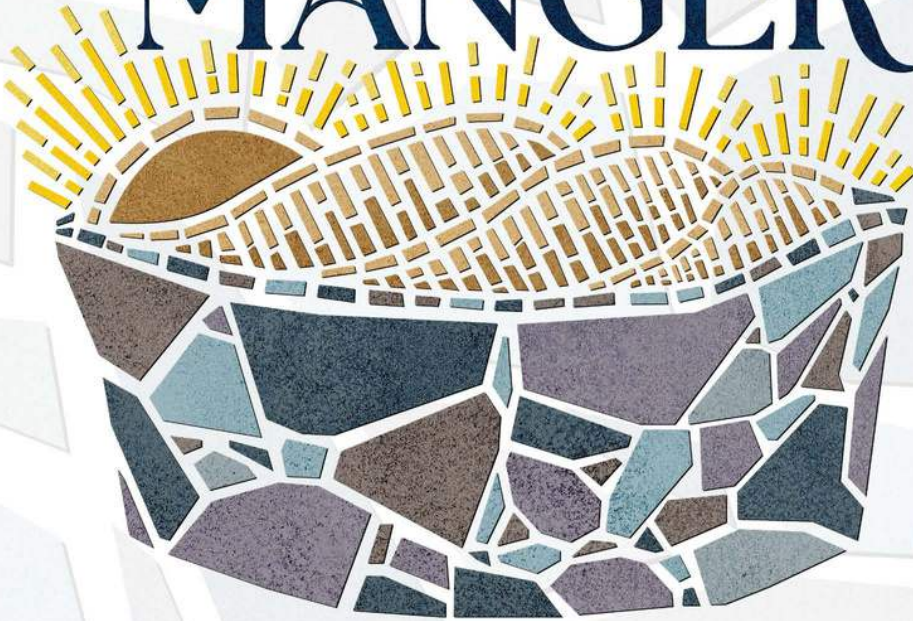




Valley Community

FROM THE MANGER



Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday in Advent

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

The First Noel
Arr. by Lorie Line

Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we begin this second week of Advent, focused on peace, may we remember what the angel said,

All: "Be not afraid, Glory to God in the highest!"

One: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Peace to this house."

All: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

One: In this season of long nights and expectant hearts, how do we find this peace?

All: Peace happens when we treat each other, ourselves, and the world kindly.

One: Peace emerges when the work of justice is done, when all are free to be who God made us to be.

All: Let us worship in a spirit of peace, proclaiming the coming of the Prince of Peace!

GATHERING MUSIC

Oh Holy Night
Adolphe Adam, arr. Jim Schustedt

Matt Weiss
Mariah Messer

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Hope, Peace

Jennifer Biggs & Evan Miller

ADVENT PRAYER

God of the shepherds in the field, we too are afraid, longing for a peaceful world. We hear the cries of the oppressed ringing out, "No justice, no peace," and we join in this lament. We know you came to bring peace, and that peace prevails when lofty rulers are humbled and all are included and empowered. May we be instruments of your peace to those who hunger for it, relentless in our pursuit of justice. May we follow Jesus' example, proclaiming your peace wherever we go. Amen.

† Hymn #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.
He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. (refrain)
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. (refrain)

Holy God, you created us to be at peace with each other and creation, but we confess we have disrupted your good peace. We have not allowed your peace to nourish us when we disconnect ourselves from our own suffering, or when we choose to hold petty grudges for small grievances, allowing friendships to slip into cold conflict. We have not allowed your peace to nourish us when we cling to relationships and situations, we know to bring discord, afraid to leave the familiar for the unknown. We have drowned out the cries of the hungry, imprisoned, war-ravaged, and abandoned with the mundane noise of our everyday lives, and instead, create false peace in the silence of intentional ignorance. In your mercy, help us let go of these sins and move forward in faith, trusting peace will be our reward. May the world be fed with peace. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S PROMISE IN ADVENT

