



# Valley Community

PC(USA)

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**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

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# GATHERING US IN

## PRELUDE

*Oboe Sonata*  
Op. 166 Mvt II by Camille Saint-Saëns

Rachel Williams, piano  
Kaia Sand, oboe

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
Arr. by Doc Barber

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: The Lord is my light and my salvation*

**All: Whom then shall I fear?**

*One: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;*

**All: Of whom then shall I be afraid?**

*One: Come, let us seek God together in this time of worship.*

## † Hymn #432

### ***How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord***

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure:  
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you:  
the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Lord, you remind us over and over again the perils of selfishness. You tell us to love our neighbors, but we only love ourselves. You tell us to feed those who are hungry, but we fill only our own plates. You tell us to freely offer what we have to others, but we hoard treasures of this world for our own pleasure. Forgive us. Help us. Lead us in right paths for your name's sake so we might dwell in your house forever. Amen.

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**All:** In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***Spirit of the Living God***

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**HEARING THE WORD**

**TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS**

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***Solus ad victimam***

Valley Choir

**Kenneith Leighton, translated by Helen Waddell**

Alone to sacrifice thou goest, Lord, giving thyself to Death whom thou hast slain.  
For us thy wretched folk is any word? Who know that for our sins this is thy pain?  
For they are ours, O Lord, our deeds, our deeds, why must thou suffer torture for our sins?  
Let our hearts suffer in thy Passion, Lord, that very suffering may thy mercy win.  
This is the night of tears, the three days' space, sorrow abiding in the eventide,  
until the daybreak with the risen Christ, and hearts that sorrowed shall be satisfied.  
So may our hearts share in thine anguish, Lord, that they may sharers of thy glory be;  
Heavy with weeping may the three days pass, to win the laughter of thine Easter Day

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 6:17-26

**SERMON**

*Blessings and Woes*

Rev. Jim Cochran

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**† Hymn #716**

***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Celebrating the Gifts of Women*

Jan Sacco

## OFFERTORY

*Were You There*  
Arr. by Doc Barber

Rachel Williams  
Kaia Sand

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. May our offerings be blessed and multiplied by you, and used for the furthering of our ministry and mission in the world. Amen.

## SENDING US OUT

### † Hymn #100 ***My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*** (verses 1, 3 & 4)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

### **Refrain:**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Sonata in A Minor*  
TWA 41:a3 Mvt IV by G. P. Telemann

Rachel Williams  
Kaia Sand

**The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.**

† Please rise in body or spirit.

# Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Tom Magill** after a brief hospitalization this week.

Prayers for **Kurt Wheeler** who was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is in the process of deciding on a treatment plan with his doctor.

Continued prayers for **Phillip Robinson** who is awaiting a heart transplant at the U of M hospital. Please keep his wife **Amy** and their three children, **Rowan, Claire** and **Annabelle** in your prayers as well. To visit his Caring Bridge go to:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/philliprobinson>

Continued prayers for **Susie Potter** as she underwent a PET scan in December, the results of which were all clear! She began immunotherapy on January 7th. She is feeling good and filled with gratitude. To visit Susie's Caring Bridge go to:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susiepotter>

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** whose test results remain stable and continues to live in gratitude for the love everyone has shared each and every day. To visit Taichi's Caring Bridge site go to: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen>

Continued prayers for **Rick Carlson** as he works with his care team to keep him healthy. He continues to give thanks for all the support and prayers he has received. To visit Rick's Caring Bridge site go to: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rickcarlson101>

## EASY WAYS TO GIVE TO VALLEY AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GIVE ONE TIME OR RECURRING

### 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK TO VALLEY

- In the memo of the check, indicate what your donation is for (i.e. Pledge, PRISM, etc.)

### 2. ONLINE GIVING

- Visit Valley's secured online giving by visiting: <https://valleycommunitypresbyterianchurch.breezechms.com/give/online> to make a one-time or recurring gift to Valley or our community partners.

