

# THE VALLEY

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



# Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N Golden Valley, MN 55422







763-588-0831 www.valleychurch.net office@valleychurch.net **Cover Photo:** TEAMS and Youth Group members, along with parents and other adult volunteers, came together on Saturday, February 8 to bake and setup for the Youth Cooke Sale. Thank you, Valley, for your incredible support!

# Community News

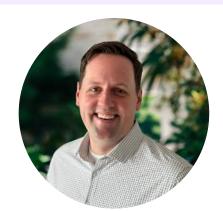
- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
  - Last Day to Order Easter Flowers | Sunday, March 24 (page 5)
    - Call the Valley Office or fill out an order form and return to the Fellowship Hall
  - Daylight Savings Time | Sunday. March 9
  - Fridays in the Valley (page 5)
    - Friday, March 14 @ 7 PM | Boom Island String Quartet
  - Valley Craft Club | Saturday, March 1 | 10 AM 12 PM (page 5)
  - o Adult Ed Spring Session Kick-Off | Sunday, March 2 | 11 AM 12 PM (pages 4, 5)
  - Valley Hand Bell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
  - Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals:
    - Wednesday, March 12 @ 7:00 PM
    - Wednesday, April 2 @ 7:00 PM
  - o Youth Education Scholarship Tea | Saturday, March 22 @ 2:00 PM (page 8, 10)
  - Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, April 19 @ 11:00 AM (page 8, 10)
  - Summer 2024 VBC | June 10-13 | 9 AM 12 PM (page 8)
  - Youth Mission Trip | June 18-22 | Milwaukee, WI (page 8)
- MISSION OPPORTUNITIES
  - Indigenous Justice Task Force Updates (page 9)
  - Pack the Pews for PRISM Food and Fund Drive (page 9)
  - Formula for Hope Luncheon (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery fundraiser)
    - Wednesday, May 7 | 12:00 1:00 PM
  - Taste of the Burbs (PRISM fundraiser) | Thursday, May 8

# A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

**MARCH 2025** 

Dear Valley,

Ash Wednesday arrives in just a few days on March 5th, and with it comes the beginning of Lent. The Lenten season often brings with it a weighty connotation: it is a period of quietness, and with that silence comes the creeping in of our recognition of our imperfection through our shortcomings and human



Rev. Jim Cochrane

brokenness. While recognizing the staggering difference between God's divinity and our humanity is a central theme of Ash Wednesday and Lent, I find comfort in the question that inevitably follows the realization of our humanity: if we are so weak, where can we find strength?

The psalmist writes, "I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2). We recognize that while we are not perfect as human beings, our God who created us and calls us together is. The perfect love of the Divine is what holds us steady through easy and difficult times. That love might make itself known as a sense of calm that comes over you during a stressful time, or it could be in a reminder somewhere within you to take a breath, or perhaps it shows up in a group or person who cares for you and reaches out to you.

This year, I encourage you to look for where you can find strength. You might try a new spiritual practice or reexamine your prayer life to build your relationship with God, or you might find a way to plug in with the loving Valley Community in a new way. Our worship life expands in Lent; I hope you will join us for **Ash Wednesday Worship** on March 5th at 7:00pm as well as our **Lenten Wednesday Night** worships when we come together for meals and casual, community worship as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter. If you are looking to get involved in a new way, try coming to an **Adult Education** class, or consider swinging by a **Valley Choir** rehearsal!

When fear and the stresses of the world seek to pull us apart at the seams and drive neighbor against neighbor, our God tells us time and again that we are better together. We serve one another, we support one another, and we love one another not just because it is an obligation, but because it is a joy. Let us take this Lenten season to remember that our strength comes from the one who gives us life and love and let us be generous in sharing that gift with others.

In Christ,

# AN UPDATE FROM PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Greetings! Your Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) has met several times, first meeting with a mentor to get an overview of the call process and then taking care of assigning roles and action items, setting up processes, etc. Housekeeping tasks, if you will.

As we continue the journey to call our next pastor, you'll likely hear a lot of acronyms, starting with the MDP, which stands for Ministry Discernment Profile. The MDP document will describe the senior pastor position and the mission of Valley in finding the best candidate. It will include preferences, narrative questions and answers about our congregation, references, and other sections. Filling out the MDP is the PNC's next, vital step and Valley's recently completed Mission Study will help guide us as we begin to fill in the necessary information. We expect this will take a few weeks.

The PNC will share what we can on a regular basis, but there is a good bit of information we won't be able to share, as it is confidential. At the moment, we expect to provide general updates to session and the congregation at least once a month for the time being - the steps at the front end of the call process will take a few months. As things ramp up, you might hear from us more frequently. PNC updates will also be published in the monthly newsletter.