Light Shines in the Darkness

by Dakota Road

Oh the light shines in the darkness and the light will not be overcome
In this world broken and scattered, the light will not be overcome

HEARING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

From The Manger

ACT 1

Hope Grows

Special Music

Away in the Manger (verses 1 & 2)

Kids & Musicians

ACT 2

Peace Grows

Special Music

Bethlehem Star

Matt Weiss &
Mariah Messer

ACT 3

Joy Grows

Carol #136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Congregation

ACT 4

Love Grows

ACT 5

Good News

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn #158

Born in the night, Mary's Child

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Jim Cochran

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Love For All: Human Rights Day

Jay Tracy

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, these gifts and offerings are a reflection of our commitment to Christ's peace. May they provide sustenance to those in need and extend your love and justice throughout the world. Bless the generosity of this community, prompting us to compassionately share in building a world where the hungry are filled. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Thank you to all of our pageant participants, leaders, and costume helpers. We are so proud of our children and we are filled with hope, seeing and hearing the Good News proclaimed through the eyes and mouths of our kids. We invite you to join us in the Narthex & Cornerstone Room for treats, juice & coffee.

Cast:

Ziggy Barbero
Duncan Fadell
Connor Gottschalk
Gabe Gottschalk
Cooper Graham
Miranda Graham
Kendyl Graham
Henry Grosshuesch
Elsie Grosshuesch
Everett Hagelin
Iris Hagelin
Milosh Hougen
Aubrie Larsen
Jack Larsen

Cast:

Lilli Labelle
Luc Labelle
Rory Messer
Walter Messer
Katya Miakotina
Chrisdel Nyongkah
Syndy Nyongkah
Giff Nyongkah
Grace Perry
Jack Perry
Claire Robinson
Annabelle Robinson
Arnold Schellhaas
Lilianna Schellhaas
Sam Sheldon

Cast Support:

The Amazing Parents!
Mariah Messer
Pete Messer
Natalie Pena-Gallegos
Hunter Sheldon
Sheila Sheldon
Valerie Robinson

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 8

Sponsored by Marge & Chuck Thurston
In loving memory of our grandson,
James E. Bailey's 11th heavenly birthday.
-Marge & Chuck Thurston

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Mary Roback** as her father passed away last Wednesday at the age of 98.

Linda & Alan Wold ask for prayers for their **son-in-law Lou** who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic liver cancer. He will be undergoing surgery on December 12th.

Continued prayers for **Susie Potter** who will begin her third round of chemotherapy on December 9th, followed by a pet scan at the end of the month. She is feeling good and filled with gratitude.

To visit Susie's Caring Bridge go to: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susiepotter>

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** whose recent test results remain stable. He continues to live in gratitude for the love everyone has shared each and every day.

To visit Taichi's Caring Bridge site go to: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen>

Continued prayers for **Rick Carlson** who has returned home and is currently on the mend. He continues to give thanks for all the support and prayers he has received.

To visit Rick's Caring Bridge site go to: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rickcarlson101>

EASY WAYS TO GIVE TO VALLEY AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GIVE ONE TIME OR RECURRING

1. MAIL YOUR CHECK TO VALLEY

- In the memo of the check, indicate what your donation is for (i.e. Pledge, PRISM, etc.)

2. ONLINE GIVING

- Visit Valley's secured online giving by visiting: <https://valleycommunitypresbyterianchurch.breezechms.com/give/online> to make a one-time or recurring gift to Valley or our community partners.

3. AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

- Contact Chelsie Larsen: 507-272-1914 | chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net to set up withdrawals directly from your account.
You can always adjust the amount.

This Week at Valley

Sunday, December 8- Pageant Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

3:00-5:00 pm Youth & TEAMS Party!

5:30 pm Holiday Dinner

Monday, December 9

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, December 10

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 11

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

Toy Shop Set Up

10:00 am Horizons Bible Study

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

Friday, December 13

Toy Shop Set Up

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley!

