

THE VALLEY

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



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Cover Photo: New Church Officers were installed and ordained in January. In keeping with tradition, all Church Officers, past and present, are invited to come forward, lay hands on, and pray over the Elders and Deacons being installed and ordained for the coming year. (Jan. 26, 2025)

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled. For right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, 13 (The Message)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Valley,

If you have been to a wedding in the past 20 years, chances are high that you heard this excerpt from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, albeit perhaps in a different translation. His vignette about love is heralded as what relationships might look like when we are the best versions of ourselves: patient and kind, not envious or boastful or arrogant. We are not irritable or resentful but rejoice and bear with each other.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

We often read this as a message for our personal interactions, but it was written with a bigger scope. This passage speaks to our communal as well as our individual relationships. As we experience the world, how can we bear witness to love?

We have a great abundance of ways to show love here at Valley, and I hope you will find a way to engage if you haven't already done so. If you enjoy spending time with others and loving by learning about others, then I encourage you to read more about our **Adult Education Spring lineup, Chrysalis**, or the **2nd Thursday Bible Study**. If you prefer to show love by rolling up your sleeves and doing work, consider registering to drive for **Meals on Wheels**, or joining some of our **Habitat for Humanity** folks on a build day. And if you want to show love by coming together in worship of God, I hope you'll join us for **Sunday morning worship**, as well as our **Ash Wednesday** and **Wednesday Night Lenten worships** in March.

Sometimes it is difficult to see the good. Sometimes news alerts flash across our screens that make trusting in God and hoping steadily feel impossible. But when we remember the faith community in which you are rooted – the community that supports and that trusts and hopes on our behalf – we might find it in ourselves to love extravagantly to see us through to another day. We are connected in faith, connected in hope, and connected in love. Let us live our lives reflecting that truth.

In Christ,

A Letter From the Personnel Committee

With the upcoming annual meeting, it has been a time of reflection and appreciation for all involved in making Valley the place that we all love and cherish. We want to take this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work of our dedicated leaders in a year full of transition and challenge.

Thank you to Sheila Sheldon, we have nothing but deepest gratitude for all your hard work and dedication since our transition process started in October of 2023. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have been truly commendable. You have been crucial in our leadership during this time, from the time Pastor Richard announced his well-deserved retirement, you were there. From planning his celebrations, to answering the tough questions, and overall being the face of Valley. Over this past year, you have been a steadfast and critical leader for Valley, assisting Pastor Jim in not only keeping Valley moving forward, but thriving. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed. Your attention to detail, proactive attitude, and willingness to tackle challenges head-on have made a significant impact on our church, congregation, and community. You went above and beyond, expanding your education to serve us more thoroughly, while also taking on additional projects during the church renovation. Thank you for being the keeper of knowledge and a key part of keeping the heartbeat of Valley steady.

Thank you to Mariah Messer. You have also been key to the success of Valley over this past year and beyond. You have been a positive light in a year full of challenges. You are there for every member but have taken special care of our youth. Your creativity is invaluable and adds a bit of sunshine to everything you touch. Thank you for not only excelling in your role, but also taking on the task of making our Mission and Ministry Study such a work of art. Your presence and efforts have made a significant difference, and your dedication has been truly inspiring.

Thank you both for your exceptional work and for being invaluable members of our team. We know this short list is just the surface of your work and devotion, and we all may never know everything you have fully given us this year but thank you for being our guides. Your efforts have turned a year of challenge into a year of growth and gratitude. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and unwavering love you show us every week.

With gratitude,

Valley Personnel Committee, your loving congregants, and the Valley Community at Large

Join us for worship!

Sundays
at 9:30 AM

or anytime on our
YouTube Channel

We are worshipping in-person and via live-stream.

