



# Valley Community

PC(USA)

## 2025 Annual Report

### 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.*

### **VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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# 2025 Annual Report

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60

2

New  
Members

230

Average  
Worship  
Attendance

716

Children  
Served at  
PRISM Toy  
Shoppe

2

Baptisms

8

Confirmed  
New  
Members

40

Community  
Garden  
Members

6

Parish  
Associates

\$93,000

FITV  
Donations  
Raised in  
14 Years

24

Christmas  
Pageant  
Participants

\$118,069

Mission  
Giving

14

Seasons of  
Fridays in  
The Valley

124

Y.E.S. Tea  
Guests

\$2,417.62

Raised at  
the Youth  
Cookie Sale

8

Tech Crew  
Volunteers

384

Valley  
Members

1

Spirit, many gifts.  
One Church,  
many roles.

All Are Welcome

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Opening Lives to God

# Annual Meeting Agenda

## Congregation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 1, 2026 | 10:45 am

Opening Prayer	Rev. Bill Davnie
Land Acknowledgement Statement	Mariah Messer
Clerk of Session Report	Jan Fedora
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes from the meeting on 2/2/25</li></ul>	
Stewardship Committee Report – Time, Talent, Treasures	Pat Daily
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stewardship Campaign 2025 (Treasures)</li><li>• Mission Giving for 2025 (Time &amp; Talent)</li></ul>	
Finance Committee Report	Denise Kara & Greg Rom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2025 Reports</li><li>• 2026 Budgets</li><li>• Per Capita: \$43.75 per member for 2026</li></ul>	
Endowment Committee Report	Norm Chervany
Personnel Committee Report	Kelsie Hagelin
Other Business	Rev. Bill Davnie
Adjournment & Closing Prayer	

.....  
"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
.....

### 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.

# **CRE/Educational Ministries Report 2025**

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

As 2025 came to a close, we said good-bye and thank you to our transitional pastor, Rev. Jim Cochrane. The last two years of working alongside him were a privilege and allowed me to grow in my own ministry here at Valley in new ways. I wish him well as he continues to explore how the Holy Spirit will use his gifts for ministry in our presbytery.

This was my first full year on staff as both a commissioned ruling elder and the educational ministries director. Throughout the year, I worked on ways to balance the two areas as well as identify growth edges where I could improve. In my work as CRE, I led worship, preached, made pastoral visits, shared the sacraments with you and supported our Deacons. I also helped to train office administrative staff and supported all staff while Jim was off on parental leave.

As the educational ministries director, I worked with our education elders to create programming for our children, youth and families as well as provide adult education opportunities on Sunday mornings and Bible study on Tuesday afternoons. Together, Mariah and I created a meaningful VBC experience for your children and adult volunteers as well as completed a successful mission trip to Milwaukee Wisconsin with eight of our Valley Youth and four chaperones where we volunteered once again with the Urban Ecology Center.

Looking ahead to 2026 I'm excited to begin the new year by welcoming our new Head of Staff, Rev. Kyle Sandison to Valley. Our staff team has much to look forward to this coming year. Here are just a few of the highlights from this past year from the Education and Family Ministries Team:

## **Education and Family Ministry Programs**

- In December we said goodbye to Natalie Peña-Gallegos who left us to pursue work as a nursing assistant, and hello to Jameese Decker who returned as our faith formation lead in the Sunshine Room.
- Youth Group and TEAMS met on 10 Sundays in the Spring and 10 Sundays in the Fall. They participated in mission work, fellowship, worship services and helped with events such as the YES Tea and Trunk or Treat for PRISM. The annual Easter Egg Hunt had over 75 kids attend from Valley and the surrounding community.
- YES TEA hosted 124 guests at 16 tea tables, with youth volunteers as servers.
- Vacation Bible Camp- based on the teachings and music of Fred Rogers and Mister Rogers Neighborhood. This year's theme was Won't You Be My Neighbor? We welcomed 20 campers and 17 volunteers and Rachel Williams who led us in song each morning. The kids echoed their experience in worship, sharing the message of compassion and love with all.
- Sunday School programming was held weekly following the Time with Young Worshipers the children gathered in the Sunshine room with Natalie, Jameese and parent volunteers. Learning and Growing: Kids explored stories from the Bible using the weekly curriculum from Illustrated Ministries and Invitation to Play. For families to continue the lessons, a monthly email was sent to families full of resources for them to continue faith formation at home.
- Annual Christmas pageant had 24 participants complete with a choir of angels and a barn cat, and it truly was a blessing to see the children together, sharing the story of the birth of Jesus with the congregation as only children can do.

These are just the highlights! I could go on and on about all the wonderful things that happened this year in our education and family programs, but I'll let you read the full report by our amazing elders.

So now together, Valley, we will continue to grow and be a light for others. Thank you for taking this journey with me and may you know how grateful I am for every one of you. You are loved!

Blessings,  
Sheila Sheldon

# **Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Valley Community Presbyterian Church February 2, 2025**

The 72nd Annual live-streamed and in-person meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church & Corporation was held on Sunday, February 2, 2025. The announcement of the meeting below was made during the church service for three consecutive Sundays and was listed in the bulletin. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with a greeting and prayer by Transitional Pastor Jim Cochrane at 11:00 a.m. The agenda was approved by consensus. The minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were included in the 2024 annual report. Members received an email that contained the report and a limited number of copies were available at the meeting. Reports from all of the various committees and groups were included in the report. The call for the meeting was as follows:

"The Annual live-streamed and in-person meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025 after worship."

M/S/C to not have Rev. Jim Cochrane read the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Land Acknowledgement Statement - Mariah Messer

Mariah read the Land Acknowledgement Statement to the congregation.

## **1) Clerk's Report - Jan Fedora**

Jan thanked God for Valley's members and their time, talents, and treasurers that they have contributed to Valley over the years. She thanked God for all the different committees, Session, Deacons, Parish Associates, Stream Team, and staff and the hard work they have done over the last year. Valley always keeps going forward to meet the needs of people. We will continue to listen to what God is calling us to do! Jan thanked the congregation for being supportive in connecting to our Valley family and keeping Valley strong! Her report describes the various teams and the work they have been doing in 2024 and can be found on pages 15-17.

Active Members as of 12/31/2023	403
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2023 New Members	3
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Total New Members	3
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Active Members Lost	
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Death	13
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Removed	11
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Total Members Lost	24
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Active Members as of 12/31/2024	382
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## Special Services in 2024

Baptisms	2	Weddings	0
Communion Served	14	Memorials	10

Valley members who passed away in 2024: Sarah Davis, Tom Davison, Faye Watson, Marlys Hawkins, Dennis Hinkle, Lisa Kummer, Susan League, Carol McCarter, Marilyn Merino, Chuck Meyer, Myrle Reiswig, Bob Ripley, Lois Robinson, and Karen Sauter.

The Session met for eleven (11) stated meetings and three (3) congregational meetings in 2024.

## 2) Report of Stewardship Team - Pat Daily

### "We Are Valley - 100%"

This past year has been monumental for all of us at Valley. We had a change in pastoral leadership, we renovated our sanctuary, and we bonded together as a community of faith, and we couldn't have done it without the support of everyone in the Valley community. We celebrated that reality with "We Are Valley—100%" as the stewardship theme this year.

The theme also reflected a goal of the stewardship drive: to get closer to 100% participation in pledging. We thought it was important to clearly explain why we need pledges—not just donations—to keep all the parts of Valley running, so we created a new short video and we had a chance to watch it.

We are at 95% of our financial goal of \$412,000 in pledges (which includes income from the Valley Stewardship Fund and the Schon Estate), and we have had 10 first time pledges.

Special thanks to our dear Lisa Kummer who had planned to continue participation in the "stew crew" and provided me with invaluable guidance before the year began. We miss you!!

## 3) Mission Giving for 2024 - Rev. Jim Cochrane representing Craig Gottschalk

Jim stated that our Total Mission Giving plus Donations for 2024 was \$157,396. Jim stated that more detailed information on Mission Giving is located on pages 51-52 of the Annual Report.

## 4) Financial Report - Denise Kara and Greg Rom

Highlights for 2024 include:

- Ending the year with a slight shortfall of \$5,553
- Disbursement of a large estate gift. (See page 33)
- Successful implementation of a new giving management software (Breeze)
- Additional receipts:

Solar Panel tax refund	\$36,800
COVID tax credits	\$30,600
Total	\$67,400

## 5) Resource Team - 2024 Financial Report and 2025 Budget - Greg Rom

Receipts totaled \$517,555 and expenses were \$517,555 for 2024 so net total was \$0

**Budget for 2024****Revenue:**

Regular Envelopes	409,701	
Non-Pledging Members	22,000	
Non-Member Giving	5,000	
Initial Offering	600	
Per Capita Envelopes	7,000	
Loose/Special Offerings	10,000	
Facility Usage	12,500	
Interest/Dividends	700	
SMF Funding	48,004	
Prior Pledges	<u>2,000</u>	
<b><u>Total Revenue</u></b>		<u>\$517,555</u>

**Expenses:**

Salaries	231,911	
Employment Allowances	132,659	
Administration	28,250	
Per Capita	16,325	
Communications & Technology	3,500	
Property Care/Improvement	62,360	
Stewardship Campaign	500	
Educational Ministries	7,400	
Worship & Music	8,400	
Fellowship	500	
Church Growth	750	
All Mission	<u>25,000</u>	
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>		<u>\$517,555</u>
<b><u>Net Expenses over Revenue</u></b>		\$0

Greg also presented the 2025 budget. Totals are shown below.

**Budget for 2025****Revenue:**

Regular Envelopes	391,000	
Non-Pledging Members	22,000	
Non-Member Giving	4,000	
Initial Offering	600	
Per Capita Envelopes	7,000	
Loose/Special Offerings	10,000	
Facility Usage	2,500	
Interest/Dividends	10,000	
SMF Funding	45,515	
Prior Pledges	<u>1,000</u>	
<b><u>Total Revenue</u></b>		<u>\$493,615</u>



**Expenses:**

Salaries	242,947	
Employment Allowances	112,780	
Administration	27,000	
Per Capita	15,280	
Property Care/Improvement	59,558	
Stewardship	500	
Educational Ministries	6,700	
Fellowship	500	
Church Growth	500	
Communications & Technology	1,600	
All Mission	<u>22,000</u>	<u>\$493,615</u>

**Net Revenue over Expenses**\$0

Further details of the 2023 Financial Results and 2024 Budget can be found in the annual report on pages 26-28.

M/S/C/ to approve the 2025 budget.

Greg thanked the members of the Finance Team. Jim thanked Greg Rom for his work as Treasurer. Chelsie Larsen will continue to be Financial Secretary. Jim also thanked the volunteers who counted the offering each week.

Per capita is \$40.00 per confirmed member. Valley's per capita amount is \$15,280

**6) Finance Committee Report 2024 - Denise Kara**

Highlights for 2024 include:

- Ending the year with a slight shortfall of \$5,553
- Disbursement of a large Estate gift. (See page 33)
- Successful implementation of a new giving management software (Breeze)
- Additional receipts:

Solar Panel tax refund \$36,800

COVID tax credits \$30,600

Total \$67,400

Denise stated that if you are donating money to our various partners (PRISM, Crisis Nursery, etc.), please make out your check to the specific partner and not to Valley.

Denise also thanked the volunteers who collected, counted, and deposited the weekly offerings in 2024: Carolyn and Ray Anderson, Helen and Dave Dechaine, Peggy Meyer, Mary Ann Winter, Brad Pleimling, Greg and Mary Rom, and Sue and Jay Tracy.

## **7) Endowment Fund - Greg Van Heest**

Thanks to the generosity of Valley members, Endowment received a total of \$27,059 in gifts in 2024. This brings the total amount of gifts received since the fund was established in 1984 to \$1,157,266. On December 31, 2024, the Endowment net asset value was \$1,889,317.

The 2024 grants totaled \$47,486 (see table II on page 38 for a listing of these grants). This brings the total dollar value of grants provided by your Endowment since 1984 to \$661,863.

In 2024 a new fund was established within Endowment. The Lois and Gordon Robinson Future Scholars Fund was created to provide financial support for students from Liberty Community Church in North Minneapolis.

## **8) Personnel - Kelsie Hagelin**

Rev. Jim Cochrane took over the position of Transitional Pastor on February 1, 2024. We have been blessed over these past 11 months to have Jim with us during our transitional period. He has not only acted as lead pastor and head of staff, but he has also guided us in the process of finding our new pastor. We are excited as he continues to walk with us during the upcoming steps while the Pastoral Nominating Committee leads us in the search for our next Senior Pastor. Thank you, Jim, for being such a light in a year of transition and loss.

During this year of transition and change, we would not be where we are without our rocks, Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer. The amount of work and love they have put into Valley during this year has been immeasurable. They both continue to excel in their roles, while also guiding and training our new staff.