Saturday, December 14

8:00 am Toy Shop event

Sunday, December 15

Cookie Exchange

Music Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Notice of Recording: Please note that services are broadcasted via live stream and digitally recorded on our YouTube Channel.

Special thanks to our Stream Team: Katie Decker, Roger Graphenteen, Myron Jones, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Brandon Novy, Janet Triplett, and Kurt Wheeler for broadcasting the services!

Valley Staff

Ministers

All 382 members of this congregation.

Transitional Pastor

Head of Staff

Rev. Jim Cochran

Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Office Administrator

Savannah Martinez

Program & Communications Coordinator

Mariah Messer

Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

Choral & Handbell Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

Sunshine Room Leader

Natalie Pena-Gallegos

Custodian

Hunter Sheldon

PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Jim Cook

Rev. Bill Davnie

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau

Rev. David Phillips

Rev. Nancy Phillips

Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 24: 222 (132 in-person)

December 1: 199 (114 in-person)



2024 Poinsettia



Roger Michael

In memory of Marian Michael,
Fred & Blanch Benner, and Earl & Dorothy Michael

Greg & Mary Rom

In memory of Michael Hnatko, Elizabeth Hnatko Hicks
Ray & Barbara Rom, and Paul Hicks

Ben Kummer

In memory of Lisa Kummer & Dave Turany

Jan & Joe Sacco

In honor of August, Roman, Estelle & Leo Sacco

Barb & Tom Wasmoen

In honor of our parents & our children

Jim & Diane Cook

In honor of the Friendship Group
Jeff, Jeremy, Bobby, Barb & James

Tim & Becky Grosshuesch

In memory of Maggie Grosshuesch
& Betty Allabough

Valerie Robinson

In memory of our parents, Derald & June Sullivan,
Gordon & Lois Robinson

Mary & Larry Dunham

In honor of Sally Dunham
In memory of Dale Dunham, Janet Fox,
Kenny Fox, Ray Fox & Terry Fox

Lisa Cawhorn

In memory of Ronald Lybeck & John Cawhorn

Beverly Mattin

In memory of Chuck Mattin

Samantha Schellaas

In honor of Homebound Members

Bonnie Carlson

In honor of Homebound Members

Peggy Neibling

In memory of Betty Brooking

Janet & Len Biggs

In memory of our parents

Dave & Helen Dechaine

In honor of our 4 wonderful grandchildren

Chuck & Bonnie Ulmer

In honor of our grandchildren

Mandy Lund

In memory of Donovan and Julie Lund



2024 Poinsettia



Margie Deutsch

In memory of Manfred Deutsch

Jeanine Miakotina

In memory of Mayme and Robert Peters

Mary Ann Winter

In honor of Logan, Maeve, Quinn, Kyra and Annika Winter

Jim & Lisa Tarbell

In memory of Sherrill Mixer and Jim Tarbell Sr.

Jill Reiswig

In memory of Myrle Reiswig

Karen Harms

In memory of my family who's left us.

Les & Arlene Freeberg

In honor of our grandchildren

Becky Brooking

In memory of Earl & Emilie Brooking and
Henry & Mary Zinn

Betsy Nichols

In memory of Doug & Trudy Nichols

Milosh & Nevena Hougen

In memory of family.

Jim Parks

In memory of Karla Parks, Delbert & Lorraine Parks,
and Melbert & Shirley Holzer.



PRISM 2024 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

VALLEY IS COLLECTING NEW,
UNWRAPPED TOYS AND GIFTS FOR
PRISM'S HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- ACTION FIGURES
- TODDLER TOYS
- SPORTS ATTIRE
- BLANKETS
- NERF TOYS
- LEGOS
- GAMES
- TEEN GIFTS (HEADPHONES, GAMING KEYBOARDS, HAIR TOOLS, SLIPPERS)
- \$25 GIFT CARDS (TARGET, AMAZON, VISA, ETC.)

QUESTIONS
CONTACT THE
CHURCH OFFICE

DROP OFF
GIFTS AT
VALLEY BY

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 8

NEW!

