

THE VALLEY

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

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Golden Valley, MN 55422



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Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Last Day to Order Easter Flowers | Sunday, March 8 (page 10)**
 - **Call the Valley Office or fill out an order form and return to the Fellowship Hall**
- Daylight Savings Time | Sunday, March 8
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 5, 10)**
 - Friday, March 13 @ 7 PM | Solerna Woodwind Quintet
- **Valley Craft Club | Saturday, March 7 | 10 AM - 2 PM (page 5)**
- **Adult Ed Spring Session Kick-Off | Sunday, March 15 | 11 AM - 12 PM (page 7)**
- Valley Hand Bell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM (page 5)
- **Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals:**
 - Wednesday, March 11 @ **7:15 PM**
 - Wednesday, April 1 @ 7:00 PM
- **Youth Education Scholarship Tea | Saturday, March 21 @ 2:00 PM (page 8, 10)**
- Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, April 4 @ 11:00 AM (page 8, 10)
- **Summer 2026 VBC | June 9-12 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 8)**
- Youth Mission Trip | June 20-26 | Clearwater Forest (page 8)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Volunteer to tutor students at 21st Century Academy (page 9)**
- Support friends of Valley as they endeavor to purchase their 1st home (page 9)
- **Pack the Pews for PRISM Food and Fund Drive (page 9)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

MARCH 2026

Dear Valley Church,

Grace and peace to you. As I round out my first month here at Valley, I am filled with gratitude. Thank you again for the warm welcome you've extended to me and my family, for the many conversations and stories you've shared, and for your grace and patience as I continue learning names (and asking for them again!)

We are now in the season of Lent, beginning the journey with Jesus toward the cross and the empty tomb. Lent calls us to reckon honestly with our frailty, our failures, and our mortality. While those can be uncomfortable things to admit, it can also be surprisingly freeing. We live in a world that pressures us to appear as though we have it all together. Lent pushes back against that. Lent invites us to let go of the pretense that we have it all together, admit that we don't, and receive the good news that God welcomes us fully and loves us deeply.

This Lenten season, our worship series is called "Tell Me Something Good." We're taking a close look at the life and teaching of Jesus and asking: What is truly good about this good news? And how do we live it out in our daily lives?



Rev. Kyle Sandison

I hope you'll join us on Sundays for worship and on Wednesday evenings for dinner, fellowship, and deeper conversation.

Looking back on February, it's been a full and meaningful month. Sheila and Mariah have been working tirelessly to launch an emergency food hub for families unable to leave their homes due to Operation Metro Surge. We remain hopeful that the emergency need will ease soon, but the effort has opened up good discussions about how Valley can continue addressing food justice in a lasting, sustainable way.

February also brought the return of Valley Youth and TEAMS for their spring semester. They celebrated a successful bake sale, enjoyed a family bowling party, and launched their regular Sunday evening gatherings. We're deeply grateful for every young person who participates and for the adult leaders and volunteers who make it all possible.

As our Lenten journey continues, may God bless you with the wonder of knowing that you are God's beloved child, and with you God is well pleased.

In Christ,

Kyle

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2026 SCHEDULE



Wed, Feb. 25	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 1	9:30 PM	2nd Sunday of Lent Worship
Wed, March 4	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 8	9:30 AM	3rd Sunday in Lent Worship
Wed, March 11	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 15	9:30 AM	4th Sunday in Lent Worship
Wed, March 18	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 22	9:30 AM	5th Sunday in Lent Worship
Wed, March 25	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, March 29	9:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
Thurs, April 2	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service with communion
Sunday, April 5	9:30 AM	Easter Sunday Worship

Join us for
worship!

Sundays
at 9:30 AM
or anytime on our
YouTube Channel

We are worshipping in-person and via live-stream.

WORSHIP SERVICE OVERVIEW

- Prelude begins at 9:25 AM | Worship at 9:30 AM, followed by coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall.
- The Family Room located in the Sunshine Room is always available with a TV to watch the service for parents whose little ones need a break.
- Activity Bags and Children's Bulletins are available in the Narthex. The Sunshine Room provides Sunday School for children 3-3rd grade and childcare for all ages during Adult Education classes.

Valley Connects - February 2026

YOUTH & TEAMS BAKING DAY



PASTOR KYLE'S 1ST SUNDAY



RAS FAMILY EMERGENCY FOOD HUB

Thank you to the 33 Valley members who have jumped in to help support the Emergency Food Hub and invited friends and neighbors to join the effort. Together with our neighbors we have made sure that more than 300 families have felt loved, cared for, and supported.

