

THE VALLEY

NOVEMBER 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: Dedication of the shawl designed and created by Summer Sky Cohen (Anishinaabe) which now hangs in the lower entryway. Photo by [Jaida Grey Eagle](#) (Oct. 13)

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Sunday, November 17 (page 8)**
 - **Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway preaching at 9:30 AM**
 - **Adult Ed presentation by Rev. Alika about Homeplace at 11:00 AM**
- Fridays in the Valley (pages 5, 10)
 - Friday, December 13 @ 7 PM | Above Average Tuba Quartet
 - Friday, January 10 @ 7 PM | Three Mandolins
 - Friday, February 14 @ 7 PM | Sue Ruby & Friends
- Valley Craft Club | Saturday, November 16 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 5)
- Valley Brew Crew | Saturday, November 16 | 1:00 - 6:00 PM (page 5)
- **MCC Respectful Conversations - About this Election (page 5)**
 - **Wednesday, November 20 | 6:00 - 8:30 pm**
 - **Register online: <http://bit.ly/signupRC>**
- Valley Office will be closed on November 28 and 29 in observation of Thanksgiving
- **Valley Thanksgiving Potluck | Thursday, November 28 | 12:30 pm (page 5)**
 - Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the Valley Office
- **Advent in the Valley begins on Sunday, December 1 (see page 6 for all the details!)**
- Valley Christmas Dinner | Sunday, December 8 | 5:30 PM (pages 3, 10)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- There are many ways to serve our community this Advent season (page 7)
 - It's time to start bringing in toys for the PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe! The Julie Tree will be up beginning on November 24.
- **Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway will be at Valley to preach and lead Adult Ed** (page 8)
 - Adult Ed | Sunday, November 17 | 11:00 AM - Learn about Homeplace
- **Land Acknowledgement updates (page 9)**
 - **Learn about the community events that took place in the month of October!**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Valley Family,

If you are anything like me, you may find yourself constantly asking yourself, "how is it only 5:00 right now and pitch-black outside?" As the days shorten and the air gets colder, it becomes clear that winter is on the way. Plants have turned brown going into hibernation, and birds have by and large flown south for the winter. That is, all except for a few holdouts like the cardinal.

While at a conference in November, some colleagues and I went for a walk through the woods and were talking about the state of the world when a cardinal suddenly fluttered past us and landed on a nearby branch. My colleagues and I stopped for a minute and admired how his bright red plumage stood out against the dull brown background and it got me thinking back to a message I recently preached about those exact birds.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

In that message, I wondered how we as a church stand out against the backdrop of the world. How does our love for ourselves and one another serve as a beacon for everyone we encounter?

As we move into Advent and await the coming of the Christ child, we remember how God chose to be Emmanuel – God With Us. God has walked in our footsteps. God has loved, God has wept, God has suffered, and God has comforted. And God has called us to that same task. As we enter **Advent and Christmas**, I hope you will find your own opportunity to connect with Valley in some way.



Jim Rock (Dakota) and Jay Tracy provided beautiful music during worship on Indigenous Peoples' Sunday. Photo by [Jaida Grey Eagle](#) (Oct 13)

Whether you want to feel the heartwarming love of the **Christmas pageant** that will take place during worship on **December 8th**, or need to name the grief and mixed emotions of the holidays during our **Longest Night service on December 18th**, or lift your voice in celebration of Christ's birth during one of the **Christmas Eve services**, there is no shortage of ways to be together with the Valley Community during this holy season.

This year, how can we live in a way that reminds the world of the hope we have? How can we express through our words and actions that God has called each of us to love one another above all else?

In even the coldest, darkest seasons of the year, God is still at work and hope remains. May we have the courage and the boldness to live into it.