Other staff were recognized for their hard work and dedication: Janet Carlson, Rachel Williams, Hunter Sheldon, Ben Sheldon, and Jameese Decker. We also thanked our Parish Associates: Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau, Rev. Rebecca Tollefson, Rev. Nancy Phillips and Rev. David Phillips. Thank you for worshipping, leading, and teaching us!

We also mourn the loss of one of our longtime parish associates, Rev. Aron Wilterding. We are grateful for his years of service with us and rest easy knowing he is at peace.

## **9) Pastor's Report - Rev. Jim Cochrane**

Jim acknowledged the new Elders and Deacons and thanked them for serving in their various roles at Valley.

Jim expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry and Mission Study team for their tireless effort in attending meetings, poring over reports, editing drafts, and creating the document that now lives as a snapshot of Valley in this crossroads moment.

The PNC is already hard at work building a profile for the church, and will write the position description, offer insight into Valley's story, and sift through many talented and qualified candidates to identify the next called pastor for Valley over the coming months. We wish them well in their work!

The PNC will keep the congregation updated on their progress through the monthly newsletter. Session will also be updated at their monthly meetings.

Sanctuary renovation started in the summer and thanks to the generosity of Barbara Johnston and the leadership of Sheila Sheldon and Tom Wasmoen, the sanctuary stands ready for another 75 years of worship and welcome to all who seek its shelter!

With the update to the sanctuary, the stream team was rather busy this year. They had to move all the video sound equipment from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall for summer worship. After the sanctuary update was complete, they had to haul it all back up upstairs. Thank you to everyone who spent hours moving and setting up equipment.

He stated that both Mariah and Sheila work tirelessly to ensure that things run smoothly day-in and day-out, and I deeply appreciate their collaborative and creative spirits in serving this community. Their unwavering support of this church speaks volumes to the love with which they fill their roles, and I am grateful to work with them every day.

10) Other reports of various teams not listed above included: Educational Ministries: TEAMS, Adult Education, Faith Formations and Family Ministries, Youth, Worship & Music, Fellowship, Church Growth, Nominating, Property Committee, Mission Possible, Land Acknowledgement Task Force, Memorials, Fridays in the Valley, Technology and Communications, Supportive Ministries Fund, Youth Education Scholarship Committee Report, Valley Community Garden, Financial Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's various reports (detailed above) and Board of Deacons.

M/S/C to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned with Jim leading us in prayer. Meeting ended at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Rev. Jim Cochrane - Moderator

1/27/2025

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Date



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Jan Fedora - Clerk of Session

# Clerk of Session Report 2025

## Jan Fedora, Clerk of Session

In 2025 Session has been very busy! With their hard work, energy, determination, creativity, and thoughtfulness, they have made many decisions for the present and future of Valley! Below are some of the highlights from the various committees:

**The Technology Team** was very busy live-streaming worship services, other special services, and community events. Thank you Stream Team for your tremendous dedication! It has been a wonderful way to keep Valley members connected during this year!

**Educational Ministries Teams** are composed of children, youth, and adult ministries. Some of the activities included are:

- Faith Formation Classes
- Vacation Bible Camp
- Summer Mission Trips
- Adult Education Classes
- Youth and TEAMS Activities
- Confirmation Classes
- Blood Drive
- Friendship Group
- Christmas Pageant
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Trunk or Treat for Halloween
- Valentine's Cookie Sale
- Craft Days
- Y.E.S. Tea
- Bible Fellowship

**The Mission Possible Team** continued to support and sponsor worthy mission projects, reaching out into the community and working with different agencies.

- Holiday Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas were distributed to PRISM.
- Holiday Toy Shoppe for PRISM was a huge success.
- PRISM School Supply Drive
- Formula for Hope for Crisis Nursery
- Taste of the Burbs
- Built Dressers at the Bridging Event.
- Habitat for Humanity
- Clare Terrace Events
- Pack the Pews Food Drive for PRISM
- EmersonVillage Cleaning Supplies Drive/Diaper Drive
- Alternative Gift Catalog
- Third Annual Haha Wakpadan Water Blessing
- Indigenous Justice Task Force Events
- Meals on Wheels through CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Programs)
- Chromebooks for 21st Century Academy

**Fellowship Committee** events included, among others:

- Church picnic
- Twins Game
- Fall Festival
- Annual Christmas Dinner
- Brew Crew
- Men's Retreat
- Chrysalis Women's Retreat

**The Worship/Music Committee** kept busy planning the Sunday worship services including communion servers, ushers, Sunday Openers, Fridays in the Valley Openers, Chancel choir, Handbell choir, soloists, and other wonderful musicians.

- We were blessed to have wonderful Parish Associates: Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau, Rev. David Phillips, Rev. Nancy Phillips and Rev. Rebecca Tollefson.
- Fridays in the Valley concerts were well attended.
- Beautiful banners that hung in our church added so much to the beautiful sanctuary
- Poinsettia Tree, Memory Tree, and the Julie Tree were displayed in church to add to the spirit of the holiday
- Wednesday evenings during Lent were well attended with excellent food, fellowship, worship, scripture, and singing.

**The Properties Committee** completed the following projects:

- Fall and Spring Clean-Up Days made the church property look wonderful!
- Shingle roof repair was completed.

**The Growth Committee**

- Valley welcomed new members
- The Golden Valley PRIDE Festival was held in June. Valley continues to support this event with volunteers for the booth, including set-up, manning the booth, and take-down. It was a great success!

**The Personnel Committee**

- Rev. Jim Cochrane continued to lead Valley as the Transitional Pastor
- Rachel Hole was hired to be the Administrative Assistant
- Chelsie Larsen will continue to be the Financial Secretary.
- Greg Rom will continue to be the Treasurer.

**The major campaign for 2025 included:**

- **Stewardship Campaign: "We are Called"** Kick-Off started in the Fall 2025. The congregation was asked to respond to this theme with a 4% increase in pledging.

The average total weekly attendance for 2025 was 230 and communion was observed on a monthly basis. Session meetings are generally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month starting at 6:30 pm.

Active members December 31, 2024:	382
<b><u>2025 Correction to Rolls*</u></b>	+2
2024 Adjusted Active Members	384
<b><u>2025 New Members</u></b>	10
2025 Active Member	394
<b><u>2025 Active Members Lost:</u></b>	
Death	7
Place on Inactive Status or Removed	3
<b><u>2025 Total Members Lost</u></b>	10
<b>Active members December 31, 2025</b>	384
<b><u>Special Services in 2025:</u></b>	
Baptisms	2
Weddings	1
Communion Served	15
Memorial Services	3

Valley Members Who Passed Away in 2025: Janet Biggs, Dr. William Dudley, Carolyn Kaehr, Jeffrey Lund, Diane McCunn, Margaret Sandberg, and Jerry Wilkens.

Session met for eleven (11) stated meetings and one (1) congregational meeting in 2025.

# **Nominating Committee Report 2025**

Tom Wasmoen, Chair

## **Elder Nominations:**

Mission Possible: Jen Biggs

Education: Carolyn Anderson (2nd consecutive term)

Properties: Tom Wasmoen (2nd consecutive term)

Worship: Paul Minter

Fellowship: James Decker (fulfilling two-year term vacated by Jay Perry)

Growth Elder: No nominations at this time

## **Deacon Nominations:**

Charlotte Davnie

Ruth Wilterding

Jan Sacco (2nd consecutive term)

Jessica Goslinga (2nd consecutive term)

Karen Chancellor

Betsy Nichols

## **Clerk of Session:**

Jan Fedora

## **Financial Secretary:**

Chelsie Larsen

## **Treasurer:**

Greg Rom

## **Endowment:**

Andy Freeberg (2nd consecutive term)

## **Nominating Committee for 2026:**

2026 Chair: Denise Kara

Co-chair: Charlie Rudeen

\*The remainder of the team will be asked and nominated at the annual meeting on February 1, 2026.

Thank you to the 2025 Nominating Committee for their dedicated efforts in selecting the leadership for our church family. The 2025 committee members were:

## **2025 Nominating Committee**

Tom Wasmoen – Chair

Denise Kara - Vice Chair

Janet Triplett, Janelle Carlson, Jan Sacco

Your commitment to this process has been deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for your service to our church family.

# **Personnel Committee Report 2025**

## **Kelsie Hagelin, Committee Chair & Ruling Elder**

The Personnel Committee is pleased to review 2025 with our congregation. Going into our second year of transition was not only a year of ongoing changes, but also a year of growth and service.

**Rev. Jim Cochrane** continued to lead us during 2025 in the role of Transitional Pastor. We are eternally grateful for the time, talent, and love that Jim shared with Valley during his transitional time here. He not only continued to lead as head pastor and head of staff, but he also continued to guide our process of finding our new pastor. He was vital in pastoral care and keeping Valley moving forward. Jim's last day with us was December 31st, 2025. Thank you to Jim for being a big part of Valley during the ups, downs, and in between of our transition.

The Pastoral Nominating Committee was tasked over the past year to find the new head of staff at Valley. We are so grateful for their tireless commitment, work, and discernment in their mission. We are so excited and looking forward to 2026 to move forward with our new Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, **Rev. Kyle Sandison**. Kyle will be starting with Valley on February 2nd, 2026. We are so excited to welcome him and his family to our VCPC community.

2025 left us again saying goodbye to another Office Manager, **Savannah Martinez** in the middle of August. We are grateful for the time Savannah spent with Valley and wish her all the best in the next year as she focuses on raising her new infant son.

Personnel was thrilled to be able to fill the position of Office Manager with our very own **Rachel Hole**. Rachel brings not only warmth, joy, and knowledge to Valley, but also a knack for organization! She has been such a wonderful addition to our office team and has demonstrated an amazing learning curve. We are so grateful for her jumping in to continue to help Valley thrive.

During our second year of transition and change, we are again forever grateful for our steadfast leaders, Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer. These two rockstar women continued to thrive in their roles, steer Valley forward, and continuously do more than asked during times of staff transition and leaves.

**Sheila Sheldon, CRE** continued to lead Valley as Educational Ministries Director. She continued to be at the forefront of everything Valley. You can see her leading educational programming, planning events, and caring for members. Sheila could also be seen serving Valley by preaching and leading communion as a part of her abilities as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. We are so grateful for all the work she does for Valley for members of all ages.

**Mariah Messer** continued to serve Valley in a big way. 2025 brought a much needed upgrade to her title to truly reflect her role and service to Valley, and she is now officially the Communications Director at VCPC. Mariah continued to be a shining light in the office being the driving force behind all communications, social media, newsletters, and emails. Mariah also continues leading our Youth Group on Sunday evenings. We give great thanks to Mariah for her leadership, love, and care during 2025.



**We want to take the time to highlight our other staff that make this place run and thrive:**

**Janet Carlson** remained steadfast in her role as Director of Choir and Handbells. Under her guidance, both the choir and handbell ensemble continue offering beautiful music on many Sundays. Thank you to Janet for his commitment and love for everything music at Valley.

**Rachel Williams** continued to serve as Music Coordinator, working closely with the choir and generously sharing her gifts at the piano. We are so grateful for not only Rachel’s talent, but the talent (and friends!) she has recruited to be a regular part of music at Valley.

**Hunter Sheldon** continued faithfully in his role as Custodian throughout 2025. His work has been essential in caring for both the interior and exterior of our facility and grounds. He’s the go to person who always seems to know exactly where everything is. He was key for the set up and take down of the many events and Valley, and also helped oversee other projects that occurred at Valley in 2025. Many thanks to Hunter for his ongoing work.

**Ben Sheldon** continued his work as part-time Janitor though most of 2025. He continued to offer assistance with upkeep and maintenance of our facilities. This role was eventually shared and then transferred to **Sam Sheldon**, who will continue as Janitor into 2026. Thank you to both Sheldon boys for your service and care of Valley.

**Natalie Pena Gallegos** continued with the role of Preschool/Faith Formation Assistant through 2025. We were so blessed to get to know Natalie as she cared for our youngest Valley members. We are grateful for the sharing of her care and love to our littles. As the year ended, this role was shared and transitioned back to a familiar face! Jameese Decker decided to return to her previously held role to serve the youth of Valley. We are so excited to see her back with our youngest cohort and appreciate her time and dedication to Valley.

