

THE VALLEY

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

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Golden Valley, MN 55422



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Cover Photo: The Third Sunday in Advent we celebrated the JOY of the Advent season. Valley young people bring joy each year when they share the Christmas story with us!

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Pastor Sheila Sheldon, CRE, preaching | Sunday, January 11 & February 1**
- **Rev. Bill Davnie preaching | Sunday, January 18 & 25**
- Valley Office will be closed on January 19 (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- **Fridays in the Valley (pages 7, 9, 10)**
 - Friday, February 13 @ 7 PM | Momoko Tanno, soprano, with Joseph Hagedorn, lute/guitar
- **Craft & Connect | Saturday, January 10 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** (potluck lunch at 12 PM) (page 6)
- **Congregational Meeting - Election of Church Officers | Sunday, January 18**
- Ordination and Installation of new Church Officers | Sunday, January 25
- **Annual Meeting | Sunday, February 1 (page 7, 10)**
- Youth Cookie Sale | Sunday, February 8 (pages 8, 9)
- **Clearwater Chrysalis | February 21 - 23 (page 7, 9)**
 - Visit <https://clearwaterforest.org/clearwater-chrysalis/> to learn more and register



• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Habitat for Humanity Work Day - January 19 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM (pages 7, 9)**
 - Sign up in the Fellowship Hall, contact Andrew Pitan with questions
- **'Sugarcane' Info Session and Film Screening (page 6, 9)**
 - Sunday, February 11 (Info Session) and Sunday, February 18 (Screening) | 11:00 AM
- Who is my Neighbor? Hearing Immigrant Stories | Wed., January 14 | 2:00 PM (page 6)
 - organized and hosted by Covenant Living of Golden Valley
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers - call the Church Office if you can volunteer

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

JANUARY 2026

Dear Valley family,

As we prepare to welcome our new pastor and head of staff, Rev. Kyle Sandison to Valley on February 2, I find myself filled with deep gratitude for all of you and for the ways God has sustained this congregation in every season. Over these past two years, you have shown faithfulness, resilience, and care for one another. You have continued to worship, to serve, to pray, to ask good questions, and to trust that God was still at work among us. It has been a privilege to walk alongside you during this time of transition.

Any new beginning holds a mixture of emotions. Some of us feel excitement and anticipation. Some of us carry grief for what has changed. Some of us feel both at once. All of that is welcome here. The good news of the gospel is that God meets us exactly where we are and leads us forward together. We do not step into this new chapter alone—Christ goes before us, beside us, and behind us.

God has been here throughout this season of waiting—at bedsides and fellowship tables,



Pastor Sheila Sheldon

in meetings and mission projects, in laughter and tears. Pastor Kyle joins the vibrant ministry God is already doing through us here at Valley. A new season gives us the gift of fresh energy, renewed imagination, and the opportunity to listen together for what the Spirit is calling us to be next.

In the weeks ahead, I invite you to practice three simple things: hospitality, patience, and prayer. Offer a warm welcome. Learn names and share your stories. Be patient with one another as we discover new rhythms. And hold our new pastor, our staff, and our whole congregation in prayer—asking that we may be guided by wisdom, humility, and joy. Ministry here does not belong to one person; it belongs to all of us as the body of Christ.

I also want to say thank you. Thank you for the trust you have extended to me, for your encouragement, and for your commitment to the life of this church. Serving as your lay pastor during this time has been a blessing I will carry with me.

As we turn the page to this next chapter together, may we move forward with hopeful hearts, grounded in the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. I am grateful for what has been, and I am hopeful for what God will yet do in and through this congregation.

In Christ,

Sheila



Valley kids and youth sang, performed, and shared their light with all of us on Pageant Sunday.



The Above Average Tuba Quartet once again treated us to an amazing Fridays in the Valley concert in December 2025.

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 - December 2025



ADVENT 2025



CHRISTMAS EVE



Valley Connects - December 2025

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2025



REV. JIM COCHRANE'S LAST DAY AT VALLEY



IT MAY BE WINTER,

Valley Choir in 2026!

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 1/14 | 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 and at 8:30AM on Sunday morning. Participants are welcome to join weekly as they are able. **The next rehearsal date is January 14 at 7:00 pm and the choir will sing during worship on Sunday the 18th!**

January Craft & Connect

DATE: SATURDAY, 1/10 | TIME: 10:00 AM

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!

