

Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 12, 2024

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Down by the Riverside
Arr. by Bradley Sowash

Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC

When Morning Gilds the Skies
Arr. by Bill Wolaver

Rachel Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: But now thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

All: I have called you by name; you are mine.

One: Even when we pass through the waters, I will be with you,

All: And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

One: Let us worship the God who never lets us go.

† Hymn #667

When Morning Gilds the Skies (verses 1, 2, 3)

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound: may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

God, you call us to beloved community with you and with each other. But we exclude and reject those we deem different. You claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and hate. You liberate us and lead us in Christ's path of peace, but we build walls and invest in guns and dismiss peace as impractical and unrealistic. Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways. Call us and claim us once again for the work of building your beloved community. 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.

Love Has Come (verse 3)

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come to the Water
Lynda Hasseler

Valley Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Help us, Holy God, to connect to your word anew. Open the Scriptures to us in a way that is life-giving. Encourage us to listen to the message your Spirit makes known in word and worship. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON

A Divine Blessing

Rev. Jim Cochran

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Habitat for Humanity

OFFERTORY

Deep River
Arr. by Warren M. Angell

Rachel Williams

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless and multiply these gifts, O God, that they may be a blessing to others. May whoever benefits from these offerings know of your love for them and our desire to serve. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #488

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Faith Looks Up To Thee
Lowell Mason, Arr. by Melody Bober

Rachel Williams

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, January 12

Sponsored by Rachel Skulstad Hole

Remembering my dad, Reverend Howard Skulstad.

Happy Heavenly Birthday!

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of comfort for **Connie Freeman**, whose sister Pam passed away last Wednesday.

Prayers of comfort for **Ann Roach** whose father Harry Tobiassen passed away on January 8, 2025. Harry was 100 years old and lived in New Hampshire.

Continued prayers for **Susie Potter** as she underwent a PET scan in December, the results of which were all clear! She will begin immunotherapy this week. 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** as he works with his care team to keep him healthy. 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, January 12

Snow Camp

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Deacon Meeting

Monday, January 13

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, January 14

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 15

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 16

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

5:30 pm Indigenous Justice Task Force meeting

Friday, January 17

Saturday, January 18

9:30 am Presbytery MLK Event

Sunday, January 19

9:30 am Worship Service - Rev. Jim Cook

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 Peña-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

December 29: 180 (86 in-person)

January 5: 226 (85 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!

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





VALLEY YOUTH
Baking Day
WITH KATIE DECKER

Valley kids in **Youth Group and TEAMS** have some baking to do!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 @ 2:00 PM
COME BAKE COOKIES AND MAKE TREATS
FOR THE YOUTH COOKIE SALE!

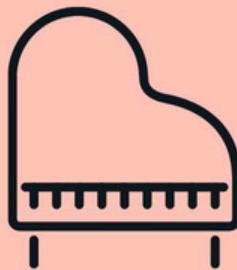
 Valley Community

FEBRUARY 9
NARTHEX

Youth Cookie Sale

- * COOKIES \$5/BAG (1/2 DOZ)
- * COOKIE TRAYS \$5/\$10/\$20
- * VALENTINE BASKETS \$10-30
- * YOUTH SNACK MIX \$5/BAG

**Fridays in
the Valley
Presents:**



Lauren Senden
&

Mindy Eschedor

Friday, February 14, 2025 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
MEALS ON WHEELS

 Valley Community



Save The Date!

*25th Annual
Y.E.S. Tea*

Saturday, March 22
2 pm

HOSTESSES NEEDED!!

Please talk to or email Sheila Sheldon if you are interested in hosting a table this year! (Sheila.Sheldon@valleychurch.net)



Happy Birthday Valley Family!



Kerrie Deef
Alannah McCarthy
David Kopischke
Kurt Wheeler
Matt Barbero
Miranda Bangu
Sammuel Decker
William Gonsior
Andrew Desarmeaux
Janette Gove
Gerald Kramer
Nanette Sears
Ashley Bi
Karen Ripley
Keri Wasmoen
Samantha Schellhaas
Joseph Sears
Aurora Brooker
Quinn Winter
Sullivan Goiffon
Richard Sauter

Ken Smith
Andy Freeman
Hunter Sheldon
Roy Michael
Adam Chancellor
Rev. Deborah Fortel
Tom Wasmoen
Lois Berhow
Jonathan Marshall
Diane McCunn
Cameron Smith
Diane Cook
Ziggy Barbero
Sadie Macias
Arianna Slack
Susie Potter



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!