

THE VALLEY

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

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Golden Valley, MN 55422



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Cover Photo: Table hosts and hostesses once again outdid themselves at the Youth Education Scholarship (Y.E.S.) Tea! (Not pictured: Janet C. & Rory M.) See Page 8 for an event update.

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

◦ Holy Week in the Valley

▪ Palm Sunday | Sunday, March 29 @ 9:30 AM

- Bring in your fish banks! We will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing donations.

▪ Maundy Thursday Worship | Thursday, April 2 @ 7:00 PM

▪ Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, April 4 @ 11:00 AM

▪ Easter Sunday Worship | Sunday, April 5 @ 9:30 AM

▪ Easter Monday | April 6 | Office Closed (Good Friday Observed)

◦ Fridays in the Valley (page 5)

▪ Friday, April 10 @ 7 PM | Red Rock Swing Band

◦ Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals in April:

▪ Wednesday, April 1 @ 7:00 PM

▪ Wednesday, April 15 @ 7:00 PM

◦ Valley Handbell Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

◦ Valley Indoor & Outdoor Spring Cleaning | Saturday, May 2 | 10 AM - 12 PM

◦ Summer 2026 VBC | June 16-19 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 8)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

◦ Indigenous Justice Task Force (IJTF) Updates (page 9)

◦ Formula for Hope Luncheon (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery fundraiser)

- Wednesday, May 6 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Hyatt Regency Minneapolis (pages 7, 10)

◦ Taste of the Burbs (PRISM fundraiser) | Thursday, May 7 (pages 7, 10)

◦ *DRIVERS NEEDED* for Meals on Wheels (call the Valley Office if you can help)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

APRIL 2026

Dear Valley Community Church,

As we finish our Lenten journey and enter Holy Week, our sermon series Tell Me Something Good brings us to this: the Good News doesn't just inspire reflection, it calls us to action.

Along the way, we've seen Jesus multiply loaves and fish, turn water into (very good) wine, and pour out mercy and forgiveness in abundance. We've watched him place a child on his knee and declare that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these. The good news is that Jesus brings newness of life, abundance, and care for the most vulnerable.

Holy Week reminds us that Jesus embodies this good news not only through his teaching and miracles, but by giving his very life. In Jesus, God reveals a self-giving love, all the way to death, so that we might have life. What wondrous love is this.

And we are invited to join in. To wave our palm branches and hail the one whose kingdom ushers in peace and justice. To follow Jesus to the cross, laying down our own lives for the sake of others.



Rev. Kyle Sandison

Then, with awe and joy, we behold a God who defeats death. In celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday, we proclaim that God is making all things new. Hope wins out over despair. Peace and justice prevail over violence and oppression. Love conquers hate. The resurrection gives us everything we need to embody that good news in the world today.

We can be people of abundance and joy. People of mercy. People who protect the vulnerable, who center the experiences of those on the margins, and who learn from seeing the world through the eyes of a child. We can be people of wonder, of hope, of resurrection.

We can be people who live and walk together in community, trusting that the living God walks with us. In just two months here, I've had the joy of witnessing the many ways this community joins in the good work God is already doing among us. Holy Week, and Easter especially, is an invitation to keep going. We've heard the good news. Now let's live it out.

In Christ,

Kyle



Easter Worship
CHRIST IS RISEN!
 SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | 9:30 AM
Rev. Kyle Sandison, Preaching
Special Music:
 Valley Choir
 Jane Nienaber, organ
 Rachel Williams, piano
 Rylee Donald & Jake Meixner, trumpets

 **Valley Community**

**Join us for
 worship!**

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

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

WORSHIP SERVICE OVERVIEW

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

Valley Connects - March 2026

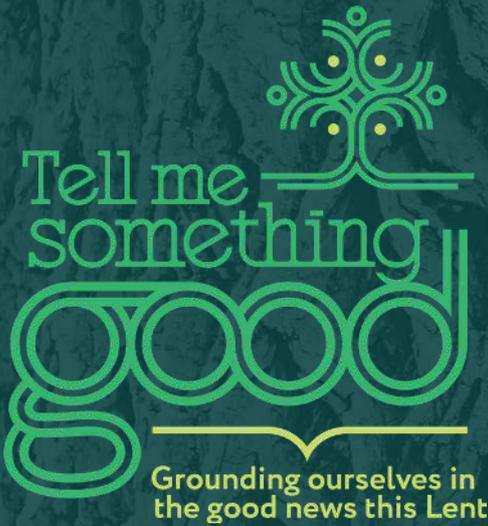
WEDNESDAYS IN LENT POTLUCK

THANK YOU TO THE CHURCH COMMITTEES WHO HOSTED DINNERS THIS LENTEN SEASON!



YOUTH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TEA





HOLY WEEK 2026 SCHEDULE

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

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

Saturday, April 4 | 11:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5 | 9:30 AM - Easter Sunday Worship

Fridays in the Valley Presents:

Red Rock Swing Band

**Friday, April 10, 2026
7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
**BEACON INTERFAITH
HOUSING COLLABORATIVE**

Valley Community

**- LOOKING AHEAD -
FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY**

Only 3 concerts left in the 2025-26 season!

