to purchase your games, food, and raffle tickets when you arrive. **Building bridges between one another and supporting our community partners is the work of being the "rock."**

Stewardship season is approaching as we look to the future and Valley's work in the coming year. Sunday, October 27th will be the kick-off of a three-week campaign finishing on November 10th. Our theme is: We are Valley – 100%, and we will focus on how all of us give of our time, talent, and resources to build a future for our church and we will challenge everyone to pledge something in the coming year. **Looking to the future with imagination and hope is the work of being the "rock."**

We hear the words of Christ, and we respond in kind to build our house on a solid foundation. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Jim

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- September 2024



HOMECOMING SUNDAY



BREW CREW



TEAMS & YOUTH GROUP



WHAT'S THE DEAL!

October 26 | 5-7 pm

LIVE GAME SHOW STARTS AT 5:30P

* FOOD * GAMES * SILENT AUCTION * LIVE AUCTION *
 COSTUME CONTEST * BOUNCE HOUSE * FUN FOR EVERYONE *

You are invited to come together with Valley friends of all ages.

To volunteer or donate to the auction, contact the Church Office.

Tickets will be sold at the door for food and games.
 (\$10 for a sheet of 12 or \$1 per ticket)

Enter a raffle for \$5/ticket for a chance to play Game Show style games and win prizes! Game Show starts at 5:30 PM.



STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS UPON US!

Kick-Off of the 2024 Stewardship Season will be
Sunday October 27, 2024!

It's the time of year where we are all asked to prayerfully support the ministries that have sustained us and show gratitude for the many things our Valley family does, both in the church and in the community.

Stewardship materials will be available to pick up on Sunday, October 20th. Any materials that are not picked up in person will be delivered the following week.

Please plan to attend worship, either in person or virtually, to hear important updates from the Stewardship Team on 10/27 and 11/3.

PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

Second Annual Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ Water Blessing

Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ is the Dakota name for Bassett Creek



BLUE HUMMINGBIRD WOMAN



DIANE WILSON

Please join us in honoring the creek on Indigenous Peoples' Day

This event will include opening remarks by award-winning author Diane Wilson (Dakota) and a water blessing by Tanaġidaŋ To Win / Blue Hummingbird Woman (Dakota).

RAIN OR SHINE, FREE, AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY!
 REGISTRATION IS OPTIONAL.

Visit or click to register:

<https://hennepinhistory.org/event/second-annual-%C8%9Fa%C8%9Fa-wakpadaŋ-water-blessing/>

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 10-11 AM
BASSETT CREEK PARK

5609 32ND AVE N, CRYSTAL, MN 55422



Gabe's out! Youth and TEAMS kids play gaga ball on Sunday evening



October in the Valley

The fun of fall is in full swing in the Valley! There are all kinds of events coming up this month that will give us all a chance to connect and come together in fellowship.

There is something for everyone and new participants are always welcome.

Bell Choir Practice

DATE: EVERY TUESDAY | TIME: 6:30 PM

Have you ever considered trying your hand at bell ringing? What's stopping you? The Valley Ringers love to share and teach others how to ring! Ringers and non-ingers ages 10 & up are welcome. The Bell Choir rehearses every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Fridays in the Valley Concert

DATE: FRIDAY, 10/11 | TIME: 7:00 PM

The Metro Brass Quintet is a standard brass quintet comprised of two trumpets, French Horn, trombone and tuba. They have been playing together for many years performing all styles of music around the Twin Cities metro area. Recent highlights for members of the group include performing at the Wurst Brass Festival in Amana, IA and the American Cemetery in Normandy, France. Free-will offering benefits Missions Inc and Home Free.

Valley Choir

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10/2 & 10/16 | TIME: 7:00 PM

We are looking forward to having the Valley Choir singing during worship twice each month. The choir will rehearse on select Wednesdays at 7:00PM for worship the following Sunday. Participants are welcome to join weekly as they are able. The next rehearsal dates are October 2 and 16.

Valley Craft Club

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/12 | TIME: 10 AM - 2 PM

Spend the day crafting without distractions! Come catch up on a project, start something new or check out 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.
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Valley Bell Choir - September 2023



2nd Annual Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ Water Blessing

DATE: MONDAY, 10/14 | TIME: 10 - 11 AM

**Bassett Creek Park
5609 32nd Ave N, Crystal, MN 55422**

This event will include opening remarks by award-winning author Diane Wilson (Dakota) and a water blessing by Tanaġidaŋ To Wiŋ / Blue Hummingbird Woman (Dakota).

[CLICK HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ Loopet Loppet

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/19 | TIME: 7 AM - 7 PM

5K Fun Run/Walk Starts at 9 AM!

The newly named Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ Loopet Loppet will maintain the marquee 6-hour or 12-hour events from previous years (for the ambitious walkers) and help you connect you with the earth in new ways. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to join the Valley 5K Walking Team! [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Fall Festival - What's the Deal?

