

# THE VALLEY

MAY 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](http://www.valleychurch.net)  
[office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net)

**Cover Photo:** Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! A meaningful Lenten season in the Valley culminated with a joyous Easter morning. Thank you to everyone who helped make this season special.

# Community News

• **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- **Grad Sunday | Sunday, May 18 @ 9:30 AM (page 8, 10)**
- TEAMS & Youth End of Session Party | Sunday, May 18 | 4:00 - 7:00 PM (page 8)
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 5)**
  - Friday, May 10 @ 7 PM | SlipJig
  - SUNDAY, June 8 @ 7 PM | Dolce Winds \*fun for ALL AGES!\*
- **All-Church Potluck Picnic | Sunday, June 8 @ 5:00 PM (page 7, 10)**
- Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals in May:
  - Wednesday, May 14 @ 7:00 PM
- **Valley Handbell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM**
- Summer 2025 VBC | June 10-13 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 5, 7, 8)
- Pastoral Nominating Committee Update (page 9)

• **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

- **\*May Special Offering\*** Laptops for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy (page 3)
- **Land Acknowledgement Task Force Updates (page 9)**
- Formula for Hope Luncheon (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery fundraiser) (pages 5, 6)
  - Tuesday, May 7 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
- **Taste of the Burbs (PRISM fundraiser) | Thursday, May 8 (pages 5, 6)**
- \*DRIVERS NEEDED\* Meals on Wheels | 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays (page 10)
- **Golden Valley Pride Festival | SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH | 12:00 - 6:00 PM (page 7)**
- Youth Mission Trip | June 18-22 | Milwaukee, WI (see Sheila to register)

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

MAY 2025

Dear Valley,

The question “*Why Church?*” has been rolling around in my head lately. Why do we gather on Sunday mornings? Why do we take time out of our busy lives for committee meetings and votes? Why do we give away part of our precious resources to this organization? When I asked a colleague that question, they pointed to the joy of Easter.

I am still basking in that Easter joy: from the laughter of young ones from our community and neighborhood hunting for Easter eggs, to trumpet prelude, to the Hallelujah chorus that filled the sanctuary on Sunday! The Egg Hunt was a hit once again as kids of all ages looked for eggs, and Easter morning worship was a beautiful celebration of the fellowship we have in the Valley Community and the unending love and power of God.

As we live into the Easter message that love cannot be conquered even by death, we recognize that God’s beloved community does not stop at the doors of the church. For that reason, we at Valley look to how we can best care for the world around us.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

The totals came in from our **Pack the Pews** campaign in March, which totaled nearly 1,000 pounds of food for our community partner PRISM. **Fridays in the Valley** has raised over \$2,000 for mission partners just in 2025 alone. Valley responds to calls for need.

There is also now a new need from one of our sister congregations, **Liberty Community Church**. They have an urgent need for new laptops so their 21st Century Academy scholars can get all the support they need to excel, and we are here to answer. In the month of May, we are raising \$8,000 to help them purchase these new computers. This is a crucial need for the continued success of one of Liberty's key programs, so I encourage you to consider what you might be able to give toward the cause.

As I've thought more and more about the question "Why Church?", the only answer I can come up with is "because the world needs it." We are an Easter people – a community that hangs its hat on the promise of a hopeful tomorrow – and the world is in desperate need of hope now. We believe in caring for and uplifting all of God's children, and our world needs to better recognize the shared community we are all part of. We believe in serving before taking, and the world needs examples of selflessness and humility to the end of equity.

As we move into the spring and summer, I hope you will find a way to help us share that love with the world, whether volunteering for **VBC**, coming to our booth at **Golden Valley Pride Festival**, assisting in worship, or some other way! Together we can bring the message of God's unending love to the world around us.

**See you in church!**



An update from our friends,  
the Karwan Family!  
All three kids are thriving!



# Join us for worship!

Sundays  
at 9:30 AM  
or anytime on our  
YouTube Channel

We are worshipping in-person and via live-stream.

## WORSHIP SERVICE OVERVIEW

- Prelude begins at 9:25 AM | Worship at 9:30 AM, followed by coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall.
- The Family Room located in the Sunshine Room is always available with a TV to watch the service for parents whose little ones need a break.
- Activity Bags and Children's Bulletins are available in the Narthex.
- The Sunshine Room provides **Sunday School for children age 3-3rd grade** and childcare for all ages during Adult Education classes.



