

# THE VALLEY

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N  
Golden Valley, MN 55422



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Pastoral Care: 763-445-9665  
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# Community News

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**
  - **Fall Festival | Saturday, October 4 | 5 PM - 8 PM (pages 5, 6)**
    - Purchase tickets at the door or [click here!](#)
  - **Stewardship Kick-Off | Sunday, October 26 @ 9:30 AM (pages 5, 7)**
    - **Rev. Jim Cochrane preaching at 9:30 AM**
    - Stewardship newsletters and pledge information will be available beginning Sunday, Oct. 19th
  - **Fridays in the Valley (pages 6, 10)**
    - Friday, October 10 @ 7 PM | St. Croix Valley Flute Collective
  - **Valley Craft & Connect | Saturday, October 25 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 7)**
  - **Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 26 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM (page 7, 8)**
    - Email Mariah if you would like to decorate a trunk! ([Mariah.Messer@valleychurch.net](mailto:Mariah.Messer@valleychurch.net))
  - **Fall Clean Up Day | Saturday, November 1 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (page 10)**
    - Many hands make light work! There will be something to do for all ages.
  - **Donate Blood | Sunday, November 2 | 12:00 - 4:00 PM [click here](#) to register.**
    - Valley will now be a recurring Memorial Blood Centers donation site! (page 9)
  - **Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2nd - Fall Back!**
  - Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond! (pages 5-10)
- **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**
  - **Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 26 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM**
    - Bring pantry items, diapers, and wipes to donate!
  - **Indigenous Justice Task Force updates and events (page 9)**
  - **PNC Update (page 7)**
  - **Bridging Dresser Build | Saturday, November 15 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (page 10)**
  - **NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers! To volunteer, call:**
    - Gail Smith to sign up to deliver on the 3rd Thursday of the month
    - Marge Thurston to sign up to deliver on the 4th Thursday of the month

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

OCTOBER 2025

Dear Valley,

October has come! If September marks the kickoff to a new year at church as programs ramp up and families settle into a new school year and schedule, October sees us getting “into the groove” of this new year. Perhaps you have some **adult education** classes highlighted on your calendar, or **TEAMS** and **Youth Group** are becoming weekly routine in your household. There is no shortage of ways to get involved in the life of Valley in October, from **Fall Festival** to **Trunk-or-Treat**, so I hope you find your way to connect!

On Sunday, October 26th, we will begin our annual stewardship campaign, and this year’s theme is *We Are Called*. These words echo through Scripture and our tradition, reminding us that the church is not simply a building or a Sunday gathering. It is a living, breathing community called by God to embody Christ’s love in the world.



Rev. Jim Cochrane



As the stewardship committee talked through the spring and summer, we discussed how our calling is both personal and communal. We are called to worship God with our whole hearts, to seek justice and show mercy, to welcome the stranger, and to nurture faith in every generation. This call shapes not only what we do but also how we use the gifts entrusted to us.

Every stewardship season, Paul's words to the Corinthians echo in my head. He told them that giving a portion of what we have should not be done under compulsion but instead be an act of joy. See what God has done and continues to do for us, and may your gift be a response to that good news. As stewardship materials are mailed out and picked up this month, I encourage you to remember that your financial commitment to Valley is more than a line in a budget. It is an act of discipleship and support for the community that seeks to further God's work in the world. Your giving supports vibrant worship, pastoral care, education, and caring partnerships and relationships that extend the compassion of Christ beyond our walls.

As you pray about your own response to God's call, I invite you to prepare for **Commitment Sunday** on **November 9th**, when we will bring our commitments forward in worship as an offering of faith and hope.

Together, we can continue to create a community where all are welcome, the vulnerable are cared for, and faith is nurtured and lived out. May we listen together for God's voice, trusting that the Spirit will guide us into a future filled with grace and possibility.

***In Christ,***




Learning and growing in the Valley Sanctuary

**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 3-3rd grade and childcare for all ages during Adult Education classes.



