

# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday, January 12, 2024

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# 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](mailto: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](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







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](mailto: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!