

THE VALLEY

FEBRUARY 2026 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
office@valleychurch.net

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Annual Congregational Meeting | Sunday, Feb. 1 @ 10:30 AM following worship**
- Rev. Kyle Sandison's First Sunday at Valley | Sunday, February 8
- **Fridays in the Valley (pages 5, 10)**
 - Friday, February 13 @ 7 PM | Momoko Tanno, soprano & Joseph Hagedorn, lute/guitar
- **Valley Craft & Connect | Saturday, February 8 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 5)**
- Valley Hand Bell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
- **Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals:**
 - Wednesday, February 11 @ 7:00 PM
 - Wednesday, March 11 @ 7:00 PM
- **Adult Ed Spring Session Kick-Off | Sunday, March 1 | 11 AM - 12 PM**
- Daylight Savings Time | Sunday, March 8
- **Youth Education Scholarship Tea | Saturday, March 21 @ 2:00 PM (page 8, 10)**
- Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, April 4 @ 11:00 AM (page 8)
- **Summer 2026 VBC | June 9-12 | 9 AM - 12 PM**

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Indigenous Justice Task Force Updates (page 9)
- **Donate to or volunteer to help at the RAS Family Emergency Food Hub**
 - Email families@valleychurch.net
- **Support PRISM:**
 - Bring donations to Valley or one of several drop sites in Golden Valley. Learn more [HERE](#)
 - Volunteer to be a door greeter! Email Liam (lboris@prismmpls.org)
 - Make a financial contribution to PRISM's Housing Support Program

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Valley Church,

Grace and peace to you. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of you in December. Thank you for welcoming my family and me so warmly; we already feel very much at home here. I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you, hearing your stories, and walking through this life of faith together as we follow Jesus and love our neighbors.

It's been a trying few months here in Minnesota. We've witnessed ICE agents antagonize our cities and communities. Our neighbors and friends are fearful of leaving their homes. They're going without groceries, missing doctor appointments, and wondering if they can send their children to school. We've seen the cruelty of ICE actions that are meant to intimidate and cause fear rather than uphold any law.

What does the gospel call us to in this moment? What does it mean to be the church now?

We're about to enter the season of Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season in which we acknowledge our mortality, our frailty, and the way that sin—



Rev. Kyle Sandison

both individual and collective—contributes to a world marred by injustice, division, violence, and oppression. Lent is a season for honesty about these difficult truths.

Lent is a season in which we journey toward the cross and the empty tomb. Lent leads us to the moment when Christ gave himself to be killed at the hands of an oppressive regime, and rose again in victory over all the powers of sin, oppression, and death. As followers of Jesus, we bear this good news and witness to it with our lives.

In this moment, we desperately need to hear this good news and become people who proclaim it with our lives. The good news of God's emphatic love displayed on the cross compels us outward to love our neighbors, care for the vulnerable, lift up the poor, and stand with the marginalized.

And so we're beginning a sermon series called "Tell Me Something Good." This series will explore key moments from Jesus' life and ministry and discover how each is good news for our lives today. We'll reflect deeply on this good news, and we'll ask: How can we embody this love in our world today?

I recognize that in coming to Valley, I'm stepping into a 75-year tradition of doing exactly that. Your commitment to serve your neighbors, uphold the downtrodden, heal divisions, welcome the stranger, and care for the vulnerable is already evident to me. I'm honored to join you in this tradition as we continue discovering together what it means to be people of good news in a challenging time.

In Christ,




A Community Prayer Vigil for Peace was held on January 24, 2026. People came forward to light a candle for peace in our community.