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/26 | TIME: 5-7 PM

You are invited to come together with Valley friends of all ages. There will be live game show-style games, a silent and live auction, bouncy house, cupcake walk, and more! Tickets will be sold at the door for food and games (\$10 for a sheet of 12 or \$1 per ticket). Enter a raffle for \$5/ticket for a chance to play live games and win prizes! **Bringing cash or checks is highly encouraged.**

Stewardship Kick-Off

DATE: SUNDAY, 10/27 | TIME: 9:30 AM

Kick-Off of the 2024 Stewardship Season will be Sunday October 27, 2024! It's the time of year where we are all asked to prayerfully support the ministries that have sustained us and show gratitude for the many things our Valley family does, both in the church and in the community.

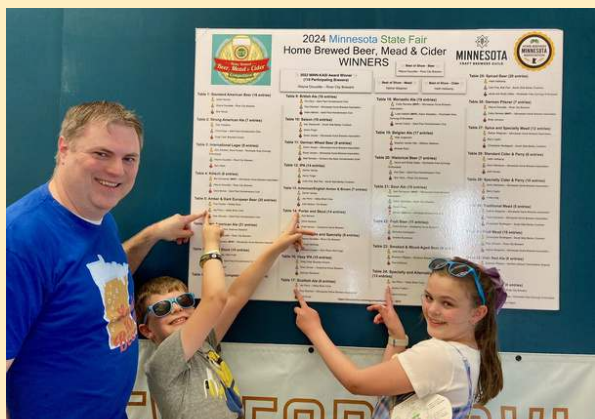
PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

Trunk or Treat for PRISM

DATE: SUNDAY, 10/27 | TIME: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

A community event with a cause! Hosted by Valley Youth. Come to Valley, trick or treat in the parking lot, listen to music, and see your friends and neighbors! Bring pantry items for PRISM and help us fill the trailer with donations.

Can't wait to see you there!



Photos clockwise starting above:

- Wally participates in worship in the kids area
- Brew Crew takes home two 1st and two 2nd place ribbons this year!
- Great job, Brew Crew!
- Julie W kicks off Adult Ed by giving a presentation about the health of waterways in MN
- Catching up with friends at the Homecoming Potluck



The Valley Education Corner



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 are continuing their Invitation to Play curriculum. We will be integrating these lessons into Faith Formation to keep us playing, exploring, and learning!



WORSHIP SPACE FOR 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS

Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

Valley kids ages 3 - 3rd grade are invited to join Jamese in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings for Faith Formation. As our kids start to grow and want to explore worship in the Sanctuary, there is a space for them to do that. Find Mariah if you have questions!



TRUNK OR TREAT FOR PRISM

Sunday, October 27th from 4:00 - 5:00pm

Mark your calendar for another great Trunk or Treat event in the Valley parking lot! We can never have too many decorated cars. Talk to or email Mariah if you are interested.

Adult Education Schedule

- Adult Ed classes will take place at 11:00 AM. Coffee and pastries welcome!
- Classes will be held in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.
- Classes will be recorded and available on YouTube as we are able.
- Full class descriptions available in Sept Newsletter and [online here](#).

Sept. 29 | Rev. Bill Davnie

"How America Became God's Favorite Country"

October 6 | Clare Housing

"HIV & Homelessness 101"

October 13 | Summer Sky Cohen & Crystal Boyd

Land Acknowledgement Updates

October 20 | Kari Hitchcock, Program Director - Home Free

"Updates from Missions Inc."

November 3 | Doe Hoyer

"Repair Work in Mni Sota Makoce and Beyond"

November 10 | From Fork to Forest

"The Climate Crisis and How We Eat"

November 17 | Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway

"Updates from Liberty"

November 24 | Jon & Sam Schellhaas

"It's Everybody's Problem"

October 27 | NO ADULT ED

Land Acknowledgement Task Force

Happy fall! 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 in Valley's entryway downstairs. Please join us on **Sunday, October 13th** for **Indigenous Peoples Sunday**. Summer Sky will be with us during worship, giving us a chance to celebrate her and dedicate the gorgeous banner!



Looking forward, please mark your calendars for these events:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday October 13 at 11:00am – Celebrate **Indigenous Peoples Sunday** during worship. Summer Sky Cohen, the designer of Valley's land acknowledgement banner, will join us during worship to debut and dedicate the banner. Stick around for Adult Ed for a **task force update** from Crystal Boyd.
- Monday October 14 at 10:00am – Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day with the **Second Annual Ĥahá Wakpádan Water Blessing** at Bassett Creek Park in the City of Crystal. Rain or shine! Free and family friendly.
- Saturday October 19 at 9:00am – **5K Fun Run and Walk** as part of the **Ĥahá Wakpádan Loopet Loppet** at Theodore Wirth Parkway. Sign up as a volunteer, runner, walker, or just come and enjoy the event! Registration required for runners and walkers [here](#).
- Sunday November 3 at 11:00am – Join us for a **guest presentation during Adult Ed** by Doe Hoyer, organizer for the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.
- Thursday, November 14 at 6:00pm – Author Cathy Coats (White) and radio host Robert Pilot (Ho-Chunk) will present a **book reading and discussion** about "To Banish Forever: A Secret Society and Ho-Chunk Removal in Minnesota" at The Trailhead on Theodore Wirth Parkway. Required registration [here](#).