# Valley Connects - April 2025

## PALM SUNDAY



## EGG HUNT



## EASTER SUNDAY







**Fridays in the Valley Presents:**

# SLIPJIG

Christopher Becknell,  
fiddle  
David Crittenden,  
guitar

**Friday, May 9, 2025 | 7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
**GREATER MINNEAPOLIS  
CRISIS NURSERY**

 Valley Community



**Fridays in the Valley  
SUNDAY Edition  
Presents...**

# DOLCE WINDS

**SUNDAY, June 8, 2025 | 7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
**THE FATHER PROJECT**

 Valley Community

# OWÁMNIYOMNI INTERPRETIVE TOUR

HOSTED BY  
 Owámníyomni  
Khódayapi



EXPLORE THE DECOLONIZED HISTORY OF OWÁMNIYOMNI  
(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 Lunch Bunch

**MONDAY, MAY 5  
11:30 AM**

## 50<sup>s</sup> GRILL

First Monday of  
every month!

**Two seats  
remaining!**  
Call the Office  
ASAP if you can  
join the fun!



## GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY LUNCHEON

Date: Wednesday, May 7th, 2025  
Time: 12 - 1:00 PM  
Location: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis



## 12th Annual Taste of the 'Burbs

Date: Thursday, May 8th, 2025  
Time: 6:15 PM  
Location: The Metropolitan Club & Ballroom

**Contact the Valley Office if you are interested in attending!**

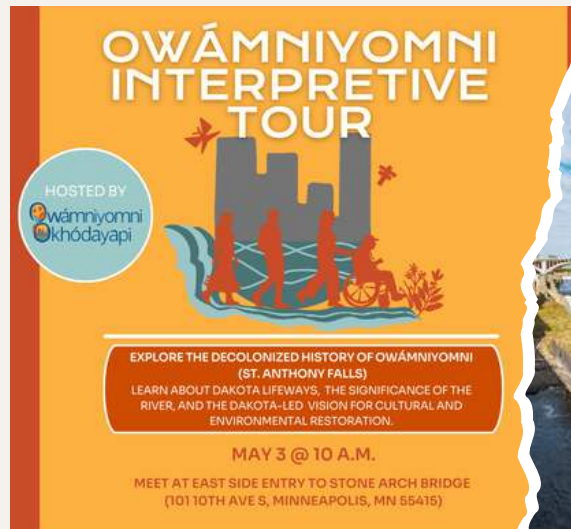
# The More We Get Together

## ON THE ROAD TO FELLOWSHIP AT VALLEY!

VCPC Land Acknowledgement  
logo created by graphic designer  
Wóokiye Win (Katie Bendickson,  
Sisseton Wahpeton Dakhóta)



SCAN TO LEARN MORE  
& REGISTER



**Two seats  
remaining!**  
Call the Office  
ASAP if you can  
join the fun!



GREATER MINNEAPOLIS  
CRISIS NURSERY

*Formula  
for Hope*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7  
12:00-1:00 PM**

HYATT REGENCY  
MINNEAPOLIS

CALL THE VALLEY OFFICE IF  
YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND

**12th Annual Taste of the 'Burbs**

Date: Thursday, May 8th, 2025

Time: 6:15 PM

Location: The Metropolitan Club & Ballroom

CONTACT THE VALLEY OFFICE IF YOU ARE  
INTERESTED IN ATTENDING!



**12th  
Annual**



**PRISM**

## SAVE THE DATE! All-Church Picnic & Fridays in the Valley Concert!

SUNDAY, JUNE 8 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM

The Fellowship & Fridays in the Valley Teams invite you and your family to join Valley members for an evening of food, fun, & music!

CALL THE VALLEY OFFICE  
WITH QUESTIONS



Musical fun  
for ALL AGES!

# DOLCE WINDS



Sunday, June 8, 2025 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
THE FATHER PROJECT

## REGISTER NOW!

Will You Be My  
Neighbor?

# VBC 2025

JUNE 10-13  
9 AM - 12 PM



SCAN TO  
LEARN MORE &  
REGISTER FOR VBC!



Do you have a  
graduate to celebrate  
this spring?

Please join us in  
honoring our 2025  
Valley graduates  
Sunday, May 18 at  
9:30 am.

If you or someone you  
know is graduating from a  
degree or certification  
program this spring,  
please notify the office by  
May 12 so we can include  
them in the bulletin.

[office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net)



GOLDEN VALLEY  
**PRIDE**  
FESTIVAL

## 7th ANNUAL GOLDEN VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH  
12:00 - 6:00 PM  
BROOKVIEW PARK

Golden Valley PRIDE Festival gets better  
every single year! Valley loves  
participating in this important community  
event and will have a booth again this  
year run by volunteers to support the  
event and meet folks in our community.