Fridays in the Valley Presents:



Solerna Woodwind Quintet

Charlotte Bartholomew, flute
Megan Werner, oboe
Carley Olson, clarinet
Cindy Bailey, bassoon
Rebecca Jyrkas, French horn

Friday, March 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
CEAP MEALS ON WHEELS

 Valley Community

Valley Lunch Bunch

MONDAY, MARCH 2
11:30 AM

50^s GRILL

First Monday of every month!



VCPC CHOIR

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

Rehearse: March 11
REHEARSAL BEGINS @ 7:15PM
Perform: Sunday, February 15

Rehearse: April 1
Perform: Sunday, April 5 (Easter)

Rehearsals on
Wed. 7:00 pm



Calling all Ringers!

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

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Rehearsals held in the Sanctuary

Contact Janet Carlson if you have questions.

Ladies' Night Out

Friday, March 6 6-8 PM

Bring a women's toiletry item to donate to PRISM

Total Wine
Maple Grove

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



Valley Craft & Connect

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

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

Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM.

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



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 2026



Wednesdays in Lent this year will be a time to come together in fellowship, get to know Pastor Kyle, and reflect on our faith both individually and as a community. Dinner will be hosted by Church Committees from 6:00-6:45pm. After dinner, we'll move into a more worshipful moment together. There will be music, scripture, prayers, and time to share and have conversation together. As we sink into Jesus' teachings throughout the season, we may not always be comfortable, but we can trust that these teachings are good, rooted in love, and worthy of celebration.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

HOSTS: Technology/Finance/Stewardship

MEAL: Sloppy Joes

FOCUS TEXT: John 2:1-11

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

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

HOST: Worship/Mission

MEAL: Soup & Chili

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

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

HOSTS: Educational Ministries

MEAL: Pasta & bread

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

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

HOSTS: Personnel/Growth

MEAL: Pizza

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

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

HOSTS: Fellowship/Properties

MEAL: Hotdish Night

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

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

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



Adult Education - Spring 2026

- Adult Ed classes will take place at 11 AM.
- Classes will be held in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.

March 15 - Exploring Immigration in Minnesota and the United States, Hanne Sandison

Hanne Sandison will share about her work as Director of the Refugee and Immigrant Program at Advocates for Human Rights. Join her for a discussion of recent issues in immigration enforcement and how it impacts our immigrant neighbors.

March 22 - Tent of Nations: Protective Presence in the Holy land, Rev. Bill Davnie

Tent of Nations is a Christian Palestinian-owned farm near Bethlehem, committed to peacemaking and justice. Its existence is being squeezed by Israeli settlers, and the government of Israel, which are trying to drive Palestinians out of their land. Bill recently spent a month at the farm, part of a Protective Presence effort to discourage seizure of their land. He will talk about Christians in the West Bank, the Palestinian situation in general, and life at the Tent of Nations.

March 29 - Community Emergency Services of MN, Jamie Dolynchuk, President of CES

Founded in 1970, Community Emergency Service (CES) is one of the largest food shelves serving the poorest community of the Twin Cities. CES is also the largest Meals on Wheels provider in Minnesota and operates the only program focused entirely on pets, providing food and veterinarian services for free to those most in need. Jamie Dolynchuk is the President of CES. Prior to supporting CES, he worked as a senior leader in Cargill living and leading Cargill's businesses in Canada, Russia, Ukraine, South East Asia and India before coming back to Minneapolis about 5 years ago. He retired in 2024 and now spends his time in service to CES.

April 5 - No Adult Ed, Easter Sunday

April 12 - "42", Norm Chervany, VCPC

From December 20 to December 31, the Chervany family ... all 11 of us ... went on a 12 day safari trip to South Africa. We were on Safari at Thornybush Game Lodge in the Serengeti National Park in South Africa and the Atzaro Okavango Camp in the Okavango River Delta in the Kalahari Desert in Botswana. The trip was amazing; the lodges were spectacular; the animals were wonderful. Come and see the Chervany and the Kwasnick families pursue "life in the jungle".

April 19 - Nurturing the Earth, One Water Bottle at a Time, Carolyn Anderson, VCPC

My goal in climate work is to nurture the Earth and help to restore it. The work can be overwhelming, but I get a little sense of control by what I do in my own home. This presentation is not about doing everything, but about doing something. I am pleased to be able to share what we do in the Anderson household. And I look forward to hearing what ideas you will be able to add.

April 26 - No Adult Ed - Rev. Kyle Sandison's Installation and Reception

We invite you to join us on Sunday, April 26 at 9:30 AM for Worship and Pastor Kyle's Installation, followed by a celebration in Fellowship Hall.

