



# Valley Community

PC(USA)

## 2024 Annual Report

### 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.*

### **VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

3100 North Lilac Drive • Golden Valley, MN 55422  
763 588 0831 • [office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net) • [valleychurch.net](http://valleychurch.net)

# Table of Contents

## 2024 Annual Report

		Page
<b>I</b>	<b><u>2024 at Valley</u></b>	
	2024 At-A-Glance .....	3
	2025 Annual Meeting Agenda .....	4
	Pastor's Report.....	5
	Educational Ministry Director's Report .....	7
	Annual Meeting Minutes from 2024.....	9
<b>II</b>	<b><u>Session Committee Reports</u></b>	
	Clerk of Session .....	15
	Nominating .....	18
	Personnel .....	20
	Supportive Ministries Fund.....	22
	Treasurer's Net Assets .....	24
	Treasurer's Financial Highlights .....	25
	Treasurer's Comparison 2023 to 2024 .....	26
	Treasurer's Dedicated Accounts.....	29
	Financial Secretary .....	31
	Finance .....	32
	Stewardship.....	34
	Endowment.....	35
	Educational Ministries.....	40
	Youth Education Scholarship (Y.E.S.).....	43
	Church Growth.....	44
	Mission Possible & Giving .....	45
	Land Acknowledgement.....	49
	Mission Giving Report .....	51
	Worship & Music .....	53
	Fellowship .....	55
	Property .....	57
	Technology & Communications.....	59
<b>III</b>	<b><u>Board of Deacons Report</u></b> .....	60
<b>IV</b>	<b><u>Additional Reports</u></b>	
	Valley Community Garden .....	61
	Fridays in the Valley Chamber Music Series .....	62
<b>V</b>	<b><u>Memorials</u></b> .....	64

3

New Members

220

Average  
Worship  
Attendance

896

Children served  
with PRISM Toy  
Shoppe

2

Infant  
Baptisms

40+

Community  
Garden  
Members

3,060

Pounds of food  
donated to PRISM

6

Parish  
Associates

\$10,098

Fridays  
in the Valley  
Donations

28

Christmas  
Pageant  
Participants

\$147,576

Mission  
Giving

47

Pews Renewed  
and installed

113

Y.E.S. Tea  
Guests

13

Worship  
Services in  
Fellowship Hall

6

VCPC Pastors

382

Valley  
Members

1

Spirit, many gifts.  
One Church,  
many roles.

All Are Welcome

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Opening Lives to God

**Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**Congregation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, February 2, 2025 | 10:45 am**

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Rev. Jim Cochrane
<b>Land Acknowledgement Statement</b>	Sarah Fadell
<b>Clerk of Session Report</b>	Jan Fedora
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve February 11, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes</li></ul>	
<b>Stewardship Committee Report – Time, Talent, Treasures</b>	Pat Daily
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stewardship Campaign 2025 (Treasures)</li><li>• Mission Giving for 2024 (Time &amp; Talent)</li></ul>	
<b>Finance Committee Report</b>	Denise Kara
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2024 Financial Report</li><li>• 2025 Church Budget</li><li>• Per Capita: \$40.00 for 2025</li></ul>	
<b>Endowment Committee Report</b>	Greg Van Heest
<b>Personnel Committee Report</b>	Kelsie Hagelin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contractual Agreement with Rev. Jim Cochrane</li><li>• Next Steps of the Interim Process</li></ul>	
<b>Transitional Pastor’s Report</b>	Rev. Jim Cochrane
<b>Other Business</b>	
<b>Adjournment and Closing Prayer</b>	

.....  
*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*  
— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
.....

**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.*

## Transitional Pastor's Report 2024

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. – 1 Corinthians 12:12-13*

Dear Valley,

Much of the apostle Paul's work was in the preservation of a community that would bear witness to the Word. As he saw powerful forces dividing people, he reminded faith communities that there was a greater truth in their faith that united them. While the world tried to pull them apart, Paul reminded them that, no, they were better together. Here in the Valley, we know that to be true. As families have returned to worship, some for the first time since 2020, I have seen them swarmed with love as familiar faces and old friends greet them once again.

As I write this letter to you, it is strange to look back at where I was just one year ago. I moderated the annual meeting on my second week in the pulpit, and quickly I learned how much Valley loves its neighborhood, city, and world as I listened to each report. But as I have journeyed through this past year with you – a year of painful goodbyes mixed with creative vision and hope for the future – I have seen how much Valley loves each and every person who walks through the door. As the world has sought to divide, Valley has stood firm in the knowledge that we are better together.

### SAYING GOODBYE

I would be remiss if I didn't begin my report by acknowledging the losses Valley has seen this past year. The year began with the retirement of Rev. Richard Buller, who served this congregation faithfully for 21 years. His stewardship of Valley for those years has helped make it what it is today: a loving community of faith that supports one another in every season of life. I saw that love on full display this year as we grieved the deaths of 13 church members and 1 parish associate, as many deaths as the past two years combined. As we grieved those losses, we remembered through tears the lessons they imparted and the ways they touched the lives of everyone they encountered. They made their mark on our lives, and their legacy lives on through the memories we carry with us as we step bravely into the future.

### MISSION STUDY AND PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It has been an honor to walk with Valley through the process of developing and getting approval on the Ministry and Mission Study. Through countless conversations with both groups and individuals, surveys, and visioning sessions, the congregation has taken the time to reflect on its communal values and what makes it so special. Valley has begun dreaming of a future three, five, and ten years down the road, and the beginnings of that process have been captured in the new Ministry and Mission Study report. I want to express by sincere gratitude to Pat Daily, Craig Gottschalk, Jennie Minter, Crystal Boyd, and Mariah Messer for their tireless effort in attending meetings, poring over reports, editing drafts, and creating the document that now lives as a snapshot of Valley in this crossroads moment.

While 2024 began with the departure of a beloved pastor, it ended with a congregational meeting electing a ten-member Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This team is already hard at work building a profile for the church, and will write the position description, offer insight into

Valley's story and call to interested parties, and sift through many talented and qualified candidates to identify the next called pastor for Valley over the coming months. We wish them well in their work!

#### SANCTUARY RENOVATION

This past summer's worship services felt different as we spent the summer worshipping in Fellowship Hall while the Sanctuary was under construction. The sanctuary's beautiful but aging wood ceiling was in desperate need of care, and the old asbestos tile was beginning to wear down. Thanks to a generous gift from Barbara Johnston, we were able to do something about it. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, movers arrived to begin the task of removing pews, the piano, and the organ console so work might begin. Over the course of three months, the flooring was ripped out and new laminate tile and carpeting was laid down in its place. The aging wood ceiling was sanded, stained and sealed, and a fresh coat of paint gave new life to the beloved room. Thanks to the generosity of Barbara Johnston and the leadership of Sheila Sheldon and Tom Wasmoen, Valley's sanctuary stands ready for another 75 years of worship and welcome to all who seek its shelter!

#### SHEILA & MARIAH'S LEADERSHIP

None of what happens at Valley would ever come to fruition without steady leadership, and I am blessed to work with Sheila and Mariah in supporting Valley's various ministries. Mariah moved to full-time status a year ago, and her impact is felt every day when she approaches challenges by balancing what is feasible with what is faithful. Sheila completed her training to be a commissioned ruling elder and was commissioned to that position this past April. It has been a joy to work alongside her, planning worship experiences and providing pastoral care as a team. Both Mariah and Sheila work tirelessly to ensure that things run smoothly day-in and day-out, and I deeply appreciate their collaborative and creative spirits in serving this community. While transitions of both a pastor and office administrator within two months might have scared away lesser beings, the tenacity of these two individuals and their unwavering support of this church speaks volumes to the love with which they fill their roles, and I am grateful to work with them every day.

#### MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

I could list the many things at Valley that have warmed my heart, from the incredible musicians who offer their gifts in worship to the Stream Team to the elders and deacons who have heard God's call to serve the church in this special chapter of its life, to everyone who comes together for fellowship, but I know that an exhaustive list is impossible. So I will say this: I am grateful for you. I am grateful for the love and care with which you treat this community, and your stewardship of it. I am grateful for the welcome you have offered my family and me. I am grateful for the love and grace I have been met with and your willingness to come along with me in this new and challenging season. Looking to the future while in transition takes courage, but more than anything it takes faith. And that is something Valley has in abundance. Thank you for all that you do and for all that you are!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. D. H.', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

# Educational Ministries Report 2024

## Sheila Sheldon, Director

For the last couple of years, I've begun my letter reflecting on how we were in a transition at the time when I sat down to write my letter. Well, why quit now? From returning to full programming post pandemic, to saying goodbye to dear friends, to waiting in anticipation to know what the future of the church will be. It has been quite a year, truthfully for me quite a sad and exhausting one, but in all the gloom the highs have outnumbered the lows. Looking ahead to 2025 I'm holding on to that piece of hope. Despite the challenges being extra hard, I can say there were still more things to celebrate and smile about even when, often, things seemed to be going completely sideways.

Here are just a few of the highlights from this past year from the Education and Family Ministries Team:

### Education and Family Ministry Programs

- We said goodbye to James Decker in December and welcomed Natalie Peña-Gallegos as our new Sunshine room staff.
- **Youth Group** met on 10 Sundays in the Spring and 10 Sundays in the Fall from 4-6 PM.
- They participated in mission work, fellowship, worship services and helped with events such as the YES Tea and Trunk or Treat for PRISM.
- **TEAMS** met on 10 Sundays in the Spring and 10 Sundays in the Fall from 4-6 PM with leaders, Hunter Sheldon, Jessica Goslinga and Charlie Rudeen. They explored many different projects from baking to rockets!
- **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** had over 75 kids attend from Valley and the surrounding community.
- **YES TEA** hosted 113 guests at 15 tea tables, with youth volunteers as servers.
- **Vacation Bible Camp- Compassion Camp**, a curriculum that focused on cultivating compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world.
- We welcomed **21 campers** and **11 volunteers** and **Rachel Williams** who led us in song each morning. The kids echoed their experience in worship, sharing the message of compassion and love with all.
- **Sunday School** programming was held weekly following the Time with Young Worshippers the children gathered in the Sunshine room with James and parent volunteers.
- **Learning and Growing:** Kids explored stories from the Bible using the weekly curriculum from Illustrated Ministries and Invitation to Play. For families to continue the lessons, a monthly email was sent to families full of resources for them to continue faith formation at home.
- **Annual Christmas pageant** had 28 participants complete with a choir of angels and a barn cat, and it truly was a blessing to see the children together, sharing the story of the birth of Jesus with the congregation as only children can do.

These are just the highlights! I could go on and on about all the wonderful things that happened this year in our education and family programs, but I'll let you read the full report by our amazing elders.

Beyond these programs Mariah and I worked on creating a new photo directory, expanding the use of Breeze Church Management to organize volunteers, supporting the board of Deacons, designed the Mission Study report and provided extra training and guidance for our new staff to name just a few of our side projects. I'm so grateful to have Mariah on staff full-time. There are many moving parts that happen behind the scenes and it is her support that makes it possible to have such great programs.

This year I completed the process to be a CRE and was commissioned to ministry at Valley. We celebrated with a wonderful service and reception on April 14, 2024. It was a surreal experience to be in our sanctuary surrounded by so many people who came to show their love and support. I'm so grateful for the day for so many reasons. Some of the dearest people in my life were there that day, folks who watched me baptized at Highland Park, family, friends, and my Valley family, along with members of our Presbytery and Synod. Apparently, it was a big deal!

In closing, I want to acknowledge Rev. Jim Cochrane who came into the Valley office with a big smile and even bigger heart. I thought I was on my own after Richard left us and Jim quickly reassured me that he would be there to support me and help in any way he could. In a year when things were anything but normal, his calm and gentle demeanor guided not only me but our congregation through some of the darkest days I have ever experienced. Thank you for being our guiding light and for being my partner in ministry here at Valley.

So now together, Valley, we will continue to grow and be a light for others. Thank you for taking this journey with me and may you know how grateful I am for every one of you. You are loved!

Blessings,  
Sheila Sheldon



# Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Valley Community Presbyterian Church February 11, 2024

The 71st Annual virtual and in-person meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church & Corporation was held on Sunday, February 11, 2024. The announcement of the meeting below was made during the church service for three consecutive Sundays and was listed in the bulletin. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with a greeting and prayer by Transitional Pastor Jim Cochrane at 10:45 a.m. The agenda was approved by consensus. The minutes of the 2022 annual meeting were included in the 2023 annual report. Members received an email that contained the report and a limited number of copies were available at the meeting. Reports from all of the various committees and groups were included in the report. The call for the meeting was as follows:

“The Annual virtual and in-person meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024 after worship.”

M/S/C to not have Rev. Jim Cochrane read the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting.  
M/S/C to approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

### Land Acknowledgement Statement - Jen Biggs

Jen read the Land Acknowledgement Statement to the congregation. She introduced the new logo. She read the biography of the artist and how the colors and picture represented the Indigenous People and their relationship to the land. Jen discussed where we might display our statement and logo.

### 1) Clerk’s Report – Jan Fedora

Jan thanked God for Valley's members and their time, talents, and treasurers that they have contributed to Valley over the years. She thanked God for all the different committees, Session, Deacons, Parish Associates, Stream Team, and staff and the hard work they have done over the last year. Valley will continue to keep going forward and support each other during this time of transition. We will continue to listen to what God is calling us to do! Her report describes the various teams and the work they have been doing in 2023 and can be found on pages 15-17.