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for supporting Valley's Land Acknowledgement work!

Immigrant Task Force Update

It's been nearly 3 years since Valley began our relationship with the **Karwan family**, when they arrived as refugees from Afghanistan. Now we are happy to report that Silab is doing well at his new job as a security guard at a Walgreen's in south Minneapolis. He is grateful to have a higher salary and is currently able to work 40 hours each week there.

Little Razuallah and his family recently went in for an evaluation for **possible heart surgery**. The surgeon and cardiologist agreed that they want to fix his heart defect within the next few months. They plan to first attempt to correct the issue using a heart catheterization procedure. If that is not successful, Razuallah will require open heart surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

The family has resumed going to **Early Childhood Family Education class** (ECFE) in Minneapolis every Tuesday. This provides an opportunity for Mina and her three children to interact with other Afghan families while developing school readiness skills in English. At the end of October, Razia will also start attending a school program designed specifically for Afghan children and she will get to ride a school bus to get there!

Over the summer, we looked into the possibility of them buying a house, but the costs are still out of reach. Silab is determined to achieve this goal, but he has now signed another six month lease, and might continue with that next spring. We have an agent and a lender that specialize in programs that can assist low income families. We hope the Karwans can achieve this home ownership dream in the near future.

The most exciting news is that the Karwans are scheduled for an **interview with US Immigration and Customs Service** soon. They are very relieved at this step toward their obtaining Green Cards, which will then allow them to apply for citizenship. They need official medical exams and vaccinations prior to that interview, which can only be done at specific clinics, instead of their regular medical providers. These appointments also incur some costs, which we can cover from the funds that Valley members have donated. The process has been complicated, but Silab has shown diligence, patience, and resilience in gathering all the necessary forms and making all the important appointments.

Please **continue to keep the Karwan family in your prayers** as they work toward their goal of creating a good life for their family in the USA.



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

FRIDAY, October 11 | 7:00 pm
The Metro Brass Quintet

FRIDAY, November 8 | 7:00 pm
Trio Lyrica

FRIDAY, December 13 | 7:00 pm
Above Average Tuba Quartet

FRIDAY, January 10 | 7:00 pm
The Three Mandolins

FRIDAY, February 14 | 7:00 pm
Sue Ruby & Friends

**FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**



5th grade & under **\$5/kid per day**

Valley Kids Club

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

OCT 6 | NOV 3 | DEC 1

Valley kids have fellowship time with friends, Valley grown-ups get to do their stuff!

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or scan the QR code!




Fall Clean Up

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Exterior cleaning of the church grounds



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE. BE HEARD.

Vote in the General Election Tuesday, November 5.

BRIDGING DRESSER BUILD
1730 TERRACE DR. ROSEVILLE, MN 55113

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

10 volunteers needed.
Dress comfortably in clothes you can get dirty.
Close-toed shoes required.

**SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
VISIT BRIDGING.ORG FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT ANDREW PITAN WITH QUESTIONS**



 Valley Community

Valley Craft Club!

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 16, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM
LUNCH AT 12 PM**




CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, October 1

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 2

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 6**9:30 am Worship Service with communion**

11:00 am Adult Ed - Clare Housing
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, October 7

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, October 8

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 11

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, October 12

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Valley Craft Club

Sunday, October 13**9:30 am Worship Service**

11:00 am Adult Ed - Land Acknowledgement
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, October 15

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 16

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 17

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, October 20**9:30 am Worship Service**

11:00 am Adult Ed - Missions Inc.
NO TEAMS & YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Tuesday, October 22

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 24

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Saturday, October 26

5:00 pm Fall Festival

Sunday, October 27 - Stewardship Kick-Off**9:30 am Worship Service**

NO ADULT ED TODAY
4:00 pm Trunk or Treat for PRISM

Monday, October 28

6:30 pm Session Meeting

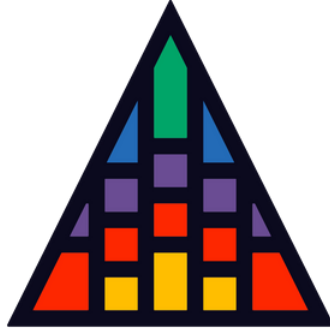
Tuesday, October 29

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Cawhorn
Lonnie Johnson
Brayden Rude
Reid Nichols
Margaret Sandberg
Gail Smith
Rachel Hole
Brandon Novy
Cathy LaPoint
April Kovacovich
Valerie Craven
Nancy Husnik
Aubrie Larsen
Thom Reinert
Madelyn Soens
Alexander Kara
Jack Perry
Earl Robertson
Max Westerlund
Ginger Jackson
Benjamin Gillett
Myron Jones
Chrisdel Nyongkah
Cheryl Smith
Peggy Meyer
Eli Matthews Doering
Linda Wold
Lilianna Schellhaas
Andrew Freeberg
Les Freeberg
Ann Keen
Earl Michael
Alex Graham
Nancy Olson
Mary Ann Winter
Janet Triplett
Myrle Reiswig
Catherine Paulson
Norman Chervany
Ann Van Heest





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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