WORSHIP SERVICE OVERVIEW

- Prelude begins at 9:25 AM | Worship at 9:30 AM, followed by coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall.
- The Family Room located in the Sunshine Room is always available with a TV to watch the service for parents whose little ones need a break.
- Activity Bags and Children's Bulletins are available in the Narthex. The Sunshine Room provides Sunday School for children 3-3rd grade and childcare for all ages during Adult Education classes.

Valley Connects - January 2025

VALLEY BREW CREW



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY



VALLEY HANDBELLS





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

2024 ANNUAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

**MEETING WILL BE LIVESTREAMED.
VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE IN PERSON ONLY.**



**FEBRUARY 9
NARTHEX**

Youth Cookie Sale

- * Cookies \$5/bag (1/2 doz)
- * Cookie Trays \$5/\$10/\$20
- * Youth Snack Mix \$5/bag
- * Assorted Valentine Baskets \$10-30

 Valley Community

February 9, 2025

5:00 PM pregame
5:30 PM Kick Off

JOIN US!
Bring a snack to share!




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: 2/13/25,
3/13/25 & 4/10/25**



• DRIVERS NEEDED •



Meals on Wheels

4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

• FEB 20 & 27 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:
Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:
Gail Smith
(3rd Thur)
Marge Thurston
(4th Thur)
use your directory or call the office.

Join our presenters for some amazing learning opportunities this spring!

ADULT

EDUCATION

SPRING 2025

1

MARCH 2

Faith In Action

Rev. Jim Cochrane

Join Valley's Transitional Pastor, Rev. Jim Cochrane, for the kick-off of the Spring Adult Ed session. Through proposed changes to the Book of Order, we will discuss the role our faith plays in how we interact with the world.

MARCH 9

West Metro Water Alliance & Hennepin County

with Rachel Dunlap, MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) GreenCorps member

A partnership that is engaged in local efforts to protect water bringing information to communities. Reducing your use of deicing salts will help you keep your community members safe, save money, protect your landscaping, sidewalks and buildings, care for creation, and be a good steward of water.

2

3

MARCH 16

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

with Kay King, Older Adults Program Coordinator and Community Educator

Creating Caring Faith Communities: Five Things You Can Do

Kay King from NAMI MN will help us learn about mental illnesses, the impact of negative attitudes and five things each of us can do to make Minnesota a better place for people who experience mental illness.

4

MARCH 23

Christian Nationalism

with Brandon Schorsch, Jewish Community Action

Brandon Schorsch from Jewish Community Action will return to Valley to lead us in a discussion of and help us understand Christian Nationalism and what is happening in our country today.

5 MARCH 30

**Mississippi Raft Trip
with Jay Tracy
Valley Member**

Come here about Jay's adventure on a hand-made raft down the Mississippi River! You will not want to miss this chance to learn about the amazing life experience of one of our very own Valley members.

6

APRIL 6

**Beacon Interfaith
Housing
with Chris LaTondresse
President & CEO,
Beacon Interfaith Housing
Collaborative**

Missions Inc. Programs provides housing, emergency shelter and supportive services to domestic abuse survivors and those seeking recovery from substance use disorders. Together, Kari Hitchcock and Sarah Busch will share information about the various services available at Missions Inc. Programs as well as opportunities to get involved.

APRIL 13

**7 Understanding Hospice
with Jamie Tracy**

Gain a deeper understanding of hospice care in this adult education class, where you'll explore key aspects of end-of-life support. Learn how hospice care professionals offer compassionate care and navigate the emotional challenges faced by patients and their families.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20 - NO ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

8

APRIL 27

**Islamophobia
Islamic Resource
Group**

An Adult Ed class with the objective of coming to a more complete understanding of Islamic religion and culture with intent to become better acquainted and build relationships.

MAY 4

**9 Last Class will be
announced soon!**

The last class of the spring session is still in the works! Stay tuned in the coming days and we'll announce the final topic and presenter.



CLEARWATER SNOW CAMP



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



CHILDREN'S OFFERING ENVELOPES

Available Now!

