



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday, December 29, 2024

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# GATHERING US IN

## PRELUDE

*While By Our Sheep*  
Jeffery Blersch

Jane Nienaber, organ

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

### GATHERING CAROL #124

#### ***Still, Still, Still***

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!  
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,  
warm and safe the child are holding.  
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep  
while angel hosts from heaven come winging,  
sweetest songs of joy are singing.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.*

***All: Glory to God in the highest!***

*One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

***All: Glory to God in the highest!***

*One: For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.*

***All: Glory to God in the highest!***

*One: He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of peace.*

***All: Glory to God in the highest!***

## Hymn #132

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon , CRE

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us, as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. 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 GRACE

#### *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

## TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

### Congregational Blessing:

You are God's beloved child.  
With you God is well pleased.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

## SERMON

*Where is Hope on Christmas?*

Rev. Jim Cochran

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Witness with Integrity*

Jonathan Schellhaas

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## VALLEY CAROL SING

*As we celebrate Christ's birth this morning, we can use our hearts and voices to sing in joy for the gift God has given to all the earth! We invite you to open the hymnals in the backs of the pews in front of you and find the hymns celebrating Christ's birth (numbers 108-156) and shout out hymns we might sing as a congregation. Let us lift up our voices to God together as a community of faith to give thanks for the glorious things God has done.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

God of mystery and might, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate anew each year. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that our whole lives might be gifts of praise to you. As Christ came into the world in human flesh all those years ago, be born again in us this day. In Christ we pray. Amen.

# SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #136

## ***Go, Tell It on the Mountain***

### **Refrain:**

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Now is Born the Divine Christ Child*  
*Richard Hudson*

Jane Nienaber, organ

**The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.**

**Chancel Flowers**  
Sunday, December 29

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

# Joys and Concerns

Continued prayers for **Susie Potter** as she undergoes a PET scan this Friday. This important scan will determine whether her cancer is in remission. Let us lift her up with hope and support during this time.

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

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** whose test results remain stable and 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](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

# This Week at Valley

## Sunday, December 29

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

## Monday, December 30

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

## Tuesday, December 31

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Wednesday, January 1

**Office Closed**

## Thursday, January 2

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

## Friday, January 3

**Office is Closed**

## Saturday, January 4

## Sunday, January 5

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

James Decker

## 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

December 15 : 231 (120 in-person)

December 22: 302 (145 in-person)

# 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

**PICK UP AT CHURCH**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM-3PM - OR - SUNDAYS BEFORE/AFTER WORSHIP**

Help the church save on postage by picking up your envelope box  
and another member's box who lives near you!

**Fridays in  
the Valley  
Presents:**



## The Boston Imposters

**Friday, January 10, 2025 | 7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
**NORTHSIDE HEALING SPACE**

 Valley Community



# SNOW CAMP 2025

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

*Snow  
Flakes  
in His  
Hands*



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

## 2025 CONFIRMATION CLASS GRADES 9 & 10

BEGINS MARCH 2, 2025

Contact Sheila to learn more and sign up!  
[sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net](mailto:sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net)

# Habitat for Humanity Work Day

MONDAY,  
JANUARY 20, 2025  
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM



# Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 25, 2025  
1:00 - 6:00 PM





# 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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Scan to give online!