

# 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](http://www.valleychurch.net)  
[office@valleychurch.net](mailto: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 @ 7 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**

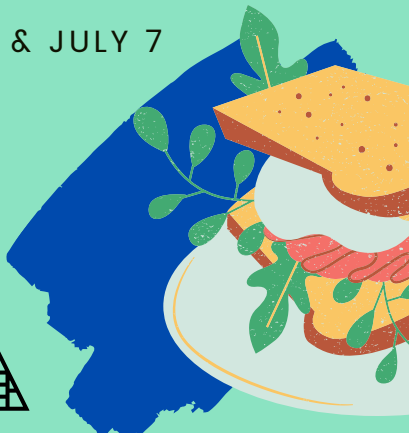
FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
**THE FATHER PROJECT**

*Valley*  
**Lunch Bunch**

**MONDAY, JUNE 2 & JULY 7**  
**11:30 AM**

**50<sup>s</sup>**  
**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 | 7:00 pm

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



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!

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!



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 285<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
Contact: robinrobertson2025@gmail.com  
605-467-9114



the happier  
we'll be!



## TEAMS & YOUTH GROUP END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



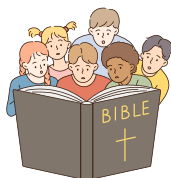
# The Valley Education Corner

## 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](mailto:crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com).
- Saturday July 19 at 10:00am – Hennepin History Museum is hosting a **Dakota plant walk** with Tanaġidanj 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 Wakpádanj Water Blessing**. Time and location TBD.
- Saturday October 18 - **Ĥaĥá Wakpádanj 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, Hą́za Ínyanġke 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](mailto: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**

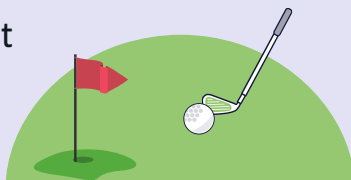
Golfers & Non-Golfers Welcome

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

763-588-0831  
[office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net)



Valley Community



## CLEARWATER CHRYSALIS WOMEN'S RETREAT

AUGUST 14-17, 2025

OPTIONAL SERVICE DAY - AUGUST 13

Visit [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org) for more  
information and to register

CLEARWATER FOREST

CONTACT CLEARWATER WITH QUESTIONS

218-678-2325

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

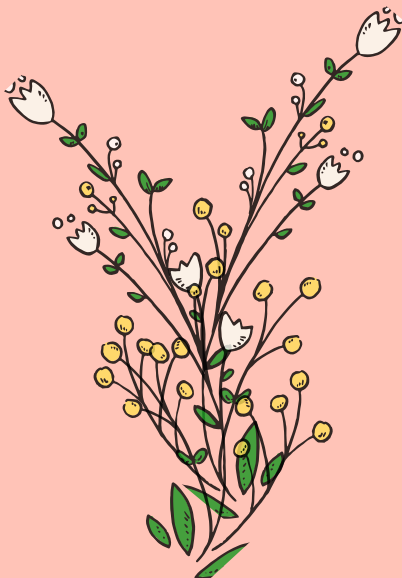




# CALENDAR

## 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

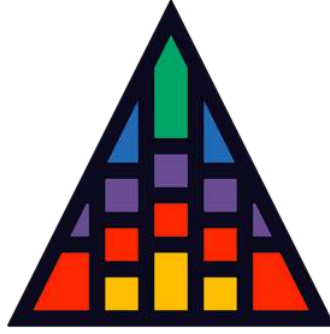
**Thursday, June 26**

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

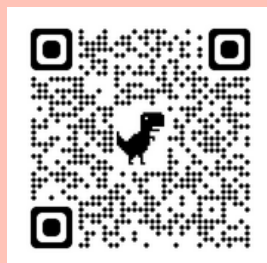
As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

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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