Who is my Neighbor? Hearing Immigrant Stories

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 1/14 | TIME: 2:00 PM

COVENANT LIVING OF GOLDEN VALLEY -
FELLOWSHIP HALL [5800 ST. CROIX AVE N, GV]

Valley members are invited to attend the first in a series of three sessions focused on becoming better informed about immigration. This first session will feature Cori Ertz of the International Institute of MN and students from the Institute. Light snacks will be served and lively conversation can be expected!

Bell Choir Practice Resumes!

DATE: TUESDAY, 1/13 | 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-ringers ages 10 & up are welcome. The Bell Choir rehearses every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. **The next rehearsal date is January 13 at 6:30 pm.**

'Sugarcane' Info Session

DATE: SUNDAY, 1/11 | TIME: 11:00 AM

The Indigenous Justice Task Force (IJTF) would like to invite everyone to attend an info session in the Cornerstone Room beginning at 11:00 AM. During this short 15-20 minute session we will watch the film trailer, discuss the film, and provide resources related to the history of Indian residential schools in our area as well as the work being done in the PC(USA) to confront these painful and long-ignored truths. Everyone is welcome to attend the info session even if you are still deciding whether or not to watch the film on January 18th.

'Sugarcane' Film Screening

DATE: SUNDAY, 1/18 | TIME: 11:00 AM

'SUGARCANE', the award-winning debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE VALLEY GOES INTO HIBERNATION!

Habitat for Humanity Work Day

DATE: MONDAY, 1/19 | TIME: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Join other Valley members for the annual Habitat for Humanity Work Day in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year the group will work another rehab home in Edina, MN, similar to last year. No skills are needed aside from a willingness to work hard and try new things. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall and reach out to Andrew Pitan with questions.

Annual Meeting

DATE: SUNDAY, 2/1 | TIME: 10:30 AM

Following worship will be the 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting to take a look back at the past year and ahead to the year to come. The Annual Report should be available no later than January 28th to give you time to study up for the Annual Meeting!

February Craft & Connect

DATE: SATURDAY, 2/7 | TIME: 10:00 AM

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!

Fridays in the Valley Concert

DATE: FRIDAY, 2/13 | TIME: 7:00 PM

Join us for the February Fridays in the Valley concert benefitting the CEAP Meals on Wheels program featuring Momoko Tanno, soprano, with Joseph Hagedorn, lute/guitar. It will be a delightful evening of music for a great cause. We hope to see you there!

Clearwater Chrysalis

DATE: FRIDAY 2/20 - SUNDAY 2/22

The theme this year is "Our Daily Bread: What Do You 'Knead?'" and will feature Guest Speaker Rev. Elaine Boyd. Clearwater Chrysalis is a balanced, faith-building program of Clearwater Forest, welcoming adult women from all Christian traditions. Visit

<https://clearwaterforest.org/clearwater-chrysalis/> to learn more and register.

SAVE THE DATE!

Y.E.S. Tea

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 21

It seems far away, but March will be here before we know it! The 2026 Youth Education Scholarship (Y.E.S.) Tea will be held on March 21, 2026. Mark your calendars and, table hosts, start planning your themes! Please talk to or email Sheila Sheldon if you are interested in hosting a table this year! (Sheila.Sheldon@valleychurch.net)

**Rev. Kyle Sandison's
first official Sunday as
Valley's New Pastor -
February 8!**

Valley Education Corner

Faith Formation Update: Sunday School for kids ages 3-3rd grade is ongoing. The Sunshine Room is staffed on Sunday mornings with Faith Formation activities. Helpers are always needed so please consider lending a hand. [CLICK HERE](#) to email Sheila Sheldon about being a Sunday School Helper!

TEAMS & Youth Baking Day!

Katie Decker is going to lead a baking day starting from **12:00 PM - 4:00 PM on Saturday, February 7th**. We will taste-test a few of the treats and save the rest for the Youth Cookie Sale on February 8th. See you there!

Valley Youth Cookie Sale
Valley Youth and the Cookie Queen are at it again. Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 8th **(one day only!)** to stock up on treats and support youth programs.



Thanks to Katie Decker who is always willing to share her love of baking with Youth and TEAMS!