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 - January 2025

INSTALLATION & ORDINATION



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY



'SUGARCANE' FILM SCREENING

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

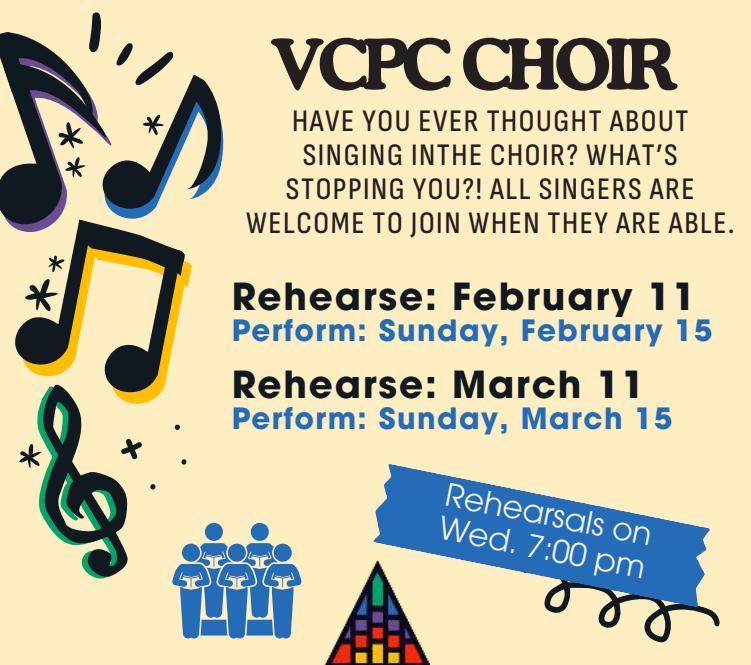
Valley Lunch Bunch



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
11:30 AM

50s GRILL

First Monday of every month!

VCPC CHOIR

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SINGING IN THE CHOIR? WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?! ALL SINGERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN WHEN THEY ARE ABLE.

Rehearse: February 11
Perform: Sunday, February 15

Rehearse: March 11
Perform: Sunday, March 15

Rehearsals on Wed. 7:00 pm

Calling all Ringers!

RINGERS AND NON-RINGERS AGES 10 & UP ARE WELCOME! THE VALLEY RINGERS LOVE TO SHARE AND TEACH OTHERS HOW TO RING!

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Rehearsals held in the Sanctuary

Contact Janet Carlson if you have questions.

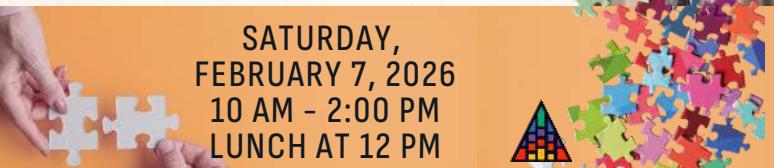
Valley Craft & Connect

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, FEBRUARY 7, 2026
10 AM - 2:00 PM
LUNCH AT 12 PM



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY FILMS

SUGARCANE

JOIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY SCREENING TOUR

The VCPC Indigenous Justice Task Force invites you to a follow-up group discussion about "Sugarcane" at Valley Community Presbyterian Church!

Sunday, February 8, 2026 | 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM



WINNER SFFILM GOLDEN GATE AWARD
WINNER SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S AWARD
WINNER BODCOWIE PEPPER FESTIVAL BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
WINNER FULL FRAME DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL BEST DOCUMENTARY

SUGARCANE FILM.COM



Lent and Holy Week in the Valley



LENT & HOLY WEEK 2026 SCHEDULE



Wed, February 18 | **7:00 PM** **Ash Wednesday | Worship with communion and marking of ashes**

Sunday, February 22 | **9:30 AM** **1st Sunday of Lent | Worship**

Wed, February 25 | 6:00 PM Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion

Sunday, March 1 | **9:30 AM** **2nd Sunday of Lent | Worship**

Wed, March 4 | 6:00 PM Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion

Sunday, March 8 | **9:30 PM** **3rd Sunday of Lent | Worship**

Wed, March 11 | 6:00 PM Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion

Sunday, March 15 | **9:30 AM** **4th Sunday in Lent | Worship**

Sheila Sheldon preaching

Wed, March 18 | 6:00 PM Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion

Sunday, March 22 | **9:30 AM** **5th Sunday in Lent | Worship**

Wed, March 25 | 6:00 PM Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion

Sunday, March 29 | **9:30 AM** **Palm Sunday Worship**

Thurs, April 2 | **7:00 PM** **Maundy Thursday | Tenebrae service with communion**

Sunday, April 5 | **9:30 AM** **Easter Sunday Worship with communion**

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 2026

Wednesdays in Lent this year will be a time to come together in fellowship, get to know Pastor Kyle, and reflect on our faith both individually and as a community. Dinner will be hosted by Church Committees from 6:00-6:45pm. After dinner, we'll

move into a more worshipful moment together. There will be music, scripture, prayers, and time to share and have conversation together. As we sink into Jesus' teachings throughout the season, we may not always be comfortable, but we can trust that these teachings are good, rooted in love, and worthy of celebration.

Members are encouraged to bring sides and desserts!
Last names A-L Dessert | M-Z Side dish

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

HOSTS: Technology/Finance/Stewardship

MEAL: Sloppy Joes

FOCUS TEXT: John 2:1-11, Matthew 13:31-32

The good news is....so good it catches us by surprise.