FRIDAY, May 8 | 7:00 pm
The Paper Clips

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 | 7:00 PM
Marimba Bullies

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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.

VCPC CHOIR

VALLEY IS EXCITED TO ENJOY OUR CHOIR TWO SUNDAYS EACH MONTH!

Rehearse: April 1 @ 7:00pm
**Perform: Sunday, April 5
EASTER SUNDAY!**

Rehearse: April 15 @ 7:00pm
Perform: Sunday, April 19

Rehearsals on Wed. evenings

»» LIVING INTO THE CALL TO BE A «« **MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION** AT VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Fellowship Hall converted into an emergency food distribution site for District 281 families in need.

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A.'s Matthew 25 movement calls on mid councils, congregations, and groups to live out the church's mission through bold and compassionate discipleship. Rooted in Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31-46, this movement invites you to engage in three core pillars: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.¹

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we live into the call to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the least of these. When the situation in our community seemed bleak and hopeless, Valley chose to respond with love. Thanks to the Valley members who jumped in to help support the District 281 Emergency Family Food Hub and invited friends and neighbors to join the effort, we have made sure that more than 300 families have felt loved, cared for, and supported during an extremely difficult time.

Working side-by-side with district parents and community members, we responded when we saw the need grow over the course of several weeks from 75 food box deliveries to more than 350! This experience tested our adaptability, patience, and faith. Even when it seemed like we would not have enough, somehow a last-minute donation or partnership emerged. We were witness to God's abundance week after week.

As we wrap up our 10th week of food distribution, we are quickly approaching 1,000 home deliveries and 825 school deliveries. Without this incredible community of volunteers, parents, family members, Valley members, local food rescue programs, and food shelves and pantries, none of this would have been possible. Thanks to Sheila Sheldon's quick thinking, Valley also applied for and was awarded a substantial grant from the PTCA that will allow this important work to continue.

This moment is an incredible reminder that we can do amazing things when we come together and work for the common good. It is also a time to be grounded in the truth that the time is always right to do what is right and to love God's beloved children as we have been loved. Thanks be to God for this opportunity to love, serve, and advocate for our neighbors together!



1. <https://pcusa.org/matthew25>



Christians stand for loving our neighbors. We stand for healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger. We stand for telling the truth and honoring the dignity and worth of every child of God. On Palm Sunday, March 29th 2026, Christians across the country will stand up to the rise of authoritarianism and white Christian nationalism by participating in a Faith Action organized by Isaiah MN (www.isaiahmn.org/). You can learn more and register here: www.palmsunday2026.com/



The Formula for Hope luncheon welcomes passionate Nursery supporters for an inspiring afternoon of stories, impact, and time with friends. Please join us as we gather to celebrate more than 40 years of caring for children and strengthening families in our community.

A group of Valley members and friends attend each year! Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, May 6 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis**. Call the Valley Office if you would like to attend!



Taste of the 'Burbs is PRISM's largest annual fundraiser, bringing the community together for an evening of great food and even greater impact. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, May 7 at 6:15 pm** at the Metropolitan Ballroom in St. Louis Park.

Proceeds from Taste of the 'Burbs directly support PRISM's vital programs, including the Marketplace Food Shelf, Housing Programs, and Shop for Change Thrift Store. Valley hopes to show up in force in support of our partners at PRISM.



The festival will take place on **Saturday, June 13 from 12:00 - 6:00 pm**. GV PRIDE Festival is family-friendly with music, food vendors, bounce houses, inflatable obstacle courses, games, and MORE! Mark your calendars and come support this amazing event in our GV community.

Valley has been a proud sponsor of Golden Valley PRIDE Festival since its first year and this year will be no different. Sign up to volunteer for a shift at the VCPC booth! The Festival is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love for all.

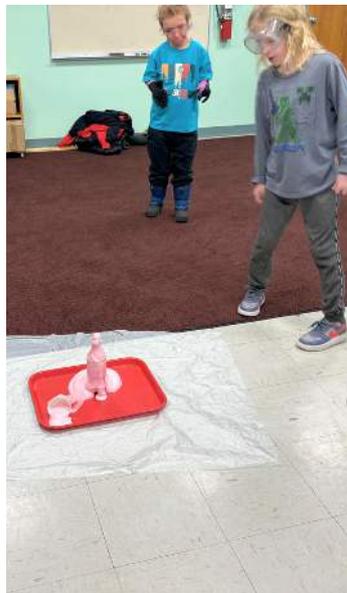
"THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT, 'COME, YOU WHO ARE BLESSED BY MY FATHER; TAKE YOUR INHERITANCE, THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD. FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN, I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.'

"THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM, 'LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND INVITE YOU IN, OR NEEDING CLOTHES AND CLOTHE YOU? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU SICK OR IN PRISON AND GO TO VISIT YOU?'

"THE KING WILL REPLY, 'TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.'

-MATTHEW 25:34-40

TEAMS KITCHEN SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM **Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room**

Have you checked in with your Valley kid recently? The new Invitation to Play curriculum has us searching for things in bins of rice, watching what happens when we mix vinegar and baking soda and more. It has been hands-on and engaging fun!



