



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday, December 28, 2025

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# GATHERING US IN

## PRELUDE

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

J. Wayne Kerr

Jane Nienaber,

organ

*In December Bleak and Cold*

Michael Bedford

*Variations on Sussex Carol*

Raymond H. Haan

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

J. Wayne Kerr

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: *The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.*

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.*

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *Let us worship God!*

## **Hymn #132**

### ***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice***

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came to be among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not always welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ. 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

### *Light Shines in the Darkness*

Oh the light shines in the darkness  
and the light will not be overcome.  
In this world broken and scattered,  
the light will not be overcome.

by Dakota Road

## HEARING THE WORD

### TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

#### Congregational Blessing:

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

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Felix Mendelssohn

Janelle, Beth & Janet  
Carlson, Brandon Novy,  
and Justin Toering

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

## SERMON

*The Work of Christmas*

Rev. Jim Cochrane

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

A New Year for Valley

### OFFERTORY

*He is Born!*  
arr. John Carter

## 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.

## VALLEY CAROL SING

As we celebrate Christ's birth this morning, we invite you to open the hymnals in the backs of the pews in front of you to find the hymns celebrating Christ's birth (numbers 108-156). Shout out hymns we might sing together as a community of faith and let us lift up our hearts and voices in joy for the gift He has given to all the earth!

# SENDING US OUT

## † Hymn #119

### ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

## CLOSING PRAYER

God of mystery and might, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate anew each year. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that our whole lives might be gifts of praise to you. As Christ came into the world in human flesh all those years ago, be born again in us this day. In Christ we pray. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Herbert Sumsion

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



# Joys and Concerns

The **Gottschalk** family asks for prayers for **Connor** who will have surgery on December 30 for his leg length discrepancy.

Continued prayers for **Valley Members** in their ongoing health journeys. Updates can be found here as they are made. For those who have them, stay up-to-date by following their CaringBridge profiles here:

**Margie Deutsch** began hospice care at N.C. Little Memorial Hospice in Edina. She welcomes cards, emails, texts, and phone calls. Prayers of comfort from her Valley family are always appreciated. Also, Margie's birthday was on Sunday, December 21!

You may mail cards to: Margie Deutsch

c/o N.C. Little Memorial Hospice  
7019 Lynmar Lane  
Edina, MN 55435

**Doug Smith** is receiving hospice care at home.

**Carole Martens** was recently diagnosed with CLL. She'll have a follow up test in January.

**Karen Harms** recently had her second chemo treatment last week and appreciates prayers from her Valley family.

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

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

**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](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

# This Week at Valley

## Sunday, December 28

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Thank You Brunch for Pastor Jim

## Monday, December 29

6:30 Session Meeting

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

## Tuesday, December 30

No Bible Fellowship This Week

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

## Wednesday, December 31

6:00 pm Joy of Recovery OA Group

## Thursday, January 1

Office Closed - New Year's Day

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

## Friday, January 2

## Saturday, January 3

## Sunday, January 4 | Communion Sunday

9:30 am Worship, Rev. Bill Davnie, preaching

10:30 Fellowship Hour (Cornerstone Room)

12:00-4:00 PM Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)

# 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

## Faith Formation Lead

Jamese Decker

## Custodian

Hunter Sheldon

**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!

## 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

December 14: 367 (195 in-person)

December 21: 197 (108 in-person)

# A THANK YOU BRUNCH FOR PASTOR JIM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 FOLLOWING WORSHIP



Join us for a potluck brunch following worship on December 28th (Jim's Last Sunday) to celebrate Pastor Jim's time with us at Valley and his dedicated care and leadership of our community.

RSVPs are not necessary, but please sign up if you would like to bring something to contribute to the potluck!



Sign up for a potluck item in the Fellowship Hall,  
scan the QR code, or click here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CA8A92DA1F58-60935113-thank>

## 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

**PICK UP AT CHURCH**

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM-3PM  
- OR -  
SUNDAYS BEFORE/AFTER WORSHIP



Help the church save on postage by  
picking up your envelope box!

(and maybe another member's box who lives near you)



## VALLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
DONATING BLOOD AT VALLEY?

**Sunday**  
**January 4, 2026**  
**12:00 - 4:00 PM**

Scan to Register for 1/4/26



Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery  
Private Tour with Megan Werner, GMCN Liaison  
**Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 11:00am.**  
4544 4th Ave. South, Minneapolis

Visit this lively place and see just how Valley's  
Mission support (and support from you  
individually) is put into action.

Sign Up in Fellowship Hall or call the office to reserve your spot.

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

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

January 4th, 2026

March 8th, 2026

May 10th, 2026

July 12th, 2026

September 6th, 2026

November 8th, 2026

 Valley Community

# JOIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY SCREENING TOUR

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

DOCUMENTARY  
FILMS

# SUGARCANE



[SUGARCANEFILM.COM](http://SUGARCANEFILM.COM)



The VCPC Indigenous Justice Task Force invites you to a screening of the award-winning film "Sugarcane" at Valley Community Presbyterian Church!

**Sunday, January 18, 2026  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

(optional Info Session on Sunday, January 11, 2026 @ 11:00 AM)

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026: MLK JR. DAY



**8-12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

6440 Wilryan Ave  
Edina, MN 55439

Contact **Andrew Pitan** or  
**Valley** for sign-up instructions.

**\*4 VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED TO PROVIDE & DELIVER LUNCH TO THE WORK CREW AROUND NOON\***

# Valley Craft & Connect

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

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

**\*Kids welcome: if you sign up in advance, Rachel will make sure there is something for kids to do!\***

**\*Optional:** Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM. If you're unable to bring anything, please don't let it keep you away!



SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026  
10 AM - 2:00 PM



# THANK YOU!

To all those in the Valley community who gave of their time, talents & treasures this month to make sure Valley Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings was caffeinated and extra delicious!

## COFFEE HOSTS

- Charlotte Davnie
- Paul Minter
- Mary Wilkens
- Ann Roach
- Jennie Minter
- Don Roach

## BAKERS & TREAT-BRINGERS

- Charlotte Davnie
- Sam Schellhaas
- Ann Roach
- Mary Ann Winter





# Happy Birthday Valley Family!

John Chancellor  
Madeline Lund  
Andy Wandmacher  
Marisol Freeberg  
Betsy Malecha  
Aubrey Soens  
Brian Parks  
Leigh Gautsche  
Terry Goslinga  
Jill Reiswig  
Stephanie Toering-Peters  
David Hole  
Leo Kummer  
Andrew Pitan  
Emi Chen  
Melinda Marshall  
Sydney Kara  
Jennifer Malecha  
Nikii Minter  
Jim Tarbell  
Sarah Willey  
Eda Inman  
Rev. David Phillips  
William Chancellor  
Kurt Modert  
Pam Magill  
Mary Rom  
Marjorie Deutsch  
Sheila Sheldon  
Michael Craven  
Rory Messer  
Sharon Pleimling  
Ellen Vannucci  
Virginia Day  
Rick Morisette  
Cynthia Malinowski  
Beverly Mattin  
Evan Jurgensen  
Chuck Ulmer  
Heather Griffin  
K Marshall  
Dave McCunn  
Theo Morrow  
Sara Schiebout  
Carrie Priem





# 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 WÓÓKIYE WIN  
(SISSETON WAHPETON DAKHÓTA  
AND OJIBWAY)

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Scan to give online!