<b>Active Members as of 12/31/2022</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>2023 New Members</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total New Members</b>	<b>10</b>
 <b>Active Members Lost</b>	
<b>Death</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Removed</b>	<b>21</b>

<b>Total Members Lost</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Active Members as of 12/31/23</b>	<b>406</b>

**Special Services in 2023**

<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Weddings</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Communion Served</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Memorials</b>	<b>6</b>

Valley members who passed away in 2023: Vicki Wheeler, Betty Brooking, Charles Mattin, Jeanne Reinhart, Barbara Johnston, Louise Driver, and Toshiko Nishida..

The Session met for eleven (11) stated meetings, two (2) special meetings and two (2) congregational meetings in 2023.

2) Report of Stewardship Team – Lisa Kummer

**"Valley: Where Gratitude is Paid Forward"**

Lisa stated that we continued with the theme of gratitude since it resonated with so many members last year. However, this year we focused on how grateful and blessed we are that Valley is set up for success as we enter 2024, which will be a year of transition for the congregation with Pastor Richard’s retirement. We asked the congregation to respond with a 3% increase in pledging. This increase would help us provide staff raises to recognize their dedication, and to provide more support during this time of high inflation. The additional pledges would also help decrease our dependency on the Supportive Ministries Fund. In addition, the recent passing of faithful members means we will face a substantial giving loss moving forward, so the increase in pledges would start to bridge that gap.

Lisa gratefully thanked the Valley congregation for the 119 renewed and 4 new pledges received totaling \$409,701 which is 94% of our goal. Valley is blessed by the response of our members once again. She thanked everyone who pledged for 2024!

Lisa also thanked the dedicated Stewardship Committee: Craig Gottschalk, Nancy Husnik, Brian Parks, Mariah Messer and Rev. Richard Buller, ex officio.

**Mission Giving for 2023 - Craig Gottschalk**

The total mission giving and donations equaled \$346,436 (page 51). Projects that Mission Possible has participated in are found on pages 45-49.

3) Financial Report - Denise Kara/Greg Rom

Highlights for 2023 include:

- Ending the year with Net Assets of \$567,258.
- Total income was \$496,603.
- Regular Envelopes was \$409,701
- Non-Member Giving was \$5,000
- Total funding from SMF was \$48,004

Listed in the Dedicated Accounts is the Income and Expense Summary. The Barbara Johnston Estate shows the receipts of \$922,106.22 and the expense of \$922,106. 22, with an ending balance of 0.00.

Denise highlighted the solar panel tax refund of \$36,800 (page 31). She presented the Barbara Johnston's Estate Distribution (page 32) which details how the money has been spent at Valley. The donation from this estate to Valley equals \$1,500,000. The upgrades to sustain Valley's physical building are listed for 2023 and 2024 (page 32) and 2025 and Beyond costs are listed on page 33.

Resource Team - 2023 Financial Report and 2024 Budget - Greg Rom

Receipts totaled \$501,350 and expenses were \$501.350 so net total was \$0

Budget for 2023

Revenue

Regular Envelopes	405,222	
Non-Pledging Members	25,071	
Non-Member Giving	3,322	
Initial Offering	596	
Per Capita Envelopes	5,365	
Loose/Special Offerings	13,052	
Facility Usage	12,141	
Interest/Dividends	834	
SMF Funding	31,000	
Prior Pledges	<u>0</u>	
<u>Total Revenue</u>		<u>\$496,603</u>

Expenses:

Salaries	208,814	
Employment Allowances	134,119	
Administration	28,790	
Per Capita	16,425	
Communications & Technology	3,450	
Property Care/Improvement	62,697	
Stewardship	356	
Educational Ministries	7,174	
Worship & Music	5,512	
Fellowship	534	
Church Growth	0	
All Mission	<u>27,202</u>	
<u>Total Expenses</u>		<u>\$495,073</u>

Net Expenses over Revenue \$1,530

Greg also presented the 2024 budget. Totals are shown below.

Budget for 2024

Revenue:	Regular Envelopes	409,701	
	Non-Pledging Members	22,000	
	Non-Member Giving	5,000	
	Initial Offering	600	
	Per Capita Envelopes	7,000	
	Loose/Special Offerings	10,000	
	Facility Usage	12,550	
	Interest/Dividends	700	
	SMF Funding	48,004	
	Prior Pledges	<u>2,000</u>	
	Total Revenue		<u>\$517,555</u>

Expenses:	Salaries	231,911	
	Employment Allowances	132,659	
	Administration	28,250	
	Per Capita	16,325	
	Property Care/Improvement	62,360	
	Stewardship	500	
	Educational Ministries	7,400	
	Worship & Music	8,400	
	Fellowship	500	
	Church Growth	750	
	Communications & Technology	3,500	
	All Mission	<u>25,000</u>	
	Total Expenses		<u>\$517,555</u>

Net Revenue over Expenses \$0

Further details of the 2023 Financial Results and 2024 Budget can be found in the annual report on pages 24-29.

M/S/C/ to approve the 2024 budget.

Greg thanked the members of the Finance Team and thanked the volunteers who counted the offering each week.

Per capita is \$38.50 per confirmed member. Valley's per capita amount is \$16,325.

4) Endowment Fund – Mike Pinter

Thanks to the generosity of Valley members, including Barbara Johnston's estate, Endowment received a total of \$364,234 in gifts in 2023. This brings the total amount of gifts received since the fund was established in 1984 to \$1,130,207. On December 31, 2023, the Endowment net

asset value was \$1,739,164, an increase of 40%. The 2023 grants totaled \$48,904 (see Table II on page 38). This brings the total dollar value of grants provided by the VCPC Endowment since 1984 to \$614,377.

During 2023, grants were made to many community outreach efforts, for the enhancement and upkeep for VCPC property, and in support of Valley staff education, retreat events, music programs and the support of our Valley Youth.

Mike thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication.

#### 5) Personnel - Ben Kummer

Ben mentioned the 21 years of service by Rev. Richard Buller. He stated how Richard prepared us for 2024. He also stated how Richard kept us together during COVID. Richard leaves our church stronger than ever before. We owe him a debt of gratitude as we continue to grow stronger. Ben thanked all the staff, including Sheila, Mariah, William, Janet Carlson, Rachel, Hunter, Ben, and James for their dedication and hard work at Valley Community Presbyterian Church.

Valley is honored and blessed to have Rev. Jim Cochran as our Transitional Pastor.

Ben emphasized that Valley will continue to grow in 2024. He stated that Kelsie Hagelin will be the new Chair of Personnel. Valley's Nominating Committee will appoint a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) to lead the search, recruitment and hiring of Valley's next Senior Pastor.

#### 6) Transitional Pastor's Report - Rev. Jim Cochrane

Rev. Jim Cochrane thanked Valley for the warm welcome. Valley is a vibrant congregation. Jim thanked the staff, current Deacons, Elders, Parish Associates, and retiring Deacons and Elders.

7) Other reports of various teams not listed above included: Educational Ministries: TEAMS, Adult Education, Faith Formations and Family Ministries, Youth, Worship & Music, Fellowship, Church Growth, Nominating, Property Committee, Mission Possible, Memorials, Fridays in the Valley, Technology and Communications, Supportive Ministries Fund, Youth Education Scholarship Committee Report, Valley Community Garden, Financial Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's various reports (detailed above) and Board of Deacons.

M/S/C to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Jim Cochrane at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Rev. Jim Cochrane - Moderator

---

Date

---

Jan Fedora - Clerk of Session

# Clerk of Session Report 2024

## Jan Fedora, Clerk of Session

In 2024 Session has been very busy! With their hard work, energy, determination, creativity, and thoughtfulness. They have made many decisions for the present and future of Valley! Below are some of the highlights from the various committees:

- **The Technology Team** was very busy live-streaming worship services, other special services, and community events. Thank you, Stream Team, for your tremendous dedication! It has been a wonderful way to keep Valley members connected during this year!
- **Educational Ministries Teams** are composed of children, youth, and adult ministries. Some of the activities included are:
  - Faith Formation Classes                      Christmas Pageant
  - Vacation Bible Camp,                              Easter Egg Hunt
  - Summer Mission Trips                              Trunk or Treat for Halloween
  - Adult Education Classes                              Valentine's Cookie Sale
  - Youth and TEAMS Activities                              Craft Days
  - Valley Kids Club                                      YES Tea
  - Bible Fellowship
- **The Mission Possible Team** continued to support and sponsor worthy mission projects, reaching out into the community and working with different agencies.
- Mission Sunday was held with our ten (10) partners participating in the service and the educational program after worship.
- Holiday Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas were distributed to PRISM.
- Holiday Toy Shoppe for PRISM was a huge success.
- PRISM School Supply Drive
- Formula for Hope for Crisis Nursery
- Taste of the Burbs
- Several Valley members built dressers at the Bridging Event.
- Habitat for Humanity projects kept workers busy building houses.
- Clare Terrace Events
- Pack the Pews Food Drive for PRISM
- Emerson Village Cleaning Supplies Drive

- **Fellowship Committee** events included, among others:
- Church picnic
- Twins Game
- Fall Festival
- Annual Christmas Dinners
- Richard's Retirement Party
- Men's Retreat/Chrysalis Women's Retreat
- **The Worship/Music Committee** kept busy planning the Sunday worship services including communion, ushers, vocal choir, handbell choir, soloists, and other wonderful musicians,
- We were blessed to have wonderful Parish Associates: Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau, Rev. David Phillips, Rev. Nancy Phillips, Rev. Rebecca Tollefson, and Rev. Aron Wilterding.
- Fridays in the Valley concerts were well attended.
- Beautiful banners that hung in our church added so much to the beautiful sanctuary
- Poinsettia Tree and the Julie Tree were displayed in church to add to the spirit of the holiday
- Wednesday in Lent services were well attended with excellent food, fellowship, worship, scripture, and singing.
- **The Properties Committee** completed the following projects:
- Asbestos abatement of floor tiles and new carpet installation was completed
- Wood ceilings were cleaned and stained
- Painting in the sanctuary
- Fall Clean-Up Day made the church property look wonderful!
- **The Growth Committee**
- The Golden Valley PRIDE Festival was held in June
- **The Personnel Committee**
- Rev. Jim Cochrane was hired as the Transitional Pastor, starting February 1, 2024
- Interviews for the Office Administrator position began in February and Savannah Martinez was hired
- Chelsie Larsen will continue to be the Financial Secretary.



- Greg Rom will continue to be the Treasurer.

**The major campaigns for 2024 included:**

- **Stewardship Campaign: "We are Valley - 100%"** Kick-Off started in the Fall 2024. The congregation was asked to respond to this theme with a 3% increase in pledging.

The average weekly attendance for 2024 was 220 and communion was observed on a monthly basis. Session meetings are generally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month starting at 6:30 pm.

<b>Active members December 31, 2023:</b>	<b>403</b>
<b><u>2024 New Members</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>2024 Total New Members</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>2024 Active Members Lost:</u></b>	
<b>Death</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Place on Inactive Status or Removed</b>	<b>11</b>
<b><u>2024 Total Members Lost</u></b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Active members December 31, 2024:</b>	<b>382</b>

**Special Services in 2024:**

<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Weddings</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Communion Served</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Memorial Services</b>	<b>10</b>

Valley Members Who Passed Away in 2024: Sarah Davis, Tom Davison, Faye Watson, Marlys Hawkins, Dennis Hinkle, Lisa Kummer, Susan League, Carol McCarter, Marilyn Merino, Chuck Meyer, Myrle Reiswig, Bob Ripley, Lois Robinson, and Karen Sauter,

Session met for eleven (11) stated meetings and three (3) congregational meetings in 2024.

# Nominating Committee Report 2024

## Mary Dunham, Chair

The Nominating Committee met during the fall of 2024. We followed the ‘Biblical Process of Call’ with guidance from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;  
and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;  
and there are varieties of working,  
but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.  
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

At the December 22, 2024, Congregational Meeting following the 9:30am service, the congregation voted to accept the following candidates:

### **Elders, Class of 2027**

Jay Perry – Fellowship Elder  
Samantha Schellhaas – Fellowship Elder  
Terry Goslinga – Mission Possible Elder  
Charles Rudeen – Education Elder  
Brandon Novy – Technology Elder

### **Deacons, Class of 2027**

Kurt Wheeler  
Hunter Sheldon  
Scott Robinson  
Sara Perry  
Karen Harms

### **Deacons, Class of 2025**

Lyn Boyd - fulfilling the final year of Samantha Schellhaas’ term

### **Endowment Committee**

Chuck Ulmer (5-year term)  
Andy Freeberg (1-year term) - fulfilling the final year of Juliana Vogel’s term

### **Financial Secretary**

Chelsie Larsen

### **2024 Nominating Committee**

Tom Wasmoen – Chair  
Class of 2026 Elder - Vice Chair  
Janet Triplett  
Janelle Carlson  
Jan Sacco

## **Pastor Nominating Committee**

Ray Anderson  
Jan Fedora  
Joel Freeberg  
Bennett Goiffon  
Jessica Goslinga  
Craig Gottschalk  
Rachel Hole  
Jacob LaBelle  
Paul Minter  
Sara Schiebout

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the 2024 Nominating Committee for their dedicated efforts in selecting the leadership for our church family, including the important task of prayerfully forming the Pastor Nominating Committee. The 2024 committee members were:

- Mary Dunham, Chair
- Tom Wasmoen, Vice Chair
- Julie Westerlund
- Mike Pinter
- Myron Jones
- Sue Tracy
- Rev. Jim Cochrane *ex-officio*

Your commitment to this process has been deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for your service to our church family.

