

THE VALLEY

SUMMER 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: In May we celebrated Savannah, Valley Office Administrator, who is expecting a baby! We send her many warm wishes and prayers in this exciting time.

Community News

• **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

PENTECOST SUNDAY - Wear RED!

- Sunday June 8th at 9:30 AM
- Valley Office Closed: Thursday, June 19 & Friday, July 4
- **All-Church Picnic | Sunday, June 8 @ 5:00 PM (pages 5, 6)**
- **Fridays in the Valley (pages 5, 6)**
 - Sunday, June 8 @ 7 PM | Dolce Winds
- **Summer 2025 VBC | June 10-13 | 9 AM - 12 PM (pages 6, 8)**
- Valley Youth Mission Trip | June 18-22 (page 8)
- **Valley Brew Crew | Sunday, June 29 | 4-8 PM**
- Clearwater Forest Fest | Saturday, July 12 | ALL DAY!
 - <https://clearwaterforest.org/events/>
- Valley Summer Picnic & Yard Games | Wed, July 23 | 5:30-8 PM (pages 7, 8, 10)
- **Summer Golf Event | Saturday, August 9 @ 3 PM (pages 7, 10)**
- Clearwater Chrysalis | August 14-17 (pages 7, 10)
- **Valley Kids & Youth Echo Service | Sunday, August 31 @ 9:30 AM**

• **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Indigenous Justice Taskforce Updates (page 9)**
- Golden Valley PRIDE | Saturday, June 7 | 12:00 - 6:00 PM (page 5, 6)
- **An Evening with Kate Knuth event | Monday, June 16 @ 5 PM (pages 5, 9)**
- 2025 Midsummer Art Festival at Zani Otunwe | Saturday, July 12 | 10 AM-4 PM (pages 7, 9)
- Meals On Wheels Delivery Drivers Needed | 3rd and 4th Thursdays of the month (page 10)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

JUNE 2025

Dear Valley,

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since we processed downstairs at the end of worship, moving our Sunday mornings into Fellowship Hall for the summer. As the sanctuary was torn down to the studs and rebuilt, we sang and prayed together while celebrating that the work being done would position the church to proclaim the love of God in the Valley for the next 75 years.

Looking back a year later, I have gotten to see the love Valley has for its neighbors firsthand. I saw Valley’s hospitality on full display as our presbytery struggled to find space to meet, and so they called us. Our regional body remembered this church’s reputation as one who opens its doors and hearts to all who need it, and a team of volunteers spent hours preparing food and technology to ensure a smooth quarterly meeting of presbytery. I also saw Valley’s love in the special offering for Liberty Church this past month. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to raise \$8,000 for new laptops for the 21st Century Academy.



Rev. Jim Cochran

Even now we continue to do the work of sharing the gospel as we find ways to engage people of all ages even in the quieter summer months. Valley continues to support its longstanding partnership with the **Golden Valley Pride Festival** by hosting a booth again this year on June 7th. We hope you'll spend a minute at the table to say hi to the volunteers and extend the "Valley Welcome" to all who visit our booth at this year's festival. And even when children's calendars are filled with camps and summer programs, Valley is finding ways to engage our youngest Christ-followers through our **Vacation Bible Camp** and **Mission Trip**.

The work of the church is to reflect the love of God into every corner of our society, regardless the challenge or cost, and I continue to be amazed of the determination of our members and staff to do exactly that. As I write this letter, our Office Administrator Savannah Martinez is already away on maternity leave and I will also be on leave beginning July 16th as my family and I prepare to welcome our little one into the world, but I know the church is in the safe hands of our elders, deacons, and parish associates, but most especially our staff.

I don't have to tell you how amazing our staff team is, because anyone who steps foot in the church can see their dedication. From Janet, Rachel, and Jane in our music ministry, to Hunter and Ben who keep our facilities clean and running, to Rachel Hole who is coming onto the team as temporary office administrator, to Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer who spearhead and energize all our ministries, I am beyond grateful for the incredible people who support Valley's work in the world.

As we step into this summer together, I give thanks to you all for your continued support of Valley's mission: open hearts, open minds, opening lives to God.