We cannot forget to mention our “good-for-nothings”, which should really be called “good-for-everythings” during times of transition. We are blessed with our many terrific Parish Associates whom we see regularly in church worshipping, leading, and teaching. Thank you to each of them:

- **Rev. Jim Cook**
- **Rev. Rebecca Tollefson**
- **Rev. Bill Davnie**
- **Rev. Nancy Phillips**
- **Rev. Kate O’Brien Soltau**
- **Rev. David Phillips**

I want to continue to thank the people of Valley for the past year of transition, learning and growth. In my second year as personnel chair, I continued to learn something new, almost continually! I have enjoyed serving our staff and congregants during out last year of transition in 2025. I am looking forward to this new year and a new beginning. The current Personnel Committee will continue to support our wonderful staff and Parish Associates as they continue to make Valley a welcoming place for all to worship and feel God’s love. Please reach out to any member of the committee with questions or concerns about our service to Valley.<sup>21</sup>

**Valley Personnel Committee 2025**

Kelsie Hagelin, Chair	Sara Schiebout	Rev. Jim Cochrane, ex officio
Ben Kummer	Melissa Gottschalk	
Deb Poynter	Charlie Rudeen	

# **Supportive Ministries Fund (SMF) Committee Report 2025**

Kelsie Hagelin, Chair

Established by the Session in 2006, the purpose of the Supportive Ministries Fund (SMF) was to secure the sustainability of ordained pastoral support and build this financial cornerstone through gifts, estate planning, and wills.

In past years, with the guidance of the strategic plan, the Personnel Committee submitted, and Session approved changes in the language of the SMF, "to create a source of supplemental funding for ordained and other staffing needs to support the VCPC ministry". When the SMF was created, VCPC had fewer staff and no parish associates. As VCPC has grown, changes in the SMF were identified to expand the scope of the SMF to include funding of non-ordained staff hours and training.

In 2025, VCPC elected to use \$45,000 of the SMF to supplement costs that were not covered by income received from pledges.

The SMF has certificates of deposit and a separate SMF savings account at Citizens Independent Bank. The SMF accounts continue to be managed by the Personnel Committee and the church treasurer, with guidance from the Endowment Committee when needed. Any contributions to the Supportive Ministry Fund to assist with ensuring payment to the Church's ordained and non-ordained staff salaries and training should be made to "VCPC – SMF". This will assist the church in directing the funds appropriately.

If you have questions about the Supportive Ministries Fund, please contact Kelsie Hagelin, Chair of the Personnel Committee or Greg Rom, Valley Community Presbyterian Church Treasurer.

The financial activity in the SMF for 2025 is summarized as follows.

SMF Balance: January 1, 2025	\$254,837
+ Contributions Received in 2024	\$0
- Support Paid Out to Valley Budget	(\$45,000)
+ Interest Received on Certificate of	\$7,237
+ Deposit Investment Value Gain (Loss)	\$5,847
= SMF Balance: December 31, 2025	\$211,227
SMF Balance: December 31, 2025	\$211,227

SMF Balance: December 31, 2025	\$211,227
Certificates of Deposit from Citizens Independent Bank	\$203,617
SIB Savings Account	\$7,610

## **Treasurer's Report: Net Assets**

Greg Rom, Treasurer

	<u>Dec. 31, 2025</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 2024</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Checking/Savings Accounts	335,323	519,717
Money Market Account	35,798	93,644
Cert of Deposit SMF	203,617	80,000
Cert of Deposit BCF	250,000	250,000
Parnassus SMF Account	0	110,022
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>824,738</u>	<u>1,053,383</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Prepaid Pledges	<u>44,540</u>	<u>52,040</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
General Fund - unrestricted	22,460	45,197
Donor restricted	<u>757,738</u>	<u>956,146</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><u>780,198</u></u>	<u><u>1,001,343</u></u>

## 2025 and 2026 General Fund Financial Highlights

Description	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Regular Envelopes	388,784	391,000	402,000
Nonpledging members	23,589	22,000	22,000
Initial Offering	759	600	700
Per Capita Envelopes	3,904	7,000	5,000
Non-member giving	685	4,000	2,000
Prior Year Pledges	1,471	1,000	1,500
Loose Offering	1,915	2,000	2,000
Facility Usage	3,080	2,500	4,000
Interest/Dividends	14,477	10,000	12,000
Special Offerings	7,215	8,000	9,000
Funding from SMF	45,000	45,515	50,149
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>490,879</u>	<u>493,615</u>	<u>510,349</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>	241,377	242,947	252,900
<b>Employment Allowances</b>	109,553	112,780	114,449
<b>Administration</b>	32,946	27,000	35,140
<b>Communications and Technology</b>	1,593	1,600	1,600
<b>Property Care/Improvement</b>	88,160	59,558	57,200
<b>Stewardship Campaign</b>	256	500	500
<b>Per Capita</b>	16,240	15,280	16,900
<b>Educational Ministries</b>	5,824	6,700	6,700
<b>Worship and Music</b>	3,279	4,250	2,960
<b>Fellowship</b>	723	500	500
<b>Church Growth</b>	101	500	500
<b>Mission</b>			
Local Mission	4,434	5,000	5,000
PC (USA) Mission	0	7,000	5,000
Special Offerings	7,215	8,000	9,000
Loose Offering-Designated	1,915	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Mission</b>	<u>13,564</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>513,616</u>	<u>493,615</u>	<u>510,349</u>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<u>(22,737)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

**Treasurer's Report**  
**2024 and 2025 Comparison**

Acct	Description	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
<b>INCOME: General Fund</b>					
<b>ENVELOPE RECEIPTS</b>					
20	Reg Envelopes-pledged	386,232	388,784	391,000	402,000
21	Nonpledging members	18,204	23,589	22,000	22,000
22	Initial Offering	602	759	600	700
23	Per Capita Envelopes	5,560	3,904	7,000	5,000
26	Non-member giving	1,335	685	4,000	2,000
27	Prior Year Pledges	208	1,471	1,000	1,500
	ENVELOPE RECEIPTS	412,141	419,192	425,600	433,200
<b>NON-ENVELOPE RECEIPTS</b>					
30	Loose Offering	1,457	1,915	2,000	2,000
31	Facility Usage	9,520	3,080	2,500	4,000
33	Interest/Dividends	11,748	14,477	10,000	12,000
34	SMF Funding	20,000	45,000	45,515	50,149
35	Special Offerings	9,935	7,215	8,000	9,000
	NON-ENVELOPE RECEIPTS	52,660	71,687	68,015	77,149
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>464,801</b>	<b>490,879</b>	<b>493,615</b>	<b>510,349</b>
<b>EXPENSE : General Fund</b>					
<b>SALARIES</b>					
111	Pastor	30,372	31,176	37,500	37,583
132	Office Administrator	42,779	47,715	47,100	47,736
153	Hand Bell/Choir Director	10,394	10,693	10,394	11,027
154	Music Coordinator	15,398	16,530	16,068	17,047
156	Organist	2,400	2,600	2,400	2,400
157	Guest Musicians	5,500	5,070	4,000	5,200
180	Preschool Assistant	0	0	1,800	0
181	Educational Ministries Dir.	51,717	53,234	53,300	54,900
185	Nursery Attendant	2,360	2,020	2,100	2,200
186	Non-worship childcare	0	50	500	300
190	Program/Comm Coordinator	44,701	52,190	47,400	53,045
191	Custodian	11,248	11,581	11,585	11,950
192	Janitor	6,379	8,518	8,800	9,512
	<b>SALARIES</b>	<b>223,248</b>	<b>241,377</b>	<b>242,947</b>	<b>252,900</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES</b>					
211	Housing-Pastor	35,250	35,292	36,000	37,583
212	Annuity-Pastor	1,986	0	0	8,268
213	Pastor-FICA Offset	5,398	5,393	5,750	5,750
221	Travel-Pastor	893	1,194	2,000	1,400
223	Travel-Ed. Min. Director	0	100	100	100
225	Prof Dev.-Ed. Min. Director	648	650	950	950
226	Employee Benefits	10,245	15,758	12,500	14,823
231	Pension-Pastor	6,196	5,993	7,500	0
251	Social Security Tax	13,786	15,997	15,000	16,000
261	Prof. Development-Pastor	1,155	1,796	1,800	1,800
271	Prof. Expense-Pastor	1,179	849	1,000	1,200
281	Medical-Pastor	22,230	23,590	25,680	22,275
292	Personnel Committee	1,798	2,141	2,000	1,800
294	Temporary Staffing	0	0	0	0
295	Pulpit and Music Supply	500	800	2,000	2,000
663	Prof Dev.-Director of Music	0	0	500	500
	<b>EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES</b>	<b>101,264</b>	<b>109,553</b>	<b>112,780</b>	<b>114,449</b>



**Treasurer's Report**  
**2024 and 2025 Comparison**

Acct	Description	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
301	Bookkeeping	0	5,760	0	8,640
311	Telephone	1,186	863	1,000	1,050
312	Internet Expense	4,618	4,562	5,000	4,450
313	Paychex	2,795	3,258	2,500	3,200
322	Office Supplies	3,812	3,252	3,000	3,000
323	Offering Envelopes	568	607	600	600
331	Postage	1,393	1,227	1,500	1,000
362	Copy Machine	7,785	7,025	7,500	7,500
371	Bank/Online Fees	1,625	2,266	2,500	2,000
392	Session	430	300	400	400
393	Office Subscriptions	4,154	3,177	2,500	2,500
395	Deacons	311	250	400	400
469	Background checks	0	399	100	400
	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>28,677</b>	<b>32,946</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>35,140</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY</b>					
325	Technology Upgrades	3,774	1,113	1,500	1,500
803	Website and Education	71	480	100	100
	<b>COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>PROPERTY CARE AND IMPROVEMENT</b>					
511	Bldg and Equip Maintenance	4,726	12,000	4,500	6,000
521	Grounds Maintenance	10,081	7,533	6,500	6,500
541	Gas	9,219	12,799	11,000	13,500
551	Electrical Service	3,633	11,687	2,000	2,000
561	Water/Sewer/Disposal	10,832	11,474	11,000	11,500
571	Custodial Supplies	1,677	1,281	1,500	1,500
572	Kitchen Supplies/Equipment	913	938	800	1,200
581	Insurance	18,120	25,107	20,258	24,000
582	Sprinkler Monitoring	1,725	5,341	2,000	3,000
591	Endowment Reimbursement	0	0	0	(12,000)
	<b>PROPERTY CARE &amp; IMPRMNT</b>	<b>60,926</b>	<b>88,160</b>	<b>59,558</b>	<b>57,200</b>
391	<b>STEWARDSHIP CAMPGN</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
941	<b>PER CAPITA</b>	<b>16,167</b>	<b>16,240</b>	<b>15,280</b>	<b>16,900</b>
<b>EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES</b>					
412	Education Ministries	1,385	3,099	3,500	3,500
415	TEAMS Ministries	728	589	400	0
417	Youth Ministries	1,146	727	1,300	1,700
422	Family Ministries	1,528	0	0	0
423	Adult Ministries	1,651	1,409	1,500	1,500
	<b>EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES</b>	<b>6,438</b>	<b>5,824</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>WORSHIP AND MUSIC</b>					
620	Special Music	0	200	0	0
621	Choir Supplies	78	375	250	300
622	Choir Enrichment	500	0	2,000	0
623	Worship License	1,200	1,238	1,200	1,200
631	Worship Supplies	1,471	806	500	1,000
632	Banners	28	0	0	0

**Treasurer's Report  
2024 and 2025 Comparison**

Acct	Description	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
661	Piano Maintenance	0	660	300	460
	<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>3,279</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>2,960</b>
<b>MISSION POSSIBLE</b>					
965	Loose Offering-Designated	1,457	1,915	2,000	2,000
966	Local Mission	5,450	4,434	5,000	5,000
967	PC (USA) Mission	9,000	0	7,000	5,000
968	Special Offerings	9,935	7,215	8,000	9,000
	<b>MISSION POSSIBLE</b>	<b>25,842</b>	<b>13,564</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>
711	<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>CHURCH GROWTH</b>					
801	Advertising & Evangelism	312	101	500	500
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>470,354</b>	<b>513,616</b>	<b>493,615</b>	<b>510,349</b>
	<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>(5,553)</b>	<b>(22,737)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**Treasurer's Report**  
**Income and Expense Summary - Dedicated Accounts**  
**December 31, 2025**

