



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Homecoming Sunday

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Prelude in C Major
J.S. Bach

Jane Nienaber, organ

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Arr. by Hal Hopson

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Let Israel say:

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Let the house of Aaron say:

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Let those who revere the Lord say:

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Let us worship God!

† Hymn #463

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Merciful God, you made us in your image with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, and our obedience incomplete. We find complicity in powers of this world that harm our neighbors and pollute your creation. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us closer to you, and strengthen us to love just as you have first loved us. Through Christ we pray. 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.

SUNG RESPONSE #837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

Congregational Blessing:

You are God's beloved child.
With you God is well pleased.

SPECIAL MUSIC

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
Arr. by Charles Callahan

*Refer to hymn #523 for text

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:2-5; Matthew 18:1-9

SERMON

Imagine

Rev. Jim Cochrane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn #692

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. **(Refrain)**

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. **(Refrain)**

May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. **(Refrain)**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Our Loose Offerings - Every Meal

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Let Us Break Bread Together
Arr. by Dale Wood

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, from whom comes everything that is good, we give you thanks for all your gifts: for the wondrous work of your creation, the blessing of your Spirit, and the saving mystery of faith. Help us share our gifts with others, to serve your mission in the world, and to tell the Good News day to day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

The church of Christ cannot be bound
by walls of wood or stone.

Where charity and love are found
there can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door
and step into the street.
True service will seek out the poor
and ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by
when justice is denied.
True mercy hears the homeless cry
and welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share
to meet our neighbor's need,
then we extend the Spirit's care
through every selfless deed.

Repeat 1st verse

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on the Church's One Foundation
Arr. by Gordon Young

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, September 7

Sponsored by Valerie Robinson

Wishing all students, teachers, and staff a great first week of school.

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall!

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of support for **Karen Harms** who learned on Thursday of this week that she has lung cancer. In the coming weeks she will meet with her care team to discuss a treatment plan.

We give thanks to God for the life of **Jeffrey Lund**. Continued prayers for the **Lund** and **Minter** families.

We give thanks to God for the life of **Margaret Sandberg**. Continued prayers for her "Pew Pals" and the Sandberg family.

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>

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
to set up withdrawals directly from your account.
You can always adjust the amount.

This Week at Valley

Sunday, September 7

Homecoming Sunday/Communion

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Fellowship Hour & Bake Sale!

Monday, September 8

11:30 am Lunch Bunch

6:30 pm Deacon Meeting

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, September 9

12:00 pm Beacon Light the Way Lunch

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 10

6:00 pm Joy of Recovery OA Group

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 11

5:00 pm Presbytery Meeting

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

Friday, September 12

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, September 13

Sunday, September 14

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Adult Education Kick-Off

12:00 pm PRISMPalooza

5:30 pm Youth Group & TEAMS Open House

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

The entire Valley Community!

Transitional Pastor

Head of Staff

Rev. Jim Cochrane

Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Office Administrator

Rachel Hole

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

August 24: 196 (93 in-person)

August 31: 216 (90 in-person)



**Fridays in
the Valley
Presents:**



incidental trio



**Steve Staruch - viola
Karen Hansen - clarinet
Sue Ruby - piano**



Friday, September 12, 2025 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
EVERY MEAL - DISTRICT 281



Valley Community



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Adult Education | September 14 | 11:00 AM

RESILIENCY HUBS- HOW CAN YOUR COMMUNITY HELP?

REV. BUFF GRACE

As weather disruptions and disasters increase and our communities face the consequences, churches have an opportunity to play an important role to care for their members and neighborhoods. For the last year, MNIPL has been researching best practices across the country and is developing a method for creating 10,000 Resilience Hubs across our state. Learn more about this concept and how your congregation might participate.

Hosted in The Cornerstone Room



PRISM

- COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY -

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

12-4PM

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY VENDORS

GAMES

FOOD

MUSIC

FALL PREVIEW SALE

-1220 Zane Ave N, Golden Valley, MN 55422-

PRISM

PALOOZA

Valley will be hosting a booth at PRISMPalooza!

If you are interested in volunteering for an hour (or two!), talk to Sarah Fadell or email Mariah Messer (mariah.messer@valleychurch.net)



TEAMS

TEAMS/YOUTH GROUP Grades 4-12

Open House

Sunday, September 14

5:30 - 7:00 PM

NEW!
START TIME

- Register at the event, meet your leaders and stay for dinner. Prospective Volunteers and Families are welcome to join us!