Peace to you,



AN UPDATE FROM

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PNC is happy to report that the MDP has been approved by the Pastoral Positions Team (PPT). It is now live on the Church Leadership Connection system (CLC), and we have already received several applications for the position. The PNC will soon begin the process of reviewing applications and other potential matches generated in the CLC system. As a reminder, it is important that we maintain confidentiality during this process and the PNC will continue to share information as we're able.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for this committee as we continue the search for our new head pastor.

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 - May 2025

OWÁMNIYOMNI INTERPRETIVE TOUR



Photos by Crystal Boyd



TEAMS FIELD TRIP TO THE U



FORMULA FOR HOPE

TASTE OF THE BURBS



THIS SUMMER 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 salad 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

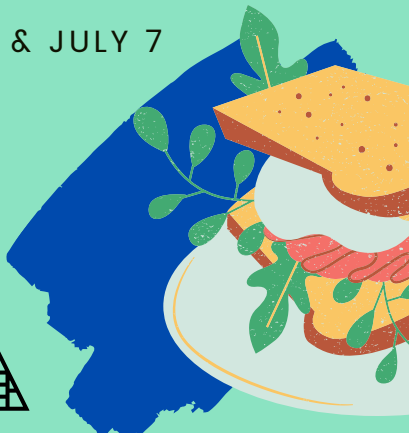
FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
THE FATHER PROJECT

Valley
Lunch Bunch

MONDAY, JUNE 2 & JULY 7
11:30 AM

50^s
GRILL

First Monday of every month!



GOLDEN VALLEY
PRIDE
FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 7
12:00 - 6:00 pm
Brookview Park

200 Brookview Pkwy N,
Golden Valley, MN 55426

Family-friendly, 2 music stages,
food trucks, bounce houses,
games, vendors, and
community organizations



ELDERS
CLIMATE
ACTION

A project of Elders Action Network

presents

An Evening with Kate Knuth
Climate Director,
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

at

Valley Community Presbyterian Church
Monday, June 16 | 5:00 pm

To learn more and register visit
<https://tinyurl.com/yhfnwvj>



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Closed in
observation of
Juneteenth
Freedom Day
6/19/25

Regular hours will
resume on 6/20/25



ON THE ROAD TO FELLOWSHIP AT VALLEY

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.



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

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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 salad to share, and stay for an amazing concert for ALL AGES!



Musical fun
for ALL AGES!

DOLCE WINDS

Sunday, June 8, 2025 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
THE FATHER PROJECT

VBC 2025



Won't You Be
My Neighbor?

JUNE 10-13
9 AM - 12 PM



Educational Ministries
Team will provide tasty
frozen treats for dessert
after the concert!



CLEARWATER CHRYSALIS WOMEN'S RETREAT

AUGUST 14-17, 2025
OPTIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY - AUGUST 13

KEYNOTE: DR. KELLY SHERMAN-CONROY
THEME: WALKING THE GOOD ROAD:
EMBRACING SPIRITUAL WISDOM FOR THE JOURNEY

Visit <https://clearwaterforest.org/>
for more information and to register

CLEARWATER FOREST
CONTACT CLEARWATER WITH QUESTIONS
218-678-2325
REGISTER IS NOW OPEN!



SUMMER PICNIC & YARD GAMES

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP
AND YARD GAMES!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23RD
5:30-8:30 PM



BRIGHTWOOD HILLS
GOLF COURSE OF
NEW BRIGHTON

VALLEY SUMMER GOLF EVENT

**Saturday, August 9
3:00 pm**

After golfing join us at
**Adagio's Pizza
Factory for dinner!**

SIGN UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
OR CALL THE OFFICE



July 12, 2025 CLEARWATER FOREST FEST

Free Event Open to the Public
EVENTS ALL DAY FROM 8 AM - 7 PM



16595 Crooked Lake Road
Deerwood, MN 56444



2025 Midsummer Art Festival

On Saturday July 12, 2025 Makoce Ikikcupi will be hosting the 2025 Midsummer Arts Festival at Zani Otunwe, in Granite Falls, MN. For the first time, we are inviting the public to visit our earthlodge village site. There are no modern conveniences at the site. Gate opens at 10:00 am the event closes at 4:00 pm.

Free admission. There will be treats, art and games for purchases (cash only). We ask that all who attend respect Dakota land, people and ways.

5310 285th Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241
Contact: robinrobertson2025@gmail.com
605-467-9114



the happier
we'll be!

