



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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 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

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!