Adult Education

Plans for the spring schedule are underway. A complete course list with class descriptions will be available in the February Newsletter.

Classes will resume on March 1, 2026 and will meet in the Cornerstone Room at 11:00 AM unless otherwise noted.



TEAMS KIDS AT WORK!



Fridays in the Valley Presents:



Momoko Tanno,
soprano &
Joseph Hagedorn,
lute/guitar

Friday, February 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
CEAP MEALS ON WHEELS

 Valley Community

Valley Craft & Connect

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!***

Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM.



**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 10, 2026
10 AM - 2:00 PM
LUNCH AT 12 PM**



Habitat for Humanity

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026: MLK JR. DAY



12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall
contact **Andrew Pitan** or **Valley** with questions



**JOIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY
SCREENING TOUR**

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



SUGARCANEFILM.COM

**FEBRUARY 8
NARTHEX**


Youth Cookie Sale

***Cookies \$5/bag (1/2 doz)**

***Cookie Trays \$5/\$10/\$20**

***Youth Snack Mix \$5/bag**

***Assorted Valentine Baskets \$10-30**

 Valley Community



Clearwater Chrysalis Women's Retreat

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026

PRESBYTERIAN CLEARWATER FOREST

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Visit <https://clearwaterforest.org/clearwater-chrysalis/> to register or click this ad if viewing online

Contact 218-678-2325 with questions

- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

FRIDAY, March 13 | 7:00 pm
Pazzaluna Chamber Players
FRIDAY, April 10 | 7:00 pm
Solerna Wind Quintet
FRIDAY, May 8 | 7:00 pm
The Paper Clips
FRIDAY, June 12 | 7:00 pm
The Marimba Bullies

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

NEW CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATIONS

**for slate of incoming
Elders and Deacons**



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

INSTALLATION & ORDINATION

**of New Church Officers
During Worship**



2025 ANNUAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 2026**



**2026
PER CAPITA
\$43.75**

Your per capita supports the
larger church to do their
ministry in the world.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

PICK UP AT CHURCH

**MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 4 PM
OR ON SUNDAYS**

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

CALENDAR

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

Thursday, January 1

Office is closed.

Sunday, January 4

9:30 am Worship Service with communion

Rev. Bill Davnie preaching

12:00-4:00 pm Blood Drive

Monday, January 5

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, January 6

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 9

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, January 10

10:00 am Craft & Connect

Sunday, January 11

9:30 am Worship Service

Pastor Sheila Sheldon preaching

11:00 am 'Sugarcane' Film Screening Info Session

Tuesday, January 13

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 14

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 15

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

5:00 pm IJTF Meeting

Sunday, January 18

9:30 am Worship Service

Rev. Bill Davnie preaching

10:30 am Congregational Meeting

11:00 am 'Sugarcane' Film Screening

Monday, January 19 - Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Day

Office Closed

8:30 am - 3:30 pm Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Tuesday, January 20

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 22

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, January 25

9:30 am Worship Service

Rev. Bill Davnie preaching

New Officer Ordination & Installation

Monday, January 26

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, January 27

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 28

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 29

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

BIRTHDAYS

Kerrie Deef

Alannah McCarthy

David Kopischke

Kurt Wheeler

Matt Barbero

Miranda Bangu

Sammuel Decker

William Gonsior

Andrew Desarmeaux

Janette Gove

Gerald Kramer

Nanette Sears

Ashley Bi

Karen Ripley

Keri Wasmoen

Samantha Schellhaas

Joseph Sears

Aurora Brooker

Quinn Winter

Sullivan Goiffon

Richard Sauter

Ken Smith

Andy Freeman

Hunter Sheldon

Roy Michael

Adam Chancellor

Tom Wasmoen

Lois Berhow

Jonathan Marshall

Cameron Smith

Diane Cook

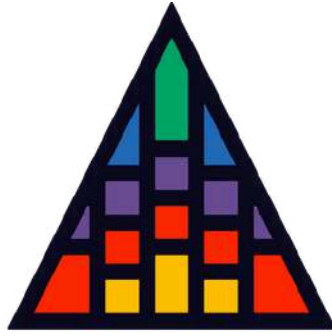
Ziggy Barbero

Sadie Macias

Arianna Slack

Susie Potter





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.

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