TEAMS & YOUTH GROUP END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



Summer Faith Formation

While Faith Formation in the summer looks a little different as we take a break from our regular curriculum, kids will still explore weekly lessons through Bible stories, children's literature and play. Natalie will be here to offer a familiar face and lead the group.



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC)

Tuesday, June 10 - Friday, June 13: 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! There are 18 Valley kids signed up to come and learn with us. We also have 7 Valley grown-ups who have already volunteered to help, but the more the merrier! Email Sheila or Mariah to sign up!



Summer Picnic & Yard Games

Wednesday, July 23: Dinner @ 5:30pm, Games & Fellowship after

Let's get together for a mid-summer check-in with Valley friends! Bring a side or dessert to share and we'll provide the hot dogs & brats. Valley has outdoor games like Connect 4, Giant Jenga, and cornhole, but feel free to bring along your favorite game.

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



Valley Youth Mission Trip | June 18 - 22th

Eight Valley 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. There'll be opportunities for fun and adventure, canoeing, fishing, soccer and more!



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.

Valley Kids and Youth Summer Echo Service

Sunday, August 31: 9:30 AM

We invite all of our Valley family to worship on Sunday morning, August 31, to show support for Valley Kids and Youth! Vacation Bible Campers will share several camp songs and Youth Group members will share out about their Mission Trip experiences.



Indigenous Justice Task Force



May is American Indian Heritage Month in Minnesota. The Indigenous Justice Task Force celebrated by presenting a 2-part Minute for Mission during the worship service on May 11 and May 18. Check out Valley's [YouTube channel](#) to see the recordings.

In May, the Task Force also hosted a tour of St. Anthony Falls with the Native-led organization Owámniyomni Okhódayapi. Program Director Barry Hand (Lakota) educated our group of 22 participants about Dakota history and culture. He also explained current restoration efforts for the lands and waters around the falls. Learn more about this exciting work at the webpage for Owámniyomni Okhódayapi [here](#).

This spring, the Task Force is working with Mission Possible and Session to create a policy about when to use Valley's land acknowledgment statement. Many thanks to Jennifer Biggs for leading this initiative!

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

- Saturday July 12 from 10:00am to 4:00pm – Makoce Ikikcupi is hosting the **2025 Midsummer Art Festival** at Zani Otunwe in Granite Falls. For more information, contact crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com.
- 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](#).
- Tuesday August 12 at 1:00pm – Perpich Centers for Arts Education is hosting a **Native Authors Book Fair** in Golden Valley. More information [here](#).
- Monday October 14 - **Third Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Blessing**. Time and location TBD.
- Saturday October 18 - **Ĥaĥá 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!**

ELDERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION TWIN CITIES & THIRD ACT MINNESOTA PRESENT

An Evening with Kate Knuth 2025 Minnesota Climate Action Framework - Updating Our State's Climate Plan

Monday, June 16, 2025

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church



Kate Knuth, Climate Director, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Join us for Kate's presentation, Q&A, dessert & mingling!

Kate serves as the Climate Director for the MPCA. With a deep commitment to addressing climate change, she leverages her extensive background in public service, academic research, and community engagement to this role.

To learn more and register visit <https://tinyurl.com/yhfndwyj>

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

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

• JUNE 19 & 26, JULY 17 & 24 •

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
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Closed
in observation of
4th of July

Friday 7/4

Valley Staff will be
back in the Office on
Monday 7/7



Dakota Plant Walk with Tanaġidan To Win

SATURDAY, JULY 19 | 10:00 - 11:00 AM
2522 MARSHALL ST. NE, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418

Tanaġidan To Win is a Dakota and Ojibwe mother, author, and plant medicine enthusiast. She is also a Water Protector who upholds the traditions of her relative, Hāza Īnyanke Win (Woman Who Runs for Huckleberries or Betsey St. Clair). During the walk, Tanaġidan To Win will share about her family's history and her connections with native plants and local waterways.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and register.



Valley Community

VALLEY SUMMER PICNIC & YARD GAMES

Wednesday, July 23rd
5:30- 8:00 pm

We'll provide the hot dogs & brats,
you bring a side or dessert to share
and a favorite yard game!