The festival is family-friendly with music,  
food vendors, bounce houses, inflatable  
obstacle courses, games, and MORE!

Mark your calendars and come support  
this amazing event in our GV community.

# the happier we'll be! 7





## The Valley Education Corner

### FAITH FORMATION



#### Calling All Volunteers!!

##### Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings and VBC!

All of these opportunities for Valley kids cannot happen without help from our Valley grown-ups. Talk to Mariah Messer or sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested!



#### All-Church Potluck Picnic & Concert

##### Sunday, June 8: Dinner @ 5:00pm, Concert @ 7:00pm

The Fellowship & Fridays in the Valley Teams invite you and your family to join Valley members for an evening of food, fun, & music! Come for a potluck picnic with friends, bring a side or dessert to share, and stay for an amazing concert for **ALL AGES!**



#### Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) | Will You Be My Neighbor?

##### Tuesday, June 10 - Friday, June 13; 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! [Registration is open](#) now 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



#### Grad Sunday

##### Sunday, June 18th at 9:30am

Mark your calendars for a Sunday celebrating our graduating seniors! Make sure to email Savannah ([Savannah.Martinez@valleychurch.net](mailto:Savannah.Martinez@valleychurch.net)) so that we can celebrate your grad.



#### TEAMS & Youth End of Session Party | May 18 | 4:00 - 7:00 PM

##### The last day of Youth Group and TEAMS for the school year is Sunday, May 18!

All TEAMS and Youth Group volunteers, participants, and their families are invited to join us for a celebration! We'll play kickball at Gearty Park and eat dinner together. Thank you to all youth, parents, and volunteers for making this year such a success.



#### Clearwater Forest Camp

##### Summer 2025!

Looking for a fun camp experience? Then you will want to check out all the Clearwater Forest has to offer. Welcoming campers entering 3rd grade - 12th grade, there is something for everyone. [Learn more here!](#) Talk to Sheila about available scholarships.



# Indigenous Justice Task Force

In April, the Indigenous Justice Task Force collaborated with the Twin Cities Repair Community to offer a presentation by Sarah Augustine, the executive director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. 350 people attended this presentation about embodying solidarity with Indigenous people. If you weren't able to attend, please enjoy [this recording](#) on YouTube.

In May, the Task Force is working on a \$5,000 grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. We're collaborating with Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe) to **photograph** Ĥahá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek in all 4 seasons. In September 2025, please keep your eyes open for an **art exhibit** at The Trailhead in Theodore Wirth Park. This fall, we'll also be hosting several **public presentations** with Roy about her artistic process.

The Indigenous Justice Task Force would like to extend a **huge thank you to the Endowment Committee** for supporting both of the initiatives listed above. The approval of grant requests submitted to Endowment allowed Valley to be a supporting congregation in Sarah Augustine's visit and to apply for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization grant.

**Valley and our community partners are also offering a variety of engaging events this year.**

To learn more about the Twin Cities as an Indigenous landscape, please join us at these engaging events:

- May 3 at 10:00am – Valley is hosting a **tour of St. Anthony Falls** with Owámniyomni Okhódayapi. Free-will donations requested with required registration [here](#).
- Saturday July 19 at 10:00am – Hennepin History Museum is hosting a **Dakota plant walk** with Tanaġidan To Winj (Blue Hummingbird Woman or Tara Perron) at the Stormwater Park and Learning Center. Free with required registration [here](#).
- Monday October 14 - **Third Annual Ĥahá Wakpádan Water Blessing**. Time and location TBD.
- Saturday October 18 - **Ĥahá Wakpádan 1-Loop Fun Run**. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration [here](#).

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

## AN UPDATE FROM PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As was mentioned in the March update, the PNC has been hard at work answering the narrative questions for the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). The PNC is happy to report that the narrative questions are now complete!

The rest of the MDP was finalized in time for the April Session meeting. We are happy to the report that the MDP was unanimously approved by Session, pending a handful of minor changes. The Clerk of Session will now submit the MDP to the appropriate committee at Presbytery for review and approval.

As always, please keep the members of the PNC in your prayers as we continue the journey!

# 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**

*Final performance of the season before summer break: Sunday, May 18*

Rehearsals held in the Sanctuary

**Contact Janet Carlson if you have questions.**



## VCPC CHOIR

VALLEY IS EXCITED TO ENJOY OUR CHOIR TWO SUNDAYS EACH MONTH!