Bible Study

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10 AM IN THE LIBRARY

Join Rev. Rebecca Tollefson for *Let Justice Roll Down*, a wonderful Bible Study focused on creation justice.

DATES: 12/12/24, 1/9/25, 2/13/25, 3/13/25 & 4/10/25

Let Justice Roll Down



God's Call to Care for
Neighbors and All Creation

By Patricia K. Tull

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Election of New Church Officers
After the Worship Service

Valley 
Community

PC(USA)

**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

Cookie **Exchange**

**Sunday,
December 15**

11:00 am

Fellowship Hall

 Valley Community



ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS!

**BAKE 6+ DOZEN OF YOUR FAVORITE COOKIE(S) AND
BRING THEM TO FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THE BIG SWAP!**



Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or email Katie Decker (katiebdmn@gmail.com)
or Sheila Sheldon (sheila.sheldon@vallechurch.net).



Valley Community



ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE AN ALTERNATIVE GIFT DONATION THIS SEASON!

SEE ARLENE FREEBERG IN FELLOWSHIP HALL BEGINNING NOVEMBER 24!

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

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

• DECEMBER 19 & 26 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley



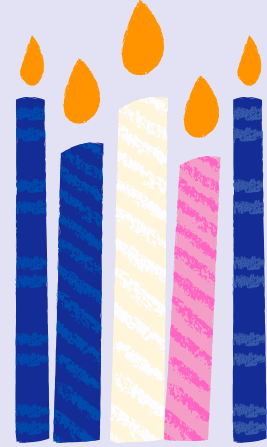
CONTACTS:

Gail Smith - 3rd Thur
Marge Thurston - 4th Thur
use your directory
or call the office.



Valley Community

Advent in the Valley

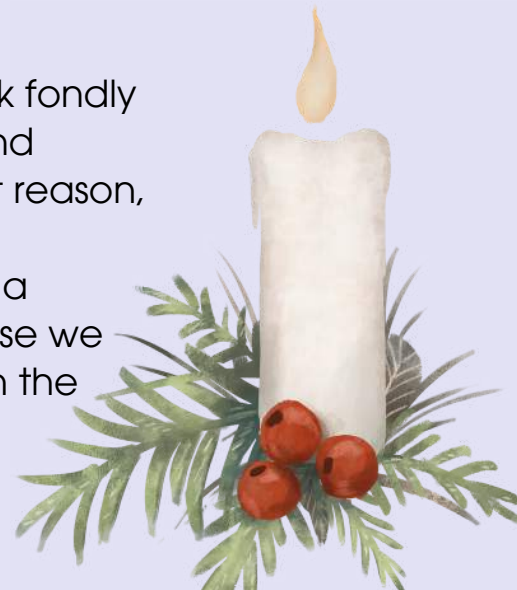


ADVENT 2024 SCHEDULE

- 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**

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.