## Personnel Committee Report 2024

### Kelsie Hagelin, Committee Chair & Ruling Elder

The Personnel Committee is pleased to review 2024 with our congregation. Needless to say, 2024 was a year to remember! We started our 2024 year saying goodbye to the one and only Rev. Richard Buller after 21 years of dedication to Valley. Though we entered 2024 with a new level of uncertainty, Richard left us as a strong congregation.

In the ending months of 2023, Personnel Committee was asked by Richard and Session to recruit for and hire Valley's Transitional Pastor. We were blessed by a candidate we not only connected with but also allowed us to only have a two-week gap between Richard's departure and his start date. **Rev. Jim Cochrane** took over the position of Transitional Pastor on February 1, 2024. We have been blessed over these past 11 months to have Jim with us during our transitional period. He has not only acted as lead pastor and head of staff, but he has also guided us in the process of finding our new pastor. Jim has been steadfast during these months of figuring out who we are and where we are going. He was critical in our discussion sessions and advising during the writing of our Ministry and Mission Study. We are excited as he continues to walk with us during the upcoming steps while the Pastoral Nominating Committee leads us in the search for our next Senior Pastor. Thank you, Jim, for being such a light in a year of transition and loss.

2024 also left us the task of saying goodbye to our Office Administrator, William Glasper in the beginning of March. Personnel was able to find a replacement in **Savannah Martinez**. During our year of transition, we thank Savannah for being here. If you have not stopped in a met her yet, I encourage you do so as she continues to learn the ropes and put faces to names.

During this year of transition and change, we would not be where we are without our rocks, Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer. The amount of work and love they have put into Valley during this year has been immeasurable. They both continue to excel in their roles, while also guiding and training our new staff.

**Sheila Sheldon, CRE** continues her tremendous work as Educational Ministries Director. She was steadfast as the face of Valley nearly every Sunday during service for announcements, children's sermons, and prayers. She continues to lead programming for education and ministries for Valley members of all ages. 2024 was truly a banner year for Sheila. She completed her certification to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder this spring. This certification has expanded her abilities to serve Valley in worship services while also ensuring we get to hear her preach on a regular basis. Another valuable hat Sheila wore this year was general contractor! She was instrumental on the planning and success of the renovation of the sanctuary over the summer. As we moved into fall programming and Advent season, Sheila remained a constant in leading Valley forward as we enter 2025. We are unbelievably thankful for her time and talents but are thrilled to learn of a well-deserved vacation planned for 2025.

**Mariah Messer** continues excel in her role as Program and Communications Coordinator. We could not be more grateful for Mariah as she rounded out her first full year in this position with full-time hours. She heads up our communications, social media, newsletters, email programs, and continues leading our youth on Sunday evenings. She also wore a very important, new hat this year as lead graphic designer of our Ministry and Mission Study. It is truly a work of art! Thank you, Mariah, for your leadership and care during this past year.

We want to take the time to highlight our other staff that make this place run and thrive.

**Janet Carlson** continued in her role as Director of Choir and Handbells. Our choir continues to be in great hands with Janet’s leadership, and our handbell team continues to come back together and provide beautiful music for select Sundays.

**Rachel Williams** continued in her role as Music Coordinator. She continues to work with the choir and share her talent and skill on the piano. We are lucky when get to hear her singing voice and her skills on the harp as well! Rachel has stepped up with helping to plan and pick music selections for services and coordinate our wide range of talented guest musicians.

**Hunter Sheldon** has continued throughout 2024 as our Custodian. He has been vital in maintaining in interior and exterior facility and grounds. He is the man with the answers and knows where everything is! It is no uncommon to hear someone say something like “oh Hunter already did it” when it comes to preparation and set up at our various activities.

**Ben Sheldon** began working as part-time Janitor in 2023 and we increased his weekly hours this fall. He continues to help and assist with the maintenance of our facilities, specifically on Saturdays so we are ready to roll on Sundays.

**James Decker** filled the role of Preschool/Faith Formation Assistant through December of 2024. She decided to vacate her role in order to pursue a position that could offer more hours on weekend days. We appreciate her time and dedication to our youth during her time. We were able to fill her role with **Natalie Peña-Gallegos** who started with us in late November. We are excited to continue to get to know Natalie as she serves our youngest Valley members.

We cannot forget to mention our “good-for-nothings”, our terrific Parish Associates whom we see regularly in church worshipping, leading, and teaching. Thank you to each of them:

- **Rev. Jim Cook**
- **Rev. Bill Davnie**
- **Rev. Kate O’Brien Soltau**
- **Rev. Rebecca Tollefson**
- **Rev. Nancy Phillips**
- **Rev. David Phillips**

As we know, 2024 was a year of loss in the Valley. In August we mourned the loss of one of our longtime parish associates **Rev. Aron Wilterding**. We are grateful for his years with us and rest easy knowing he is at peace.

I want to thank staff and congregants alike for this past year and any patience you have granted me. In my first year as personnel chair, the learning curve was a bit steeper than anticipated, but I have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy serving Valley into 2025. The current Personnel Committee will continue to support our wonderful staff and Parish Associates as they continue to make Valley a welcoming place for all to worship and feel God’s love. Please reach out to any member of the committee with questions or concerns about our service to Valley.

#### **Valley Personnel Committee 2024**

Kelsie Hagelin, Chair  
Ben Kummer  
Deb Poynter  
Sara Schiebout

Melissa Gottschalk  
Jay Perry  
Charlie Rudeen  
Jim Cochrane, *ex officio*

# Supportive Ministries Fund (SMF) Committee Report 2024

## Kelsie Hagelin, Chair

Established by the Session in 2006, the purpose of the Supportive Ministries Fund (SMF) was to secure the sustainability of ordained pastoral support and build this financial cornerstone through gifts, estate planning, and wills.

In past years, with the guidance of the strategic plan, the Personnel Committee submitted, and Session approved changes in the language of the SMF, "to create a source of supplemental funding for ordained and other staffing needs to support the VCPC ministry". When the SMF was created, VCPC had fewer staff and no parish associates. As VCPC has grown, changes in the SMF were identified to expand the scope of the SMF to include funding of non-ordained staff hours and training.

In 2024, VCPC elected to use \$20,000 of the SMF to supplement staff salaries and bonuses that were not covered by income received from pledges.

The SMF has both an investment account with Parnassus Funds and a separate SMF savings account at Citizens Bank. The SMF accounts continue to be managed by the Personnel Committee and the church treasurer, with guidance from the Endowment Committee when needed. Any contributions to the Supportive Ministry Fund to assist with ensuring payment to the Church's ordained and non-ordained staff salaries and training should be made to "VCPC – SMF". This will assist the church in directing the funds appropriately.

If you have questions about the Supportive Ministries Fund, please contact Kelsie Hagelin, Chair of the Personnel Committee or Greg Rom, Valley Community Presbyterian Church Treasurer.

The financial activity in the SMF for 2024 is summarized as follows.

SMF Balance: January 1, 2024	\$263,710
+ Contributions Received in 2023	\$0
- Support Paid Out to Valley Budget	(\$20,000)
+ Interest Received on Certificate of Deposit	\$2,292
+ Investment Value Gain (Loss)	\$8,835
= SMF Balance: December 31, 2024	\$254,837
SMF Balance: December 31, 2024	\$254,837

Balance in Investments	\$110,023
Balance in Certificate of Deposit	\$80,000
Balance in Savings	\$64,814

**Treasurer's Report: Net Assets**  
**Greg Rom, Treasurer**

	<u>Dec. 31, 2024</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 2023</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Checking/Savings Accounts	519,717	440,564
Money Market Account	93,644	12,649
Cert of Deposit SMF	80,000	71,475
Cert of Deposit BCF	250,000	0
Parnassus SMF Account	110,022	101,188
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>1,053,383</b></u>	<u><b>625,876</b></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Prepaid Pledges	<u><b>52,040</b></u>	<u><b>58,618</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
General Fund - unrestricted	45,197	50,750
Donor restricted	956,146	516,508
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><u><b>1,001,343</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>567,258</b></u></u>



## 2024 and 2025 General Fund Financial Highlights

Description	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Regular Envelopes	386,232	409,701	391,000
Nonpledging members	18,204	22,000	22,000
Initial Offering	602	600	600
Per Capita Envelopes	5,560	7,000	7,000
Non-member giving	1,335	5,000	4,000
Prior Year Pledges	208	2,000	1,000
Loose Offering	1,457	2,000	2,000
Facility Usage	9,520	12,550	2,500
Interest/Dividends	11,748	700	10,000
Special Offerings	9,935	8,000	8,000
Funding from SMF	20,000	48,004	45,515
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>464,801</u></b>	<b><u>517,555</u></b>	<b><u>493,615</u></b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
<b>Salaries</b>	223,248	231,911	242,947
<b>Employment Allowances</b>	101,264	132,659	112,780
<b>Administration</b>	28,677	28,250	27,000
<b>Communications and Technology</b>	3,845	3,500	1,600
<b>Property Care/Improvement</b>	60,926	62,360	59,558
<b>Stewardship Campaign</b>	358	500	500
<b>Per Capita</b>	16,167	16,325	15,280
<b>Educational Ministries</b>	6,438	7,400	6,700
<b>Worship and Music</b>	3,277	8,400	4,250
<b>Fellowship</b>	0	500	500
<b>Church Growth</b>	312	750	500
<b>Mission</b>			
Local Mission	5,450	6,000	5,000
PC (USA) Mission	9,000	9,000	7,000
Special Offerings Paid Out	9,935	8,000	8,000
Loose Offering-Designated	1,457	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Mission</b>	<b><u>25,842</u></b>	<b><u>25,000</u></b>	<b><u>22,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>470,354</u></b>	<b><u>517,555</u></b>	<b><u>493,615</u></b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b><u>(5,553)</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>

**Treasurer's Report  
2023 and 2024 Comparison**

Acct	Description	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
<b>INCOME: General Fund</b>					
<b>ENVELOPE RECEIPTS</b>					
20	Reg Envelopes-pledged	405,222	386,232	409,701	391,000
21	Nonpledging members	25,071	18,204	22,000	22,000
22	Initial Offering	596	602	600	600
23	Per Capita Envelopes	5,365	5,560	7,000	7,000
26	Non-member giving	3,322	1,335	5,000	4,000
27	Prior Year Pledges	0	208	2,000	1,000
	<b>ENVELOPE RECEIPTS</b>	<b>439,576</b>	<b>412,141</b>	<b>446,301</b>	<b>425,600</b>
<b>NON-ENVELOPE RECEIPTS</b>					
30	Loose Offering	3,412	1,457	2,000	2,000
31	Facility Usage	12,141	9,520	12,550	2,500
33	Interest/Dividends	834	11,748	700	10,000
34	SMF Funding	31,000	20,000	48,004	45,515
35	Special Offerings	9,640	9,935	8,000	8,000
36	Other Grants	0	0	0	0
	<b>NON-ENVELOPE RECEIPTS</b>	<b>57,027</b>	<b>52,660</b>	<b>71,254</b>	<b>68,015</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>496,603</b>	<b>464,801</b>	<b>517,555</b>	<b>493,615</b>
<b>EXPENSE : General Fund</b>					
<b>SALARIES</b>					
111	Pastor	33,291	30,372	33,291	37,500
132	Office Administrator	45,008	42,779	46,359	47,100
153	Hand Bell/Choir Director	9,191	10,394	10,394	10,394
154	Music Coordinator	12,875	15,398	16,068	16,068
156	Organist	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
157	Guest Musicians	1,550	5,500	6,966	4,000
180	Preschool Assistant	1,250	0	1,800	1,800
181	Educational Ministries Dir.	50,210	51,717	51,717	53,300
184	Contract Custodial Services	0	0	300	0
185	Nursery Attendant	1,780	2,360	1,800	2,100
186	Non-worship childcare	0	0	500	500
190	Program/Comm Coordinator	33,593	44,701	44,103	47,400
191	Custodian	10,920	11,248	11,248	11,585
192	Janitor	4,746	6,379	4,965	8,800
	<b>SALARIES</b>	<b>206,814</b>	<b>223,248</b>	<b>231,911</b>	<b>242,947</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES</b>					
211	Housing-Pastor	38,000	35,250	38,000	36,000
212	Annuity-Pastor	22,388	1,986	22,387	0
213	Pastor-FICA Offset	5,454	5,398	5,454	5,750
221	Travel-Pastor	2,539	893	2,000	2,000
223	Travel-Ed. Min. Director	0	0	100	100
225	Prof Dev.-Ed. Min. Director	801	648	950	950
226	Employee Benefits	7,639	10,245	6,207	12,500
231	Pension-Pastor	8,553	6,196	8,426	7,500
251	Social Security Tax	12,367	13,786	10,500	15,000
261	Prof. Development-Pastor	1,811	1,155	1,800	1,800
271	Prof. Expense-Pastor	1,897	1,179	1,850	1,000
281	Medical-Pastor	30,212	22,230	30,235	25,680
292	Personnel Committee	1,308	1,798	1,500	2,000
294	Temporary Staffing	0	0	250	0
295	Pulpit and Music Supply	1,150	500	2,500	2,000