Please keep the members of the PNC in your prayers - pray for wisdom and discernment as we collaborate and take each step closer to calling Valley's next pastor!

# Adult Education - Spring 2025

- Adult Ed classes will take place at 11 AM.
- · Classes will be held in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.

### March 2 - FAITH IN ACTION, Rev. Jim Cochrane

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

### March 9 - WEST METRO ALLIANCE & HENNEPI COUNTY,

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

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

# March 16 - NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI),

### Kay King, Older Adults Program Coordinator and Community Educator

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

### March 23 - CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM, Brandon Schorsch, Jewish Community Action

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

### March 30 - MISSISSIPPI RAFT TRIP, Jay Tracy, Valley member

It was the summer of 1971. 4 young men, (each 20 years old) built a raft and floated from the Twin Cities to New Orleans. Come hear about this wonderful adventure, on Sunday, March 30, right after church service. Presented by Jay Tracy and a fellow raft traveler.

### April 6 - BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING, Chris LaTondresse, Beacon President & CEO

Valley Community Presbyterian Church has partnered with Beacon for over 19 years to create affordable, supportive, and equitable homes for individuals, families, and youth most impacted by homelessness, ensuring that all have a place to call home. Chris will share the impact of the church's generous gifts, speak to Beacon's vision for expanding and sustaining housing opportunities in Minnesota in the coming years, and invite your participation in Beacon's mission and current initiatives.

### **April 13 - UNDERSTANDING HOSPICE, Jamie Tracy**

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

### April 27 - ISLAMOPHOBIA, Islamic Resource Group

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

### May 4 - GLOBAL REFUGE,

### Rev. Dan Beirne Beirne, Director for Mobilization & Faith Relations

Come hear about the important work being done by Global Refuge around Refugee Resettlement and Children and Family Services and learn how you can get involved.





# **Easter Flowers**

ORDER BY SUNDAY, MARCH 24!

Easter Lily (white) \$12 each Asiatic Lily (pink) \$12 each Azalea (bicolor) \$25 each Tulip \$12 each (purple, pink, yellow) Mum (yellow) \$12 each



To order, fill out an Order Form in the Fellowship Hall or call the Valley Office.

# Calling all Ringers!

RINGERS AND NON-RINGERS AGES 10 & UP ARE WELCOME! THE VALLEY RINGERS LOVE TO SHARE AND TEACH OTHERS HOW TO RING!

### REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Rehearsals held in the Sanctuary

Contact Janet Carlson if you have questions.

# **Craft & Connect**

Valley Craft Club has a new name! **Craft & Connect** is for anyone who enjoys a day crafting, working on a puzzle or just chatting with friends.

Come catch up on a project, start something new or come see what others are working on for inspiration! There will be craft supplies, puzzles & cribbage boards available. Come for the fellowship and stay for the fun!

Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM.



SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 10 AM - 2:00 PM LUNCH AT 12 PM



ADULT EDUCATION SPRING SESSION KICK-OFF



MARCH 2 | 11:00 AM

FAITH IN ACTION REV. IIM COCHRANE

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

**Hosted in the Cornerstone Room** 



# Lent and Holy Week in the Valley



# **LENT & HOLY WEEK 2025 SCHEDULE**



Wed, March 5	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Ash Wednesday   Worship with communion and marking of ashes
		•
Sunday, March 9	9:30 AM	1st Sunday of Lent   Worship
Wed, March 12	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 16	9:30 AM	2nd Sunday of Lent   Worship
Wed, March 19	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 23	9:30 PM	3rd Sunday of Lent   Worship
Wed, March 26	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 30	9:30 AM	4th Sunday in Lent   Worship
		Sheila Sheldon preaching
Wed, April 2	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, April 6	9:30 AM	5th Sunday in Lent   Worship
Wed, April 9	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, April 13	9:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
Thurs, April 17	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday   Tenebrae service with
		communion
Sunday, April 20	9:30 AM	Easter Sunday Worship

# **WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 2025**

Wednesdays in Lent this year will be a time to come together in fellowship, get to know Pastor Jim, and reflect on our faith both individually and as a community. Dinner will be hosted by Church Committees from 6:00-6:45pm. After dinner, we'll move into a more worshipful moment together. There will be music, scripture, prayers, and time to share and have conversation together. The goal is for this to feel casual and relaxed – just a chance to be together as a community!

Members are encouraged to bring sides and desserts!

