

THE VALLEY

ADVENT 2024 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

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Golden Valley, MN 55422



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Cover Photo: Valley kids and youth performed the annual Christmas Pageant on the 2nd Sunday in Advent. They did an extraordinary job! (Dec. 8)

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Advent in the Valley continues (see pages 4 and 5 for all the details!)**
 - Sunday, December 15 @ 9:30 AM | Third Sunday in Advent: **JOY**
 - Wednesday, December 18 @ 7:00 PM | Longest Night Service
 - Sunday, December 22 @ 9:30 AM | Fourth Sunday in Advent: **LOVE**
 - **Congregational Meeting following worship to elect new church officers**
 - Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
 - Family Service @ 4:30 PM (Music begins at 4:15 PM)
 - Candlelight Service @ 9:30 PM (Communion will be served.)
- **Valley Office will be closed on December 25 and 26 in observation of Christmas**
- Valley Office will be closed on January 1 in observation of New Years Day
- **Fridays in the Valley (pages 6)**
 - Friday, January 10 @ 7 PM | The Boston Imposters
 - Friday, February 14 @ 7 PM | Sue Ruby & Friends
- **Clearwater Forest Snow Camp | January 10 - 12 | Grades 3rd - 12th (page 6)**
- Valley Brew Crew | Saturday, January 25 | 1:00 - 6:00 PM @ Valley
- **2025 Confirmation Class | Begins March 2 (page 6)**
 - Contact Sheila to learn more and sign up

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- See Page 3 for a brief update about Silab and his family and a photo of the three kids!
- **Alternative Gift Catalogue (page 5)**
 - Consider giving the gift of change this holiday season!
- **Habitat for Humanity Work Day (page 6)**
 - Monday, January 20 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- **NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.**
- More updates from our Task Forces and committees coming in the January newsletter

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

ADVENT 2024

Dear Valley Family,

As we approach the end of another calendar year, we move into a time that can be described only as “almost-but-not-quite-yet.” We all start to make our grand plans: this is the year we are going to carve out a healthier lifestyle, or the year we finally get organized, or we finally take that big trip we’ve been longing for. We stand in the present moment and look to the possibilities that await us on the horizons of life, eager with anticipation about what the next year might hold for us.

Spiritual circles often talk about this idea – having your feet in one spot but wondering about what is next – with the idea of liminality. Our senses and our culture crave regularity and normalcy, but our faith pushes us to step out in new directions. This move away from “the way things are” is where all transformation takes place. It is the realm of the Holy Spirit and where the creative work of God is on full display. It is challenging to our cravings for predictability and can be full of “what if’s” and missteps, and it is where we must rely on our faith in the constant, abiding presence of God.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

We are in the middle of **celebrating the coming of Emmanuel, God With Us**, and in doing so we remember that God knows us completely and will walk with us to the ends the earth. In all our successes and failures, our hopes and dreams and worries – in all that we do – God is with each one of us. This is not just comforting for us where we stand in the present, but it allows us to step out in faith. We can be hopeful of what is to come because we know that God will guide us.

For the past year, I have encouraged each one of you to begin to **dream about Valley's future**. I've asked you to consider what our values are and how we live them out, what the church might look for in the future, and what gifts are needed in a pastor to guide you there. As I write this letter, our Ministry and Mission Study Team is in communication with the Presbytery about installing a **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** so they might begin the work of identifying that exact person. This all-important process will take your prayer and encouragement of all those who will sit on the committee, but it opens the door for this congregation's dreams to come to fruition.

As we approach the new year together, whether your goal for the new year is to finally train for that 5k you've been thinking about, carve out more time to spend with loved ones, or simply experience everything the new year brings as it comes, know that you do so with the unconditional love of God and a community that reflects that love back at you. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

In Christ,

Jim



Silab & family send their love to Valley! Razaullah (3), Aryanullah (almost 2), and Razia (4.5) are all doing great. Razaullah had a successful surgery and Silab got a new full-time job in security for a bank in Minneapolis.



STEWARDSHIP 2025

LAST CALL FOR PLEDGES: DECEMBER 31, 2024

The Valley Session is in the process of finalizing the 2025 budget, and approximately 85% of Valley's 2025 budget income is derived from stewardship pledges. As a result, the stewardship goal for the current campaign has been set at just over \$388,000. To date, we have received stewardship pledges totaling roughly 90% of this goal!

There are still a large number of pledges outstanding that will get us to the important 100% pledge goal once they come in.

Whether you pledge or defer pledging at this time, please contact Chelsie Larsen at 507-272-1914 or email at chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net of your intention by December 31, 2024.