**Sign-up in Fellowship Hall or
Contact the Valley office!**

763-588-0831 | office@valleychurch.net



Valley Community



SUMMER GOLF EVENT

BRIGHTWOOD HILLS GOLF COURSE
OF NEW BRIGHTON

Saturday, August 9, 2025
Tee Times start at 3:00 pm

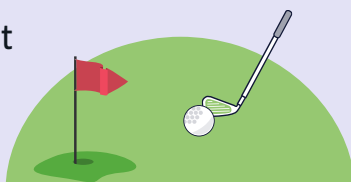
Golfers & Non-Golfers Welcome

**Sign-up in Fellowship Hall or
Contact the Valley office to sign-up!**

763-588-0831
office@valleychurch.net



Valley Community



CLEARWATER CHRYSALIS WOMEN'S RETREAT

AUGUST 14-17, 2025
OPTIONAL SERVICE DAY - AUGUST 13

Visit www.clearwaterforest.org for more
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CLEARWATER FOREST

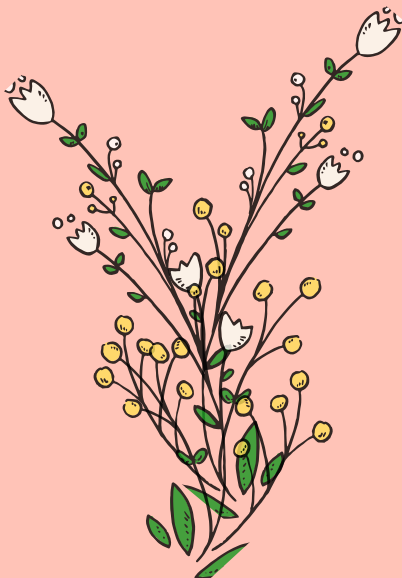
CONTACT CLEARWATER WITH QUESTIONS
218-678-2325
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS

Eleanor Kopischke	Rick Carlson
Connor Gottschalk	Taichi Chen
Ryne Nichols	Jean-Luc LaBelle
Alice Zieska	Duncan Fadell
Carol Bright	Marit Willey
Tom Magill	Kaden Craven
Margo Morrow	Lia Mayer
Jackie Graham	Larren Boyd
Odin Willey	Sam Malecha
Christy Smith	Tom Day
Mike Vogel	Craig Michael
Lucy Feneis	Tim Grosshuesch
Ella Halverson	Kate Reinert
Dan Marshall	Lois Schmidt
Bonnie Carlson	Jay Tarbell
Ann Roach	Ben Kummer
Beth Carlson	Merlyn Mayer
Catherine Parks	David Toering
Dawn Schuldt	
Steve Wasmoen	



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

Sunday, June 1

First Day of LGBTQIA+ PRIDE Month

9:30 am Worship Service with communion

Monday, June 2

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, June 3

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

Saturday, June 7

12:00 - 6:00 pm Golden Valley PRIDE Festival at Brookview Park

Sunday, June 8 - Pentecost Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service

5:00 pm All-Church Picnic

7:00 pm *Sundays* in the Valley concert

Tuesday, June 10

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp

Wednesday, June 11

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp

Thursday, June 12

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Friday, June 13

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, June 15

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, June 16

5:00 pm Elders for Climate Action Event

Tuesday, June 17

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

Wednesday, June 18 - Sunday, June 22

Youth Mission Trip - Milwaukee, WI

Thursday, June 19 - Juneteenth

Office Closed

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, June 22

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, June 23

6:30 pm Session Meeting

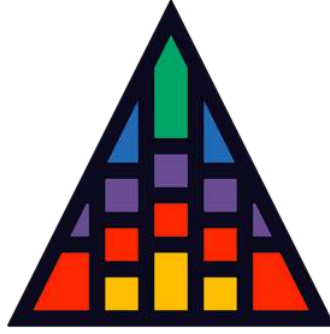
Thursday, June 26

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

5:00 pm Indigenous Justice Taskforce

Sunday, June 29

9:30 am Worship Service



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VCPC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

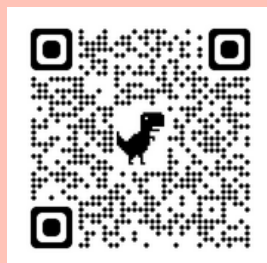
As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

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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