



# Valley Community

PC(USA)

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**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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# GATHERING US IN

## PRELUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in A Minor\**  
J.S. Bach

Jane Nienaber, organ

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

## GATHERING MUSIC

*God's Time is Best*  
J.S. Bach

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: In times of trouble, in days of fear,*

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

*One: When we are lost and lonely, not sure of our place,*

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

*One: When we are hard-hearted and cynical,*

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

*One: When we struggle to believe God's promises,*

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

*One: Together we look to God to teach us the way we should go.*

**All: Steadfast love surrounds us, as together we place our trust in the Lord.**

## † Hymn #409

**God Is Here!** (vs. 1, 3, 4)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Jim Cochran

Almighty and merciful God, we have made mistakes and wandered away from you like lost sheep. We have followed our own hearts and desires instead of following you. We have left those things which you have called us to do undone; and instead, we've done only the things we felt like doing. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us as we confess to you now our shortcomings. Restore us, your lost sheep according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. 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.

### RESPONSE TO THE GOOD NEWS #288

#### *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

*Epistle Sonata I*

W.A. Mozart, Arr. by Hesford

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:6-9; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

### SERMON

*Room for Growth*

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### † Hymn #738

#### ***O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee***

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;  
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

### 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.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

**OFFERTORY**

*O Blessed Spring*  
David Lasky

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord of all, we give you thanks for your unfailing love. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you, and we return it to you now with thanks and praise. Take and bless what we offer here today, that it may be used to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, liberate the oppressed, care for the suffering, and share the good news of your redeeming love with the world. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**SENDING US OUT****† Hymn #683*****Lord of All Hopefulness***

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
be there at our labors and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

*Fughetta on 'God is Here'*  
Austin Lovelace

*\*Please note that the music of J.S. Bach is being played today in honor of his birthday on March 21.*

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

† Please rise in body or spirit.

## Chancel Flowers: Sunday, March 30

Sponsored by Sheila Sheldon

In gratitude for our YES Tea hosts.

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall!

## Joys and Concerns

Continued prayers for **Phillip Robinson** who received his heart transplant on 3/21! 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](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 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

## Monday, March 31

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

## Tuesday, April 1

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

## Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Series  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, April 3

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity  
6:30 pm PNC Meeting

## Friday, April 4

## Saturday, April 5

## Sunday, April 6

9:30 am Worship Service  
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

**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 Director

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 16 : 243 (113 in-person)  
March 23 : 219 (100 in-person)



# 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**



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | April 6 | 11:00 AM

**BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING**  
WITH CHRIS LATONDRESSE, PRESIDENT & CEO,  
BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative CEO, Chris LaTondresse. 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.

**Hosted in Cornerstone Room**

# WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

APRIL 2 | WEEK 4 | 6:00-7:15 PM

Join us for Wednesdays in Lent Fellowship time.

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

**HOSTS:** Personnel, Growth & Properties

**MEAL:** Pizza

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

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



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## Maundy Thursday

JOIN US FOR  
MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP  
APRIL 17 | 7:00 PM

*A quiet, dark, reflective service  
focused on the night of Jesus' arrest.*

**Communion will be shared.**



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# 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.



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# Easter Worship

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 | 9:30 AM

**Rev. Jim Cochran Preaching**



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**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

## 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! BREW CREW EVENT AT VALLEY

**Saturday, April 26  
12:00 - 5:00 PM**

Valley Community  
Presbyterian Church



COME CHECK OUT  
THE BLUE RIBBON-  
WINNING VALLEY  
BREW CREW!

.....  
 Valley Community



# 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  
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!