In Christ,
Jim

Author Diane Wilson (Dakota) addresses the crowd gathered for the Second Annual Hą́hą́ Wakpádanj Water Blessing at Bassett Creek Park. Photo by [Ij Turner](#) (Oct 15)



We will be joining together on **December 8 at 5:30 p.m.** for socializing followed by dinner and a holiday music performance by Sue Ruby. **Tickets available in Fellowship Hall!**

MENU:

- Fresh baked rolls with butter
- Field greens berry salad with Feta
- Roasted root vegetables
- Au gratin potatoes
- Holiday Baked Ham/Pineapple Sauce
- Oven roasted chicken w/garlic parmesan sauce

VEGETARIAN AND KIDS MEALS ALSO AVAILABLE

TICKETS:

\$20 FOR ADULTS | \$10 FOR KIDS

DINNER WILL BE CATERED!

Valley Connects- October 2024

TRUNK OR TREAT FOR PRISM



FALL FESTIVAL 2024



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S SUNDAY PHOTOS BY [JAIDA GREY EAGLE](#)





Fridays in the Valley Presents:



ABOVE AVERAGE TUBA QUARTET

Friday, December 13, 2024 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
PRISM HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE




Valley Community

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
CONTACT ANDREW PITAN WITH QUESTIONS
VISIT BRIDGING.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BRIDGING



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



Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY, NOV 16 | 1:00-6:00 PM

THE GOSLINGA'S HOUSE
REFERENCE YOUR DIRECTORY



IT'S VALLEY BREW CREW TIME!
Come hang out with Valley friends and try some Blue Ribbon-winning craft beverages!

POTLUCK
Have an appetizer or side dish recipe you need to test out? We make great guinea pigs!
Beverages of all kinds | Kids Always Welcome

CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
RESPECTFUL Conversations

A RESPECTFUL CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS ELECTION
HOSTED BY VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday, November 20, 2024
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm (Dinner is provided.)

Valley Community Presbyterian Church
3100 Lilac Drive North
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Registration is open now!
Please reserve your spot by registering online at <http://bit.ly/signupRC>



YOU'RE INVITED!

TO VALLEY'S THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Thursday, Nov. 28th
at 12:30 PM

We are hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck for those looking for a place to gather for the holiday. Come to Valley, share a delicious meal & gratitude for our Valley family. There is a sheet in Fellowship Hall to sign up for what you will bring and how many from your family will be joining you.

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CALL THE OFFICE.

ADVENT 2024 SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 1		9:30 AM	1st Sunday of Advent Worship with communion Sheila Sheldon, CRE, preaching
Sunday, Dec. 8		9:30 AM	2nd Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant (during worship)
Sunday, Dec. 15		9:15 AM	3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Music Sunday 11:00 AM Christmas Cookie Exchange Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Katie Decker
Wednes., Dec. 18		7:00 PM	Longest Night Service
Sunday, Dec. 22		9:30 AM	4th Sunday of Advent Worship VCPC Bell Choir
Tuesday, Dec. 24		4:30 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service (music starts at 4:15 pm)
		9:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

POINSETTIAS

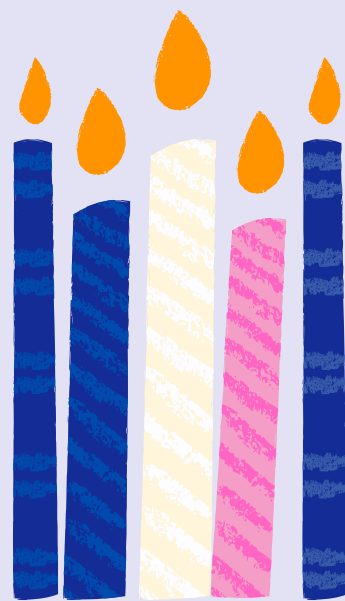
We need your help to decorate the Sanctuary with our beloved Poinsettia Tree! Poinsettias cost \$13 each. Order a plant for the tree or designate that your plant be given to a homebound Valley member. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Eve Service. **All orders are due by Friday, December 1st.** Order forms are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, or call the church office to order.