### 3. AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

- Contact Chelsie Larsen: 507-272-1914 | [chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

# This Week at Valley

## Sunday, March 16

9:30 am Worship Service  
10:30 am Fellowship Hour  
11:00 am Adult Ed  
2:00 pm Confirmation Class  
4:00 pm Youth & TEAMS Group

## Monday, March 17

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

## Tuesday, March 18

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon Group  
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Wednesday, March 19

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Series

## Thursday, March 20

10:00 am Bible Study  
5:30 pm 12-Step Unity  
5:30 pm Indigenous Justice Task Meeting  
6:30 pm PNC Meeting

## Friday, March 21

## Saturday, March 22

2:00 PM **Y.E.S. Tea!**

## Sunday, March 23

9:30 am Worship Service  
10:30 am Fellowship Hour  
11:00 am Adult Ed  
2:00 pm Confirmation Class  
4:00 pm Youth & TEAMS Group

**Notice of Recording:** Please note that services are broadcasted via live stream and digitally recorded on our YouTube Channel.

**Special thanks** to our Stream Team: Katie Decker, Roger Graphenteen, Myron Jones, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Brandon Novy, Janet Triplett, and Kurt Wheeler for broadcasting the services!

# Valley Staff

## Ministers

All 381 members of this congregation.

## Transitional Pastor

## Head of Staff

Rev. Jim Cochrane

## Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

## Office Administrator

Savannah Martinez

## Program & Communications Coordinator

Mariah Messer

## Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

## Choral & Handbell Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

## Sunshine Room Leader

Natalie Peña-Gallegos

## Custodian

Hunter Sheldon

## PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Jim Cook  
Rev. Bill Davnie  
Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau  
Rev. David Phillips  
Rev. Nancy Phillips  
Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

## SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 2 : 225 (108 in-person)  
March 9 : 205 (93 in-person)

# **A Letter from Rev. John McCall**

## **Mission co-worker serving in Taiwan**



### ***The Road of Grace***

Dear friends,

In 1996, I left Black Mountain, N.C. and the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, where I was serving as their pastor, to board a plane to Taiwan. I had never been to Taiwan but knew that God was calling me to this unseen land to serve as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission co-worker with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. I felt somewhat like Abraham and Sarah of the Old Testament when God told them to go to a land that they had not yet seen.

As I began my new life here, I started full-time Mandarin language study and also began to learn a new culture. Language can be taught. Culture must be observed. I had never lived in a big city like Taipei. In many ways, I felt like a child who didn't know how to express in Mandarin what I wanted to say and often didn't get the cultural cues.

But God was faithful, and the Taiwanese people have been amazingly kind and patient with me over the years. Every day I was given a list of 30 new vocabulary words in Mandarin and the next day, I would have to show up in class and tell my teacher a story using the new vocabulary. So, after class, I would find a stranger on the bus and ask them if they would like to hear a story. They became my teachers.

After language school, I was sent to the rural part of southeastern Taiwan to work with the indigenous people who live there. Each week I spoke three or four times in children's Sunday School, or youth group, or preached in their churches on Sunday morning. Church leaders translated my Mandarin into their indigenous languages, which was a wonderful way for my language to improve, because if the translator didn't understand what I was saying, he or she would let me know.

During my first week in the new city of Taidong, the owner of a radio station asked me if I would like to have my own radio program. I told her that my Mandarin was not yet ready for a radio show, and she replied by telling me to trust God. So, every week I spent one day preparing my program. I used things that were happening in that area and connected them to a biblical teaching. If it was mango season, I would talk about the fruit of the Spirit. If the high school seniors were taking their college entrance exams, I would talk about the wisdom of God. But because I had just completed my language study and was not overly fluent, I didn't think anyone listened to my program.

But one Monday morning I took my car to get serviced. The young man who was going to work on my car was not a Christian, but he noticed my Mandarin name. (I never use my English name here.) And he told me that he listened to my radio program the night before. I was really surprised. He then told me that he and his friends all liked my show. Then I asked him a dangerous question. "Why?" His answer was not the one I wanted to hear. He said, "We love your unique accent." And standing in that car repair shop, God said to me, "Don't worry about your accent. I will use your accent to help folks know that they are loved."