**Treasurer's Report  
2023 and 2024 Comparison**

Acct	Description	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
663	Prof Dev.-Director of Music	0	0	500	500
<b>EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES</b>		<b>134,119</b>	<b>101,264</b>	<b>132,659</b>	<b>112,780</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
311	Telephone	1,057	1,186	950	1,000
312	Internet Expense	4,289	4,618	4,000	5,000
313	Paychex	3,226	2,795	4,500	2,500
322	Office Supplies	2,325	3,812	1,500	3,000
323	Offering Envelopes	542	568	700	600
331	Postage	1,858	1,393	2,000	1,500
362	Copy Machine	7,609	7,785	6,500	7,500
371	Bank/Online Fees	4,360	1,625	4,700	2,500
392	Session	479	430	400	400
393	Office Subscriptions	2,864	4,154	2,500	2,500
395	Deacons	181	311	400	400
469	Background checks	0	0	100	100
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		<b>28,790</b>	<b>28,677</b>	<b>28,250</b>	<b>27,000</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY</b>					
325	Technology Upgrades	2,777	3,774	3,500	1,500
803	Website and Education	673	71	0	100
<b>COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY</b>		<b>3,450</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>PROPERTY CARE AND IMPROVEMENT</b>					
511	Bldg and Equip Maintenance	4,269	4,726	6,500	4,500
521	Grounds Maintenance	4,685	10,081	5,500	6,500
541	Gas	12,297	9,219	13,000	11,000
551	Electrical Service	13,934	3,633	9,000	2,000
561	Water/Sewer/Disposal	8,453	10,832	9,000	11,000
571	Custodial Supplies	1,286	1,677	2,000	1,500
572	Kitchen Supplies/Equipment	950	913	1,000	800
581	Insurance	14,365	18,120	15,000	20,258
582	Sprinkler Monitoring	2,458	1,725	1,360	2,000
591	New equipment	0	0	0	0
<b>PROPERTY CARE &amp; IMPRMNT</b>		<b>62,697</b>	<b>60,926</b>	<b>62,360</b>	<b>59,558</b>
<b>391</b>	<b>STEWARDSHIP CAMPGN</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>941</b>	<b>PER CAPITA</b>	<b>16,425</b>	<b>16,167</b>	<b>16,325</b>	<b>15,280</b>
<b>EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES</b>					
412	Education Ministries	1,181	1,385	1,500	3,500
415	TEAMS Ministries	690	728	800	400
417	Youth Ministries	1,716	1,146	1,800	1,300
422	Family Ministries	1,410	1,528	1,500	0
423	Adult Ministries	2,177	1,651	1,800	1,500
<b>EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES</b>		<b>7,174</b>	<b>6,438</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>WORSHIP AND MUSIC</b>					
620	Special Music	300	0	1,500	0
621	Choir Supplies	551	78	500	250
622	Choir Enrichment	2,600	500	3,500	2,000
623	Worship License	1,212	1,200	1,200	1,200
631	Worship Supplies	776	1,471	1,000	500

**Treasurer's Report  
2023 and 2024 Comparison**

<b>Acct</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
632	Banners	73	28	400	0
661	Piano Maintenance	0	0	300	300
	<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>	<b>5,512</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>4,250</b>
<b>MISSION POSSIBLE</b>					
965	Loose Offering-Designated	3,412	1,457	2,000	2,000
966	Local Mission	5,150	5,450	6,000	5,000
967	PC (USA) Mission	9,000	9,000	9,000	7,000
968	Special Offerings Paid Out	9,640	9,935	8,000	8,000
	<b>MISSION POSSIBLE</b>	<b>27,202</b>	<b>25,842</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>711</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>CHURCH GROWTH</b>					
801	Advertising & Evangelism	0	312	750	500
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>493,073</b>	<b>470,354</b>	<b>517,555</b>	<b>493,615</b>
	<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>3,530</b>	<b>(5,553)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Income and Expense Summary - Dedicated Accounts**  
**December 31, 2024**

Acct	Description	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expense	Ending Balance
<b>Ongoing Offerings</b>					
40	One Great Hour	0.00	2,991.49	2,991.49	0.00
43	Maundy Thursday	0.00	30.00	30.00	0.00
47	Peace and Global Witness	0.00	910.00	910.00	0.00
51	Easter Envelopes	0.00	1,210.00	1,210.00	0.00
52	Thanksgiving Envelopes	0.00	820.00	820.00	0.00
53	Christmas Envelopes	0.00	1,553.00	1,553.00	0.00
56	Ash Wednesday	0.00	540.00	540.00	0.00
57	Christmas Joy	0.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	0.00
58	Pentecost Offering	0.00	756.00	756.00	0.00
	<b>ONGOING OFFERINGS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,935.49</b>	<b>9,935.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Other Giving</b>					
41	Crisis Nursery	1,145.20	4,362.00	4,152.00	1,355.20
45	Habitat for Humanity	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
46	Home Free	0.00	3,133.50	2,606.00	527.50
48	Clearwater Forest	345.00	4,535.00	4,035.00	845.00
55	PRISM	2,085.46	26,738.49	20,733.15	8,090.80
68	Empty Bowls	0.00	1,331.00	1,331.00	0.00
74	Liberty Community Church	3,316.00	8,463.92	8,712.28	3,067.64
86	Presbyterian World Mission	0.00	1,765.00	1,765.00	0.00
93	Noble School / Every Meal	6,226.23	2,341.56	1,621.00	6,946.79
108	Clare Housing	5,940.75	2,874.33	2,573.59	6,241.49
110	Bridging	224.00	2,550.00	1,550.00	1,224.00
114	The Father Project	0.00	1,183.00	1,183.00	0.00
121	Meals on Wheels	0.00	785.00	785.00	0.00
	<b>OTHER GIVING</b>	<b>19,282.64</b>	<b>60,462.80</b>	<b>51,047.02</b>	<b>28,698.42</b>
<b>Youth Accounts</b>					
62	Mission Trip Stock sales	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
66	Annual Youth Pledge	2,285.00	0.00	0.00	2,285.00
72	TEAMS Programming	1,444.56	750.00	502.99	1,691.57
73	Jr/Sr High Mission Trips	2,185.76	900.00	1,271.94	1,813.82
88	Youth Fundraisers	2,534.20	2,468.00	542.66	4,459.54
	<b>TOTAL YOUTH ACCTS</b>	<b>14,449.52</b>	<b>4,118.00</b>	<b>2,317.59</b>	<b>16,249.93</b>

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Income and Expense Summary - Dedicated Accounts**  
**December 31, 2024**

Acct	Description	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expense	Ending Balance
<b>Other Dedicated Accounts</b>					
49	Church Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60	Memorials	12,255.31	7,220.00	1,914.50	17,560.81
61	Fall Festival	0.00	6,291.00	0.00	6,291.00
64	Donuts	0.00	2,666.01	2,308.23	357.78
65	Valley YES Fund	12,902.44	3,226.00	3,581.52	12,546.92
67	Funeral Gratuity	875.62	8,449.81	7,611.89	1,713.54
69	Hand Bell Choir	1,141.72	1,345.00	2,277.35	209.37
70	Men's Retreat	1,090.70	1,670.00	2,198.75	561.95
75	Adult Fellowship	520.57	4,920.00	4,418.69	1,021.88
78	Pastor Discretionary Fund	2,585.22	9,473.67	5,692.30	6,366.59
80	Wildflyer Coffee	214.83	0.00	0.00	214.83
83	Alternative Gift Catalog	0.00	1,107.00	0.00	1,107.00
84	Fridays in the Valley Admin	5,674.40	2,845.00	3,982.36	4,537.04
85	Endowment Funding	0.00	49,339.88	49,339.88	0.00
92	Unallocated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
94	Community Garden	453.35	2,293.00	199.98	2,546.37
99	Z Hoge Landscape Fund	1,085.14	0.00	191.35	893.79
100	Library Fund	246.34	0.00	150.00	96.34
102	Sunday Flowers	0.00	3,337.85	3,337.85	0.00
103	Organ Maintenance Fund	1,417.73	1,022.25	2,439.98	0.00
104	Transitional Staffing	0.00	84,474.24	10,357.50	74,116.74
105	Outside Sprinkler Fund	898.55	0.00	263.76	634.79
106	Sanctuary Piano Maint Fund	101.00	459.00	560.00	0.00
109	Children's Enrichment	2,355.63	2,909.75	4,540.65	724.73
112	Supportive Ministries Fund	263,709.61	22,631.77	31,504.44	254,836.94
113	Adult Mission Trips	34,182.58	0.00	0.00	34,182.58
115	Beacon	0.00	2,260.00	1,010.00	1,250.00
117	Building Contingency Fund	113,209.19	591,031.28	238,308.44	465,932.03
118	Land Acknowledgement	52.97	4,750.00	3,455.00	1,347.97
119	Immigration and Refugee	10,744.98	1,000.00	9,339.96	2,405.02
120	Presbytery Disaster Assistance	0.00	2,910.00	0.00	2,910.00
122	Boiler Fund	4,253.11	639.00	4,589.13	302.98
123	Roof Repair Fund	7,733.26	0.00	0.00	7,733.26
124	PRIDE	4,494.48	1,800.00	2,498.98	3,795.50
126	Fridays in the Valley Mission	577.00	9,999.77	10,576.77	0.00
130	Barbara Johnston Estate	0.00	540,555.78	540,555.78	0.00
131	Liberty Scholarship Fund	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER DEDICATED ACCT</b>		<b>482,775.73</b>	<b>1,375,627.06</b>	<b>947,205.04</b>	<b>911,197.75</b>
<b>TOTAL DEDICATED ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>516,507.89</b>	<b>1,450,143.35</b>	<b>1,010,505.14</b>	<b>956,146.10</b>

**Financial Secretary Report 2024**  
**Chelsie Larsen, Financial Secretary**

<b>General Envelope Pledges and Receipts</b>	<b>Pledges</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Over/ (Under)</b>
2024 General Envelopes	\$388,314	386,232	(2,082)
Less Prepaid 2024 pledges		(23,617)	
Plus Prepaid 2025 pledges		27,040	
Plus Contributions from Non Pledging Members		18,204	
Plus Contributions from Non Members		1,335	
Total General Envelope Receipts		\$ 409,194	

**2025 Pledge Commitments**

122 General Fund Pledges	\$ 367,131
Schon Estate 2025 Pledge	10,000
Endowment Stewardship Fund Contribution	14,000
	\$ 391,131

# Finance Committee Report 2024

## Denise Kara, Chair

Duties of the Finance Committee consist of:

- Overseeing the church's Operating and Dedicated Accounts.
- Meeting on a quarterly basis.
- Organizing the donation counting and deposits.
- Conducting the annual financial review (Book of Order).
- Reviewing risk management coverage periodically.
- Assisting the Stewardship Committee and other fundraising or financial activities as needed.

Highlights for 2024 include:

- Ending the year with a slight shortfall of \$5,553
- Disbursement of a large estate gift. See following page for details.
- Successful implementation of new giving management software (Breeze).
- Additional receipts:

○ Solar Panel tax refund	\$36,800
○ COVID tax credits	\$30,600
<hr/>	
○ TOTAL	\$67,400

A big thank you to our volunteers who collected, counted, and deposited the weekly offerings in 2024: Carolyn and Ray Anderson, Helen and Dave Dechaine, Peggy Meyer and Mary Ann Winter, Brad Pleimling, Greg and Mary Rom, and Sue and Jay Tracy. THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the members of our Finance Committee for their time and talent:

- Denise Kara, Chair
- Jim Payne
- Brad Pleimling
- Norm Chervany, Endowment Committee Representative
- Greg Rom, Treasurer
- Chelsie Larsen, Financial Secretary
- Rev. Jim Cochrane, *ex officio*



## Barbara Johnston's Estate Distribution (Approx. \$1,500,000 Donation to VCPC)

- \$100,000 – Racial Justice (Reparations)
  - \$50,000 - Liberty Community Church
  - \$50,000 - Makoce Ikikcupi (Indigenous Land Recovery Project)
- \$100,000 – Poverty, Children, Women, Housing, and Elder Justice. Each of the following receives \$10,000: PRISM, Liberty Community Church, Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, Crisis Nursery, Clare Terrace, Beacon - Emerson Village, Habitat for Humanity, Home Free, Meals on Wheels, The Father Project
- \$200,000 – Sustaining Stewardship Fund (Endowment)
  - Continue Barbara's annual commitment in perpetuity
- \$100,000 – Barbara Johnston Scholarship Fund (Endowment)
- \$100,000 – Supportive Ministry Fund
- \$135,000 – Eco-Justice: Solar Panel Fund
- \$100,000 – Disability Justice: Elevator Fund (ADA requirements)
- \$65,000 – Technology and Communication upgrades
- \$600,000 – Upgrades to sustain our physical building (breakdown in table below)
  - Invests in long-term upgrades needed to carry-out
  - Valley's vital community outreach and advocacy work

### Upgrades to Sustain our Physical Building

• 2023 (completed)	
✓ Exterior and interior painting	\$28,000
✓ Hallway/office abatement	\$24,000
✓ Hallway/office carpet	\$30,000
✓ Interior LED Lights	\$70,000
✓ Interior wayfinding signage in hallways	\$5,000
✓ Sump pump for office	\$7,000
• 2024 (completed)	
✓ Sanctuary floor abatement	\$27,000
✓ Sanctuary floor tile/carpet	\$45,000
✓ Sanctuary pews removed/replaced	\$14,000
✓ Sanctuary and cornerstone ceiling wood staining	\$60,000
• 2025 and beyond	
○ Peaked roof shingle repair and soffits (2025)	\$80,000
○ Fellowship hall floor replacement (summer 2025)	\$40,000
○ Parking lot resurfacing (2026-2027)	\$100,000
○ Building Maintenance Fund (2025 and beyond)	\$70,000
<b>TOTAL UPGRADES TO SUSTAIN OUR PHYSICAL BUILDING</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

# Stewardship Committee Report 2024

## Pat Daily, Chair

### **We Are Valley—100%**

This past year has been monumental for all of us at Valley. We had a change in pastoral leadership, we renovated our sanctuary, and we bonded together as a community of faith, and we couldn't have done it without the support of everyone in the Valley community. We celebrated that reality with “We Are Valley—100%” as the stewardship theme this year. We are connected to Valley and to each other in so many ways, including in-person worship, long time friendships with members, and watching online. We’re connected to you, and you to us. We’re in this together. We are Valley.