# Valley Connects- September 2025



## HOMEcoming SUNDAY



## BREW CREW



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY





# Fall Festival

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

## Silent Auction is LIVE! BID NOW!



More than 50 amazing items:

- Gopher sports & Timberwolves tickets
- Baskets for Valley mission partners
- Granite City Dining experience
- Wide variety of services and experience
- 1-Hour Massage & other luxury items
- AND MUCH MORE!

Scan the QR codes or visit:

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

Silent Auction: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/valley-community-presbyterian-church-fall-festivals-silent-auction>



## Get your tickets now!

\$15 ADULT

\$10 KIDS



# STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS UPON US!

Kick-Off of the 2025 Stewardship Season will be  
**Sunday October 26, 2025!**

It's the time of year where we are all asked to prayerfully support the ministries that have sustained us and show gratitude for the many things our Valley family does, both in the church and in the community.

Stewardship materials will be available to pick up on Sunday, October 19th. Any materials that are not picked up in person will be delivered the following week.

Please plan to attend worship, either in person or virtually, to hear important updates from the Stewardship Team on 10/26 and 11/2.

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**

## Third Annual Ĥaḥa Wakpadan Water Blessing

Ĥaḥa Wakpadan is the Dakota name for Bassett Creek



**Please join us in honoring the creek on  
Indigenous Peoples' Day**

We'll celebrate and honor Ĥaḥa Wakpadan (Bassett Creek) through song, land acknowledgment, and updates about the Ĥaḥa Wakpadan / Bassett Creek Oral History Project.

**RAIN OR SHINE, FREE, AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY!**

REGISTRATION IS OPTIONAL.

Visit or click to register:

<https://hennepinhistory.org/event/third-annual-%C8%9Fa%C8%9Fa-wakpadan-water-blessing/>

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 10-11 AM

WEST MEDICINE LAKE PARK

1920 WEST MEDICINE LAKE DRIVE, PLYMOUTH



Pastor Jim up on the roof  
with Chad from Heartland  
Roofing, Siding, and Solar  
for a final inspection.



# October in the Valley

The fun of fall is in full swing in the Valley! There are all kinds of events coming up this month that will give us all a chance to connect and come together in fellowship.

There is something for everyone and new participants are always welcome.

## Bell Choir Practice

**DATE: EVERY TUESDAY | TIME: 6:30 PM**

Have you ever considered trying your hand at bell ringing? What's stopping you? The Valley Ringers love to share and teach others how to ring! Ringers and non-ingers ages 10 & up are welcome. The Bell Choir rehearses every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

## Valley Choir

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29 | TIME: 7:00 PM**

We are looking forward to having the Valley Choir singing during worship twice each month. The choir will rehearse on select Wednesdays at 7:00PM for worship the following Sunday. Participants are welcome to join weekly as they are able. The next rehearsal dates are October 1, 15, and 29.

## Fall Festival - Tacos & Trivia

**DATE: SATURDAY, 10/4 | TIME: 5-8 PM**

A fun-filled night of Tacos and Trivia is planned, along with live and silent auctions, and the very popular Gift Card Wall. It will be a great night to get together as a community, have some fun, and raise funds for our mission partners and Valley Fellowship projects.

Bidding on silent auction items is now live!

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/valley-community-presbyterian-church-fall-festivals-silent-auction>

## Fridays in the Valley Concert

**DATE: FRIDAY, 10/10 | TIME: 7:00 PM**

The St. Croix Valley Flute Collective is a chamber ensemble of diverse flutists demonstrating the full range of flutes, from the lower bass, to the highest —piccolo. Come hear our diverse repertoire—from the classics of Bach, Vivaldi, and Mozart—to a few rousing contemporary pieces. Be one of the first to find out all about Andre de Sapato Novo! (That's Andre's New Shoes)! Free-will offering will benefit Missions Inc. Programs and the Home Free Shelter.



