

# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday, May 25, 2025

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# GATHERING US IN

**PRELUDE**      *Two Preludes on Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*      Jane Nienaber, organ  
Arr. Neil Harman, Paul Manz

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

**GATHERING MUSIC**      *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*  
Wayne Wold

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy;*

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

*One: You judge the people with equity and guide the entirety of the earth;*

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

*One: God, our God has blessed us;*

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

*One: Let us worship God.*

## † Hymn #403

### **Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;  
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be;  
to my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.

Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Lord, you know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared.

Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love. We ask this in Jesus' 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.

**God Is So Good** (vs. 1)

God is so good; God is so good  
God is so good; God's so good to me.

## HEARING THE WORD

### TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

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

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*  
J.G. Walther

Jane Nienaber

### SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

### SERMON

*Spread and Sprawl*

Rev. Jim Cochran

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### † Hymn #375

### **Shall We Gather at the River**

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

#### **Refrain:**

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (Refrain)

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (Refrain)

Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (Refrain)

### 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

*Vacation Bible Camp*

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

## OFFERTORY

*Sarabande*  
G.F. Handel

Jane Nienaber

## 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 #12

### *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Finale Jubilante*  
Healey Willan

Jane Nienaber

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

### Chancel Flowers

Sunday, May 25

Sponsored by Marge & Chuck Thurston

*In memory of our fathers, Elsworth L. Thurston & Stanley W. Christ*

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall!

† Please rise in body or spirit.

# Joys and Concerns

Continued prayers for **Valley Members** in their ongoing health journeys. Updates can be found here as they are made. To stay up-to-date be sure to follow their Caring Bridge profiles here:

**Taichi Chen:** <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen>

**Rick Carlson:** <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rickcarlson101>

**Chelsea Gusek:** <https://www.caringbridge.org/site/81a19644-2489-11f0-9b0d-15ed645a936d>

**Susie Potter:** <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susiepotter>

**Phillip Robinson:** <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/philliprobinson>

## 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, May 25**

9:30 am Worship Service  
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

### **Monday, May 26**

**Office is Closed**

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

### **Tuesday, May 27**

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

### **Wednesday, May 28**

### **Thursday, May 29**

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

### **Friday, May 30**

### **Saturday, May 31**

### **Sunday, June 1**

9:30 am Worship Service  
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

### **Monday, June 2**

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

**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

### **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**

May 11 : 210 (110 in-person)  
May 18 : 234 (124 in-person)



VALLEY COMMUNITY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Closed

in observation of  
**Memorial Day**

**Monday 5/26**

Valley Staff will be  
back in the Office  
on Tuesday 5/27

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

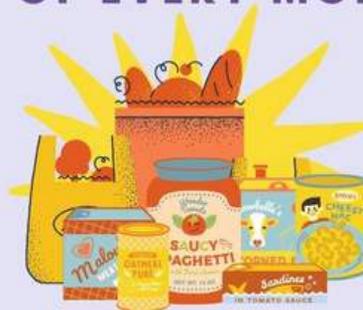
## Meals on Wheels

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

WE'LL BE GETTING CRAFTY AT VBC...  
DO YOU HAVE ANY

“BUILDING” MATERIALS?



- plastic bottles of all sizes
- egg cartons
- toilet paper & paper towel rolls
- milk cartons (please rinse)
- packing/shipping materials
- cardboard boxes
- shoe boxes
- styrofoam

Bring your donations to church  
and drop them in the wagon by  
the info center downstairs

**REGISTER NOW!**

**VBC  
2025**



**JUNE 10-13  
9 AM - 12 PM**



**SCAN TO  
REGISTER**



# Valley Lunch Bunch

MONDAY, JUNE 2ND  
11:30 AM

**50<sup>s</sup>**  
GRILL

First Monday of every month!



## 7th ANNUAL GOLDEN VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL!

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

200 Brookview Pkwy N,  
Golden Valley, MN 55426

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.



# PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING



**A significant portion of the Pentecost Offering supports educational and inspirational events for our youth on a national level.** Seeking to unify in service those who attend these events has the aim of making our church stronger at the earliest possible generation.

In addition, our gifts will reach a helping hand and heart to children at risk, who struggle just to survive and often make it because of a simple, "we can help."

**May your giving be as generous as possible as you mark your contribution PENTECOST to be received June 8, 2025.**

**Remember to wear your RED!**

## ALL-CHURCH PICNIC & FITV CONCERT

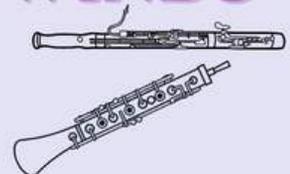
SUNDAY, JUNE 8 | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**We're trying something new!** Join the Fellowship Committee in celebrating the start of summer by attending the **Valley Church Picnic & FITV Concert!** This is a family friendly event & all are welcome. **Fellowship** will provide **hotdogs/brats** & **Education** will provide dessert, **you bring a side dish/salad to share.**

**Please join us rain or shine to welcome the summer!**



**DOLCE  
WINDS**





# Happy Birthday Valley Family!



Gregory Rom

Kevin Hagelin

Phil Romine

Amy Matthews

Crystal Boyd

Haley Brooker

Bob Tripet

Thomas Schuette

Walt Hanson

Lloyd Olson

Annette Nichols

Jan Sacco

William Dudley

Herb Nichols

Ana Freeberg

Jennifer Soens

Jackie Goiffon

Dan Priem

Earl Shenk

Carolyn Anderson

Shirley Toering

Sandra McCarthy

Brian Hassel

Kiersten Rude

Susan Tracy

Lynn Thier

Lucas Kopischke

Mariah Gautsche

Elizabeth Brooker

Lillian LaBelle

Vivian Bi

Alex Gillett

Suzan Gibson

Ellis Mead

Len Biggs



# 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!