



Valley Community

PC(USA)

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art
Stuart K. Hine, Arr. by Mark Hayes

Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC

Kolomeyka
Ukrainian Traditional

Pavel Jany, guitar
Jacqueline Ultan, cello

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our salvation is from the Lord;

All: God is our refuge in times of trouble.

One: The Lord helps us and rescues us;

All: God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

One: Let us worship God.

† Hymn #386

Come, Worship God (vs. 1, 3, 4)

Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.

We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;
you are our Maker, and to you we pray.
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;
great is the one whom we worship this day!

Now let us listen, for you speak among us;
open our hearts to receive what you say.
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other gods — the false gods of prosperity and materialism, privilege, and exclusivity. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. 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

Commons Thread
Sandra Eithum with special guest Norm C. narrating

Valley Handbells

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:27-36

SERMON

Listening for God and Speaking of Love

Rev. Jim Cochran

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn #773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege:
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action;
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now and then for evermore.

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

Empty Bowls

OFFERTORY

The Swan
Camille Saint-Saëns

Pavel Jany, guitar
Jacqueline Ultan, cello

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, may our gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #372

O for a World

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Canarios
Gaspar Sanz

Pavel Jany, guitar
Jacqueline Ultan, cello

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers
Sunday, March 23

Sponsored by Peggy Neibling
In memory of Betty Brooking. Happy Birthday!
Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall!

Joys and Concerns

A joy for **Sam & Jon Schellhaas'** nephew **Fox**, who was declared cancer free last week after 2 years!

Prayers for **Kurt Wheeler** who will be undergoing surgery soon to remove his prostate cancer.

Continued prayers for **Phillip Robinson** who just received his heart transplant Friday morning! He is now in the process of recovering at the U of M hospital. 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 8th. 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 to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

This Week at Valley

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

Monday, March 24

6:30 pm Session Meeting
7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, March 25

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 26

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Series

Thursday, March 27

10:00 am Meals on Wheels
5:30 pm 12-Step Unity
6:30 pm PNC Meeting

Friday, March 28

Saturday, March 29

Sunday, March 30

9:30 am Worship Service- Sheila Sheldon, CRE
10:30 am Fellowship Hour
11:00 am Adult Ed
2:00 pm Spring Break- No Confirmation Class
4:00 pm Spring Break- No 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 Cochran

Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Office Administrator

Savannah Martinez

Program & Communications Coordinator

Mariah Messer

Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

Choral & Handbell Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

Sunshine Room Leader

Natalie Peña-Gallegos

Custodian

Hunter Sheldon

PARISH ASSOCIATES

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 9 : 205 (93 in-person)
March 16 : 243 (113 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.

· DRIVERS NEEDED ·

Meals on Wheels

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**3RD & 4TH THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley



CONTACTS:

Gail Smith - 3rd Thur

Marge Thurston - 4th Thur

use your directory
or call the office.



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

PACK THE PEWS FOR PRISM

It's March.

That means it's time to
PACK THE PEWS, VALLEY!

Donation Deadline: **MARCH 26**

**WEEK 4 (March 20-24)
LUNCHBOX**
**nut butters, jelly, fruit
snacks, granola bars, juice
boxes, nuts raisins/dried fruit**

OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS

Sugar & Flour (5lbs)

Cereal

Cooking Oil

Peanut Butter

Pasta Sauce

Canned Vegetables

Tuna & Chicken

Pasta



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

MARCH 26 | WEEK 3 | 6:00-7:15 PM

Join us for Wednesdays in Lent
Fellowship time.

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

HOSTS: Worship & Mission

MEAL: Soup & Chili

DISCUSSION FOCUS: 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?

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



Valley Community





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



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | March 30 | 11:00 AM

MISSISSIPPI RAFT TRIP

WITH 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.

Hosted in The Cornerstone Room



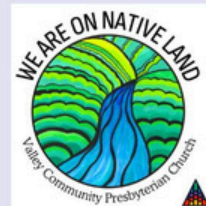
Embodying Solidarity with Indigenous People by Becoming Kin

- AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR-ACTIVIST SARAH AUGUSTINE

Friday, April 4, 7:00pm
at United Theological Seminary
(767 Eustis St, Suite 140, St. Paul)
or join online



SCAN TO REGISTER



OWĀMNIYOMNI INTERPRETIVE TOUR

HOSTED BY

wāmniyomni
khódayapi



EXPLORE THE DECOLONIZED HISTORY OF OWĀMNIYOMNI (ST. ANTHONY FALLS)

LEARN ABOUT DAKOTA LIFEWAYS, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RIVER, AND THE DAKOTA-LED VISION FOR CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION.

MAY 3 @ 10 A.M.

MEET AT EAST SIDE ENTRY TO STONE ARCH BRIDGE
(101 10TH AVE S, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415)



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!