The theme also reflected a goal of the stewardship drive: to get closer to 100% participation in pledging. We thought it was important to clearly explain why we need pledges—not just donations—to keep all the parts of Valley running, so we created a new short video and [we hope you will take a minute to watch it](#). Many thanks to Endowment for the grant that made this possible.

As of this writing, we are at about 95% of our financial goal of \$412,000 in pledges (which includes income from the Valley Stewardship Fund and the Schon estate), and we have had 10 first time pledges, more than twice the number of new pledges as last year. We are Valley—getting closer to 100% pledging!

Thank you to everyone who pledged for 2025. We are so grateful for the generosity of our members and their dedication to Valley by providing their gifts of time, talent and treasures to ensure we can carry out our mission. Thank you also to the exceptional Stewardship Committee: Craig Gottschalk, Nancy Husnik, Mariah Messer, Andy Freeberg, and Rev. Jim Cochrane, *ex officio*.

Special thanks to our dear Lisa Kummer who had planned to continue participation in the “stew crew” and provided me with invaluable guidance before the year began. We miss you!

Pat Daily

Chair, Stewardship Committee

# Endowment Committee Report 2024

## Greg Van Heest, Chair

The Endowment committee continued to meet during 2024. We received grant requests from various sources and were able to award several significant grants within the framework of the Endowment formula.

Thanks to the generosity of Valley members, Endowment received a total of \$27,059 in gifts in 2024. This brings the total amount of gifts received since the fund was established in 1984 to \$1,157,266. On December 31, 2024, the Endowment net asset value was \$1,889,317.

During 2024, grants were made to community outreach efforts, for the enhancement and upkeep for VCPC property, and in support of Valley staff education, retreat events, and music programs. The 2024 grants totaled \$47,486 (see table II for a listing of these grants). This brings the total dollar value of grants provided by your Endowment since 1984 to \$661,863. In 2024 the Endowment Committee increased the percentage formula used for determining the maximum yearly grants to be paid from 4% of the average value of Endowment investments at the end of the most recent three-year period to 4.5% of the average value of Endowment investments at the end of the most recent three-year period. This change is effective for Endowment grants to be paid starting in 2025.

Thank you to all who have financially supported Valley's Endowment with gifts in 2024. All these gifts will leave a legacy. You have made the Endowment a vital part of our ministry at Valley and have assured that it will continue to support our Valley members and our outreach efforts for many years to come.

In 2024 a new fund was established within Endowment. The Lois and Gordon Robinson Future Scholars Fund was created to provide financial support for students from Liberty Community Church in North Minneapolis.

Gifts to the Endowment may be specified for any of the following funds, many of which have been set up in memory of a family member. Detailed descriptions of these can be found on the Valley web site. We are grateful to those who chose to remember their loved ones in this productive way. Where possible, the committee chair sends an annual letter to families who have created a fund to give them a detailed report of how their fund has performed and what grants were made possible due to the income from their fund. Unspecified gifts to Endowment will be allocated at 80% to the General Fund and 20% to the Mission Fund.

- General Fund
- Mission Fund
- Peteler/Van Beek Music Fund
- Ed Beck Evangelism Fund
- Coffin Family Bell Choir Fund
- Donna L. and Floyd A. Carlson Educational Fund
- Rice Child Development Fund
- The Barbara J. Johnston Scholarship for The Theological Education of Women
- Elizabeth V. Hnatko Hicks Congregational Life Fund
- The Isabels Building and Maintenance Fund: Isabel Snyder Rice & Isabel Leaf

- Wendell & Marcella and Dean Gilkerson Pipe Organ Maintenance Fund
- JacLyn Swanson Monroe Sicora Bodette Children's Ministry Fund
- Van Beek/Peteler VCPC and Community Military Personnel Family Assistance Fund
- Zorada Hoge Landscaping Fund
- Zorada Hoge Pastoral Care Fund
- Karla Parks Clearwater Scholarship Fund
- Pete Peterson Youth Mission Fund
- Helen Potter Webb Technology and Communication Fund
- Allyson Graphenteen Youth Scholarship Fund
- Valley Family Stewardship Fund
- Do Justice Fund
- Martens' Noble Vision Fund
- Martens' Addison TEAMS Fund
- Lois and Gordon Robinson Future Scholars Fund

Members of the 2024 Endowment Committee are:

Greg Van Heest, Chair  
 Juliana Vogel  
 Norm Chervany, Secretary  
 Rick Martens  
 Todd Decker  
 Greg Rom, Treasurer, *ex officio*  
 Denise Kara, Finance Chair  
 Jim Cochrane, Pastor, *ex officio*

I thank these committee members for their important work and devotion this past year.

We welcome requests for grants. Copies of the contribution guidelines are available on the Valley website. Please contact any member of the committee if you have questions regarding gifts or grants, or if you are interested in including the VCPC Endowment in your will.

Greg Van Heest, Chair

**TABLE I Gifts Received, Grants Made and Current Value of Funds**

<b>Name of Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Beginning Year Fund Value 2024</b>	<b>Gifts Received in 2024</b>	<b>Grants Made in 2024</b>	<b>Gifts since Inception (1984) - current Year 2024</b>	<b>Ending Year Fund Value 2024</b>
General Fund	\$424,631	\$6,227	\$14,275	\$208,895	\$458,318
Mission Fund	\$63,256	\$1,557	\$2,132	\$36,719	\$68,822
Peteler/Van Beek Music Fund	\$31,538	\$0	\$0	\$13,644	\$34,656
Ed and Joyce Beck Evangelism Fund	\$18,951	\$0	\$639	\$8,797	\$20,199
Coffin Family Bell Choir Fund	\$36,951	\$0	\$1,245	\$13,230	\$39,310
The Isabels Building and Maintenance Fund: Isabel Snyder Rice and Isabel Leaf	\$193,900	\$0	\$792	\$114,750	\$212,293
Donna L. and Floyd A. Carlson Educational Fund	\$50,845	\$0	\$1,714	\$21,395	\$54,152
Rice Child Development Fund	\$74,321	\$0	\$2,505	\$33,597	\$79,203
The Barbara J Johnston Scholarship for Theological Education of Women Fund	\$128,329	\$0	\$1,644	\$110,030	\$139,373
Elizabeth V. Hnatko Hicks Congregational Life Fund	\$78,753	\$320	\$2,654	\$47,283	\$84,113
Wendell & Marcella and Dean Gilkerson Pipe Organ Maintenance Fund	\$26,607	\$1,115	\$432	\$15,010	\$29,897
JacLyn Swanson Monroe Sicora Bodette Children's Ministry Fund	\$44,075	\$0	\$1,485	\$20,970	\$46,884
Van Beek/Peteler VCPC and Community Military Personnel Family Assistance Fund	\$21,305	\$0	\$718	\$10,020	\$22,650
Zorada Hoge Pastoral Care Fund	\$33,858	\$50	\$1,141	\$20,360	\$36,064
Zorada Hoge Landscaping Fund	\$33,837	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$37,189
Karla Parks Clearwater Scholarship Fund	\$32,392	\$1,000	\$1,092	\$25,459	\$35,519
Pete Peterson Youth Mission Fund	\$20,695	\$0	\$697	\$16,492	\$22,034
Helen Potter Webb Technology and Communication Fund	\$9,062	\$0	\$305	\$7,347	\$9,637
Allyson Graphenteen Youth Scholarship Fund	\$13,828	\$0	\$466	\$11,258	\$14,704
Valley Family Stewardship Fund	\$331,804	\$1,760	\$11,183	\$316,980	\$354,705
Do Justice Fund	\$10,226	\$0	\$345	\$10,000	\$10,879
Martens' Noble Vision Fund	\$50,000	\$0	\$1,685	\$50,000	\$53,261
Martens' Addison TEAMS Fund	\$10,000	\$0	\$337	\$10,000	\$10,648
Lois and Gordon Robinson Future Scholars Fund	\$0	\$15,030	\$0	\$15,030	\$14,807
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,739,164</b>	<b>\$27,059</b>	<b>\$47,486</b>	<b>\$1,157,266</b>	<b>\$1,889,317</b>

## Table II List of 2024 Grants

### Grants Made to Community Outreach

Clearwater Forest Capital Improvements	\$1,800
Golden Valley Pride Festival	\$1,800
Noble School	\$1,685
Bridging	\$1,050
Haha Wakpadan Signage	\$1,000
Liberty Church Scholar Tuition	\$1,000
Empty Bowls	\$800
Land Acknowledgment Task Force Events	\$650
Clare Terrace Amenities Kits	\$500
Clare Terrace Crafting Activity	\$500
Indigenous Photography	\$500
Liberty Church Summer Program	\$500
MN Interfaith Power and Light	\$500
PRISM School Supplies	\$500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,785</b>

### Grants Made to Valley Church Ministry

Valley Stewardship	\$11,183
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$3,141
Stewardship Video	\$2,000
Respectful Conversation Hosting	\$1,953
Sheldon/Messer Education Grants	\$1,644
Donuts for Sunday Fellowship	\$1,500
VCPC Bell Choir	\$1,245
VCPC Youth Summer Programs	\$1,000
Youth Mission Trip Scholarships	\$800
TEAMS Group Field Trips and New Logo	\$750
Clearwater Men's Retreat Scholarships	\$700
Clearwater Summer Camp Scholarships	\$600
VCPC Christmas Dinner	\$588
Winter Chrysalis Scholarships	\$375
Indigenous Peoples' Sunday Food	\$162
Sheldon Commissioning Gift	\$98
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$27,739</b>

### Grants Made to Valley Church Projects

Land Acknowledgment Logo Banner	\$2,700
Jim Cochrane Laptop Computer	\$1,251
Poinsettia Tree Frame	\$900
Bounce House & Gaga Ball Pit	\$887
New Floor Scrubber/Polisher	\$792
Pipe Organ Tuning	\$432
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,962</b>

**GRAND TOTAL:                   \$47,486**

**Table III - Value of Endowment Investments at 12/31/2024**

<b>Cash On Hand Citizens Bank</b>	\$60,239
<b>Securities:</b>	
United States Treasury Bill	\$144,035
Parnassus Fixed Income Fund	\$311,220
Parnassus Core Equity Fund	\$409,096
Parnassus Mid Cap Growth Fund	\$288,830
Parnassus Mid Cap Fund	\$273,831
Pax World Small Cap Fund	\$208,390
Trillium Global Equity Fund	\$193,676
<b>Total of Endowment Investments at Year End</b>	<b>\$1,889,317</b>

# Educational Ministries Committee 2024

## Carolyn Anderson, Katie Decker, Mariah Messer, Co-Chairs

### Educational Ministries Team

The Educational Ministries leadership team consisted of elders **Mariah Messer, Katie Decker,** and **Carolyn Anderson**. Staff supporting the team are Sheila Sheldon, Educational Ministries Director and Mariah Messer, Program/Communications Coordinator.

### Adult Education

- We held eight classes in the spring and nine classes in the fall, all offered in-person and most online.
- An average of 20 people attended in person.
- Topics included Internet Culture and Disinformation, Affordable Housing, Home Free and Missions, Inc., Understanding Poverty, Indigenous People's Sunday, and the Climate Crisis and How We Eat.
- We continue to be grateful to our community partners, Valley members, and staff who help create meaningful conversations for us at these events.

### Friendship Group

- Resumed meeting monthly in the fall
- **2-3** Friendship Group members attended each meeting
- **5** church members volunteer regularly on a rotating schedule to lead the group
- **Rev. Jim and Diane Cook** continue to celebrate birthdays with our friends and send a special gift and message to them on their big day.

### Faith Formation and Family Ministries

- Family emails were sent on a bi-weekly or as-needed basis.
- During the *Time with Young Worshipers* on Sunday mornings Sheila and other special guests provided meaningful lessons for children of all ages within the service.
- James Decker led Faith Formation in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings from January through December 1, 2024. We were excited to integrate Illustrated Ministries' Invitation to Play curriculum lessons into our Sunday morning Faith Formation classes! These lessons focused on experiential learning allow young people to explore and relate to Bible stories in a new way. An average of 15 kids are in the Sunshine Room each week.
- On November 17, 2024, James Decker let staff know that December 1 would be her last Sunday in the Sunshine Room and Natalie Peña-Gallegos was hired as the Sunshine Room teacher.
- VBC 2024 was held in-person June 11-14 and followed the Illustrated Ministries *Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs* curriculum.
  - Highlights: singing accompanied by Rachel Williams and Missy Rudeen, an educational on-site field trip focused on animals and sustainability with a presentation by Sustainable Safari, game time with Pastor Jim, Mindful Movement with Samantha Schellhaas, group reading of Bible stories and discussion led by Sheila, crafts (group and individual)



- 20 kids signed up and attended
- Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer planned and led the camp, Rachel Williams led the music time at the beginning of each day
- Adult volunteers: Karen Harms, Kelsie Hagelin, Samantha Schellhaas, Jackie Goiffon, Kate O'Brien Soltau, Susie Potter, Missy Rudeen, Ann Roach, Sara Perry, Carolyn Anderson, Rachel Hole
- Youth Volunteer: Connor Gottschalk & Samuel Sheldon
- 2024 Christmas Pageant was held during worship on Sunday, December 8th. Rehearsal was held on Saturday, December 7th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. In total, 28 kids and youth participated in the pageant.
- During Advent, 5 Valley families volunteered to light the Advent candles throughout the Advent season.
- Approximately 20 youth and kids volunteered to speak and assist during the two Christmas Eve services.