Valley Choir - Homecoming Sunday 2025



## Ĥaĥa Wakpadan Loopet Loppet

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/18 | TIME: 7 AM - 7 PM

**5K Fun Run/Walk Starts at 9 AM!**

Join other walkers, runners, and supporters of the Loppet Foundation. Stop into The Trailhead to view the portrait photography exhibit all day and the Native vendor market from 9:00am - 2:00pm. There's even a free Little Loppet for kids at 10:30am. Bring the whole family!

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

## Stewardship Kick-Off

DATE: SUNDAY, 10/26 | TIME: 9:30 AM

Kick-Off of the 2025 Stewardship Season will be Sunday October 26, 2025! It's the time of year where we are all asked to prayerfully support the ministries that have sustained us and show gratitude for the many things our Valley family does, both in the church and in the community.

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**

## 3rd Annual

## Ĥaĥa Wakpadan Water Blessing

DATE: MONDAY, 10/13 | TIME: 10 - 11 AM

**West Medicine Lake Park in Plymouth****1920 West Medicine Lake Dr, Plymouth, MN 55441**

Enjoy music with Jim Rock (Dakota) and a water blessing with Indigenous youth from Dream of Wild Health. Then explore an arts activity with Roxanne Gould (Anishinaabe) and education tables about water conservation.

## Valley Craft & Connect

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/25 | TIME: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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 see what others are working on for inspiration! There will be craft supplies, puzzles & cribbage boards available.

**Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM.**

## Trunk or Treat for PRISM

DATE: SUNDAY, 10/26 | TIME: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

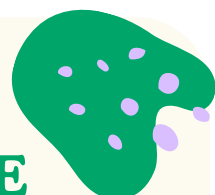
A community event with a cause! Hosted by Valley Youth. Come to Valley, trick or treat in the parking lot, listen to music, and see your friends and neighbors! Bring pantry items for PRISM and help us fill the trailer with donations.

Can't wait to see you there!



## AN UPDATE FROM

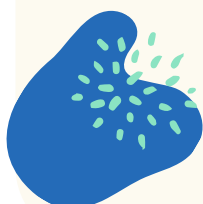
## PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE



The PNC is beginning the process of inviting semi-finalist candidates to visit Minneapolis and Valley for early October. Travel arrangements are being made, and itineraries are being drawn up. The PNC is excited to be moving into this next stage!

While those arrangements are made, the group continues to review new applications that have recently arrived and is setting up interviews with those candidates. It is essential to maintain this dual approach in case the semifinalist candidates don't work out after their visit and further interviews - ensuring energy and momentum within the search for Valley's new Head Pastor.

The committee asks that the congregation continue to pray for the PNC and for God's presence to continue to guide the group.





## The Valley Education Corner



**INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM** | Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room  
Illustrated Ministries creates all of the curriculum we use for Faith Formation and VBC and they are continuing their Invitation to Play curriculum. We will be integrating these lessons into Faith Formation to keep us playing, exploring, and learning!



**FAITH FORMATION** | Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Sunshine Room & Sanctuary  
Valley kids ages 3 - 3rd grade are invited to join Natalie in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings for Faith Formation. As our kids start to grow and want to explore worship in the Sanctuary, there is a space for them to do that. Find Mariah if you have questions!



**TEAMS & Youth Group** | Sunday evenings 5:30-7:00 PM

TEAMS Program is for kids entering 4/5 grades (STEM based activities with Faith Formation)  
Youth Group: middle school 6-9 and senior high 10-12 ( Fellowship, Bible Study and More)



**TRUNK OR TREAT FOR PRISM** | **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH FROM 4:00 - 5:00PM**

Mark your calendar for another great Trunk or Treat event in the Valley parking lot! We can never have too many decorated cars. Talk to or email Mariah if you are interested.

## Adult Education Schedule

- Adult Ed classes will take place at 11:00 AM. Coffee and pastries welcome!
- Classes will be held in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.
- Classes will be recorded and available on YouTube as we are able.
- Full class descriptions available in Sept Newsletter and [online here](#).