May 3 - The Moral & Theological Vision of Jesus: The Sermon on the Mount, Pastor Kyle

Rev. Kyle Sandison will lead us in this exploration of Jesus' famous sermon, we'll examine its major themes and structure, placing it in its context within the book of Matthew and the Bible as a whole. We'll reflect on some of its more challenging passages and discuss its contemporary relevance for faith and life today.

May 10 - No Adult Ed - Mother's Day

May 17 - How to Be a Good Ancestor, Elders for Climate Action

The mission of Elders Climate Action is to mobilize elders throughout the United States to address climate change while there is still time to protect the well-being of our grandchildren and future generations. We are dedicated to using the power of our caring, our wisdom and our numbers to push for strong policies that will reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere to a level consistent with life thriving on our planet.

VALLEY YOUTH AND TEAMS BOWLING PARTY



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM

Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room

Illustrated Ministries creates all of the curriculum we use for Faith Formation and VBC and they recently released a new Invitation to Play curriculum. We will be integrating these lessons into Faith Formation so you might catch us playing more!



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4th at 11:00 am

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



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) - Save the Date!

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

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! Registration will open on April 1st for kids entering Kindergarten - 6th grade in the Fall of 2026. We are also looking for Valley grown-ups and youth (7th-12th grade) who would be interested in volunteering.

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



SERVERS NEEDED FOR THE Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP TEA

Saturday, March 21ST from 1:00 - 4:30 PM

If your youth is able to serve please let me know by March 15th. Black pants and white shirt preferred. Contact Sheila at sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net



YOUTH and TEAMS Easter Egg Stuffing

Friday, April 3rd | 5:30 - 8:00pm

Help us stuff and hide the eggs for the Egg Hunt. We'll have dinner and then get to work stuffing and hiding over 1,500 eggs! Many hand make light work.



Youth Mission Trip | June 20 - 26 | Register by March 30th | \$250 per youth

Calling all Youth in grades 6-12, we are teaming up with Youth from House of Hope in St. Paul and headed to Clearwater Forest. There we will be working on various projects around the camp to help improve the campgrounds for summer camp and beyond. It will not be the typical Clearwater camp experience with counselors, etc. Lead by HOH Staff, Elsa & Phil and VCPC Staff, Sheila & Mariah.

TUTORING SUPPORT AT 21ST CENTURY ACADEMY

21st Century is looking for folks interested in tutoring middle school students in reading and math, specifically with money and budgeting. An important part of the tutoring program is kindling a relationship between tutor and student - giving the student their special time and person.

Tutors can choose an afternoon that works for them (Mon - Thurs) in the 3:30-5:00 PM time block. The commitment will be for 45 minutes to an hour on chosen day.

Interested folks should email Sheila at sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net



Tutoring takes place at 21st Century, 3700 Bryant. Liberty will provide training/orientation for tutors. There is reading curriculum and staff support.



SUPPORT VALLEY FRIENDS IN PURCHASING A HOME OF THEIR OWN!

The Valley Session has approved an out-of-cycle vote to host a **Special Offering Collection through March 1st to support the Karwans in purchasing their first home.** They are almost to their downpayment goal and we believe this is a great way to help them to the finish line! If you would like to contribute funds to help them:



- Mail or bring a check to Valley ("Immigration & Refugee" in Memo line)
- Leave a cash donation in the offering bowl on Sunday morning
- Scan QR code to donate online (Select "Give to Immigration & Refugee" in dropdown menu)

PACK THE PEWS FOR PRISM

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) has announced its 45th March Campaign in partnership with Minnesota FoodShare. That means it's time to **PACK THE PEWS, VALLEY!**

Donation deadline: **MARCH 25**

SUGGESTED WEEKLY SHOPPING CATEGORIES

WEEK 1 (Feb 26-Mar 4)

CANNED GOODS

canned fruits, vegetables, meats/fish, soups

WEEK 2 (March 5-11)

BAKING

flour, sugar, baking soda, oils, boxed cake/bread mixes

WEEK 3 (March 12-18)

PANTRY STAPLES

rice, pasta, sauces, cereal, boxed dinners, mac n' cheese

WEEK 4 (March 19-25)

LUNCHBOX

nut butters, jelly, fruit snacks, granola bars, juice boxes, raisins/dried fruit, nuts