Like a mustard seed, the good news can grow from the smallest seed into the tallest tree. Like an unruly weed, or fine wine saved for last, the good news is abundant and cannot be contained.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

HOST: Worship/Mission

MEAL: Soup & Chili

FOCUS TEXT: Mark 6:32-44, Ephesians 3:20-21

The good news is....together, the impossible is possible.

Jesus models a way to be in community by coming together and sharing what we have, dispelling perceived impossibilities. The good news empowers us to believe in the miracles that can become possible through the power of the community.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

HOSTS: Fellowship

MEAL: Hotdish Night

FOCUS TEXT: John 8:2-11, Matthew 23:23

The good news is....rooted in justice, mercy, & faithfulness.

Much of Jesus' teachings were grounded in his understanding of the Torah; however, many of his actions called for reinterpreting the law. As we wrestle with our own rules, we should ask, "What is the most just, merciful, and faithful interpretation?"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

HOSTS: Educational Ministries

MEAL: Pasta & bread

FOCUS TEXT: Luke 7:36-50, Matthew 25:35-40

The good news is....great love for God & neighbor.

When we care for the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned—each of whom are created in the image of God—we are showing love for God, too.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

DINNER: 6:00 PM | PROGRAM: 6:45 PM

HOSTS: Personnel/Growth/Properties

MEAL: Pizza

FOCUS TEXT: Matthew 19:13-15, Deuteronomy 24:17-22

The good news is....protection & care for the vulnerable.

Jesus' uplifting children is a reminder that we were all once children and have all been vulnerable at some point in our lives. If we're truly living out the good news, then anyone vulnerable will not only be protected from harm but cared for so they have the chance to thrive.



VALLEY YOUTH AND KIDS HAVE FUN, LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER!



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



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 recently released a new Invitation to Play curriculum. We will be integrating these lessons into Faith Formation so you might catch us playing more!



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4th at 11:00 am

Mark your calendar for this fun annual event! We'll hunt for eggs and then decorate cookies in the Fellowship Hall. Invite friends, family, and neighbors!



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) - Save the Date!

Tuesday, June 9 - Friday, June 12; 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! Registration will open on April 1st for kids entering Kindergarten - 6th grade in the Fall of 2025. We are also looking for Valley grown-ups and youth (7th-12th grade) who would be interested in volunteering.

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP TEA

Saturday, March 21ST at 2:00pm

If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Sheila at sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net. Tickets will go on sale in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 1st-March 15th.



YOUTH and TEAMS Bowling Party!

Sunday, February 15th | 3:00 - 5:00pm (Free event)

Let's get together to kickoff our Spring semester with bowling and pizza at Park Tavern! Sign up in Fellowship Hall or email Sheila at Sheila.Sheldon@valleychurch.net



Youth Group and TEAMS | Sundays February 22 - May 10th | 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Valley Youth in grades 4-12 will resume meeting on Sunday evenings for Youth Group and TEAMS programming. Please note will not meet on March 29 for District 281 Spring Break and April 5 in observance of Easter.

Land Acknowledgement Task Force

In January, the **Indigenous Justice Task Force** met for its **2026 kickoff**. Returning members include Jennifer Biggs, Crystal Boyd, Pat Daily, Audrey Gabe, Mariah Messer, Roger Michael, and Janet Triplett. Please ask us about the Task Force!

In 2026, the Task Force hopes to **engage members of the congregation** in understanding and reconciling the historic harms that have impacted Dakota people and other Indigenous communities.

The Task Force is interested in **hearing your ideas** for how to engage Valley members. For example, what questions do you have about the Task Force's work? What types of events would you like to attend? Please send **questions or suggestions** to Crystal Boyd at crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com.

Recent Highlights:

- On January 7, co-hosted a **photography presentation** titled "Celebrating Ḥahá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek Through Indigenous Photography" with the Golden Valley Historical Society and other partners. Photographer Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe) spoke about her winter photographs of the creek and other artistic projects. In fall 2026, Cassandra will present photos of the creek from all 4 seasons during Adult Education (date tbd).
- On January 11, hosted a "**What to Expect**" session for the award-winning documentary [Sugarcane](#). The documentary investigates abuse and missing children at a Catholic boarding school in Canada. Julian Brave Noisecat (Canim Lake Band Tsq'escen of the Secwepemc Nation) and Emily Kassie directed the film. Special thanks to Jim Rock (Dakota) for sharing his family's stories with the 25 event participants.
- On January 18, hosted a **film screening** of the documentary [Sugarcane](#). Valley promoted the event to the local presbytery and engaged 36 participants. This is part of the film's international Faith Community Screening Tour.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Sunday February 8 at 11:00am - Please join us for a **follow-up discussion** of the documentary [Sugarcane](#) at Valley. If you haven't seen the film yet, it's available on Disney+ and Hulu. A [2-minute trailer](#) is available on YouTube. If you'd like to receive a reflection guide before the discussion, please email Crystal Boyd at crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com.
- Saturday October 17, 2026 - **Ḥahá Wakpádan 1-Loop Fun Run**. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration here.

**The Task Force is busy planning more educational events for 2026.
Please check back next month to learn more!**



TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) Day on the Hill



For our 2026 Day on the Hill, our theme will be In the Image of God. Join us to advocate for food security, affordable housing and homelessness prevention, safety measures for vulnerable communities, and gun violence prevention with your legislators at the State Capitol!

When: Monday, March 9th, 8 am | Location: Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar St. St. Paul, MN 55101

CLICK HERE!

Visit https://www.jrlc.org/day_on_the_hill_2026
for more information and to register!

- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY



FRIDAY, March 13 | 7:00 pm
Solerna Woodwind Quintet

FRIDAY, April 10 | 7:00 pm
Red Rock Swing Band

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

Ash Wednesday 2026

JOIN US FOR
ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18 | 7:00 PM

Service will be available in-person
and live-streamed.

A worship service with communion
and marking of the ashes.

▲ Valley Community

Easter Flowers

ORDER BY SUNDAY, MARCH 8!

Easter Lily (white) \$12 each
Asiatic Lily (pink) \$12 each
Azalea (bicolor) \$25 each
Tulip \$12 each
(purple, pink, yellow)
Mum (yellow) \$12 each



To order, fill out an
Order Form in the
Fellowship Hall or call
the Valley Office.



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

▲ Ladies' Night Out

Friday, March 6
6-8 PM

Bring a women's
toiletry item to
donate to PRISM



Total Wine
Maple Grove

\$20 per person, appetizers provided
In Vino Veritas wine class

Save The Date!

24th Annual
Y.E.S. Tea

Saturday, March 21 | 2 pm

Interested in hosting a tea table?
Talk to Sheila or Mariah!

Valley ▲
Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, February 1

9:30 am Worship Service with communion
Annual Meeting following Worship

Monday, February 2

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, February 3

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 7

10:00 am Craft & Connect in Community Room
12:00 pm Youth Cookie Baking

Sunday, February 8

Rev. Kyle Sandison's First Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service
10:30 am Youth Cookie Sale
11:15 am Sugarcane Movie Discussion

Tuesday, February 10

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 11

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 13

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, February 15

9:30 am Worship Service
10:30 am Fellowship Hour
3:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group Bowling Party at Park Tavern

Monday, February 16

President's Day - Valley Office is Closed

Tuesday, February 17

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 19

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

February 20 - February 22

Chrysalis Retreat @ Clearwater Forest

Sunday, February 22

9:30 am Worship Service
5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, February 23

6:30 pm Session meeting

Tuesday, February 24

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 25

6:00 pm 1st Wednesday of Lent
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

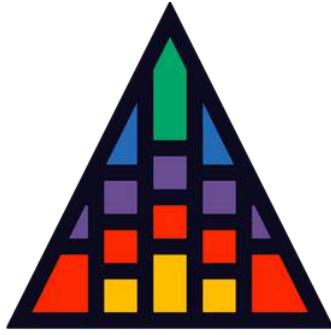
Thursday, February 26

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

BIRTHDAYS

Bonnie Goslinga
Bill Holman
Alexander Malinowski
Kristin Oney
Joan Chenoweth
Katie Hestness
Connie Freeman
Pat Hoehn
Diane (Stueven) Knox
Warren Linc
Anna Parks
Donna Hewitt
John Zieska
Dawn Hill
Craig Gottschalk
Valerie Robinson
Scot Michael
Jay Tracy
Todd Decker
Connor Craven
Juanita Loubert
Sharon Olson
Veronica Freeberg
Bennett Goiffon
Sarah Fadell
Beverly Collins
Doug Malecha
Don Roach
Sam Rudeen
David Dechaine
Anna Zieska
Richard Gibson
Diane Morningstar
Judy Rathje
John Nyongkah
Colston Rude





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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