2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The VCPC 2024 Christmas Pageant will debut on Sunday, December 8th during worship! Join us for worship on **Sunday, December 8 at 9:30 AM** to see our Valley kids and youth tell the Christmas Story as only kids can. We are looking forward to getting Valley kids of all ages involved this year again! There are speaking and non-speaking parts, so all ages and skill-levels are welcome. Please email Mariah at Mariah.messer@valleychurch.net if you have any questions. Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 2:00 PM (speaking parts) and 3:00 PM for all cast members.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The holidays are a time to celebrate and think back fondly on years past, which can be both heartwarming and difficult for those who have lost loved ones. For that reason, Valley will be holding a Longest Night service on **Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00pm**. It will be a service of music and scripture as we remember those we love and name the mixed emotions that come with the season.



Advent in the Valley

Christmas Services

LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

4:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (music starts at 4:15 pm)

9:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

Christmas in the Valley



PRISM TOY SHOPPE



The **PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe** will be held at Valley again this year and we could not be more excited! The Holiday Toy Shoppe provides families and guardians with the opportunity to "shop" for new gifts for each of their children. While you are doing your holiday shopping, please keep PRISM kids in mind! Here's a list of popular gifts:

- ACTION FIGURES
- TODDLER TOYS
- SPORTS ATTIRE
- TEEN GIFTS (HEADPHONES, GAMING KEYBOARDS, HAIR TOOLS, SLIPPERS)
- BLANKETS
- GIFT CARDS (AMAZON, TARGET, VISA)
- NERF TOYS
- LEGOS
- GAMES

ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG



This year, as every year, we invite you to consider the **VCPC Alternative Gift Catalog** when beginning your holiday shopping. Donations will be made on the behalf of your gift recipient to one of our community partners. You will then receive a card and informative insert to give to them, telling them about the organization. It's a gift that can have a powerful ripple effect throughout our community and our world.

Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall or talk to Arlene Freeberg to learn more.

Valley Education Corner

Faith Formation Update: Sunday School for kids ages 3-3rd grade has begun. James Decker is in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings to lead Sunday School activities. She does need helpers so please consider lending a hand. Sign up in Fellowship Hall to be a Sunday School Helper!

Don't forget to fill out your Valley Kids Pledge Card and bring it to church!



This card is an opportunity to talk to your young people about Stewardship and why we pledge to contribute our times, talents, and treasures to Valley. Monthly giving envelope packs for Valley Kids are available in the Narthex.



Youth & Teams

11/17 | 4-6 PM Regular Programs, guest leader Katie D.
11/24 | 4-6 PM Friendsgiving Party, bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

12/1 | 4-6 PM Regular Programs

12/8 | 3-5 PM Christmas Party (families welcome)



Valley kids in TEAMS made stomp rocket launchers and tested them out in early November.

Adult Education Schedule

November 17 | Rev. Dr. Arika Galloway

Learn about Homeplace- A community project out of Liberty Church and Birth Justice Collaborative

November 24 | Sam and Jon Schellhaas

IT'S EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM- from decisions to replace large appliances, to entertaining guests, to what we wear. We can make the world better every day!

- 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**.

Seeing the faces of Valley's youngest members and their families makes the Advent season truly special. Please reach out to Sheila or Mariah if you are able to donate your time and talents.

LITTLE CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED

If you and your family would be interested in reading the dedication and lighting a candle during an Advent worship service please contact Sheila at

Sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net

Lighting the Advent candles is a great way to get our youngest members involved in worship.



2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The VCPC 2024 Christmas Pageant will debut on Sunday, December 8th during worship!