Acct	Description	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expense	Ending Balance
<b>Ongoing Offerings</b>					
40	One Great Hour	0.00	2,457.58	2,457.58	0.00
43	Maundy Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
47	Peace and Global Witness	0.00	408.75	408.75	0.00
51	Easter Envelopes	0.00	915.00	915.00	0.00
52	Thanksgiving Envelopes	0.00	728.59	0.00	728.59
53	Christmas Envelopes	0.00	1,062.62	494.00	568.62
56	Ash Wednesday	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
57	Christmas Joy	0.00	991.26	665.00	326.26
58	Pentecost Offering	0.00	650.83	650.83	0.00
	<b>ONGOING OFFERINGS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,214.63</b>	<b>5,591.16</b>	<b>1,623.47</b>
<b>Other Giving</b>					
41	Crisis Nursery	1,355.20	5,490.17	4,645.37	2,200.00
45	Habitat for Humanity	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
46	Home Free	527.50	2,857.13	2,617.65	766.98
48	Clearwater Forest	845.00	9,172.00	6,472.00	3,545.00
55	PRISM	8,090.80	22,878.71	28,556.59	2,412.92
68	Empty Bowls	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
74	Liberty Community Church	3,067.64	11,824.00	10,308.70	4,582.94
86	Presbyterian World Mission	0.00	2,050.17	1,500.00	550.17
93	Noble School / Every Meal	6,946.79	481.52	416.52	7,011.79
108	Clare Housing	6,241.49	492.93	2,568.95	4,165.47
110	Bridging	1,224.00	946.00	2,170.00	0.00
114	The Father Project	0.00	3,163.49	3,163.49	0.00
121	Meals on Wheels	0.00	1,774.79	1,774.79	0.00
	<b>OTHER GIVING</b>	<b>28,698.42</b>	<b>61,630.91</b>	<b>64,594.06</b>	<b>25,735.27</b>
<b>Youth Accounts</b>					
62	Mission Trip Stock sales	6,000.00	0.00	500.00	5,500.00
66	Annual Youth Pledge	2,285.00	0.00	0.00	2,285.00
72	TEAMS Programming	1,691.57	20.00	85.95	1,625.62
73	Jr/Sr High Mission Trips	1,813.82	5,258.81	3,498.10	3,574.53
88	Youth Fundraisers	4,459.54	2,865.09	1,681.72	5,642.91
	<b>TOTAL YOUTH ACCTS</b>	<b>16,249.93</b>	<b>8,143.90</b>	<b>5,765.77</b>	<b>18,628.06</b>

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Income and Expense Summary - Dedicated Accounts**  
**December 31, 2025**

Acct	Description	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expense	Ending Balance
<b>Other Dedicated Accounts</b>					
49	Church Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60	Memorials	17,560.81	4,344.74	4,245.65	17,659.90
61	Fall Festival	6,291.00	8,285.00	6,424.96	8,151.04
64	Donuts	357.78	3,017.67	2,952.65	422.80
65	Valley YES Fund	12,546.92	4,995.34	1,026.87	16,515.39
67	Funeral Gratuity	1,713.54	5,514.68	5,826.61	1,401.61
69	Hand Bell Choir	209.37	2,845.00	206.86	2,847.51
70	Men's Retreat	561.95	965.88	1,527.83	0.00
75	Adult Fellowship	1,021.88	4,001.33	5,023.21	0.00
78	Pastor Discretionary Fund	6,366.59	8,064.56	8,688.98	5,742.17
80	Wildflyer Coffee	214.83	0.00	214.83	0.00
83	Alternative Gift Catalog	1,107.00	1,615.01	300.00	2,422.01
84	Fridays in the Valley Admin	4,537.04	3,170.00	3,650.00	4,057.04
85	Endowment Funding	0.00	30,321.44	30,321.44	0.00
92	Unallocated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
94	Community Garden	2,546.37	1,643.68	3,394.12	795.93
99	Z Hoge Landscape Fund	893.79	0.00	0.00	893.79
100	Library Fund	96.34	0.00	0.00	96.34
102	Sunday Flowers	0.00	2,686.22	2,670.08	16.14
103	Organ Maintenance Fund	0.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
104	Transitional Staffing	74,116.74	0.00	12,704.52	61,412.22
105	Outside Sprinkler Fund	634.79	0.00	0.00	634.79
106	Sanctuary Piano Maint Fund	0.00	460.00	460.00	0.00
109	Children's Enrichment	724.73	4,101.00	2,151.62	2,674.11
112	Supportive Ministries Fund	254,836.94	10,863.85	54,473.51	211,227.28
113	Adult Mission Trips	34,182.58	0.00	0.00	34,182.58
115	Beacon	1,250.00	1,562.00	2,412.00	400.00
117	Building Contingency Fund	465,932.03	31,771.85	169,631.40	328,072.48
118	Land Acknowledgement	1,347.97	5,980.00	2,275.96	5,052.01
119	Immigration and Refugee	2,405.02	1,364.00	2,405.02	1,364.00
120	Presbytery Disaster Assistance	2,910.00	3,233.55	6,143.55	0.00
122	Boiler Fund	302.98	0.00	302.98	0.00
123	Roof Repair Fund	7,733.26	0.00	7,733.26	0.00
124	PRIDE	3,795.50	1,000.00	3,228.00	1,567.50
126	Fridays in the Valley Mission	0.00	6,948.50	5,555.70	1,392.80
130	Barbara Johnston Estate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
131	Liberty Scholarship Fund	5,000.00	0.00	2,250.00	2,750.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER DEDICATED ACCT</b>		<b>911,197.75</b>	<b>150,105.30</b>	<b>349,551.61</b>	<b>711,751.44</b>
<b>TOTAL DEDICATED ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>956,146.10</b>	<b>227,094.74</b>	<b>425,502.60</b>	<b>757,738.24</b>

## Financial Secretary Report 2025

Chelsie Larsen, Financial Secretary

<b>General Envelope Pledges and Receipts</b>	<b>Pledges</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Over/ (Under)</b>
2025 General Envelopes	\$391,131	388,784	<u>(2,347)</u>
Less Prepaid 2025 pledges		(27,040)	
Plus Prepaid 2026 pledges		29,540	
Plus Contributions from Non Pledging Members		23,589	
Plus Contributions from Non Members		685	
Total General Envelope Receipts		<u>\$ 415,558</u>	

### **2026 Pledge Commitments**

113 General Fund Pledges	\$ 376,656
Schon Estate 2026 Pledge	10,000
Endowment Stewardship Fund Contribution	15,000
	<u>\$ 401,656</u>

# **Finance Committee Report 2025**

Denise Kara, Chair

Duties of the Finance Committee consist of:

- Overseeing the church's Operating and Dedicated Accounts.
- Meeting on a quarterly basis.
- Organizing the donation counting and deposits.
- Conducting the annual financial review (Book of Order).
- Reviewing risk management coverage periodically.
- Assisting the Stewardship Committee and other fundraising or financial activities as needed.

Highlights for 2025:

- We concluded the year with a deficit of \$22,737. The primary contributing factors were:
  - Pledge donations were lower than anticipated (Per Capita giving \$3,000 less than expected).
  - Administrative expenses exceeded expectations, primarily due to fees associated with engaging Clergy Financial, our newly contracted external bookkeeping firm. While the transition is progressing well, we are continuing to refine certain processes.
  - Property Care expenses were higher than budgeted
- New Hires!! We worked with Personnel Committee (they did all the work) on making sure we could stay within our budget for new staff.
- We reviewed and coordinated with VCPC staff to update Dedicated Accounts

A big thank you to our volunteers who collected, counted, and deposited the weekly offerings in 2025. We had a few updates this year and very much appreciate the flexibility and patience!

THANK YOU!!

- Carolyn and Ray Anderson
- Helen and Dave Dechaine
- Peggy Meyer and Mary Ann Winter
- Greg and Mary Rom
- Sue and Jay Tracy

Also, thanks to all the members of our Finance Committee for their time and talent:

- Denise Kara, Chair
- Jim Payne (retired in 2025)
- Ray Anderson
- Brad Pleimling
- Norm Chervany, Endowment Committee Representative
- Greg Rom, Treasurer
- Chelsie Larsen, Financial Secretary
- Rev. Jim Cochrane, ex officio

# Stewardship Committee Report 2025

Pat Daily, Chair

## We Are Called

After two years of work and waiting, Valley will soon have a new head of staff. This time of transition required the support of everyone in the Valley community. Nowhere is that more evident than in the results of this year's stewardship campaign. Our theme was **We Are Called: Together, to Love, and to Be Generous**. We set a goal of a 4% increase in financial commitments from our members. Valley members didn't sit back and wait to see what was going to happen next at Valley—we felt called to respond generously now. Those who renewed their commitment from last year increased their giving on average by 5.4%! We had 6 members commit for the first time. Our financial goal for this campaign was \$406,776. As of this writing, we are at \$401,656, just over 1% shy. On top of this, there are some recurring gifts currently established by members through Breeze and if they remain active throughout 2026, we will actually exceed our goal! (Note: we cannot count these gifts as pledges to our goal unless they have been identified as a pledge to Chelsie). Valley heard that call to be generous in 2026!

The short video created last year to explain why we rely on regular giving is still appropriate, and [we hope you will take a minute to watch it.](#) And, to be fully open about all this, the number of members making a financial commitment is down. This next year is a time for us to build a new relationship with Rev. Kyle and to rebuild and grow our support of all things in the Valley.

Thank you to everyone who made a commitment for 2026. We are so grateful for the generosity of our members and their dedication to Valley by providing their gifts of time, talent and treasures to ensure we can carry out our mission and move into the future with a new head pastor. Thank you also to the exceptional Stewardship Committee: Craig Gottschalk, Nancy Husnik, Mariah Messer, Andy Freeberg, and Rev. Jim Cochrane, ex officio, and especially to our fantastic financial secretary, Chelsie Larsen.

Pat Daily  
Chair, Stewardship Committee

# **Endowment Committee Report 2025**

Norm Chervany, Chair

The Endowment committee continued met five times during 2025. We received 34 grant requests that we were able to fund.

In 2024 the Endowment Committee increased the formula used for determining the maximum yearly grants to be paid from 4% of the average value of Endowment investments at the end of the most recent three-year period to 4.5% of the average value of Endowment investments at the end of the most recent three-year period. This change was effective for Endowment grants funded starting in 2025.

During 2025, grants were made to community outreach efforts, for the enhancement and upkeep for VCPC property, and in support of Valley staff education, retreat events, and music programs. The 2025 grants totaled \$64,469 (see table II for a listing of these grants). This brings the total dollar value of grants provided by your Endowment since 1984 to \$726,332

Thanks to the generosity of Valley members, Endowment received a total of \$4,704 in gifts in 2025. This brings the total amount of gifts received since the fund was established in 1984 to \$1,161,970. On December 31, 2025, the Endowment net asset value was \$2,028,082.

Thank you to all who have financially supported Valley's Endowment with gifts in 2025. All these gifts will leave a legacy. You have made the Endowment a vital part of our ministry at Valley and have assured that it will continue to support our Valley members and our outreach efforts for many years to come.

Gifts to the Endowment may be specified for any of the following funds listed below. Many of the funds have been set up in memory of a family member. (Detailed descriptions of these can be found on the Valley Church web site.) We are grateful to those who choose to remember their loved ones in this productive way. Where possible, the committee chair sends an annual letter to families who have created a fund to give them a detailed report of how their fund has performed and what grants were made possible due to the income from the fund.

- General Fund
- Mission Fund
- Peteler/Van Beek Music Fund
- Ed Beck Evangelism Fund
- Coffin Family Bell Choir Fund
- Donna L. and Floyd A. Carlson Educational Fund
- Rice Child Development Fund
- The Barbara J. Johnston Scholarship for The Theological Education of Women
- Elizabeth V. Hnatko Hicks Congregational Life Fund
- The Isabels Building and Maintenance Fund: Isabel Snyder Rice & Isabel Leaf
- Wendell & Marcella and Dean Gilkerson Pipe Organ Maintenance Fund
- Jaclyn Swanson Monroe Sicora Bodette Children's Ministry Fund



- Van Beek/Peteler VCPC and Community Military Personnel Family Assistance Fund
- Zorada Hoge Landscaping Fund
- Zorada Hoge Pastoral Care Fund
- Karla Parks Clearwater Scholarship Fund
- Pete Peterson Youth Mission Fund
- Helen Potter Webb Technology and Communication Fund
- Allyson Graphenteen Youth Scholarship Fund
- Valley Family Stewardship Fund
- Do Justice Fund
- Martens' Noble Vision Fund
- Martens' Addison TEAMS Fund
- Lois and Gordon Robinson Future Scholars Fund

Unspecified gifts to Endowment are allocated at 80% to the General Fund and 20% to the Mission Fund.

Members of the 2025 Endowment Committee are:

Norm Chervany, Chair  
 Rick Martens, Secretary  
 Todd Decker  
 Andrew Freeberg  
 Denise Kara, Finance Chair  
 Chuck Ulmer  
 Greg Rom, Treasurer, ex officio  
 Rev. Jim Cochrane, Transitional Pastor, ex officio

I thank these committee members for their important work and devotion this past year.

We welcome requests for grants. Copies of the contribution guidelines are available on the Valley web site. Please contact any member of the committee if you have questions regarding gifts or grants, or if you are interested in including the VCPC Endowment in your will.