**Rehearse: May 14 @ 7:00pm**  
**Perform: Sunday, May 18**

**LAST SUNDAY WORSHIP PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON BEFORE SUMMER BREAK!**

Rehearsals on Wed. evenings



• DRIVERS NEEDED •

## Meals on Wheels

3RD & 4TH THURSDAYS OF EVERY MONTH  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

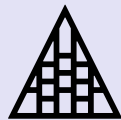
• MAY 15 & 22 •

### ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal  
New Hope  
Robbinsdale  
Golden Valley

### CONTACTS:

**Gail Smith**  
(3rd Thur)  
**Marge Thurston**  
(4th Thur)  
use your directory  
or call the office.



WILL YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are free on one or more days of VBC and would like to help, we would love to have you! We are looking for group leaders, camp counselors, snack helpers, and everything in between.

Sign up online [HERE](#) or in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you are interested. Info meeting date/s to come.

### VBC DATES:

**Tues, June 10 - Fri, June 13: 9am - 12pm**

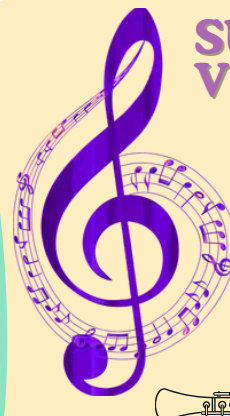
## THIS SPRING WE'RE DOING A NEW THING!

## SAVE THE DATE! All-Church Picnic & Fridays in the Valley Concert!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM**

The Fellowship & Fridays in the Valley Teams invite you and your family to join Valley members for an evening of food, fun, & music!

Come for a potluck picnic with friends, bring a side or dessert to share, and stay for an amazing concert for ALL AGES!



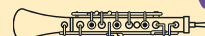
## SUNDAYS in the Valley Presents:

Musical fun for ALL AGES!

## DOLCE WINDS

**Sunday, June 8, 2025 | 7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
**THE FATHER PROJECT**





# CALENDAR

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

## Saturday, May 3

10:00 am Owámníyomni Interpretive Tour

## Sunday, May 4

### 9:30 am Worship Service with communion

11:00 am Adult Ed

2:00 pm Confirmation

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

## Monday, May 5

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

## Tuesday, May 6

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Wednesday, May 7

12:00 pm Formula for Hope Luncheon

## Thursday, May 8

6:15 pm Taste of the Burbs Gala

## Friday, May 9

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

## Sunday, May 11

### 9:30 am Worship Service

No Youth Group or Teams

## Tuesday, May 13

1:00 Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 pm Mission Possible Committee Meeting

## Thursday, May 15

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

5:00 pm Presbytery Meeting at Valley

## Sunday, May 18 - Grad Sunday

8:45 am Deacon Meeting (Cornerstone)

### 9:30 am Worship Service

4:00 pm Youth/TEAMS End of Year Party!

## Monday, May 19

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting

6:30 pm Session Meeting

## Tuesday, May 20

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon @ 50's Grill

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, May 22

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

## Sunday, May 25

### 9:30 am Worship Service

## Monday, May 26- OFFICE CLOSED

## Tuesday, May 27

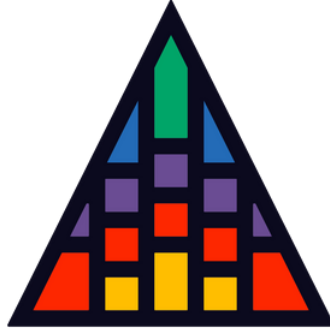
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

# BIRTHDAYS

Gregory Rom  
Phil Romine  
Crystal Boyd  
Bob Tripet  
Walt Hanson  
Annette Nichols  
William Dudley  
Ana Freeberg  
Jackie Goiffon  
Earl Shenk  
Shirley Toering  
Brian Hassel  
Susan Tracy  
Lucas Kopischke  
Elizabeth Brooker  
Vivian Bi  
Suzan Gibson  
Len Biggs  
Kevin Hagelin  
Amy Matthews  
Haley Brooker  
Thomas Schuette  
Lloyd Olson  
Jan Sacco  
Herb Nichols  
Jennifer Soens  
Dan Priem  
Carolyn Anderson  
Sandra McCarthy  
Kiersten Rude  
Lynn Thier  
Mariah Gautsche  
Lillian LaBelle  
Alex Gillett  
Ellis Mead





# 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.



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