By your response we will know that no one has been left behind.

ADVENT 2024 SCHEDULE

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.

POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who sponsored Poinsettias this year.

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 Schellhaas

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

Mark & Shirley Toering

In honor of our children and grandchildren

David & Nancy Phillips

In memory of Victor & Nellie Phillips

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 my family

Jim Parks

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

Ruth Wilterding

In memory of Aron, JoAnna & Mark Wilterding

Kerrie Deef

In memory of grandparents, Martie & Bob Siegler and in-laws Marge & John Deef

Roger Graphenteen

In memory of parents, Palmer & Dorothy and daughter Allyson Rose

Cheryl Smith

In memory of my parents, Ken & Gay Smith

Joel, Chelsie, Aubrie & Jack Larsen

In memory of grandpa Roger, grandpa Phil, & grandma Mary Lou "Granny"

Jan Fedora

In memory of Tom Fedora, husband and Richard Woodbury, brother

Gwyn Lang

In honor of my mom, Midge Faber

Brad & Sharon Pleimling

In honor of peace to all the world

Kelsie Hagelin

In honor of Valley

Christmas Services

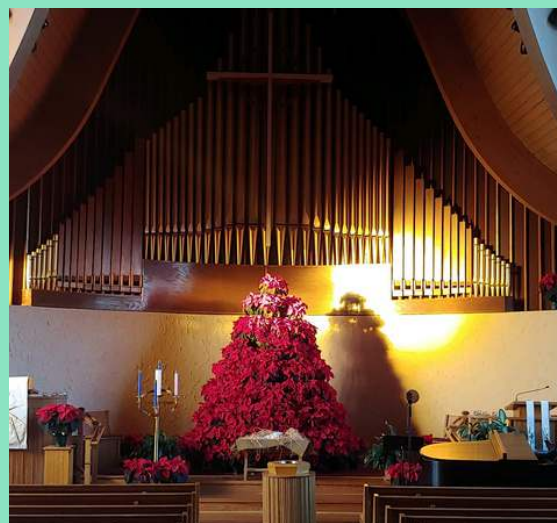
LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

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.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Toy Drive and signed up to volunteer! You helped make the 2024 Holiday Toy Shoppe a huge success!

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.



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

FRIDAY, January 10 | 7:00 pm
The Boston Imposters

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**



**2025
CONFIRMATION CLASS
GRADES 9 & 10**

BEGINS MARCH 2, 2025

Contact Sheila to learn more
and sign up!
sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net

Habitat for Humanity
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024: MLK JR. DAY



12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
The project is a rehab home in Edina, MN
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall
contact **Andrew Pitan** or **Valley** with questions

SNOW CAMP 2025
Snow Flakes in His Hands

GRADES 3RD - 12TH \$175 per camper (youth and adult)

Clearwater Forest Snow Camp 2025
16595 Crooked Lake Rd
Deerwood, MN 56444


January 10-12
Hallett Dining Hall
7-8 PM Drop Off
3-4 PM Pick Up

Email Sheila or Mariah for a
special coupon code to save \$50!

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. Come to one or come to
them all.

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



**2025
OFFERING
ENVELOPES**

PICK UP AT CHURCH

**MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 4 PM
OR ON SUNDAYS**

Help the church save on
postage by picking up your
envelope box.

CALENDAR

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

Saturday, December 14

All Day - PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe

Sunday, December 15 - Christmas Music Sunday

Third Sunday in Advent: JOY

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Cookie Exchange

Tuesday, December 17

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 pm Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 19

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday in Advent: LOVE

9:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

9:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Office Closed - Christmas Eve observed

Sunday, December 29

9:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 1

Office Closed - New Years Day observed

Sunday, January 5

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, January 6

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50s Grill

Tuesday, January 7

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 10

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Friday, January 10 - Sunday, January 12

Clearwater Snow Camp

Tuesday, January 14

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 16

10:00 am Meals in Wheels

Sunday, January 19

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, January 20

9:30 am - 3:30 pm Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Tuesday, January 21

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

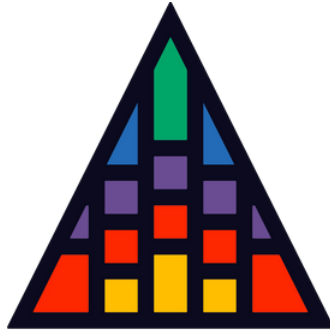
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

BIRTHDAYS

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
 Rory 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

John Chancellor
 Madeline Lund
 Anders Tracy-Heinonen
 Andy Wandmacher
 Marisol Freeberg
 Betsy Malecha
 Aubrey Soens
 Brian Parks





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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