Last names A-L Dessert | M-Z Side dish

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

**DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM HOSTS:** Technology/Finance/Stewardship

**MEAL:** Sloppy Joes

**DISCUSSION FOCUS: Luke 6: 1-11** 

What is our relationship between our faith and societal laws and norms? Are there laws or "moral imperatives" that must always be followed?

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

**HOSTS:** Educational Ministries

**MEAL:** Pasta & bread

**DISCUSSION FOCUS: Luke 6:17-26** 

Do the Beatitudes mean that God favors those who are poor, hungry or are weeping? Can we reconcile these pronouncements with the idea

that God loves everyone?

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

**HOST:** Worship/Mission **MEAL:** Soup & Chili

**DISCUSSION FOCUS: Luke 6:27-36** 

Who are your enemies? What is easy about loving those who do not love you? What is hard about it? Is Jesus really serious about loving

those who hate me?

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

**HOSTS:** Personnel/Growth/Properties

**MEAL:** Pizza

**DISCUSSION FOCUS: Luke 6: 37-42** 

When have you judged a person, either fairly or unfairly? How does Jesus' command "do not judge" coexist with our criminal justice system?

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

**HOSTS:** Fellowship **MEAL:** Hotdish Night

**DISCUSSION FOCUS: Luke 6:43-49** 

What "fruit" grows on your tree and how does that fruit benefit those around you? Where does your strength come from, and where is your foundation of solid rock?



# TEAMS LEARN WITH SNAP CIRCUITS









# The Valley Education Corner

# FAITH FORMATION



# INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room

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



### EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday, April 19th at 11:00 am

Mark your calendar for this fun annual event! We'll hunt for eggs and then decorate cookies in the Fellowship Hall. Invite friends, family, and neighbors!



# Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) Tuesday, June 10 - Friday, June 13; 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! Registration will open on April 1st for kids entering Kindergarten - 6th grade in the Fall of 2025. We are also looking for Valley grown-ups and youth (7th-12th grade) who would be interested in volunteering.

# YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



### Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP TEA Saturday, March 22nd at 2:00pm

If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Sheila at <a href="mailto:sheila.she



# YOUTH FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER Friday, April 18th | 6-8:00pm

Let's get together to enjoy dinner together, hide Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, and play night games!



### Valley Youth Mission Trip | June 18 - 22th

Valley's Youth in grades 6-12 will travel to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They will stay at North Shore Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee and work with the Urban Ecology Center. They will have opportunities for fun and adventure, canoeing, fishing, art museum and more! **Cost:** \$300 per youth, scholarships are available.

# **Indigenous Justice Task Force**



Congratulations! Valley has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Mississippi Watershed **Management Organization!** 

This grant will hire Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe) to **photograph** Hahá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek in all 4 seasons. The photos will be shared through an art exhibit at The Trailhead in Theodore Wirth Park in fall 2025. They will also be shared in an online digital photo album and two public presentations. This work helps Valley to go beyond land acknowledgement by supporting an Indigenous artist and honoring the creek through visual arts.

Many thanks to Valley's Endowment Committee for providing matching funds for the photography grant. Thanks also to our community partners for this effort including Hennepin History Museum, Golden Valley Historical Society, and The Loppet Foundation.



In April, Valley is collaborating with 6 congregations or organizations to organize a visit from author Sarah Augustine (Pueblo / Tewa descendant). Sarah is the Executive Director for the Coalition to Dismantle the **Doctrine of Discovery.** She is author of the book *The Land Is Not Empty:* Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery and co-author of So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting Climate Crisis. Please see below for a few great opportunities to join us in learning from Sarah during her Minnesota visit!



Please mark your calendars for these unique events:

- Author Sarah Augustine's visit with the Twin Cities Repair Community
  - Friday, April 4 at 11:30 am Potluck and informal discussion at St. Francis Cabrini Catholic.
  - Friday, April 4 at 7:00 pm **Presentation** at United Theological Seminary (also streaming online).
  - o Saturday, April 5 from 10:00 am to 2:00pm Training at Unity Church Unitarian. Lunch from Indigenous Food Lab. Registration required (link forthcomina).
  - o Saturday, April 5 at 3:00 pm **Book study** at Unity Church Unitarian for those who have read Sarah's book The Land is Not Empty.
- Monday, October 14 Third Annual Hahá Wakpádan Water Blessing. Time and location TBD.
- Saturday, October 18 **Hahá Wakpádan 1-Loop Fun Run**. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration here: <a href="https://www.loppet.org/events/loopet/">https://www.loppet.org/events/loopet/</a>

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

# PACK THE PEWS FOR PRISM

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) has announced its 43rd March Campaign in partnership with Minnesota FoodShare. That means it's time to PACK THE PEWS, VALLEY!