## **TEAMS**

In 2024 the TEAMS program for youth in fourth and fifth grade continued under the leadership of Hunter Sheldon, Jessica Goslinga, and Charlie Rudeen. Through special projects using a STEM model they explored solving problems and completing projects as a team. They also explored their faith together through spirituality conversations that focused on current events paired with stories and scripture from the Bible. Working together and building relationships while having fun is the foundation of TEAMS. Creating a space that allows them to ask questions about faith and the world around them continues to help grow strong faithful youth who are committed to the mission of Valley.

- TEAMS program had 6 registered youth and welcomed 3 visitors.
- Projects included: candy machines, air-powered vehicles, baking cookies and cooking dumplings, slime making, marble runs, and more!
- TEAMS families also decorated cars and participated in Trunk or Treat for PRISM.

## **Youth**

Youth in grades 6 -12 met on Sundays at Valley from 4-6 PM. They engaged in bible study and faith discussions, team building opportunities and fellowship. Youth Group members participated in a Youth Mission Week on June 24, 25, 27, and 28. They volunteered at organizations in the Twin Cities such as Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery and Second Harvest Heartland. They also completed various projects around Valley. They also got to have an overnight lock-in following a fun day at the Mall of America!

Youth Highlights from 2024:

- Annual Cookie sale in February raised almost \$2,200 to help fund the TEAMS and youth group activities and projects.
- Youth helped with the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Youth stuffed and hid over 2,000 eggs and welcomed over 75 kids at the event.
- 12 youth volunteered as servers at the 21st Annual Youth Education Scholarship Tea.
- Hosted Trunk or Treat for PRISM and collected over 300 pounds of food and had 50+ kids participate.

- Held the 3rd annual Friendsgiving dinner for Youth families and shared in a wonderful meal with 16 families.
- Closed out the year with a fun Christmas Party, playing games and sharing in fellowship.

We want to thank our adult youth leaders; **Andrew Pitan, Charlie & Missy Rudeen, Craig and Melissa Gottschalk, Jill Toering, Jennifer Malecha, Katie Decker, Jessica Goslinga** and **Hunter Sheldon**, staff, parents, and the youth for their dedication to nurturing our connections this year! We look forward to 2025 and the wonderful things to come from this great group of young people.

# Youth Education Scholarship (YES) Committee Report 2024

## Sheila Sheldon, Chair

The twenty second annual Valley Youth Education Scholarship (Valley YES) tea was held at Valley on Saturday, April 27, 2024. A wonderful group of folks hosted 113 guests across 15 tables. Our amazing catering crew Valerie and Scott Robinson and friends made all the sandwiches and freshly baked scones while 14 of our Valley Youth volunteered as servers.

The committee has awarded **67 scholarships totaling \$45,000** to Valley high school graduates since the committee's inception.

The YES committee is grateful to everyone who supported the scholarship tea and is looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2025. Kitchen Crew: Valerie and Scott Robinson, Mary and Larry Dunham, Susie Potter, Rachel Hole, Katie and James Decker and Mariah Messer.

### Valley YES (account 65) Financial Report

<b>Beginning of the Year Balance:</b>	<b>\$12, 902.44</b>
<b><u>Scholarship Tea</u></b>	
<b>Tea Ticket Sales</b>	<b>+\$3,226</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$16,128.44</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>-\$1,331.52</b>
<b><u>2023 Scholarships</u></b>	
<b>Scholarship given to Alex Malecha</b>	<b>-750.00</b>
<b>Scholarship given to Roy Michael</b>	<b>-750.00</b>
<b>Scholarship given to Benjamin Sheldon</b>	<b>-750.00</b>
<b>Year-end 2024 Balance</b>	<b>\$12,546.92</b>

## Church Growth Committee Report 2024 Susie Potter & Jay Tracy, Co-Chairs

The Church Growth philosophy at Valley states that successful growth is a function of all aspects of the church. Church Growth strives to help Valley create and maintain a vibrant, welcoming and inviting church, opening our doors to members and visitors every day. New members have frequently mentioned how welcoming Valley members were when they first visited.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is a community of folks who explore and embrace life's great questions. We enjoy seeing our building used for a variety of community meetings and events.

The Growth Team continues the work of attracting visitors and new members to Valley. New growth depends on **all of us** being ambassadors of God's love and sharing the Valley Vibe. We welcome **ALL** to join us in worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, service to others, and we embrace diversity with open hearts and open minds.

Growth Team 2024 activities:

- Formed a Visitor Alert Team of 10 members to watch for and welcome Sunday visitors. We encourage all members, however, to welcome visitors.
- Along with Mission Possible, we hosted a booth at the 2023 Golden Valley Pride Fest in June.
- **Thank You Valley Stream Team** for continuing to make the YouTube live-stream services so seamless. These live-stream services have attracted many folks and keep us connected. In the past, new members have joined after participating in the YouTube services!

Thank you, Valley family, for being such a vibrant community that responds willingly to the needs of our members and the communities where we live. In 2024 we look forward to new opportunities to grow and reach out to our neighbors.

# Mission Possible: Peace & Justice Committee Report 2024

## Craig Gottschalk & Sarah Fadell, Co-Chairs

This committee is blessed to have thoughtful and committed members and a number of willing helpers who come when called: Arlene Freeberg, Jan Sacco, Lotti Matkovits, Jennifer Biggs, Nancy Husnik, Andrew Pitan, Mark Freeman, Carolyn Anderson, Craig Gottschalk (co-chair), and Sarah Fadell (co-chair). We are extremely grateful to the members who give so generously of their time and talent to the projects listed below and encourage anyone who would like to be involved in helping to please call the person listed after the report to find out more about what they can do. There are opportunities for any level of involvement!

Due to generous giving throughout the year, Valley was also able to provide several of our community partners with year-end gifts that will no doubt set them up for a successful start to 2025. Thank you for all of the ways you all contribute to these incredible organizations!

Below is a summary of some of the many activities in which we have been involved during 2024.

Alternative Gift Catalog: The Alternative Gift option continues to be one of the programs that interests members as a way to give a gift to a special person that will enjoy a donation to a charity that is close to their heart. In 2024, \$1047 was donated to various agencies that Valley supports. (Arlene Freeberg)

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative: With the opening of the new Emerson Village housing facility, VCPC reached out to Beacon to participate in fulfilling new resident needs. Valley elected to provide cleaning supply kits and did a collection drive for the materials. Emerson Village is a beautiful building for 40 low-income families. The playground is especially well designed for kids and local artists designed a beautiful mural. (Carolyn Anderson)

Bridging: On November 16 we built 12 dressers. We built the 10 dressers we purchased plus 2 dressers that were purchased by another group who didn't finish them. We were able to purchase the dressers with help from an endowment grant of \$1050 to go with what we had budgeted for the year. We had 10 volunteers help in building dressers with Bridging. (Andrew Pitan)

Clare Terrace: With a new coordinator in place from VCPC and several new Clare Housing personnel involved in coordination, engagement with Clare Terrace was consistent and fulfilling in 2024.

As has been a longstanding tradition, Valentine's treats were delivered in February, and Holiday cards containing a \$15.00 Hy-Vee gift card were delivered in mid-December.

Two meal and activity events were held at Clare Terrace this year, with fantastic groups of volunteers and residents sharing wonderful meals and art! On May 18, VCPC volunteers served a grill-out/picnic meal with burgers, hot dogs, vegan options, and sides. Volunteers and residents worked on decorating clay pots with paint, ribbon, rope, and other creative materials before potting a variety of indoor plants to enjoy in their homes. On October 12, VCPC volunteers served a pasta meal with lasagna, vegan risotto, and sides. Volunteers and residents used acrylic paints to add spooky features to thrifted paintings in preparation for Halloween decorating.

Jan Sacco faithfully continues to put together “Welcome Baskets” for new residents. Three were needed this year to welcome new move-ins and items for the baskets were supported by the auction at the Fall Festival.

We were also very pleased to invite representatives from Clare Housing to present “HIV and Homelessness 101” at Adult Ed on October 6. Many attended and participated in thoughtful conversation. (Sarah Fadell)

Clearwater Forest: 2024 was a year of looking back, growth, and future planning at Clearwater Forest. Camp celebrated the 100th birthday of Eagle Lodge with a visit by several of the Savage family whose ancestors built the building. Valley members spent time at camp at the Valley men’s retreat, Chrysalis summer and winter women’s camps, youth summer camps and youth retreats. Erin Anderson, director at Clearwater, shared in monthly newsletters successes in fundraising (including grants from Valley’s Endowment) and exciting plans to restart the drive to replace Osprey with a new, more useful building. Watch for news about this. In 2025 there will be a Couples Retreat; Seeds of Service weekend; a Ministry Leadership Retreat; Men’s Bible, BBQ & Brew Retreat; and winter and summer Chrysalis women’s retreats. The 2025 summer youth camps are open for registration. Make this the year you take advantage of this incredible resource. (Pat Daily)

Earth Care Congregation Task Force: The Earth Care Congregation application was approved in 2022. With task force members and staff supporting increased levels of activity throughout the church programs, Valley continues to make progress in protecting our earth through education and action. Youth participated in earth care education and service projects throughout the year. A highlight for many in the congregation is the imaginative and informative children’s sermons given by Julie Westerlund that focus on earth care. Also, the adult ed planning committee presented several programs on the topic of sustainability with the expert guidance of Carolyn Anderson. All of these and many other efforts contribute to our continued recertification as and Earth Care Congregation.

After several years of dedicated service by Janet Triplett, Julie Westerlund, Andrew Gillett, and Carolyn Anderson, it was decided in 2024 to dissolve the Task Force itself and distribute responsibilities of maintaining Earth Care activities to applicable committees to continue to maintain our certification. This was well-received by Session leaders, who are sincerely and deeply grateful to Janet, Julie, Andrew, and Carolyn for the immense work put into setting up VCPC for continued success as and Earth Care Congregation.

Every Meal is a local nonprofit that delivers weekly supplemental food to District 281’s students. Each bag of food includes about 5 pounds of food. At the request of Noble’s Principal and staff, Every Meal continues to support Noble students this school year, serving about 20 students. As partners with Noble, we organize and hand out bags at Noble and provide financial support. In mid-2024, Virginia Day thoughtfully and thoroughly turned over her duties of bag distribution and faith partners coordination to Nancy Philips so VCPC could continue to serve students throughout the 2024-2025 school year. We are incredibly grateful for the many years of dedicated service that Virginia provided to Noble School students through Every Meal and look forward to supporting Nancy in her volunteer efforts.

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery: Valley Church is a long-time supporter of GMCN in South Minneapolis. GMCN provides 24/7 support to parents who request parenting help during a crisis. Childcare, housing and meals are provided for children, ages newborn to 6 years old, up to 3 days/nights. Parents are offered guidance and counseling. Volunteers assist the Nursery with childcare, meal preparation/serving, educational opportunities and outreach. In 2024, Valley actively and generously supported the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (GMCN). Valley hosted a well-attended table at GMCN's Formula for Hope event, contributed to the Cook for Kids program, collected generous donations at Music in the Valley night and donated a wealth of supplies in a large basket, bid on at Valley's Fall Festival. (Nancy Husnik)

Habitat for Humanity: On Monday January 15, volunteers from VCPC helped work on the inside of a new house on Douglas Drive N in Golden Valley. They helped paint, filled in nail holes, caulked cracks, worked on making custom pieces for the walls by the steps, helped a little in the kitchen, along with a couple other small tasks. 11 VCPC volunteers as well as Tony Beckstrom from Habitat and two non-Valley members volunteered. (Andrew Pitan)

Immigration Task Force: Since November 2021, a team of Valley volunteers have supported the Karwan family in their journey to find safety in the US, and their journey has become a journey for many of us as well. We have continued to navigate healthcare, social services, and legal hurdles.

The family is most grateful to Valley for their support, both emotionally and financially. We continue to encourage them to participate in Early Childhood Education and other activities to assist in their adjustment to American life.

Milestones in 2024:

- The Karwans were able to move into a larger home, allowing more space as their family grew.
- The Karwans' three-year-old underwent a successful heart surgery, to the great relief and joy of the entire family and their VCPC friends.
- The Karwans worked through the purchase of a new vehicle.
- Silab has been independently working through various issues with dental work and employment, relying less and less on VCPC partners.