If you and your kiddo/s would like to explore what it means to give regularly to the church, there are monthly offering envelopes still available for kids outside the Fellowship Hall.



INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM

Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room

Illustrated Ministries creates all of the curriculum we use for Faith Formation and VBC and they have continued offering an Invitation to Play curriculum. We will be integrating these lessons into Faith Formation so you might catch us playing more!



VACATION BIBLE CAMP - SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, June 10 - Friday, June 13 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Mark your calendars and start getting excited. We will be releasing more information about registration, theme, and activities in the coming weeks!

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



YOUTH COOKIE SALE

Valley Youth and the Cookie Queen are at it again.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 9th (**one day only!**) to stock up on treats and support youth programs. Youth will be baking and assembling platters on 2/8.



YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS RESUMES

Sunday, February 16 @ 4:00 PM

Calling all Youth and TEAMS kids! After a lovely Winter Break, we will resume our weekly meetings on Sunday, February 16. We've missed you!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP - SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, June 18 - Sunday, June 22

We are headed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for this summer's Youth Mission Trip! Valley Youth entering grades 6-12 (fall of 2025) are invited on a trip filled with service projects & team building with the Urban Ecology Center, community interfaith building with Jewish and Presbyterian Youth, Summerfest and so much more!



Land Acknowledgement Task Force

In January, the **Indigenous Justice Task Force** met for its **2025 kickoff**. Roger Michael joined as a new Task Force member, and returning members include Jennifer Biggs, Crystal Boyd, Pat Daily, Mariah Messer, Janet Triplett, and Susie Potter. **Please ask us about the Task Force!**

Terry Goslinga also attended the kickoff meeting as a representative for **Mission Possible**. The Task Force looks forward to continuing its collaborations with Mission Possible throughout the year.

Also in 2025, the Task Force hopes to **engage members of the congregation** in understanding and reconciling the historic harms that have impacted Dakota people and other Indigenous communities. The Task Force is interested in **hearing your ideas** for how to engage Valley members. For example, what questions do you have about the Task Force's work? What types of events would you like to attend? Please send **questions or suggestions** to Crystal Boyd at crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com.

Recent Highlights:

- The **Mission and Ministry Study** includes Valley's land acknowledgment statement and many beautiful photos by Indigenous photographer Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota).
- Crystal Boyd presented about land acknowledgement for 20 people at **Valley of Peace Lutheran Church**. The attendees are already brainstorming ways that they could collaborate with VCPC's Task Force.
- Crystal Boyd presented about efforts to honor Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek for 14 people at a meeting of the **New Hope Citizen Advisory Committee**. A representative from Golden Valley's DEI Commission also attended, which highlights how Valley's efforts can encourage community building across political boundaries.
- **First Lutheran Church in Duluth** reached out to learn more about Valley's Task Force. We may schedule a presentation for them in the spring.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Monday October 14 - **Third Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing**. Time and location TBD.
- Saturday October 18 - **Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ 1-Loop Fun Run**. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration <https://www.loppet.org/events/loopet/>.

**The Task Force is busy planning more educational events for 2025.
Please check back next month to learn more!**

A D V O C A T E

TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) Day on the Hill

Gather for fellowship, hear from speakers, learn about JRLC's policy priorities and get advocacy tips before heading up the hill to the Capitol for more programming in the Rotunda and visits with your lawmakers. Don't miss this incredible day of interfaith advocacy for social justice!

When: Thursday, Feb. 27th, 8 am | Location: Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar St. St. Paul, MN 55101

CLICK HERE!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/smms2xnc>
for more information and to register!



- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

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



Clearwater Chrysalis Women's Retreat

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025
PRESBYTERIAN CLEARWATER
FOREST

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!
Visit clearwaterforest.org/retreats/ to
register or click this ad if viewing
online

Contact 218-678-2325 with questions

2025 CONFIRMATION CLASS GRADES 9 & 10

BEGINS FEBRUARY 23, 2025


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

Ash Wednesday 2024

JOIN US FOR
ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5 | 7:00 PM

*Service will be available in-person
and live-streamed.*

**A worship service with communion
and marking of the ashes.**

 Valley Community

Save The Date!