Norm Chervany, Chair

**TABLE I Gifts Received, Grants Made and Current Value of Funds**

Name of Endowment Funds	Beginning Year Fund Value 2025	Gifts Received in 2025	Grants Made in 2025	Gifts since Inception (1984) - current Year 2025	Ending Year Fund Value 2025
General Fund	\$458,318	\$1,401	\$17,631	\$210,296	\$490,975
Mission Fund	\$68,822	\$350	\$2,648	\$37,069	\$73,580
Peteler/Van Beek Music Fund	\$34,656	\$0	\$1,333	\$13,644	\$37,036
Ed and Joyce Beck Evangelism Fund	\$20,199	\$0	\$777	\$8,797	\$21,575
Coffin Family Bell Choir Fund	\$39,310	\$0	\$1,512	\$13,230	\$42,007
The Isabels Building and Maintenance Fund: Isabel Snyder Rice and Isabel Leaf	\$212,293	\$0	\$8,167	\$114,750	\$226,687
Donna L. and Floyd A. Carlson Educational Fund	\$54,152	\$0	\$0	\$21,395	\$59,942
Rice Child Development Fund	\$79,203	\$0	\$3,047	\$33,597	\$84,625
The Barbara J Johnston Scholarship for Theological Education of Women Fund	\$139,373	\$0	\$310	\$110,030	\$153,965
Elizabeth V. Hnatko Hicks Congregational Life Fund	\$84,113	\$235	\$3,235	\$47,518	\$89,803
Wendell & Marcella and Dean Gilkerson Pipe Organ Maintenance Fund	\$29,897	\$0	\$1,150	\$15,010	\$31,948
JacLyn Swanson Monroe Sicora Bodette Children's Ministry Fund	\$46,884	\$0	\$1,804	\$20,970	\$49,943
Van Beek/Peteler VCPC and Community Military Personnel Family Assistance Fund	\$22,650	\$0	\$871	\$10,020	\$24,141
Zorada Hoge Pastoral Care Fund	\$36,064	\$0	\$1,387	\$20,360	\$38,328
Zorada Hoge Landscaping Fund	\$37,189	\$0	\$1,431	\$20,000	\$39,737
Karla Parks Clearwater Scholarship Fund	\$35,519	\$1,000	\$1,366	\$26,459	\$38,810
Pete Peterson Youth Mission Fund	\$22,034	\$0	\$750	\$16,492	\$23,533
Helen Potter Webb Technology and Communication Fund	\$9,637	\$0	\$371	\$7,347	\$10,280
Allyson Graphenteen Youth Scholarship Fund	\$14,704	\$250	\$566	\$11,508	\$15,962
Valley Family Stewardship Fund	\$354,705	\$1,218	\$13,645	\$318,198	\$378,309
Do Justice Fund	\$10,879	\$0	\$419	\$10,000	\$11,559
Martens' Noble Vision Fund	\$53,261	\$0	\$2,049	\$50,000	\$56,906
Martens' Addison TEAMS Fund	\$10,648	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$11,785
Lois and Gordon Robinson Future Scholars Fund	\$14,807	\$250	\$0	\$15,280	\$16,646
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,889,317</b>	<b>\$4,704</b>	<b>\$64,469</b>	<b>\$1,161,970</b>	<b>\$2,028,082</b>



**Table II List of 2025 Grants**

<b>Grants Made to Community Outreach</b>	
Clearwater Forest Capital Drive	\$6,162
The Link	\$3,750
Indigenous Justice Task Force	\$2,300
Noble School	\$2,049
PRISM	\$2,000
Minneapolis Crisis Nursery – Hope Formula	\$1,500
Andres Freeberg Basic Training Grant	\$1,000
Caring Bridge Website Support	\$1,000
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery	\$1,000
Bridging	\$946
Liberty 21 Century Academy	\$850
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Program Fellowship Snacks	\$500
Bread for the World	\$500
Empty Bowls – NEAR Food Shelf	\$500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$24,057</b>
<b>Grants Made to Valley Church Ministry</b>	
Valley Family Stewardship Grant	\$13,645
Additional Hand Bells	\$2,845
Donuts for Fellowship Hour	\$1,560
Pastor’s Discretionary Grant	\$1,387
Summer Program Youth Expenses	\$1,000
Clearwater Forest Fellowships	\$800
Clearwater Forest Summer Camp Fellowships	\$800
Youth Mission Trip Expenses	\$750
Clearwater Men’s Retreat Scholarships	\$700
Clearwater Snow Camp Scholarships	\$566
Indigenous-owned Business Fellowship Snacks	\$500
Chrysalis Summer Camp Scholarships	\$310
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$24,863</b>
<b>Grants Made to Valley Church Projects</b>	
Rooftop HVAC Unit Replacement	\$8,000
Tree Removal and Clean-up	\$2,800
Track Lighting & TV Monitoring LL	\$2,310
Kitchen Hall	
Pipe Organ Tuning	\$1,150
Valley Village Safety Pad	\$400
Portable Public Address System	\$389
VCPC Christmas Poinsettia Tree	\$300
New Green Covering for Communion Table	\$200
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$15,549</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$64,469</b>

Table III - Value of Endowment Investments at 12/31/2025

Cash On Hand Citizens Bank	\$37,894
Securities:	
United States Treasury Bill	\$144,000
Impax Core Bond Fund	\$199,765
Impax High Yield Bond Fund	\$186,318
Parnassus Core Equity Fund	\$414,402
Parnassus Mid Cap Growth Fund	\$315,821
Parnassus Mid Cap Fund	\$309,644
Impax Small Cap Fund	\$213,318
Trillium Global Equity Fund	\$206,920
Total of Endowment Investments at Year End	\$2,028,082

## **Educational Ministries Committee 2025**

Carolyn Anderson, Charlie Rudeen, & Mariah Messer, Co-Chairs

### **Educational Ministries Team**

The Educational Ministries leadership team consisted of elders Carolyn Anderson, Mariah Messer, and Charlie Rudeen. Staff supporting the team are Sheila Sheldon, Educational Ministries Director and CRE, and Mariah Messer, Communications Director.

### **Adult Education**

- We held nine classes in the spring and ten classes in the fall, all offered in-person with some posted online for viewing following the class, with presenter permission
- An average of 20 people attended in person.
- Topics included Christian Nationalism, Understanding Hospice, Islamophobia, Resiliency Hubs: How can your community help?, How's the Water (Drinking Water Edition), and Getting to Know Valley's Endowment as well as many presentations by community partner organizations.
- We continue to be grateful to our community partners, Valley members, and staff who help create meaningful conversations for us at these events.

### **Friendship Group**

- Continued meeting monthly through all of 2025
- 2-4 Friendship Group members attended each meeting
- 5 church members volunteer regularly on a rotating schedule to lead the group
- Rev. Jim and Diane Cook continue to celebrate birthdays with our friends and send a special gift and message to them on their big day.
- The Friendship Group and Valley as a whole mourned the passing of Jeff Lund in August 2025. He will be missed greatly by all of his friends and family.

### **Faith Formation and Family Ministries**

- Family emails were sent on a bi-weekly basis at the beginning of 2025, and then shifted to an as-needed basis as the year went on.
- During the Time with Young Worshipers on Sunday mornings Sheila and other special guests provided meaningful lessons for children of all ages within the service.
- Natalie Peña-Gallegos led Faith Formation in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings from January through December 21, 2025. We continued to integrate Illustrated Ministries' Invitation to Play curriculum lessons into our Sunday morning Faith Formation classes! These lessons focused on experiential learning allow young people to explore and relate to Bible stories in a new way. An average of 15 kids are in the Sunshine Room each week.
- In early December 2025, Natalie Peña-Gallegos informed staff that her current work commitments outside of Valley would no longer allow her to continue as Sunshine Room Lead. We thank Natalie for an amazing year in the Sunshine Room.
- Jameese Decker expressed interest in once again leading Faith Formation on Sunday mornings and resumed that work on December 21st.
- VBC 2025 was held in-person June 10-13 and followed an adapted curriculum based on the teachings and music of Fred Rogers and Mister Rogers Neighborhood. This year's theme was *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*

- Highlights: singing accompanied by Rachel Williams and Missy Rudeen; a visit from Roxanne Biidaabinokwe Gould (Kitchiwikwendong Anishinaabe) who read her book "Murphy, the Boss Cat of Little Earth"; collaboratively using donated repurposed materials like cardboard boxes, egg cartons, milk cartons, styrofoam, toilet paper rolls, and so much more to build our own neighborhood; game time with Pastor Jim; creative writing time culminating with a Poetry Reading on the last day with participants reading their "I AM" poems out loud in front of campers and parents; group reading of Bible stories and discussion led by Sheila, crafts (group and individual)
- 20 kids signed up and attended
- Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer planned and led the camp, Rachel Williams led the music time at the beginning of each day
- Adult volunteers: Karen Harms, Kelsie Hagelin, Sam Schellhaas, Missy Rudeen, Sara Perry, Paula Landis, Ann Roach, Rachel Williams, Gwen Rouleau, Susie Potter
- Youth Volunteer: Connor Gottschalk, Syndy Nyongkah, Grace Perry, Samuel Sheldon
- 2025 Christmas Pageant was held during worship on Sunday, December 14th. Rehearsals were held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. In total, 24 kids and youth participated in the pageant.
- During Advent, 5 Valley families volunteered to light the Advent candles throughout the Advent season.
- Approximately 20 youth and kids volunteered to speak and assist during the two Christmas Eve services.

## TEAMS

In 2025 the TEAMS program for youth in fourth and fifth grade continued under the leadership of Hunter Sheldon, Jessica Goslinga, and Charlie Rudeen. Through special projects using a STEM model they explored solving problems and completing projects as a team. They also explored their faith together through spirituality conversations that focused on current events paired with stories and scripture from the Bible. Working together and building relationships while having fun is the foundation of TEAMS. Creating a space that allows them to ask questions about faith and the world around them continues to help grow strong faithful youth who are committed to the mission of Valley.

- TEAMS program had 10 registered youth and welcomed 2 visitors.
- Projects included: candy machines, fleece pillows, a water filtration experiment, an adaptation activity led by Missy Rudeen, Altoid container flashlights, and more!
- In the spring, TEAMS participants took a field trip to the lab at the University of Minnesota and were given a tour and taught about animals by Missy Rudeen
- TEAMS families also decorated cars and participated in a hugely successful Trunk or Treat for PRISM.

## YOUTH

Youth in grades 6 -12 met on Sundays at Valley from 4-6 PM in the spring, and then shifted to 5:30-7:00 PM in September and through the fall. They engaged in bible study and faith discussions, team building opportunities and fellowship. Youth Group members participated in a Mission Trip to Milwaukee, WI on June 18-22. They volunteered at all three locations of the Urban Ecology Center whose mission is to foster ecological understanding as inspiration for change, neighborhood by neighborhood. We were hosted by Northshore Presbyterian Church and youth shared about their experience during Sunday morning worship before heading home. Youth also visited Discovery World, a local science museum, then they organized a talent show and performed for one another. Chaperones were Melissa Gottschalk, Mariah Messer, Charlie Rudeen, and Sheila Sheldon, with Jennifer Malecha supporting offsite.

### Youth Highlights from 2025:

- Annual Cookie sale in February raised \$2,417.62 to help fund the TEAMS and youth group activities and projects.
- Youth helped with the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Youth stuffed and hid over 2,000 eggs and welcomed over 75 kids at the event.
- 12 youth volunteered as servers at the 23rd Annual Youth Education Scholarship Tea.
- Hosted Trunk or Treat for PRISM and collected over 300 pounds of food and had 50+ kids participate

We want to thank our adult youth leaders: Hunter Sheldon, Andrew Pitan, Rachel Hole, Charlie & Missy Rudeen, Craig & Melissa Gottschalk, Tim & Becky Grosshuesch, Jill Toering, Jennifer Malecha, Katie Decker, Jeanine Miakotina, Chelsie Larsen, Bennett & Jackie Goiffon, Jacob LaBelle, and Jessica Goslinga as well as staff, parents, and the youth for their dedication to nurturing our connections this year! We look forward to 2026 and the wonderful things to come from this great group of young people.

# Youth Education Scholarship (YES) Committee Report 2025

Sheila Sheldon, Chair

The twenty third annual Valley Youth Education Scholarship (Valley YES) tea was held at Valley on Saturday, March 22, 2025. A wonderful group of folks hosted 124 guests across 16 tables. Our amazing catering crew Valerie and Scott Robinson and friends made all the sandwiches and freshly baked scones while 12 of our Valley Youth volunteered as servers.

The committee has awarded 67 scholarships totaling \$45,000 to Valley high school graduates since the committee's inception. This past year even though we did not receive any applications for scholarships, we did connect with graduates who indicated they were deferring applying in 2025 and would submit applications in 2026.

As we look ahead, we anticipate supporting between 8-12 graduates with scholarships over the next three years. We are so grateful to be able to raise funds to keep this important program thriving at Valley.