Each time we feel frustration; we are reminded of the enormous difficulties that this family must face every single day and the sacrifices they and their family made in service to the USA in Afghanistan. As we travel this journey with the family, we are reminded that we have had the privilege to take many steps of their journey with them. We will continue to do this while encouraging their independence. (Arlene Freeberg)

Meals on Wheels: Meals on Wheels continues to be an important community mission for our church, meeting the needs of the elderly and homebound by providing nutritious meals and human contact. There has been an increase in awareness of these needs recently with public service ads on television. This is a national program, and thousands of people benefit every day. 2024 was a busy year. VCPC delivers meals twice a month. Gail Smith organizes the third Thursday of the month with a quota of 6 routes, and Marge Thurston has the fourth Thursday with a quota of 5 routes. In total, we have a pool of 22 drivers to fill our quotas.

Noble School: Valley is well represented at Noble Elementary. There are volunteers to help students with math and reading and volunteers to help teachers with prepping for future lessons, organizing and copying. Volunteers can also be found in the office helping the staff. Valley has provided leggings, mittens, and blankets in the nurse's office to help the kids in need. There remains much to be done. More volunteers would be welcomed.

PRISM: (charter member since 1970): Valley volunteers participated in weekly support and delivery of donations, including food items and items for the Shop for Change thrift shop. In March, Pack the Pews was a major effort for food donations. Then in May, Valley once again reserved several tables and supported Taste of the 'Burbs with significant attendance to celebrate Pat Daily receiving the "Light of PRISM Award" for her commitment to volunteerism with PRISM. The school supply drive continued in 2024, and Valley donated many backpacks and other school-related supplies. Endowment provided \$1400 allowing Valley to purchase 40 boxes of food at Thanksgiving (20) and Christmas (20) from Fare for All, the retail arm of The Food Group. This food was picked up and delivered to PRISM by Valley volunteers for distribution during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. The PRISM Toy Shoppe returned once again to Valley, helping parents select toys and gifts for their children to unwrap on Christmas morning. Valley members donated toys that amounted to several thousand dollars in toys, and over 20 Valley members volunteered to help out at the event, which served 896 children from 330 families. What a wonderful year of giving and generosity to our neighborhood partner, PRISM!  
(Sarah Fadell)



## Land Acknowledgement Task Force 2024

### Crystal Boyd

- In January, the Task Force facilitated a \$50,000 donation from the Barbara Johnston estate to Makoce Ikikcupi, a Dakota-led land recovery organization.
- In February, the Task Force began working with textile artist Summer Sky Cohen (Anishinaabe). She created a beautiful land acknowledgement banner that is now displayed in the church lobby.
- In February, Hennepin History Museum received a grant of \$36,725 to support partnerships surrounding the creek and special events, including the Ĥăĥă Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing and Ĥăĥă Wakpádaŋ 5K (see more information below).
- Painter Wóokiye wiŋ (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota and Ojibwe) created a land acknowledgement logo for Valley and presented about her work during Adult Education on 5/5/24.
- The Task Force attended an artist reception at the Two Rivers Galley in the Minneapolis American Indian Center on 5/31/24, where the pronunciation video for Ĥăĥă Wakpádaŋ (Bassett Creek) was featured in an exhibit. We celebrated with videographer Tiana LaPointe (Sicangu Lakota) and her family.
- In June and July, Valley member Margie Deutsch with the Minnesota Genealogical Society provided guidance about how to conduct research on the creek's namesake, Joel Bassett.
- Supported a clean-up day on 7/13/24 at James I. Rice Park in Minneapolis, where Ĥăĥă Wakpádaŋ connects with the Mississippi River.
- With Hennepin History Museum and other partners, secured a \$5,000 grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to host Indigenous plant walks with Tara Perron (Dakota) on 9/15/24 and 10/5/24. More walks will be hosted in 2025.
- Celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Sunday during worship on 10/13/24, including revealing the land acknowledgement banner with artist Summer Sky Cohen (Anishinaabe) and offering special music with Jim Rock (Dakota). Also worked with photographer Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota) to honor this important day.
- Hosted the Second Annual Ĥăĥă Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing on 10/14/24 at Bassett Creek Park in Crystal. The event featured many Indigenous partners, including author Diane Wilson (Dakota), educator Tara Perron (Dakota), and photographer Tj Turner (White Earth Band of Ojibwe). We also presented a baby star quilt by textile artist Eileen O'Keefe (Dakota) in honor of one of the narrators who passed away, Debbi Kinaka Williams (Anishinaabe). The event received coverage from

[KARE11](#), [MPR](#), [SunPost](#), [CCX](#), [WCCO](#), [WCCO live](#), and [KSTP](#). More than 120 people attended.

- Collaborated with The Loppet Foundation to host the first [Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ](#) 5K run/walk on 10/19/24. The 5K is part of a redesigned Loopet Loppet event that centers Indigenous peoples and cultures. More than 900 people attended.
- Hosted Doe Hoyer from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery during Adult Education on 11/3/24.
- Organized a Ho-Chunk history presentation on 11/14/24 with author Cathy Coats and radio host Robert Pilot (Ho-Chunk) at Theodore Wirth Park. This event (along with other work) was supported by a \$1,000 grant from the Golden Valley Community Foundation to Hennepin History Museum for its collaboration with Valley and many other community partners. More than 60 people attended.
- Crystal Boyd presented on land acknowledgement and the oral histories in many venues, including: Association of Midwest Museums, Oral History Association, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Presbyterian Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums.
- In honor of the [Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek Oral History Project](#), Valley was awarded the **2024 Minnesota History Award for Museum Collections** from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM)! The project was also featured in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of [The Oral History Manual](#) by Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan.

## Mission Giving Report 2024

Mission Possible Budgeted Giving	Amounts	Total	
1.) Unified Giving to PCUSA (account 967)	<b>9,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	17% General Assembly, 17% Synod, and 66% to Presbytery
2.) Mission Giving (account 966)			
<u>Youth</u>			
Noble Vision (Every Meal)	250		
	<b>Youth 250</b>		
<u>Housing</u>			
Bridging	500		
Habitat for Humanity	400		
Clare Terrace	300		
	<b>Housing 1,200</b>		
<u>Domestic Aid</u>			
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery	500		
Liberty Community Church	500		
Home Free	500		
	<b>Domestic Aid 1,500</b>		
<u>In-House</u>			
Presbyterian Clearwater Forest	500		
	<b>In-House 500</b>		
<u>International</u>			
PC(USA) World Mission	1,000		
Rev. John McCall - PC(USA) Taiwan Mission	1,000		
	<b>International 2,000</b>		
	<b>Mission Giving 5,450</b>		
3.) Loose Offering (account 965)	<b>1,457</b>	<b>1,457</b>	
<b>Total Budgeted Mission Possible Giving</b>		<b>15,907</b>	

Special Offerings	Amounts	Total	Offering Given to:
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,991		PC(USA)
Pentecost	756		Every Meal
Easter	1,210		Crisis Nursery
Thanksgiving	820		Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Christmas	1,553		PRISM 50%   Every Meal 50%
Christmas Joy	1,125		PC(USA) World Mission
Maundy Thursday	30		PC(USA)
Ash Wednesday	540		The FATHER Project
Peace and Global Witness	910		Home Free
<b>Total Special Offering Giving</b>		<b>9,935</b>	

<b>Other Mission Giving</b>	<b>Amounts</b>	<b>Total</b>
Crisis Nursery	4,152	
Bridging	1,550	
Home Free	2,606	
PRISM	20,733	
Empty Bowls	1,331	
Meals on Wheels	785	
Noble Vision (Every Meal)	1,621	
Clearwater Forest	4,035	
Fridays in the Valley	10,577	
Presbytery Disaster Assistance	2,910	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	5,692	
Clare Housing	2,574	
Immigration Refugee	9,340	
The FATHER Project	1,183	
Beacon	1,010	
PRIDE	2,499	
*Alternative Gifts*	1,107	
	<b>73,705</b>	

**Total Other Mission Giving 73,705**

**Youth Mission Support**

Fundraisers	543
-------------	-----

**Total Youth Mission Support 543**

**Endowment Giving to Mission Projects**

Endowment report for complete list of grants	47,486
--	--------

**TOTAL ENDOWMENT MISSION GIVING 47,486**

**ALL MISSION GIVING \$: 147,576**

**Item Donations**

Non-Cash PRISM: Food & Clothing	1,020
PRISM Christmas Shop donations	8,800

**TOTAL ESTIMATED DONATIONS 9,820**

**TOTAL MISSION + DONATIONS \$: 157,396**

**\*Alternative Gifts by Agency\***

Bridging	24
Clare Terrace	70
Crisis Nursery	143
Habitat for Humanity	45
Heifer International	30
Home Free	85
Every Meal	20
Liberty Presbyterian	205
Interfaith Power & Light	25
Pastor's Discretionary	150
Clearwater Forest	15
Presbyterian Disaster	80
PRISM	155
<b>Total Alternative Gifts</b>	<b>1,047</b>

## Worship & Music Committee Report 2024

### Jan Fedora, Chair

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is grateful for all the leadership, commitment, energy, and compassion which guides us and sustains us on our faith journey. Sermons by Rev. Jim Cochrane and Sheila Sheldon, CRE, have been extremely valuable in worship and all aspects of Valley life! Thank you for leading us through this transitional time! We are grateful for our entire staff who put in many hours to keep Valley alive!!

We were blessed to have wonderful Parish Associates (Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau, Rev. David Phillips, Rev. Nancy Phillips, Rev. Rebecca Tollefson, and Rev. Aron Wilterding). We give thanks for all their leadership and caring attitude for our congregation. Thank you for your outstanding service!

Our wonderful and talented Stream Team (Myron Jones, Brandon Novy, Roger Graphenteen, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Janet Triplett, Katie Decker, and Kurt Wheeler) has enabled Valley to bring Sunday morning church services and other special services to members, non-members, and visitors. We are grateful for their commitment, time, and energy in bringing us together as a church! Thank you, Stream Team!!

The ushers and greeters added to the spirit of welcoming and inclusiveness at Valley. A smile, a handshake, and a word of gratitude contributed to the feeling of community! Thank you to all who participated in these important roles at Valley!!

The Sacrament of Baptism has been important to Valley! It has brought us closer together as a community of worshippers and has given us all a connection with those little ones! We walk with them in their faith journey! Likewise, when the Lord's Supper (Communion) is celebrated, the Church bears witness to Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and proclaims the mystery of faith.

Thank you to Greg and Mary Rom for preparing communion for Sunday services and other special holidays. Also, we are grateful for communion servers, Sunday morning openers and Fridays in the Valley openers who have added to the organization of these events.

There have been many memorial services which have been extremely powerful in valuing the lives of our wonderful Valley members and we are grateful for all they have done in their years of commitment to our church family! Thank you to our staff for their thoughtful and caring attitude towards these families. Your sincerity and emotional support have been extremely important!

Music has been and always will be a large part of our faith community! The talents of our musicians have gifted us with their special abilities to bring us the Word of God. Thank you to the vocal choir, handbell choir, instrumentalists, special musicians, soloists, organ and piano players, harp player, Fridays in the Valley concerts, and our wonderful music staff, Rachel Williams, and Janet Carlson. Thank you!

Advent came with anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. Valley was beautifully decorated with the hanging of the greens, Poinsettia Tree, Memory Tree, Julie Tree, beautiful

banners and tapestries, Nativity scenes, Advent wreath candles, chancel flowers and, of course, the Children's Pageant! Music of all kinds added to our wonderful services each week. The sermons guided us and illuminated our faith and love that we received during this special time of the year.

Easter and Christmas services were wonderful and attended by many members and their families along with non-members and visitors to our church. The beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service has added to the glory of the coming of the Christ child. Thank you to everyone for your participation in these special services!

Thank you to ALL who volunteered this year in Worship and Music. Your talents and commitment made this year a wonderful and memorable time at Valley!

## Fellowship Committee Report 2024 Rachel Hole and Mary Dunham, Co-Chairs

Fellowship Committee Members: Ray Anderson, Margie Deutsch, Larry Dunham, Arlene Freeberg, Susie Potter, Karen Ripley, Val Robinson, Margaret Sandberg, Samantha Schellhaas, and Sue Tracy.

Fellowship Committee met a limited number of times during 2024 to plan various events at Valley. These included:

- **February 11, 2024**  
Annual meeting – Meat and cheese trays, along with vegetables were served in the Narthex while the annual meeting was held. This allowed members to stay involved with the meeting while having a light snack. Coffee and Lemonade were also served.
  
- **March 20, 2024**  
Served Lenten Meal
  
- **June 2, 2024**  
Annual Church Picnic
  
- **June 16, 2024**  
MN Twins game
  
- **September 27-29, 2024**  
Men's Retreat at Clearwater Forest
  
- **October 26, 2024**  
Fall Festival – The Fellowship Team asked everyone “What’s the Deal” at this year’s Fall Festival. The event was free to enter and then required tickets to buy Carnival inspired food (sloppy joes, hot dogs, chips, vegetables, ice cream bars, etc) and for children to participate in activities (face painting, cake walk, etc). Five-dollar tickets were also available for purchase to be entered into a chance to be a participant in the “What’s the Deal” games. Prizes were won by the contestants and winners of the extra prizes were drawn from the raffle. We had a fantastic turn-out and are excited about future Festivals. We are happy to report that the funds raised from the Festival (approximately \$5,650) was divided between Liberty Church, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, and Church projects/needs.

- **December 8, 2024**

We enjoyed a catered meal of a Field Greens, Berry, and Feta Salad; Holiday Baked Ham with Pineapple Sauce; Oven Roasted Chicken Breast with Garlic Parmesan Sauce; Scalloped Potatoes; Roasted Root Vegetables; and Assorted Christmas Cookies for dessert. We also had a vegetarian option of Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce. A kid's menu option of Chicken Strips, Mac & cheese, and vegetables was also available. We were treated to beautiful Holiday music provided by Sue Ruby. Thanks to the Endowment Committee, we were able to subsidize the cost of the meal.