Donation deadline: MARCH 26

# SUGGESTED WEEKLY SHOPPING CATEGORIES

**WEEK 1 (March 1-5)** CANNED GOODS canned fruits,

vegetables, meats/fish, soups WEEK 2 (March 6-12) BAKING

flour, sugar, baking soda, oils, boxed cake/bread mixes WEEK 3 (March 13-19)

rice, pasta, sauces, mac n' cheese

**PANTRY STAPLES** cereal, boxed dinners, WEEK 4 (March 20-26) LUNCHBOX

nut butters, jelly, fruit snacks, granola bars, juice boxes, raisins/dried fruit, nuts

\*Shopping categories are meant to be helpful. Needless to say, any and all donations are needed and will be accepted at any time!





### • DRIVERS NEEDED •

# Meals on Wheels

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

MARCH 20 & 27

### **ROUTES INCLUDE:**

Crystal New Hope Robbinsdale Golden Valley



### **CONTACTS:**

Gail Smith
Marge Thurston
use your directory
or call the office.





# SPRING CLEANING

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### OUTSIDE

South Lawn Playground Patio

### INSIDE

Sanctuary Community Rooms Fellowship Hall Chairs



# Valley Brew Crew

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26** 12:00-5:00 PM

# Hosted at Valley!



If you would like to be added to the email list or have questions about Brew Crew, Jay Perry is the organizer of the group.

**CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS:**See Directory for contact information

# CALENDAR

# BIRTHDAYS

Juliana Vogel
Randee Melander
Alvian Bi
Roger Graphenteen
Gary Malinowski
Marge Thurston
Katya Miakotina
Barbara Wasmoen
Joe Sacco
Soma Datta
Karen Harms
Art LaPoint
John Gonsior
Kyle Soens

Leah Zywicki Judith McKay Diane Schmidt Nikolas Fields Gabriel Gottschalk Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau Abigail Toering-Peters Jim Payne Riley Brooker Lizzy Van Heest Roberta (Bobbie) Watson Gabriella Macias Cooper Graham Chris Marshall Jennie Minter Julie Westerlund James Robles Mark Toering

Janet Carlson

Joanne Jenson

Neil Jurgensen

Rev. Rebecca Tollefson Kate Toering-Peters

Helen Dechaine Syndy Nyongkah

Abby Malecha

**Grace Perry** 

Mikey Vogel

Alex Malecha

Jim Falbo
Eleanor Johannsen
Gwyn Lang
Atemafac Nti
Nick Rude
Jan Fedora
Emily Gillett
Neiko Griffin
Chelsea Gusek
Brian Boyd
Gerald Phelan
Tyler Priem

Kendyl Graham

Saturday, March 1 10:00 am Valley Craft & Connect

Sunday, March 2 9:30 am Worship Service with communion

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

11:00 am Adult Ed 2:00 pm Confirmation Class 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

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

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

Wednesday, March 5 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

**Thursday, March 6** 6:30 pm PNC Meeting

Sunday, March 9 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Adult Ed 11:00 am Deacon Meeting 2:00 pm Confirmation Class 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

**Tuesday, March 11** 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, March 12** 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 13** 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm PNC Meeting

Friday, March 14 7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley Sunday, March 16

9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Adult Ed 2:00 pm Confirmation Class 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

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

**Wednesday, March 19** 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

**Thursday, March 20**10:00 am Meals on Wheels
5:30 pm Indigenous Justice Task Force Meeting
6:30 pm PNC Meeting

**Saturday, March 22** 2:00 pm Y.E.S. Tea

Sunday, March 23 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Adult Ed 2:00 pm Confirmation Class 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

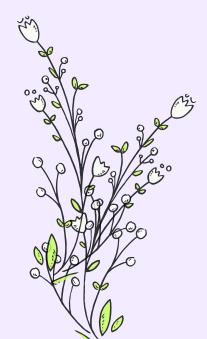
Monday, March 24 6:30 pm Session Meeting

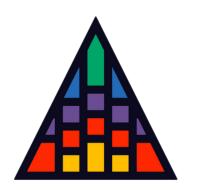
**Tuesday, March 25** 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, March 26** 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

**Thursday, March 27** 10:00 am Meals on Wheels 6:30 pm PNC Meeting

Sunday, March 30 9:30 am Worship Service Sheila Sheldon, CRE, preaching 11:00 am Adult Ed \*Confirmation, TEAMS & Youth Group BREAK





# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# VCPC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT



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

VCPC sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.

3100 Lilac Dr. N Golden Valley, MN 55422









Scan to give online

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