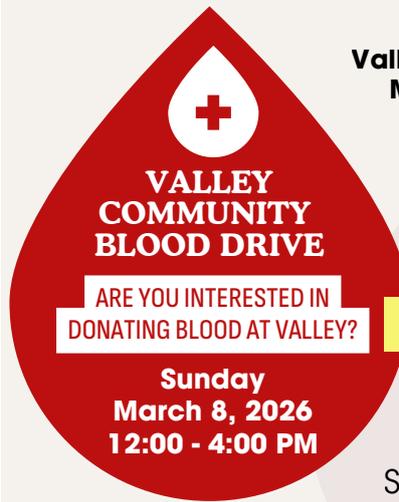
***Shopping categories are meant to be helpful. Needless to say, any and all donations are needed and will be accepted at any time!**



- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

FRIDAY, April 10 | 7:00 pm
Red Rock Swing Band
FRIDAY, May 8 | 7:00 pm
The Paper Clips
FRIDAY, June 12 | 7:00 pm
The Marimba Bullies

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



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

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
DONATING BLOOD AT VALLEY?

March 8th, 2026

May 10th, 2026

July 12th, 2026

September 6th, 2026

November 8th, 2026

Scan to Register for 3/8/26



 Valley Community

Easter Flowers

ORDER BY SUNDAY, MARCH 8!

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



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



Save The Date!

24th Annual Y.E.S. Tea



Saturday, March 21 | 2 pm

Tickets on sale March 1st!
\$35 for adults
\$20 for kids 10 & Under



Valley 
Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH




the good news is...

even Judas gets
his feet washed

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

APRIL 2 | 7:00 PM

Communion will be shared.

 Valley Community

EASTER EGG HUNT

VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 4, 2026
@ 11:00 AM

Cookie decorating & refreshments in
Fellowship Hall following the egg hunt.
All are welcome!

Invite family, friends, and neighbors
for this fun community event!

 Valley Community

CALENDAR

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

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Juliana Vogel | Leah Zywicki |
| Randee Melander | Judith McKay |
| Alvian Bi | Diane Schmidt |
| Roger Graphenteen | Nikolas Fields |
| Gary Malinowski | Gabriel Gottschalk |
| Marge Thurston | Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau |
| Katya Miakotina | Abigail Toering-Peters |
| Barbara Wasmoen | Jim Payne |
| Joe Sacco | Riley Brooker |
| Soma Datta | Lizzy Van Heest |
| Karen Harms | Roberta (Bobbie) Watson |
| Art LaPoint | Gabriella Macias |
| John Gonsior | Cooper Graham |
| Kyle Soens | Chris Marshall |
| Abby Malecha | Jennie Minter |
| Grace Perry | Julie Westerlund |
| Mikey Vogel | James Robles |
| Alex Malecha | Mark Toering |
| Helen Dechaine | Janet Carlson |
| Syndy Nyongkah | Joanne Jenson |
| | Neil Jurgensen |
| | Rev. Rebecca Tollefson |
| | Kate Toering-Peters |
| | Jim Falbo |
| | Gwyn Lang |
| | Atemafac Nti |
| | Nick Rude |
| | Jan Fedora |
| | Neiko Griffin |
| | Chelsea Gusek |
| | Brian Boyd |
| | Gerald Phelan |
| | Tyler Priem |
| | Kendyl Graham |



Sunday, March 1
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
 5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, March 2
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, March 3
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 4
 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

Friday, March 6
 6:00 pm Ladies' Night - Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 7
 10:00 am Craft & Connect

Sunday, March 8
Daylight Savings Time
9:30 am Worship Service
 12:00 pm Memorial Blood Centers Blood Drive
 5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, March 9
 6:30 pm Deacon Meeting

Tuesday, March 10
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 11
 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner
 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 13
 7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, March 15
9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, March 17
 11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 18
 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

Thursday, March 19
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels
 5:30 pm Indigenous Justice Task Force Meeting

Saturday, March 21
 2:00 pm Y.E.S. Tea

Sunday, March 22
9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, March 23
 6:30 pm Session Meeting

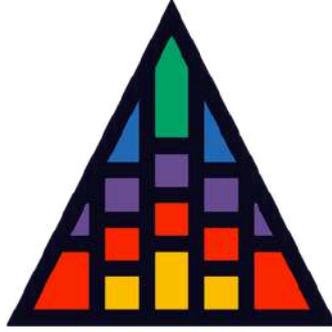
Tuesday, March 24
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 25
 6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

Thursday, March 26
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 TEAMS & Youth Group BREAK

Tuesday, March 31
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



VCPC

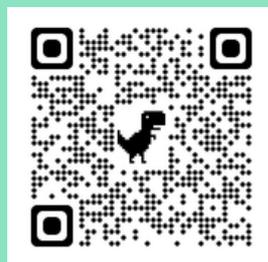
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

VCPC sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.

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