We are looking forward to getting Valley kids of all ages involved this year again! If you know your family would like to participate, please email Mariah at

Mariah.messer@valleychurch.net



Land Acknowledgement Task Force



Summer Sky Cohen (Anishinaabe), the artist who created the shawl for Valley. (Photo credit: [Jaida Grey Eagle](#))

Wow! What a great month! Valley and its many community partners enjoyed a busy October with many big events:

- On **Indigenous Peoples' Sunday**, the congregation enjoyed special music from Jim Rock (Dakota) and a breathtaking banner reveal with Summer Sky Cohen (Anishinaabe) during the worship service. Please check out the banner in its new location downstairs in the entranceway. This beautiful textile celebrates Valley's commitment to working with Indigenous partners and recognizing the area as an Indigenous landscape.
- On October 14, Valley co-sponsored the **Second Annual Ĥahá Wapádan Water Blessing**. More than 120 people attended and opened their hearts and minds to heartfelt words from award-winning author Diane Wilson (Dakota), water protector Roxanne Gould (Anishinaabe), cultural advisor Bradley Blackhawk (Ho-Chunk), and many others. Check out the media coverage on [KARE11](#), [MPR](#), [WCCO](#), and more!
- On October 19, a group of runners and walkers from Valley enjoyed the **Ĥahá Wapádan Loopet Loppet**. This vibrant day featured Indigenous games, movies, literature, food, and a vendor market. By supporting this event, Valley is helping to improve the visibility of Indigenous communities in spaces where they've often been overlooked.



Over 120 people gathered for the Second Annual Ĥahá Wapádan Water Blessing. (Photo credit: [Tj Turner](#))



Roxanne Gould (Anishinaabe) leads attendees in an interactive demo during the Second Annual Ĥahá Wapádan Water Blessing. (Photo credit: [Tj Turner](#))



Jim Rock (Dakota) teaches a group of young people at the Ĥahá Wapádan Loopet Loppet. (Photo credit: [Gabriel Siert](#))



Photo of the Ĥahá Wapádan Loopet Loppet event. (Photo credit: [Kari Bullara](#))

To learn more about the **photographers** who documented Indigenous Peoples' Sunday at Valley and the Second Annual Ĥahá Wapádan Water Blessing, click on their names or visit their websites:

- Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota): <https://www.jaidagreyeagle.com/>
- Tj Turner (White Earth Band of Ojibwe): https://tjturnerpictures.com/?page_id=451

For **Thanksgiving**, read up on Indigenous history and consider incorporating Indigenous foods like wild rice and maple syrup. Steven Peters, [a Wampanoag Tribe spokesman](#), shares his views about how many Americans gather for a traditional turkey meal:

"My ancestors had 4 harvest festivals throughout the year. Gathering with family, enjoying our company, sharing our blessings, and giving thanks for all that we have is a good thing. I say have more thanksgiving events throughout the year. I also ask that you take a moment in that day to remember what happened to my people and the history as it was recorded and not the narrative that we had been given in the history books."

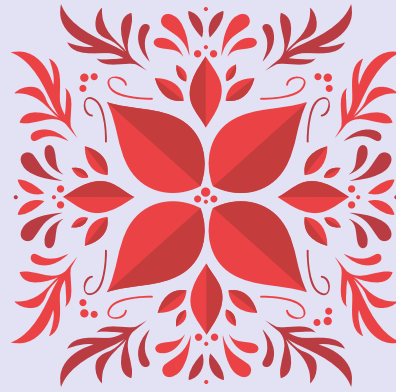
- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

FRIDAY, January 10 | 7:00 pm
Three Mandolins
FRIDAY, February 14 | 7:00 pm
Sue Ruby & Friends
FRIDAY, March 14 | 7:00 pm
Boom Island String Quartet
FRIDAY, April 11 | 7:00 pm
The Bernstein Players
FRIDAY, May 9 | 7:00 pm
Slipjig
SUNDAY, June 8 | 7:00 pm
Dolce Winds

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



POINSETTIA SALE



**'Tis the season
to decorate our
Sanctuary**

Order forms in
the Narthex and
Fellowship Hall

**CALL THE OFFICE OR SIGN
UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
ORDER BY DEC. 1**

Hanging of the Greens

**Sunday, December 1
following worship**

'TIS THE SEASON TO DECORATE OUR VALLEY!