The YES committee is grateful to everyone who supported the scholarship tea and is looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2025. Kitchen Crew: Valerie and Scott Robinson, Claire and Annabelle Robinson, Sam and Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer.

## Valley YES (account 65) Financial Report

Beginning of the Year Balance:	\$12, 546.92
<b>Scholarship Tea Ticket Sales:</b>	<b>+\$4,995.34</b>
Subtotal:	\$17,542.26
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>-\$1,026.87</b>
2025 Scholarships:	None Received
<b>Year-end 2025 Balance:</b>	<b>\$16,515.39</b>

# **Church Growth Committee Report 2025**

Susie Potter & Jay Tracy, Co-Chairs

The Church Growth philosophy at Valley Community Presbyterian Church states that successful growth is a function of all aspects of the church. Church Growth strives to help Valley create and maintain a vibrant, welcoming and inviting church, opening our doors to members and visitors every day. New members have frequently mentioned how welcoming Valley members were when they first visited. We enjoy seeing our building used for a variety of community meetings and events.

The Growth Team continues the work of attracting visitors and new members to Valley. New growth depends on all of us being ambassadors of God's love and sharing the Valley Vibe. We welcome ALL to join us in worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, and service to others. We embrace diversity with open hearts and open minds.

## **Growth Team 2025 activities:**

- In December we welcomed two new members. We look forward to welcoming new & returning members in 2026.
- In June we hosted, along with Mission Possible, a booth at the 2025 Golden Valley Pride Fest. Despite the rain it was a fun event!
- Thank You Valley Stream Team for continuing to make the YouTube live-stream services so seamless. These live-stream services have attracted many folks and keep us connected. In the past, new members have joined after participating in the YouTube services!

Thank you Valley family for being such a vibrant community that responds willingly to the needs of our members and the communities where we live. In 2026 we look forward to new opportunities to grow and reach out to our neighbors.

# **Mission Possible: Peace & Justice Committee Report 2025**

Sarah Fadell & Terry Goslinga, Co-Chairs

This committee is blessed to have thoughtful and committed members and a number of willing helpers who come when called: Arlene Freeberg, Jan Sacco, Lotti Matkovits, Jennifer Biggs, Nancy Husnik, Andrew Pitan, Mark Freeman, Carolyn Anderson, Pat Daily, Nancy Phillips, Mariah Messer, Terry Goslinga (co-chair), and Sarah Fadell (co-chair). We are extremely grateful to the members who give so generously of their time and talent to the projects listed below and encourage anyone who would like to be involved in helping to please call the person listed after the report to find out more about what they can do. There are opportunities for any level of involvement!

Due to generous giving throughout the year, Valley was also able to provide several of our community partners with year-end gifts that will no doubt set them up for a successful start to 2026. Thank you for all of the ways you all contribute to these incredible organizations!

Below is a summary of some of the many activities in which we have been involved during 2025.

**Alternative Gift Catalog:** The Alternative Gift option continues to be one of the programs that interests members as a way to give a gift to a special person that will enjoy a donation to a charity that is close to their heart. In 2025, \$1714 was donated to various agencies that Valley supports. (Arlene Freeberg)

**Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative:** Valley continued our financial support of Beacon through a Fridays in the Valley concert as well as sponsoring a table at their Fall fundraiser. We also donated a basket of home supplies auctioned off at Fall Festival in continued support of Emerson Village. (Carolyn Anderson)

**Bridging:** We built 14 dressers on Saturday Nov 15th at the Plymouth location. We had 13 volunteers and got all dressers built from 9-12. We also got a tour and found out they have a 2.5 year lease and will be deciding if it's the right building or not. It is the smallest of the 3 sites with Roseville and Bloomington being the other 2. (Andrew Pitan)

**Clare Terrace:** As has been a longstanding tradition, Valentine's treats were delivered in February, and Holiday cards containing a \$20.00 Hy-Vee gift card were delivered in mid-December. A meal and activity event was held at Clare Terrace on November 21 with a fantastic group of volunteers and residents sharing pizza and socializing! While a well-intentioned game night was planned, most opted for chatting and telling exciting stories about their lives and travels. It was extremely fulfilling! Jan Sacco faithfully continues to put together "Welcome Baskets" for new residents. Three were created specifically to auction and then donate from the Fall Festival. (Sarah Fadell)

**Clearwater Forest:** Many things to celebrate at Clearwater Forest in 2025, including a 10% increase in summer campers, and over half of the 24 counselors were there for their second (or more) year. Camp welcomed church groups, youth retreats, families, quilting groups, leadership gatherings, and so many others. Several Valley women attended winter and summer Chrysalis, and Valley men had their annual retreat in the fall.



The biggest news from camp is the start of the Fan the FLAME capital campaign to raise funds for a new multi-purpose building. Valley was host for one of the kickoff events, and our Endowment has given an initial grant to the campaign. Details about the building and activities at camp can be found at <https://youtu.be/e9f5pMLbhG8> We are truly blessed to have such a resource available to us.  
(Pat Daily)

**Every Meal:** Every Meal is a nonprofit organization which provides weekend meals for school children whose homes may be food insecure. School social workers partner with community sponsors to advertise the program every fall and help parents register either at the beginning of the year or at any future point when they experience need. Parents can ask for bags tailored to their preferences: East African, Latino, Southeast Asia, wide variety, or ready-to-eat. Each bag includes protein, carbohydrates, vegetables and fruit, in shelf stable forms. The bags are distributed weekly by volunteers and placed discretely into children's backpacks.

In 2025, Valley Community continued its relationship with the Every Meal Program in the role of a Community Sponsor. Community Sponsors typically own their relationship with a given school, donate toward the cost of the program, and provide volunteers to distribute meal bags to the school children whose families have signed up.

In the case of VCPC, the sponsored school has been Noble Elementary (which VCPC has been involved with in other ways as well). VCPC has made the relationship with Every Meal known to the congregation through Minute for Mission and Friday Nights in the Valley, and has donated money toward the cost of Every Meal's programs. For distribution of meal bags, VCPC has divided the work with two other sponsoring churches, Unity Presbyterian and Valley of Peace.

The cost of the program varies by the number of children receiving weekend meal bags. The number of enrolled children at Noble has run between 20 and 40, with the number for the beginning of the 2025-26 school year starting at 19 but quickly moving up to 26 children receiving meal bags. The cost per enrolled student is \$368 for meals for the year.

Noble School is in the Robbinsdale School District which has suffered major financial problems. Schools had to tighten their budgets for the 2025-26 school year; going into the 2026-27 period, several schools will be closed, and unfortunately Noble is one of them.

VCPC can still be involved with Every Meal. Staff there are discussing the impact of the closure of several schools in the Robbinsdale area and will be sharing their thoughts in coming weeks. VCPC may want to sponsor Every Meal at a different school, or simply contribute to the organization's overall costs. Current volunteers from VCSPC are Nancy Phillips, who distributes meals, and David Phillips, who drives food boxes from the warehouse to a variety of schools, and who helps Nancy with the heavy boxes at Noble. (Nancy Phillips)

**Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery:** For over 50 years, GMCN in South Minneapolis has been providing 24/7 child care support to parents who request help during a crisis. GMCN's mission is to prevent child abuse and keep families together. It offers housing and meals for up to 3 days for children, newborn to 6 years old. Parents are also offered guidance and counseling. GMCN Volunteers assist the Nursery with childcare, meal preparation/serving, educational opportunities and outreach.

Valley Church is a long-time supporter of GMCN. In 2025, Valley was once again active and generous! Valley hosted a well-attended table in May at GMCN's annual Formula for Hope event with both Valley Church and attendees contributing. Contributions were also collected in the Spring at a Music in the Valley night. At Valley's Fall Festival, 3 large baskets containing boys' and girls' much needed daily wear, outerwear, shoes, diapers, pull-ups and wipes were generously bid upon and donated. Expectations for 2026 include the same plus potential tours of the Nursery. (Nancy Husnik)

**Habitat for Humanity:** We had 10 of us at the build this year along with a regular habitat volunteer named Roger not from church. We worked alongside Tony Beckstrom for at least the third year in a row at a site in Edina on January 20, MLK day. We worked on painting trim and even a fireplace mantel among other small projects. We had a few first time volunteers this year. Volunteers included Don Roach, Hunter Sheldon, Janet Triplet, Janet's daughter and grandson also helped out. Ray Anderson, Dave Dechaine, Roger Micheal, Lonnie Johnson, and Andrew Pitan. (Andrew Pitan)

**Immigration Task Force:** The Karwan family continues to meet the challenges of living in the United States after leaving their home in 2021.

Dad is unable to retrieve his diploma from his high school in Afghanistan so has taken it upon himself to study for his GED online. He would like to find a better job and would like to study to be an electrician. He is trying to figure a way to do an apprenticeship while still supporting his wife and 3 children. He has started a slightly higher paying job providing security on the Metro Transit System. We hope he can stay safe in this position.

Mom has passed her learner's permit and would like to start driving and possibly get a part time job to help with finances.

The oldest started kindergarten in September and loves school. The little boys stay home with mom. They would like to start their middle child in the High Five program in the fall.

Their landlord is selling the house that they live in, and they will need to move to a different place by the end of March so that will be a new adventure.

They are adjusting as well as can be expected and show resilience as they grow in their comfort level in a strange country. This has been a difficult summer and fall as the anti-immigrant sentiments have grown. While they are here legally and, in every respect, have followed all rules being good members of the community, they are nevertheless fearful that they are vulnerable. They are most grateful for the support from Valley and express that often. (Arlene Freeberg)

**Meals on Wheels:** Meals on Wheels continues to be an important community mission for our church, meeting the needs of the elderly and homebound by providing nutritious meals and human contact. There has been an increase in awareness of these needs recently with public service ads on television. This is a national program, and thousands of people benefit every day. 2025 was a busy year. VCPC delivers meals twice a month. Gail Smith organizes the third Thursday of the month with a quota of 6 routes, and Marge Thurston has the fourth Thursday with a quota of 5 routes. In total, we have a pool of 22 drivers to fill our quotas, and have been effectively using Breeze for coordination.

**Noble School:** Valley is well represented at Noble Elementary. There are volunteers to help students with math and reading and volunteers to help teachers with prepping for future lessons, organizing and copying. Volunteers can also be found in the office helping the staff. Valley has provided leggings, mittens, and blankets in the nurse's office to help the kids in need. There remains much to be done. More volunteers would be welcomed.

**PRISM (VCPC charter member since 1970):** Valley continued to support PRISM financially throughout 2025 through typical events and collections, but also initiated several additional efforts/made additional contributions due to financial uncertainty surrounding Federal funding at several points throughout 2025. Volunteers from Valley also participated in weekly support and delivery of donations, including food items and items for the Shop for Change thrift shop. In March, Pack the Pews was a major effort for food donations. Then in May, Valley once again reserved several tables and supported Taste of the 'Burbs with significant attendance! The school supply drive continued in 2025, and Valley donated many backpacks and other school-related supplies. Valley purchased 60 boxes of food at Thanksgiving (30) and Christmas (30) from The Food Group. This food was picked up and delivered to PRISM by Valley volunteers for distribution during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. The PRISM Toy Shoppe returned once again to Valley, helping parents select toys and gifts for their children to unwrap on Christmas morning. Valley members donated toys that amounted to several thousand dollars in toys, and over 20 Valley members volunteered to help out at the event, which served 716 children from 241 families. What a wonderful year of giving and generosity to our neighborhood partner, PRISM! (Sarah Fadell)

# Indigenous Justice Task Force 2025

Crystal Boyd

Convened in April 2021, the Land Acknowledgement Task Force has become the Indigenous Justice Task Force and had an incredibly productive 2025! Committee Members include: Jennifer Biggs (chair, liaison with Mission Possible), Crystal Boyd, Pat Daily, Audrey Gabe (joined in October), Mariah Messer (staff liaison), Roger Michael, Susie Potter, and Janet Triplett.

## 2025 key accomplishments include:

- The Land Acknowledgement Task Force changed its name to the Indigenous Justice Task Force (IJTF) to reflect a broader commitment to Dakota and other Indigenous communities.
- Endowment approved \$2,300 for the following activities:
  - \$1,500 for the 2025 Water Blessing in Plymouth.
  - \$300 donation to Owámniyomni Okhódayapi for a tour of the falls in Minneapolis.
  - \$200 for the Adult Education presentation by Sarah Augustine from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.
  - \$300 for event photography by an Indigenous photographer on Indigenous Peoples' Sunday.
- January 13th: Crystal Boyd presented about land acknowledgement and Hąhá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek for 20 people at Valley of Peace Lutheran in Golden Valley. Crystal gave a similar presentation for 14 people at a meeting of the New Hope Citizen Advisory Commission on January 14th.
- January 31st: the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) announced a Community Grant of \$5,000 for "Celebrating Hąhá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek Through Indigenous Photography." Valley has contracted with photographer Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe) to photograph the creek in all four seasons. The photographs will be shared in fall 2026 through an online digital photo album, a physical exhibit at The Trailhead in Theodore Wirth Park, and an Adult Education presentation. Community partners include Hennepin History Museum, Golden Valley Historical Society, and The Loppet.
- The Task Force rearranged the downstairs entryway to feature a bench near the land acknowledgement logo, banner, and resource corner.
- February 11th: Jennifer Biggs updated Mission Possible about IJTF activities, goals, and funding needs.
- March: Jennifer Biggs drafted a use policy for Valley's land acknowledgement statement, which was later approved by Session.
- April 4th: Sarah Augustine from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery presented during Adult Education.
- April 19th: in honor of Earth Day, several Valley members joined the Hąhá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek Clean-up that was hosted by the City of Golden Valley Environmental Commission. More than 30 volunteers collected over 140 pounds of trash.