- TEAMS Program is for kids entering 4/5 grades
- Youth Group- middle school 6-9 and senior high 10-12



VALLEY
YOUTH

BLUE THUMB FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE



SAT
20
SEPT

10 AM – 1 PM

VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GOLDEN VALLEY, MN

WITH BLAZING STAR GARDENS,
ECOSCAPES NATIVE NURSERY, MNL,
NORTHERN HOLLER NURSERY
FOOD TRUCK + COFFEE CART!



Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY, SEPT 20 | 1:00-6:00 PM

PAT DAILY'S HOUSE
REFERENCE YOUR DIRECTORY

IT'S CIDER TIME!

Bring apples, pears,
peeling & cutting equipment

PIZZA & POTLUCK

Pat will be firing up her spectacular pizza oven.
Bring sides or snacks to share and your appetite!
Beverages of all kinds | Kids Always Welcome

CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 | 9:30 AM

Join us for Sunday morning worship as we celebrate and welcome this year's incredible group of Confirmands.

Elders - please plan to arrive by 8:30 AM to meet with the Confirmands before worship.

VALLEY MEN'S RETREAT 2025

Clearwater Forest
Camp & Retreat Center
September 26-28

Join other Valley men for a weekend away at the beautiful Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center. Participants will enjoy fellowship and activities. There will also be time to explore topics related to the Presbyterian faith and spirituality through study and discussion.

Sign-Up in Fellowship Hall
-or-
Contact the Church Office



Fall Festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
5:00 - 8:00 PM

Get your tickets now!
\$15 ADULT
\$10 KIDS



Scan the QR code or visit

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-vcpc-fall-festival>



**Tacos &
Trivia**
FALL FESTIVAL 2025



Call for Fall Festival Donations & Volunteers!

FALL FESTIVAL IS COMING UP!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
5:00 - 8:00 PM

**Can you help make
the event a success?**

We are currently looking for donations to include in the auction:

- Act of service (cooking, teaching a skill, baked goods, etc.)
- Gift cards that you have not used
- Item that you think would be useful or popular

**If you can volunteer before, during, or after the event
it would make a huge difference in helping things run smoothly.
See the sign up in the Fellowship Hall or reach out to Jay Perry**

Valley Craft & Connect

Craft & Connect is for anyone who enjoys a day crafting, working on a puzzle or just chatting with friends.

Come catch up on a project, start something new or come see what others are working on for inspiration! There will be craft supplies, puzzles & cribbage boards available. Come for the fellowship and stay for the fun!

Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM.



SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
10 AM - 2:00 PM
LUNCH AT 12 PM



VCPC CHOIR

VALLEY IS EXCITED TO ENJOY
OUR CHOIR ON SELECT SUNDAYS!

PERFORMING

Sunday, September 14 | Wednesday, September 10
Sunday, September 21 | Wednesday, September 17
Sunday, October 5 | Wednesday, October 1
Sunday, October 19 | Wednesday, October 15

REHEARSING

Wednesday rehearsals take place
on the Wednesday the same
week before the Sundays above
at 7:00pm unless specified
otherwise.

Rehearsals on
Wed. 7:00pm





Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | September 21 | 11:00 AM

PROJECT FOR PRIDE IN LIVING (PPL)

EMILY TERRELL, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) builds the hope, assets, and self-reliance of individuals and families who have lower incomes by providing transformative affordable housing and career readiness services. Emily Terrell, PPL's Director of Youth Employment Strategies, will speak about their successful work with youth who come from challenged environments through the LEAP (Learn, Earn, Achieve, Potential) initiative. She will have some fascinating stories to share!

Hosted in The Cornerstone Room

Fridays in the Valley Presents:



St Croix Valley Flute Collective

Friday, October 10, 2025 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
MISSIONS INC.



Valley Community



Happy Birthday Valley Family!



Frankline Nyongkah

Lennox Mead

Alan Wold

Aaron Craven

Arnold Schellhaas

Pius Nti

Jeff Soltau

Hayden Gautsche

Claire Reinert

Pete Messer

Christine Phelan

Jonathan Schellhaas

Ted Arneson

Steve Bauer

Katie Decker

Gwen Rouleau

Evonne Kirchenwitz

Jeffrey Lund

SuAnn Bygd

Mark Freeman

James Decker

Tom Jenson

Mariah Messer

Andrew Westerlund

Helmut Winter

Peter Brant

Paul Minter

Emily Steffel

Sarah Gonsior

Deborah Poynter

Jennifer Biggs

Bellinda Nti



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!