We will be joining together on **December 8 at 5:30 p.m.** for socializing followed by dinner and a holiday music performance by Sue Ruby.
Tickets available in Fellowship Hall!

Cookie Exchange

**Sunday,
December 17
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall**



**Bake 6+ dozen of your favorite
cookie(s) and bring them to
Fellowship Hall for the big swap!**



Mark your calendar now - keep an eye
out for sign-up information coming soon.

Longest Night Service

The holidays are a time to celebrate and think back fondly on years past, which can be both heartwarming and difficult for those who have lost loved ones. For that reason, Valley will be holding a **Longest Night service** on **Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00pm.**

It will be a service of music and scripture as we remember those we love and name the mixed emotions that come with the season.

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

Evan Miller	Landon Goiffon
Carolina Michael	Megan Parks
Ryan Chancellor	Vonnie Olson
Jack Halverson	Mary Dunham
Joel Larsen	Larry Melander
Sara Perry	Mabel Willey
Larry Dunham	Walter Messer
Miranda Graham	Jasmyn Swanson
Lotti Matkovits	Lisa Tracy
Sue Modert	Hsu-hui Wang
Diane Shenk	Lyn Boyd
Jessica Smith	Mary Roback
Vicki Eklund	Madeline Wandmacher
Gary Roback	Angela Zywicki
Allison Wandmacher	Janelle Carlson
Chuck Thurston	Karen Chancellor
Everett Hagelin	Brad Pleimling

DECEMBER

John Chancellor	William Chancellor
Madeline Lund	Kurt Modert
Anders Tracy-Heinonen	Pam Magill
Andy Wandmacher	Sylvan Tracy-Heinonen
Marisol Freeberg	Melissa Novy
Betsy Malecha	Mary Rom
Aubrey Soens	Marjorie Deutsch
Brian Parks	Sheila Sheldon
Leigh Gautsche	Michael Craven
Terry Goslinga	Rory Messer
Jill Reiswig	Sharon Pleimling
Stephanie Toering-Peters	Ellen Vannucci
David Hole	Virginia Day
Naomi Tracy-Hegg	Cynthia Malinowski
Leo Kummer	Beverly Mattin
Andrew Pitan	Evan Jurgensen
Melinda Marshall	Chuck Ulmer
Sydney Kara	Heather Griffin
Jennifer Malecha	K Marshall
Nikii Minter	Dave McCunn
Janet Biggs	Theo Morrow
Jim Tarbell	Sara Schiebout
Sarah Willey	Carrie Priem
Eda Inman	



CALENDAR

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

Saturday, November 16

9:00 am Bridging Dresser Build
10:00 am Valley Craft Club
1:00 pm Brew Crew

Sunday, November 17

9:30 am Worship Service

Rev. Alika Galloway preaching

11:00 am Adult Ed - Updates from Rev. Alika
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, November 19

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

Wednesday, November 20

6:00 pm MCC Respectful Conversations
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, November 24

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed - It's Everybody's Problem with
Jon and Samantha Schellhaas
4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, November 25

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, November 26

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

Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving Day

Office Closed

12:30 pm Thanksgiving Potluck at Valley

Friday, November 29

Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day Observed

Sunday, December 1 - Hanging of the Greens

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship Service

Sheila Sheldon preaching

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, December 2

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50s Grill

Tuesday, December 3

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

Saturday, December 7

10:00 am Valley Craft Club

Sunday, December 8 - Pageant Sunday

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship Service

3:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group
5:30 pm Christmas Dinner

Tuesday, December 10

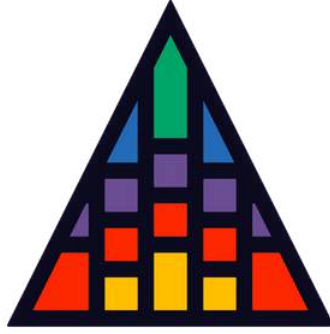
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 13

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, December 14

All Day - PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe



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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