- April 26th: Hennepin History Museum hosted a Dakota speaker panel at MWMO headquarters in Minneapolis. From April through July, Hennepin History Museum hosted 4 Dakota plant walks. These events are related to an MWMO grant for Hǎǎ́ Wakpádan.
- May: the IJTF presented a 2-part Minute for Mission in honor of Minnesota American Indian Month.
- May 3rd: Valley members toured the falls in Minneapolis with the Dakota-led nonprofit Owámniyomni Okhódayapi. The event was co-advertised with Valley of Peace Lutheran.
- July: Crystal Boyd participated in a call with the Metropolitan Council about featuring the Hǎǎ́ Wakpádan / Bassett Creek Oral History Project in a forthcoming toolkit. It may be used as an example to help groups that are exploring renaming options for parks and trails.
- September 2nd: The Golden Valley City Council unanimously approved the city's co-naming policy for Hǎǎ́ Wakpádan / Bassett Creek, which ensures that both the Dakota and English name will be used in city communications and signage. This is a great step towards honoring Dakota land, language, and culture.
- A portrait photography exhibit called "Native Voices: Stories from Hǎǎ́ Wakpádan / Bassett Creek" was installed at The Trailhead in Theodore With Park. The exhibit featured the oral history project, quotes from the narrators, and portrait photographs taken by Ne-Dah-Ness Greene (Anishinaabe), Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe), and Tj Turner (Anishinaabe). Many thanks to The Loppet for hosting the exhibit.
- October 12th: The IJTF hosted Indigenous Peoples' Sunday. Jim Rock (Dakota) played music and presented a memorable children's sermon where the kids dressed up as bison. Special treats included bison cookies from Unci's Prairie Sweets, sun cookies from The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen cookbook made by Pat Daily, wild rice blueberry mini-muffins from Northland Visions made by Crystal Boyd, and coffee from Mní Sapa Roasting Company. Valley members signed cards for the Golden Valley City Council members in thanks for passing the city's co-naming policy for the creek.
- October 13th: the IJTF hosted the Third Annual Hǎǎ́ Wakpádan Water Blessing in Plymouth. Young adults from Dream of Wild Health presented the Water Blessing. Education tables were hosted by the Dakota language nonprofit Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičhiye, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, and Hennepin History Museum. An arts activities table was hosted by Jim Rock (Dakota) and Roxanne Gould (Anishinaabe) where people painted Water Wheels that were later displayed with at The Trailhead. Event photography was provided by Tj Turner (Anishinaabe). Media coverage was provided by WCCO and the SunPost.

More than 130 people attended. Community partners included: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, City of Golden Valley Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, Golden Valley Environmental Commission, City of Minnetonka Historical Society, City of Plymouth, City of St. Louis Park, Hennepin History Museum, Golden Valley Historical Society, Minnesota Repair Communities, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Plymouth History Center, Robbinsdale Historical Society, St. Louis Park Historical Society, The Loppet, and Valley Community Presbyterian Church.

- October 18th: The Loppet hosted the second Hąhá Wakpádan Loopet Loppet, including an Indigenous vendor festival and a 5K Fun Run at Theodore Wirth Park.
- November: the Endowment Committee established an annual contribution of \$300 for the IJTF.
- Crystal Boyd worked with the Minnesota Historical Society to publish an article about Hąhá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek on MNopedia.
- December: Crystal Boyd worked with Hennepin History Museum to publish an article, in Hennepin History magazine titled “Joel Bassett’s Settler Legacy” (not yet available online).

Looking forward, the IJTF is already planning more education events for 2026, including a documentary screening about Native American boarding schools and the 2026 Water Blessing in St. Louis Park. Plus New Hope and Minneapolis have expressed interest in hosting the Water Blessing in 2027 and 2028, so there are more events to come!

## Mission Giving Report 2025

### Mission Possible Budgeted Giving

Unified Giving to PCUSA (account 967)	\$0
Mission Giving (account 966)	
Local Mission Gifts of Food	\$4,434
Loose Offering (account 965)	\$1,915
Total Mission Possible Budgeted Giving	\$6,349

### Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,457
Pentecost	\$651
Easter	\$915
Thanksgiving	\$729
Christmas	\$1,063
Christmas Joy	\$991
Peace and Global Witness	\$409
Total Special Offering Giving	\$7,215

### Other Mission Giving

Alternative Gifts	\$1,615
Beacon	\$1,562
Bridging	\$946
Clare Housing	\$493
Clearwater Forest	\$9,172
Crisis Nursery	\$5,490
Empty Bowls	\$500
Every Meal	\$482
Fridays in the Valley Administration	\$3,170
Home Free	\$2,857
Immigration and Refugee	\$1,364
Liberty Community Church	\$11,824
Meals on Wheels	\$1,775
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$8,065
Presbyterian World Mission	\$550
Presbytery Disaster Assistance	\$3,234
PRIDE	\$1,000
PRISM	\$22,879
The Father Project	\$3,163
Youth Fundraisers	\$2,865
Total Other Mission Giving	\$83,006

<b>Endowment Giving to Other Mission Projects</b>	
Bread for the World	\$500
Caring Bridge Website Support	\$1,000
Indigenous Justice Task Force	\$2,300
Military Support Grant	\$1,000
Noble School Education Support	\$2,049
The Link	\$3,750
<b>Total Endowment Giving to Other Mission Projects</b>	<b>\$10,599</b>
Non-Cash PRISM Food and Clothing	\$1,550
PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe	\$9,350
<b>TOTAL MISSION GIVING 2025</b>	<b>\$118,069</b>

#### Mission Giving Report – Important Notes

The above numbers generally represent the dollar amounts donated by the members of the congregation to Valley to be then paid to the individual mission partners and organizations. An attempt has been made to avoid duplication of mission giving from the Fridays in the Valley Concert Series and Endowment.

Please refer to other sections of the Annual Report for a complete list of giving from Fridays in the Valley concerts and Valley Community Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund. For Endowment, only the portion of Endowment Grants classified as Community Outreach (\$24, 057) has been included above.

Amounts donated to Non-Cash PRISM Food and Clothing and PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe are estimated amounts. It is difficult to put a precise value.



# Worship & Music Committee Report 2025

Jan Fedora, Chair

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is grateful for all the leadership, commitment, energy, and compassion which guides us and sustains us on our faith journey. Sermons by **Rev. Jim Cochrane** and **Sheila Sheldon, CRE**, have been extremely valuable in worship and all aspects of Valley life! We are grateful for our entire staff who put in many hours to keep Valley alive!

We were blessed to have wonderful Parish Associates: **Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau, Rev. David Phillips, Rev. Nancy Phillips, and Rev. Rebecca Tollefson.** We give thanks for all of their leadership and caring attitude for our congregation. Thank you for your outstanding service!

Our wonderful and talented Stream Team (**Myron Jones, Brandon Novy, Roger Graphenteen, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Janet Triplett, Katie Decker, and Kurt Wheeler**) has enabled Valley to bring Sunday morning church services and other special services to members, non-members, and visitors. We are grateful for their commitment, time, and energy in bringing us together as a church! Thank you Stream Team!

The ushers and greeters added to the spirit of welcoming and inclusiveness at Valley. A smile, a handshake, and a word of gratitude contributed to the feeling of community! Thank you to all who participated in these important roles at Valley!

The Sacrament of Baptism has been important to Valley! It has brought us closer together as a community of worshippers and have given us all a connection with those little ones! We walk with them in their faith journey! Likewise, when the Lord's Supper (Communion) is celebrated, the Church bears witness to Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and proclaims the mystery of faith.

Thank you to the Deacons for preparing communion for Sunday services and other special holidays. Also, we are grateful for communion servers, Sunday morning openers and Fridays in the Valley openers who have added to the organization of these events.

There have been memorial services which have been extremely powerful in valuing the lives of our wonderful Valley members and are grateful for all they have done in their years of commitment to our church family! Thank you to our staff for their thoughtful and caring attitude towards these families. Your sincerity and emotional support have been extremely important!

Music has been and always will be a large part of our faith community! The talents of our musicians have gifted us with their special abilities to bring us the Word of God. Thank you to the Chancel choir, Handbell choir, instrumentalists, special musicians, soloists, organ and piano players, harp player, Fridays in the Valley musicians, and our wonderful music staff, **Rachel Williams**, and **Janet Carlson**. Thank you!

Advent came with anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. Valley was beautifully decorated with the Hanging of the Greens, Poinsettia Tree, Memory Tree, Julie Tree, beautiful banners and tapestries, Nativity scenes, Advent wreath candles, and Chancel flowers. And of course, the Children's Pageant brought it all together! Music of all kinds added to our wonderful services each week. The sermons guided us and illuminated our faith and love that we received during this special time of the year.

Easter and Christmas services have been wonderful and attended by many members and their families along with non-members and visitors to our church. The beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service has added to the glory of the coming of the Christ child. Thank you to everyone for your participation in these special services!

Thank you to **ALL** who volunteered this year in Worship and Music. Your talents and commitments made this year a wonderful and memorable time at Valley!

# **Fellowship Committee Report 2025**

## **Jay Perry and Sam Schellhaas, Co-Chairs**

Fellowship Committee Members: Ray Anderson, Jackie Goiffon, Jeanine Miatkotina, Karen Chancellor, Joel Freeberg, Andrew Pitan, Larry Dunham, Arlene Freeberg, Susie Potter, Rachel Hole, Mariah Messer, Sheila Sheldon and Sue Tracy.

Fellowship Committee met a limited number of times during 2025 to plan various events at Valley. These included:

- **February 2, 2025: Annual Meeting**

The Fellowship Committee members brought in different dips, along with chips, crackers, and veggies and served them in the Narthex, allowing members to stay involved in the annual meeting. Coffee and lemonade were also served.

- **February 5, 2025**

Fellowship Elders met with church staff to discuss events and responsibilities.

- **April 9, 2025**

Served Lenten Meal

- **June 8, 2025**

Annual Church Picnic

- **August 9, 2025**

Golf Outing at Brightwood Hills with pizza afterward at Adagio's Pizza Factory

- **September 26-28, 2025**

Men's Retreat at Clearwater Forest

- **October 4, 2025: Fall Festival**

The Fellowship Team put on "Tacos and Trivia" at this year's Fall Festival. The event required admission to enter and tickets were available for advance purchase at the church or via Zeffy. Admission included dinner.

Many gift cards, gift baskets and tickets were donated for the silent auction. Folks were able to bid online and/or in person. Trivia was run throughout the night and trivia questions were supplied by Roger Michael and Barb Wasmoen. Those competing in trivia were sitting at tables inspired by our mission partners. The food was great and the fellowship was fun! Attendees enjoyed the trivia theme and were excited about doing it again!

We're happy to report that the funds raised from the Festival (net amount of approximately \$6,300) was divided between Liberty Church, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, PRISM, Greater Twin Cities Crisis Nursery, The Father Project, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Pastors Discretionary Fund, Clearwater Forest, Bridging and EveryMeal, as well as Fellowship committee needs.

• **December 7, 2025: All-Church Christmas Dinner**

Over 100 people gathered to celebrate the holiday together and enjoyed a catered meal that included:

- Fresh baked rolls with butter
- Field greens berry salad with feta
- Garden salad with choice of dressing
- Roasted root vegetables
- Mashed potatoes and gravy
- Holiday Baked Ham with pineapple sauce
- Stuffed chicken with rice pilaf

A vegetarian option and a kids' meal were also available.

After dinner, all were treated to holiday music in the sanctuary, provided by the Above Average Tuba Quartet. Afterward, folks continued to celebrate the Christmas season in the Narthex with hot cider, assorted holiday cookies and fellowship.

Thank you also to everyone who helped in many other ways during the year. Your help made Valley's Fellowship events fun & successful. Other groups at Valley that participated in Fellowship opportunities during the year include Craft & Connect and Brew Crew. We give thanks in particular to **Jay Perry** for his 10 years of leadership of Valley Brew Crew!