So, from that time on, I have not worried about my limitations but instead have focused on God's abundant grace. And these years in Taiwan have been beautiful years of grace.

I am a very different person because of the people of this land. Their kindness, their love, and their daily welcome have shaped me deeply. I have learned most from the people on the margins. I have had the privilege of accompanying hundreds of seminary students and pastors. I learned how to pastor pastors when I was in Black Mountain as a young pastor and had 50 retired pastors and their spouses in that congregation. That experience allowed me to become a pastor to pastors here.

I have also been changed by the indigenous folks of this island. They have taught me about resilient faith in the face of life's challenges. They have demonstrated community as they have welcomed me into their villages, their churches, and their homes. They have given me an indigenous name, "Lafin," which means the one who comes to stay with us. I have laughed with them and cried with them.

It has been a road of grace these past 29 years. And you, who have supported this ministry with your faithful prayers and gifts have been signs of grace to me. You have welcomed me into your homes and churches when I have been on interpretation throughout the U.S. And you have been open to how the world church can teach and change us.

So, as I end my time of service as a PC(USA) mission co-worker, I want to thank you for your partnership on this road of grace.

**Gratefully,**  
John McCall



**For more content, please scan the QR code with your phone to access John's Mission Connections page.**



*John, along with some of the pastors who meet at his home for a spiritual formation group, praying for one of the pastors.*



*At a recent indigenous youth conference where I spoke, two boys acted out the story of the angel telling a sleeping Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife.*



# SPONSOR FLOWERS

**OPEN DATES: In 2025!**

Purchase & arrange yourself or  
just be a sponsor.

**Sign Up in Fellowship Hall,  
online or Call the office.**

Suggested \$30 Minimum

## Easter Flowers

**Order by March 24 | Fellowship Hall**

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



# WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

MARCH 19 | WEEK 2 | 6:00-7:15 PM

Join us for Wednesdays in Lent Fellowship time.

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

**HOSTS:** Educational Ministries

**MEAL:** Pasta & Garlic Bread

**DISCUSSION FOCUS:** 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?

Members are encouraged to bring sides and desserts!  
Last names A-L Dessert | M-Z Side dish



Valley Community



## PACK THE PEWS FOR PRISM

It's March.

That means it's time to

**PACK THE PEWS, VALLEY!**

Donation Deadline: **MARCH 26**

**WEEK 3 (March 13-19)**

**PANTRY STAPLES**

**rice, pasta, sauces,  
cereal, boxed dinners,  
mac n' cheese**

**OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS**

Sugar & Flour (5lbs)

Cooking Oil

Pasta Sauce

Tuna & Chicken

Cereal

Peanut Butter

Canned Vegetables

Pasta





# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | March 16 | 11:00 AM

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)**

WITH KAY KING

OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

**Creating Caring Faith Communities: Five Things You Can Do**

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

**Hosted in The Cornerstone Room**



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | March 23 | 11:00 AM

**CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM**

WITH BRANDON SCHORSCH, JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTION

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

**Hosted in The Cornerstone Room**

**Fridays in  
the Valley  
Presents:**



# The Bernstein Players

**Friday, April 11, 2025 | 7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
**BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE**

 Valley Community

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

VALLEY COMMUNITY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**APRIL 19, 2025  
@ 11:00 AM**

Cookie decorating & refreshments in  
Fellowship Hall following the egg hunt.

\*Event will be held outdoors,  
weather permitting.



**Valley Community**

# 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

# SPRING CLEANING

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

## **OUTSIDE**

South Lawn  
Playground  
Patio

## **INSIDE**

Sanctuary  
Community Rooms  
Fellowship Hall Chairs





# Happy Birthday Valley Family!



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  
Abby Malecha  
Grace Perry  
Mikey Vogel  
Alex Malecha  
Helen Dechaine  
Syndy Nyongkah  
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  
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



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

—Established May 20, 1951—

## Land Acknowledgement Statement

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

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



LOGO DESIGN BY WÓOKIYE WIN  
(SISSETON WAHPETON DAKHÓTA  
AND OJIBWAY)

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Scan to give online!