Christmas Services

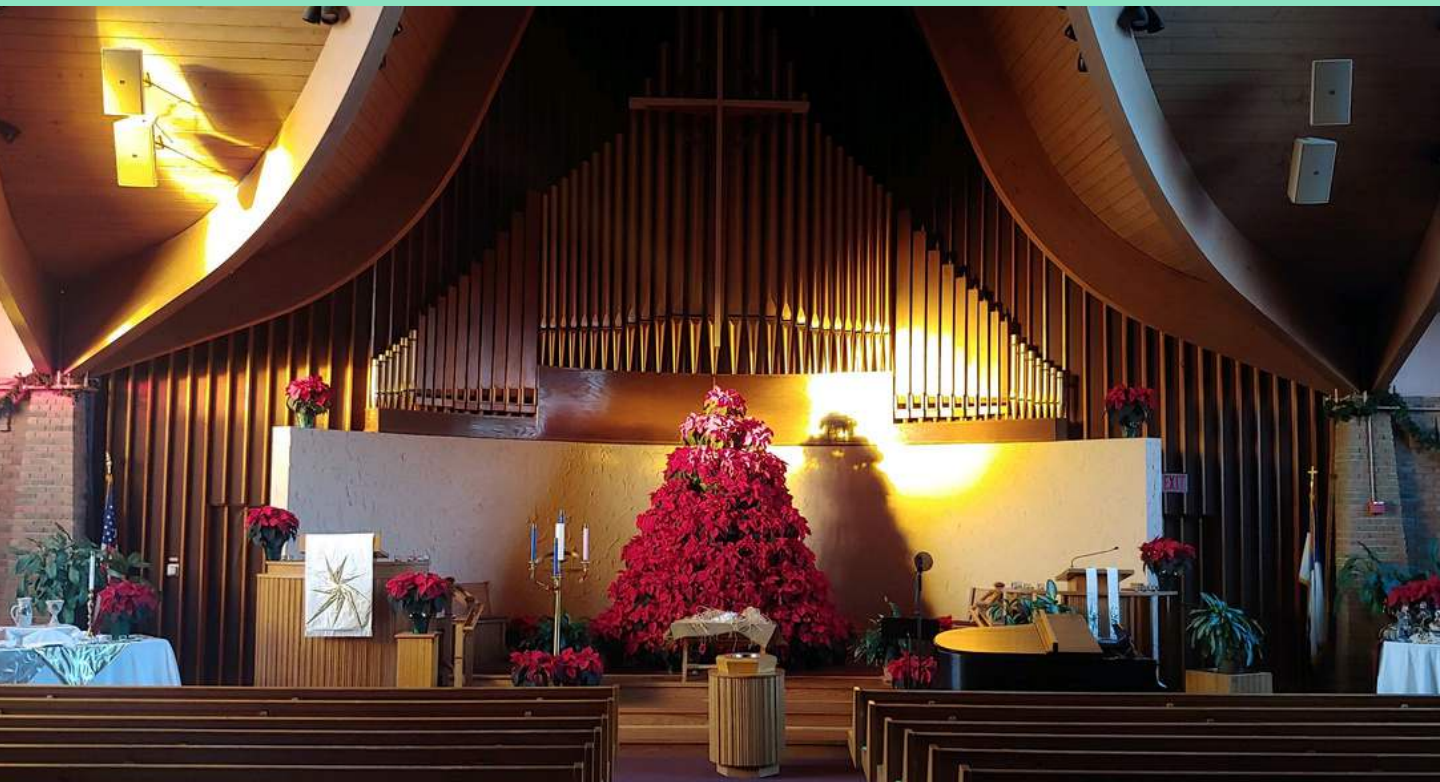


LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

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





Happy Birthday Valley Family!



John Chancellor
Madeline Lund
Anders Tracy-Heinonen
Andy Wandmacher
Marisol Freeberg
Betsy Malecha
Aubrey Soens
Brian Parks
Leigh Gautsche
Terry Goslinga
Jill Reiswig
Stephanie Toering-Peters
David Hole
Naomi Tracy-Hegg
Leo Kummer
Andrew Pitan
Melinda Marshall
Sydney Kara
Jennifer Malecha
Nikii Minter
Janet Biggs
Jim Tarbell
Sarah Willey
Eda Inman

William Chancellor
Kurt Modert
Pam Magill
Sylvan Tracy-Heinonen
Melissa Novy
Mary Rom
Marjorie Deutsch
Sheila Sheldon
Michael Craven
Aurora Messer
Sharon Pleimling
Ellen Vannucci
Virginia Day
Cynthia Malinowski
Beverly Mattin
Evan Jurgensen
Chuck Ulmer
Heather Griffin
K Marshall
Dave McCunn
Theo Morrow
Sara Schiebout
Carrie Priem



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

—Established May 20, 1951—

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Valley Community Presbyterian Church 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.



LOGO DESIGN BY WÓOKIYE WIN
(SISSETON WAHPETON DAKHÓTA
AND OJIBWAY)

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www.valleychurch.net

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Pastoral Care: 763-445-9665

Phone Ministry: 763-220-1455



Scan to give online!