The Fellowship Committee could not have accomplished all these events without the assistance of the committee, church staff and Valley members all around. Many folks have contributed their time and talents to ensure Valley is a fun and festive church to make lifelong friendships. From helping at Fellowship hour to baking cookies or contributing a casserole – all efforts were appreciated! A big THANK YOU to all who helped with coffee hour and bringing homemade treats during the past year. New folks are always welcome to help - please sign up through Breeze or in the Fellowship Hall.

# Property Committee Report 2025

Tom Wasmoen, Chair

2025 continued the high pace with which we have cared for and invested in our building and grounds. New projects kept us busy, and the entire facility is looking better than ever. In a second year of transition—and with the generous gift from the estate of Barbara Johnston—we accomplished great things.

The Property Committee has traditionally included: **Ray Anderson, Dave Duchaine, Ted Arneson, Hunter Sheldon** (our very capable Valley property manager), **Ben Sheldon**, and an array of dedicated volunteers who step in as needed.

## 1. Hardhat Team Contributions

The Hardhat Team once again leaned into their expertise and strong backs, providing much of the labor for both the Spring and Fall clean-up events on the church grounds.

## 2. SiteOne Account

We continue to maintain an account with SiteOne, allowing us to order mulch, dirt, and other materials on a non-tax basis. I include this information annually for easy reference:

- Website: <https://www.siteone.com/en/store/416/>
- Contact me for login information.

## 3. Major Projects Completed in 2025

### i. Sanctuary and Chapel Roofs

Both roofs were replaced this year, completing the full renewal cycle of all roof surfaces on the building. Based on warranty information, we should be in good shape for at least 15 years. Annual maintenance will continue to ensure longevity.

### ii. Rooftop HVAC Unit Replacement

One rooftop unit was fully replaced this fall after the old unit exceeded its serviceable life by nearly double its original expectation. A good run by any standard.

### iii. Plumbing Repairs

A steady stream of plumbing issues surfaced throughout the year. Hunter did an outstanding job staying ahead of them, preventing small problems from becoming major water-related damage.

### iv. Fire Control Panel & Detection System

A major upgrade was required to replace outdated fire-safety equipment. Technology changes quickly, but with this investment the building is well-protected for the foreseeable future.

### v. Storm Damage Repairs

Summer storms damaged fencing and a neighbor's storage shed due to falling trees on our property. Hunter repaired the fencing, and Sheila coordinated the shed repair. As the damage originated from our trees, we took responsibility—reinforcing our commitment to being good neighbors.

#### 4. Ongoing Building Care

Hunter Sheldon continues to do exemplary work caring for the building week in and week out. He completed countless small projects, handled janitorial duties (with help from Ben Sheldon), and supported me as Properties Elder by addressing emerging issues in real time. I could not do this work without him.

#### 5. Volunteer Support

Special thanks to the volunteers who show up on snowy Sundays to help Hunter clear sidewalks—most notably **Dave Dechaine and Ray Anderson**. Your dedication is deeply appreciated.

#### Looking Ahead to 2026

Valley can be proud of the work accomplished in 2025 to restore and maintain our building for the next generation. Projects anticipated for 2026 include:

- Review of Fellowship Hall flooring to assess replacement needs
- Kitchen quarry-tile floor replacement (pricing underway; likely scheduled for mid-summer)
- Preparation for eventual parking-lot resurfacing and restriping

The Properties Team is grateful for the volunteer time and energy our congregation continues to invest in Valley. Watch for more opportunities to lend a hand as we move into the 2026 project schedule.

**Offered with gratitude,  
Tom Wasmoen, Chair**

# **Technology & Communications Committee Report 2025**

Brandon Novy, Chair

A lot of the work by the technology committee was behind the scenes in 2025. For a confirmation project, Sam Sheldon worked with Joel Larsen to clean up and reorganize the tech booth. They set up a screen mount for the monitor which lowered the screen making it easier for the video team to see the sanctuary.

The tech team also added the new Williams AV Hearing Assist Wi-Fi system.

The team supported a number of celebrations of life by streaming the services.

Thank you to everyone on the stream team who arrives at Valley an hour early for worship, marriages, celebrations of life, Fridays in the Valley concerts, and Presbytery meetings.

The stream team consists of Katie Decker, Roger Graphenteen, Myron Jones, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Brandon Novy, Janet Triplett and Kurt Wheeler.

## Board of Deacons Report 2025

The Board of Deacons at Valley have been inspired by Paul's Letter to the church in Rome:

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:9-13:"

While all Christians are called to care for persons in need, the ministry of Deacons is the light that guides the way. Deacons are a reflection of the heart of Christianity. Deacons are called to model and extend the love of Jesus Christ.

You will find them on Sunday mornings at all our entrances welcoming members and visitors to Valley Community. Our Deacons continued to reach out through cards and phone calls. They also continued to pray for the members of their Care Circle and for the ministry of Valley.

### **Class of 2025**

Lyn Boyd (1 year)  
Jan Sacco  
Margie Deutsch  
Jessica Goslinga  
Jennie Minter

### **Class of 2026**

Jackie Goiffon  
Gwyn Lang  
Roger Michael  
Kerrie Deef  
Rick Carlson

### **Class of 2027**

Sara Perry  
Scott Robinson  
Hunter Sheldon  
Kurt Wheeler  
Karen Harms (resigned 2025)

As they finish their terms, we want to thank Jan Sacco, Jessica Goslinga, Jennie Minter, Lyn Boyd, Karen Harms and remember Marjorie Deutsch for their ministry on the Board of Deacons!

### **THANK YOU FOR CARING**

When someone takes the time to listen,  
When someone reaches out, When  
someone does a thoughtful thing that  
makes you warm throughout.

When someone lends a helping hand,  
Finds ways in which to share,  
When someone makes you feel secure by  
always being there.

When someone senses there are times  
when you have special needs, When  
someone gives you inner strength through  
words as well as deeds.

When someone seems to take an interest in  
just how you're faring,  
It's time to tell that special someone thanks  
so much for caring!



# **Valley Community Garden Report 2025**

Sheila Sheldon, Staff Liaison

We had a wonderful year again in the garden with all our plots filled. Inside the garden we currently have 19 full plot garden spaces, which were divided this year into 27 individual plots of various sizes to fit the needs of each garden member, as well as 3 community raised beds. These raised beds are on the outside of the garden and folks from the community who walk by are welcome to take something they need.

Our hope is that this will help to nurture relationships within the garden as members work together to care for them and provide fresh food to our neighbors. The Garden community was made up of 31 community members and 9 Valley members. With spouses and children all lending a hand, we had over 40 folks participating in the Garden community.

Valley's community garden has continued to be an important outreach to our community, bringing church and community members together in fellowship. We enjoyed hosting monthly potlucks, and great conversations around the tables.

Once again dedicated members of the garden worked at maintaining the perennial flower/plant garden and clearing displaced plant species to help the native plants flourish. A special thank you to Ann Sessoms, Ann Roach, Karen Nemchik, Al Watchuka, Katherine Kolles and Steve Beseres who gave time each week to help keep the memorial garden looking beautiful. Pathways were cleared and new mulch was laid by many helping hands.

A new team was created that was led by garden member Ann Sessoms along with Valley members and gardeners, Mary and Tom Schuette and Ann Roach. Sheila continued to be the staff liaison to the garden team and helped them with collecting yearly dues and contracts. The team oversaw the care of the garden, potlucks and organizing of community workdays. Most of our gardeners do return year after year and we continue to be so grateful for them and the work they put into the garden. The excitement for the Valley Garden continues to grow each year as requests come in midsummer for the next garden season. We are thankful for the garden and God's blessings on our community.

## **Fridays in the Valley Concert Series 2025**

Sue Ruby, Concert Series Coordinator

The fourteenth season of Fridays in the Valley Series boasted ten terrific concerts. Once again, nearly half of the 49 musicians that performed this year were new faces to the Fridays' concert stage. Four of the ensembles enjoyed their Fridays' debut including Boom Island String Quartet and the St. Croix Valley Flute Collective. These two ensembles held this season's highest attendance totals per concert at 99 and 95 respectively. The average attendance for each concert was 65 attendees including a growing number of attendees connecting online. Even more listeners tune in after the concert night. Our YouTube recordings of Fridays in the Valley Concerts average 74 views each with the highest two concerts receiving 138 and 140 views.

Following our Series' mission, our monthly concert freewill donations were devoted to local charities selected by Valley's Mission Committee. An incredible record high single month donation of \$2,863.49 was collected at our final concert of the mission in June featuring the Dolce Wind Quintet. The average monthly donation was just under \$950 per concert with total annual donations at \$9,483.38. To date, the Fridays in the Valley Chamber Music Series has raised over \$93,000.00 for local charities!

Special thanks to Rachel Hole for program design and logistical aid as well as the web and social media presence provided by Mariah Messer and Sheila Sheldon. Each concert was livestreamed thanks to our Dream Stream Team of Kurt (Wheeler) and Kurt (Modert). Concert host duty was shared by Rev. Jim Cochrane, Rev. Bill Davnie, Sheila Sheldon and even Sue Ruby. Heartfelt gratitude for Greg and Mary Rom whose passion and funding makes the Series possible, along with Vicki Wheeler's memorial funds. Vicki would be very pleased with our continuing mission of Fridays in the Valley.

An impressive lineup of familiar faces returns to the Fridays' stage to finish our 2025-2026 season. Don't miss the first performance of the 17-piece Red Rock Swing Band, the return of the trombone quartet, the Paper Clips. This season culminates with a very special performance of The Marimba Bullies on June 12 celebrating the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Greg and Mary Rom.

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Ensemble/Artists</i></b>	<b><i>Charity</i></b>	<b><i>Donations</i></b>	<b><i>Attendance In Person/Total</i></b>
1/10/25	Boston Imposters with Alex Nichibun	Northside Healing Space	\$575.00	57/77
2/14/25	Lauren Senden & Mindy Eschedor	Meals on Wheels	\$310.00	45/55
3/14/25	Boom Island String Quartet	MN FoodShare	\$770.17	69/99

4/11/25	The Bernstein Chamber Ensemble	Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative	\$662.00	60/84
5/9/25	Slipjig	Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery	\$1485.00	73/83
6/8/25	Dolce Winds	The Father Project	\$2863.48	70/84
9/12/25	Incidental Trio	District 281 - Every Meal	\$416.52	48/68
10/10/25	St. Croix Valley Flute Collective	Missions Inc., Home Free	\$1,008.40	83/95
11/14/25	FluteSpiration	Clare Terrace	\$643.00	50/64
12/7/25	Above Average Tuba Quartet	PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe	\$749.80	NA/90

### **Fridays in the Valley Vision Statement**

Valley Community Presbyterian Church has long enjoyed a rich musical heritage. Building on this tradition, Fridays in the Valley was created for local musicians to showcase their talents while providing a benefit for local charities. Fridays in the Valley is an eclectic mix of quality musicians performing in an intimate setting, making fine music accessible to our community. Funding for Fridays in the Valley is made possible by donations from Greg and Mary Rom, along with Vicki Wheeler memorials.

## Memorials Report 2025

The Memorial Committee's regular responsibilities include: acknowledging monies received, consulting the honoree's family about projects, working with session committees who spend memorial monies, helping to arrange a dedication, and maintaining the memorials book. In this process the session plays the role of developing a list of suggested memorials to enhance the ministry of Valley. The family may suggest an alternative project, but all such alternatives require session approval.

In 2025, the accounts of Marilyn Merino, Anne Reynolds, Louise Driver, and Sherill Mixer were used to purchase Fellowship tables for a new generation of Valley members to spend time together.

Honoree	2025 Beginning Balance	2025 Increases	2025 Decreases	2025 Ending Balance
Carol McCarter	225			225
Sarah Davis	25			25
Lois Robinson	1,035			1,035
Lisa Kummer	75			75
Karen Sauter	320			320
Rev. Aron Wilterding	1,150			1,150
Marlys Hawkins	1,050			1,050
Bob Ripley	335			335
Marilyn Merino	40		40	0
Myrtle Reiswig	810			810
Anne Reynolds	236		175	61
Barty Amundson	508			508
Betty Brooking	1,495			1,495
Bill Davis	325			325
Charlotte Tripet	308			308
Jeanne Reinhart	550			550
Julie Lund	690			690
Len Frame	835			835
Letta Swedelius	797			797
Louise Driver	1,185		1,185	0
Marian Michael	3,915			3,915
Richard Reinhart	615			615
Sherill Mixer	50		50	0
Shirley Schon	656			656
Jerry Wilkens	250			250
Janet Biggs	195			195
Jeffrey Lund	2,606			2,606
Betty Olson (Friend of Valley)	1,294			1,294
<b>Total Memorials Activity</b>	<b>17,230</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>15,780</b>