Youth Education Scholarship 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)

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

MARCH 12 - APRIL 9
6:00-7:15 PM

Join us in-person or virtually for our
Wednesdays in Lent Fellowship time.

**Join us for Wednesdays in Lent!
We will enjoy a potluck meal
together, followed by a short
worship service and time for
fellowship and discussion.**

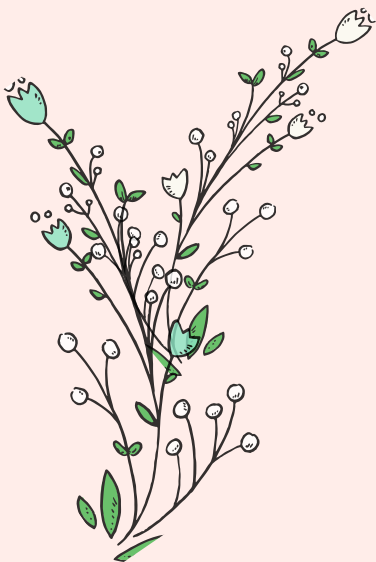
 Valley Community



CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS

Bonnie Goslinga
 Bill Holman
 Alexander Malinowski
 Kristin Oney
 Joan Chenoweth
 Katie Hestness
 Connie Freeman
 Pat Hoehn
 Diane (Stueven) Knox
 Warren Linc
 Egbe Nti
 Anna Parks
 Donna Hewitt
 Carolyn Kaehr
 John Zieska
 Dawn Hill
 Craig Gottschalk
 Valerie Robinson
 Evan Smith
 Scot Michael
 Jay Tracy
 Todd Decker
 Connor Craven
 Juanita Loubert
 Sharon Olson
 Karen Gillett
 Veronica Freeberg
 Bennett Goiffon
 Sarah Fadell
 Beverly Collins
 Doug Malecha
 Don Roach
 Sam Rudeen
 David Dechaine
 Anna Zieska
 Richard Gibson
 Diane Morningstar
 Judy Rathje
 John Nyongkah
 Colston Rude
 Charles Kovacovich



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

Sunday, February 2 - Necrology Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
Annual Meeting following Worship

Monday, February 3
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, February 4
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 8
 2:00 pm Youth Cookie Baking

Sunday, February 9
9:30 am Worship Service
 10:30 am **Youth Cookie Sale**
 5:00 pm Valley Superbowl Party

Tuesday, February 11
 12:00 pm Presbytery Meeting - Hudson, WI
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 pm Mission Possible Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 12
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 13
 10:00 am Bible Study with Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

Friday, February 14
 7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, February 16
9:30 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, February 17
 6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, February 18
 11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 20
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels

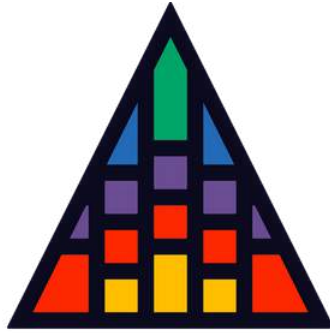
February 21 - February 23
 Chrysalis Retreat @ Clearwater Forest

Sunday, February 23
9:30 am Worship Service
Sheila Sheldon, CRE, preaching
 3:00 pm Confirmation Class (9th & 10th graders)
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, February 25
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 26
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 27
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels
 6:00 pm City of Golden Valley Listening Session



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VCPC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

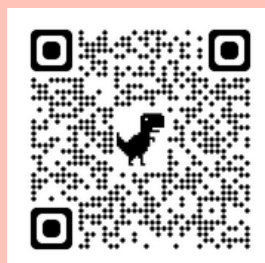
As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

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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