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with coffee hour during the past year. New folks are always welcome to help with a shift. Please talk to anyone on the Fellowship Committee if you'd like to help. The Breeze system has been a great help in organizing and reminding people of their upcoming volunteer opportunities. Thank you also to everyone who helped in many other ways during the year. Your help made Valley's Fellowship events fun & successful.

Several other groups at Valley that participated in fellowship opportunities during the year include but are not limited to:

Bible Study small group sessions	Men of Valley Retreat
Brew Crew	Y.E.S. Scholarship Tea

We would like to personally thank the Fellowship Committee members who made this year's events fun & who have been a joy to work with. Thank you all!



# Property Committee Report 2024

## Tom Wasmoen, Chair

2024 continued the higher pace with which we cared for and invested in our building and grounds, new projects have kept us busy and the whole building is looking better than ever! In a year of transition and the gift of Barbara Johnson's estate we have accomplished great things!

Property Committee Members have traditionally included Ray Anderson, Dave DuChaine, Ted Arneson, Hunter Sheldon (Our very capable Valley property manager), Ben Sheldon and an array of as needed volunteers. And this year Mary Rom helped us select the final finishes for the Sanctuary Floor!

1. This year the Hardhat Team has leaned into their expertise and strong muscles to provide much of the work for both the Spring and Fall clean ups events on the church grounds.
2. We have an account with Site One so that moving forward we will be able to order mulch, dirt, etc., on a non-tax basis through our relationship with them.
  - a. The website is <https://www.siteone.com/en/store/416/>
  - b. Contact me for additional login information.
3. Project accomplishments around our Mission Headquarters:
  - i. The Sanctuary, Cornerstone and Deacon's Kitchen Ceilings were prepped, sanded, stained and sealed.
  - ii. All floor finishes in the Sanctuary were replaced with new stone-look tile and carpet. Asbestos tile was removed.
  - iii. The carpet in the Narthex was also replaced to match the Sanctuary
  - iv. Some new furniture was purchased for the Narthex
  - v. A myriad of plumbing projects were accomplished by Hunter this year.
  - vi. Some minor adjustments were made to the fire detection system and a new heat monitor was added in the boiler room to protect the outgoing call system for the alarm.
4. With the departure of Richard Buller in January 2024, Sheila Sheldon assumed the role of general contractor, coordinating the pew removals, sub-contractor scheduling and the execution of contracts to engage the sub-contractors for the work required to rehab the Sanctuary and Cornerstone Rooms. This was in addition to her other full-time responsibilities! Shelia did a fantastic job and delivered the project to the congregation on time! This was a big project and we couldn't have accomplished it without her leadership in making sure everything happened as we scheduled! Thanks, Shelia, for taking on this added responsibility this summer! You made it happen!
5. Hunter Sheldon continues to do an exemplary job of taking care of the building on a week-to-week basis. He completed a myriad of small projects, performed janitorial duties along with assistance from Ben Sheldon, and supported me as the Properties Elder on Session to keep up with emerging issues in real time so they can be reviewed and addressed quickly. I couldn't do this job without him!

6. Kudos to the volunteers who show up to help Hunter on snowy Sundays get the sidewalks shoveled and swept, most notably Dave Dechaine and Ray Anderson! Thank you!

Valley can be proud of the good work accomplished in 2024 to restore and maintain our building for the next generation. Additional projects are on the horizon for 2025 including;

- i. Peak roof shingle repair and any additional soffit repair as needed
- ii. Review of Fellowship Flooring to assess need for replacement
- iii. Preparation for the eventual parking lot resurfacing and restriping.

The Properties team appreciates all the volunteer time our congregation has dedicated to Valley! Watch for more volunteer opportunities as we move into our 2025 project schedule!

Properties report offered with Gratitude!

## Technology & Communications Committee Report 2024

### Brandon Novy, Chair

With the update to the sanctuary, the stream team was rather busy this year. They had to move all the video sound equipment from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall for summer worship. After the sanctuary update was complete, they had to haul it all back up upstairs. Thank you to everyone who spent hours moving and setting up equipment.

Another thank you to everyone on the stream team who arrives at Valley an hour early for worship, marriages, celebrations of life, and Fridays in the Valley concerts.

Other items completed this year:

- Setup a laptop for Rev. Jim Cochrane
- Purchased a new device to control the cameras
- Purchased a new hearing assist system for the sanctuary that will be installed in early 2025.

The 2024 Committee consisted of Tim Grosshuesch, Myron Jones, Chris Marshall, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, and Brandon Novy.

## Board of Deacons Report 2024

The Board of Deacons at Valley have been inspired by Paul’s Letter to the church in Rome:

*“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:9–13:”*

While all Christians are called to care for persons in need, the ministry of Deacons is the light that guides the way. Deacons are a reflection of the heart of Christianity. Deacons are called to model and extend the love of Jesus Christ.

You will find them on Sunday mornings at all our entrances welcoming members and visitors to Valley Community. Our Deacons continued to reach out through cards and phone calls. They also continued to pray for the members of their Care Circle and for the ministry of Valley.

<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
Lyn Boyd (1 year)	Jackie Goiffon	Karen Harms
Jan Sacco	Gwyn Lang	Sara Perry
Margie Deutsch	Roger Michael	Scott Robinson
Jessica Goslinga	Kerrie Deef	Hunter Sheldon
Jennie Minter	Rick Carlson	Kurt Wheeler

As they finish their three-year terms, we want to thank **Ann Roach, Andy Freeman, Renee Desarmeaux, Samantha Schellhaas and Jeanine Miakotina** for their ministry on the Board of Deacons!

### THANK YOU FOR CARING

When someone takes the time to listen,  
When someone reaches out,  
When someone does a thoughtful thing that  
makes you warm throughout.

When someone lends a helping hand,  
Finds ways in which to share,  
When someone makes you feel secure by  
always being there.

When someone senses there are times when  
you have special needs,  
When someone gives you inner strength  
through words as well as deeds.

When someone seems to take an interest in  
just how you’re faring,  
It’s time to tell that special someone thanks  
so much for caring!

## Valley Community Garden Report 2024 Sheila Sheldon, Garden Coordinator

We had a wonderful year again in the garden with all our plots filled. Inside the garden we currently have 19 full plot garden spaces, which were divided this year into 27 individual plots of various sizes to fit the needs of each garden member, as well as 3 community raised beds. These raised beds are on the outside of the garden and folks from the community who walk by are welcome to take something they need. Our hope is that this will help to nurture relationships within the garden as members work together to care for them and provide fresh food to our neighbors.

The Garden community was made up of 31 community members and 9 Valley members. With spouses and children all lending a hand, we had over 40 folks participating in the Garden community.

Valley's community garden has continued to be an important outreach to our community, bringing church and community members together in fellowship. We enjoyed hosting monthly potlucks, and great conversations around the tables.

Once again dedicated members of the garden worked at maintaining the perennial flower/plant garden and clearing displaced plant species to help the native plants flourish. A special thank you to Ann Sessoms, Ann Roach, Karen Nemchik, Al Watchuka, Katherine Kolles and Steve Beseres who gave time each week to help keep the memorial garden looking beautiful.

In 2024 a large limb fell from a tree and raised concern about the safety of the tree in the garden area. After discussing with an arborist, bids will be obtained for removal of the tree for everyone's safety. Pathways were cleared and new mulch was laid by many helping hands.

After careful consideration, Sheila Sheldon announces she is stepping down as Garden Coordinator and a new team was created that will be led by garden member Ann Sessoms along with Valley members and gardeners, Mary and Tom Schuette and Ann Roach. Sheila will continue to be the staff liaison to the garden team and help them with collecting yearly dues and contracts. The team will oversee the care of the garden, potlucks and organizing of community workdays.

Most of our gardeners do return year after year and we continue to be so grateful for them and the work they put into the garden. The excitement for the Valley Garden continues to grow each year as requests come in midsummer for the next garden season. We are thankful for the garden and God's blessings on our community.

## Fridays in the Valley Concert Series 2024

### Sue Ruby, Concert Series Coordinator

The thirteenth season of Fridays in the Valley Series boasted ten terrific concerts. Once again, nearly half of the 38 musicians that performed this year were new faces to the Fridays’ concert stage. We welcomed six first-time ensembles including the Metro Brass Quintet, the Lochan String Quartet, the Ka Trio and the Lyrica Trio. Yet each of these “new” ensembles featured one or more Fridays’ veteran performers.

Following our Series’ mission, our monthly concert freewill donations were devoted to local charities. Representatives from each designated charity were invited to attend and say a few words to introduce the charity’s work and mission. The average monthly donation surpassed \$1,000.00 per concert thanks to the incredible record high single month donation of \$2,251.00 for our December concert featuring the Above Average Tuba Quartet. The total annual donations for 2024 was \$10,098.77. To date, the Fridays in the Valley Chamber Music Series has raised over \$83,000.00 for local charities!

Special thanks to Savannah Martinez for program design and logistical aid as well as the web and social media presence provided by Mariah Messer and Sheila Sheldon. Each concert was livestreamed thanks to our Dream Stream Team of Kurt (Wheeler) and Kurt (Modert) and hosted by Rev. Jim Cochrane. Finally, a huge thank-you goes to Greg and Mary Rom whose funding makes the Series possible, along with Vicki Wheeler memorials.

An impressive lineup of familiar faces return to the Fridays’ stage to finish our 2024-2025 season. Don’t miss the first performance of Boom Island String Quartet or return of Slipjig (Chris Becknell, Irish fiddle and David Critendall, guitar). This season culminates with a very special performance by Dolce Winds, the ensemble founded by Fridays’ matriarch and greatest champion, Vicki Wheeler. Her presence is felt at each and every concert and her legacy continues. Plans for the 2025-2026 season are already underway so mark your calendars today.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ensemble/Artists</i>	<i>Charity</i>	<i>Donations</i>	<i>Attendance In person/Total</i>
January 12, 2024	Songs from the Great American Songbook: Susan Hellerud, piano; Joe Longo, clarinet; Momoko Tanno, soprano	Northside Healing Space	\$1,310.00	54/94
February 9, 2024	10 <sup>th</sup> Wave	District #281 Empty Bowls	\$991.00	71/101

March 8, 2024	Broadway-Swider Duo	MN Food Share	\$893.77	50/70
April 12, 2024	Lochan String Quartet	Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative	\$1110.00	75/99
May 10, 2024	Ka Trio (oboe, clarinet, bassoon)	Greater Mpls Crisis Nursery	\$992.00	63/81
June 9, 2024	Marimba Bullies	FATHER Project	\$523.00	39/47
July 2024	----- Cancelled due to renovation of sanctuary -----			
September 13, 2024	Momoko Tanno, soprano w/ Valerie Hennig, piano	Every Meal—District #281 (Robbinsdale)	\$405.00	57/73
October 11, 2024	The Metro Brass Quintet	Missions Inc.-Home Free (Domestic Violence)	\$788.00	40/62
November 8, 2024	Lyrice Trio (oboe, Horn, piano)	Clare Terrace	\$835.00	52/64
December 13, 2024	AATQ	PRISM Holiday Shoppe	\$2,251.00	70/94

**Fridays in the Valley Vision Statement**

Valley Community Presbyterian Church has long enjoyed a rich musical heritage. Building on this tradition, Fridays in the Valley was created for local musicians to showcase their talents while providing a benefit for local charities. Fridays in the Valley is an eclectic mix of quality musicians performing in an intimate setting, making fine music accessible to our community. Funding for Fridays in the Valley is made possible by donations from Greg and Mary Rom, along with Vicki Wheeler memorials.

## Memorials Committee Report 2024

The Memorial Committee's regular responsibilities include: acknowledging monies received, consulting the honoree's family about projects, working with session committees who spend memorial monies, helping to arrange a dedication, and maintaining the memorials book. In this process the session plays the role of developing a list of suggested memorials to enhance the ministry of Valley. The family may suggest an alternative project, but all such alternatives require session approval.

Honoree	2024	2024	2024	2024
▼	Beginning Balance▼	Increase▼	Decrease▼	Ending Balance ▼
Carol McCarter	0	225	0	225
Sarah Davis	0	25	0	25
Lois Robinson	0	1,035	0	1,035
Lisa Kummer	0	75	0	75
Karen Sauter	0	320	0	320
Chuck Meyer	0	1,015	1,015	0
Rev. Aaron Wilterding	0	1,150	0	1,150
Marlys Hawkins	0	1,050	0	1,050
Bob Ripley	0	335	0	335
Marilyn Merino	0	40	0	40
Myrle Reiswig	0	810	0	810
Anne Reynolds	236	0	0	236
Barty Amundson	508	0	0	508
Betty Brooking	1495	0	0	1,495
Bill Davis	325	0	0	325
Charlotte Tripet	308	0	0	308
Jeanne Reinhart	550	0	0	550
Julie Lund	690	0	0	690
Len Frame	835	0	0	835
Letta Swedelius	797	0	0	797
Louise Driver	1185	0	0	1,185
Marian Michael	3915	0	0	3,915
Richard Reinhart	615	0	0	615
Sherill Mixer	50	0	0	50
Shirley Schon	656	0	0	656
<b>Total Memorials Activity</b>	<b>12,165</b>	<b>6,080</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>17,230</b>