### October 5 | Julie Westerlund

How's The Water? Drinking Water Edition

### October 12 | Cassandra Roy (Ojibwe) & Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota)

Indigenous Peoples' Sunday Artist Talk

### October 19 | Education Sabbath

### October 26 | Rev. Bill Davnie

--No Kings--

Democracy As a Christian Value

### November 2 | Norm Chervany

Getting to Know Valley's Endowment

### November 9 | Jason Wittak

Updates From PRISM

### November 16 | Janet Triplett

Civil Rights Tour

### November 23 | VCPC Adult Ed Team

Coffee, Conversations & Connections



# Indigenous Justice Task Force

Happy fall, everyone! This is a busy season for the Indigenous Justice Task Force.

One exciting update is that in September, the **Golden Valley City Council** unanimously approved a **co-naming policy for the creek**. This means that the city will use “*Ĥaĥá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek*” when it talks about the creek. Please thank the Golden Valley mayor, city commissioners, and Environmental Commission for their actions.

If you live in a different city, please let us know! We’d love to see other cities adopt this co-naming policy, too. The watershed includes parts of nine cities: Crystal, Golden Valley, Minnetonka, New Hope, Medicine Lake, Plymouth, Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park.



Samantha Majhor by Ne-Dah-Ness Greene. See this portrait alongside portraits of other oral history project participants. (*Exhibit info below*)

Please join us in honoring our Native neighbors on Indigenous Peoples’ Day and every day:

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Now through October 31 – Visit the **portrait photography exhibit** “Native Voices: Stories from *Ĥaĥá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek*” at [The Trailhead](#) in Theodore Wirth Park. This colorful exhibit features photographs by 3 Ojibwe photographers of people who provided stories for the oral history project. The photo included above is a sample. Valley is one of many partners on this exciting community project.
- Sunday October 12 – **Indigenous Peoples’ Sunday**. Special **worship service** at 9:30am. Tasty cookies from Unci’s Prairie Bakery during **Fellowship** at 10:30am. At 11:00am, **Adult Education** presents photographers Cassandra Roy (Ojibwe) and Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota). Cassandra will speak about her images featuring native plant relatives and *Ĥaĥá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek* with grant support from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. Jaida will share her portrait photographs of Indigenous water protectors and artists, including the textile artist who created Valley’s land acknowledgment banner.
- Monday October 13 – **Third Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Blessing**. West Medicine Lake Park in Plymouth at 10:00am. Enjoy music with Jim Rock (Dakota) and a water blessing with Indigenous youth from Dream of Wild Health. Then explore an arts activity with Roxanne Gould (Anishinaabe) and education tables about water conservation. The event is free, family friendly, and open to all. Rain or shine. Dress for the weather and please feel free to bring a blanket or lawn chair!
- Saturday October 18 – **Ĥaĥá Wakpádan 1-Loop Fun Run / Trail Hike** at Theodore Wirth Park. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration [here](#). You can also view the portrait photography exhibit all day and the Native vendor market from 9:00am – 2:00pm. There’s even a free Little Loppet for kids at 10:30am. Bring the whole family!

**Thank you to the Endowment Committee for supporting Valley’s Land Acknowledgement work!**

## VALLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
DONATING BLOOD AT VALLEY?

**SUNDAY, NOV 2  
12:00 - 4:00 PM**

[Click Here](#)

## Valley will now be a recurring Memorial Blood Centers donation site!

Mark your calendars for the following  
dates and spread the word!

Scan to Register



November 2nd, 2025  
January 4th, 2026  
March 8th, 2026  
May 10th, 2026  
July 12th, 2026  
September 6th, 2026  
November 8th, 2026



## - LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

FRIDAY, November 14 | 7:00 pm  
Flutespiration

\*Special Day\*  
SUNDAY, December 7 | 7:00 pm  
Above Average Tuba Quartet

FRIDAY, January 9 | 7:00 pm  
Artu Duo

FRIDAY, February 13 | 7:00 pm  
Momoko Tanno (Soprano) and  
Joseph Hagedorn (Lute & Guitar)

**FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

**5th grade  
& under**


## Parents' Night Out!

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21  
6:00-8:30 PM**

**\$5 PER CHILD**

Kids 5th grade and under ENJOY a night of fun with Valley friends! We're having a glow party! Dinner, glow tag, dance party and more!  
Mom and Dad enjoy a night out!

**Sign up in the Fellowship Hall,  
Click here or scan the QR code!**




## Fall Clean Up

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Exterior cleaning of the  
church grounds



## YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE. BE HEARD.

**Vote in the Municipal Election  
Tuesday, November 4.**

## BRIDGING DRESSER BUILD

12864 HWY 55, PLYMOUTH, MN 55441

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

10 volunteers needed.  
Dress comfortably in clothes you can get dirty.  
Close-toed shoes required.

**SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
VISIT [BRIDGING.ORG](https://bridging.org) FOR MORE INFO  
CONTACT ANDREW PITAN WITH QUESTIONS**



 Valley Community

## 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,  
NOVEMBER 22, 2025  
10 AM - 2:00 PM  
LUNCH AT 12 PM**





# BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Cawhorn  
 Lonnie Johnson  
 Brayden Rude  
 Reid Nichols  
 Gail Smith  
 Rachel Hole  
 Brandon Novy  
 Cathy LaPoint  
 April Kovacovich  
 Valerie Craven  
 Nancy Husnik  
 Aubrie Larsen  
 Thom Reinert  
 Madelyn Soens  
 Alexander Kara  
 Jack Perry  
 Earl Robertson  
 Max Westerlund  
 Ginger Jackson  
 Benjamin Gillett  
 Myron Jones  
 Chrisdel Nyongkah  
 Cheryl Smith  
 Peggy Meyer  
 Eli Matthews Doering  
 Linda Wold  
 Lilianna Schellhaas  
 Andrew Freeberg  
 Les Freeberg  
 Ann Keen  
 Earl Michael  
 Alex Graham  
 Nancy Olson  
 Mary Ann Winter  
 Janet Triplett  
 Catherine Paulson  
 Norman Chervany  
 Ann Van Heest



## CALENDAR

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

### Wednesday, October 1

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, October 4

5:00 pm Fall Festival

### Sunday, October 5 - World Communion Sunday

#### 9:30 am Worship Service with communion

11:00 am Adult Ed - Julie Westerlund

5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

### Monday, October 6

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

### Tuesday, October 7

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, October 10

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

### Sunday, October 12

#### 9:30 am Worship Service

#### Indigenous Peoples Sunday

11:00 am Adult Ed - Land Acknowledgement

5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

### Monday, October 13

10:00 am Haha Wakpadanj Water Blessing

6:30 pm Deacon's Meeting

### Tuesday, October 14

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, October 15

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, October 16

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

### Saturday, October 18

Haha Wakpadanj Loopet Loppet 7 am-7 pm

**5K Fun Run/Walk Starts at 9 AM!**

### Sunday, October 19

#### 9:30 am Worship Service

Adult Ed on Sabbath

*NO TEAMS & YOUTH GROUP TODAY*

### Tuesday, October 21

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, October 23

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

### Saturday, October 25

10:00 am Craft & Connect

### Sunday, October 26 - Stewardship Kick-Off

#### 9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed- Rev. Bill Davnie

4:00 pm Trunk or Treat for PRISM

### Monday, October 27

6:30 pm Session Meeting

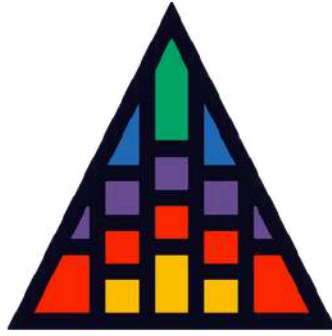
### Tuesday, October 28

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, October 29

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal



# 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  
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Scan to give online

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