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC)

Tuesday, June 16 - Friday, June 19; 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.



Calling All Volunteers!!

Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings and VBC!

All of these amazing opportunities for Valley kids cannot happen without help from lots of Valley grown-ups. Talk to or [email Mariah Messer](#) if you are interested!

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



YOUTH COOKIE SALE UPDATE

The youth were able to raise \$1,962.67 in ONE SALE DAY!

Thank you to everyone who purchased cookies and baskets and helped with the Youth Cookie Sale this year. A special thank you to Katie Decker, Deb Poynter, Ruth Wilterding, and Valerie Robinson for baking treats, along with our awesome youth!



Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP TEA UPDATE

This year's Tea featured 14 beautiful tables, attendees of all ages, a raffle featuring a Tea Party hosted by Carolyn Anderson, and delicious food and desserts. **Together we raised approx. \$3,700 for the Youth Education Scholarship Fund.** Thank you to all who helped make the year an incredible success!



Education Recognition Sunday **Sunday, May 17th at 9:30am**

Mark your calendars for a Sunday celebrating Valley graduates! If you have a grad in your life, please email Rachel no later than May 8th.

Indigenous Justice Task Force

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS!

This month, the Indigenous Justice Task Force is celebrating its 5-year anniversary! Many thanks to Jennifer Biggs who has been leading the Task Force since its first meeting in April 2021. Also thanks to Mariah Messer for serving as the staff liaison and all of the Task Force members, past and present. Thank you for your service!

Since 2021, the Task Force has organized and partnered on numerous efforts to raise awareness of Dakota language and local Indigenous culture and history. Please enjoy this (partial!) summary of its activities:

1. **Policy Change** – Session approved Valley’s **land acknowledgement statement** in October 2021 and a related **statement use policy** in June 2025. Mission Possible approved an **annual budget** of \$300 for the Task Force in November 2025. Externally, in September 2025, commissioners for the City of Golden Valley unanimously voted to use **dual language in city communications** when talking about **Ĥaĥá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek**.
2. **Oral History** – In 2021, Valley secured a \$10,000 Legacy Amendment grant to conduct the **Ĥaĥá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek Oral History Project**. The resulting 14 interviews with Indigenous neighbors are available as a **podcast** on [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), and other platforms. Valley initiated the project with Dr. Kasey Keeler (Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and Citizen Potawatomi Nation) and created the **first archive of suburban Indigenous oral histories** in the United States or Canada. In 2024, the project won a **Minnesota History Award**.
3. **Worship and Education Efforts** – The Task Force has organized numerous education efforts for Valley, including celebrating **Indigenous Peoples’ Sunday** during worship each year since 2022. It installed a **peace pole** with Dakota language in October 2022. It also has hosted at least 10 presentations for **Adult Education**, including screening the film *Sugarcane* in January 2026. Externally, the Task Force has been a lead partner on the **Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Blessing** every year since 2023. It has also participated in 2 **creek clean-ups** and hosted numerous other tours and presentations.
4. **Supporting Indigenous Artists** – The Task Force collaborates with an Indigenous artist each year. In September 2023, Valley worked with Tiana LaPointe (Sicangu Lakota) to publish the **short video** [How to Pronounce Ĥaĥá Wakpádan](#). In January 2024, the Task Force introduced the congregation to its new **land acknowledgement logo** by Wóokiye Wiŋ (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakhóta and Ojibway). In October 2024, Valley installed the **land acknowledgement banner** by Summer Sky Cohen (Lac du Flambeau Band of Ojibwe). In September 2025, the Task Force partnered on the **photography exhibit** “Native Voices: Stories from Ĥaĥá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek” featuring portraits taken by photographers Ne-Dah-Ness Greene (Leech Lake Ojibwe), Tj Turner (White Earth Ojibwe), and Cassandra Roy (White Earth Ojibwe). In 2026, Cassandra Roy continues to work with us on developing a **landscape photography exhibit** with support from a \$5,000 grant through the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars:

- Saturday October 17, 2026 - **Ĥaĥá Wakpádan 1-Loop Fun Run**. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration here: <https://www.loppet.org/events/loopet/>

Thank you for supporting the Task Force over the past 5 years.
Please check back next month to learn more!



Winter photos of Ĥaĥá Wakpádan by Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe) taken at James I. Rice Park in Minneapolis.

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

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,
APRIL 11, 2026
10 AM - 2:00 PM
LUNCH AT 12 PM



LAST ONE BEFORE WE BREAK FOR SUMMER!



Valley Community

You're invited to celebrate the Installation of **Rev. Kyle Sandison** as Valley Community Church Pastor and Head of Staff!

Installation Service

Sunday, April 26th, 2026
at 9:30 AM

Following the service, we'll share in a potluck brunch to honor **Pastor Kyle** as he begins his ministry and to welcome him and his family to the Valley family.



No RSVP needed — but if you'd like to bring something for the brunch, sign-ups are available! We hope to see you there!



Sign up for a potluck item in the Fellowship Hall, scan the QR code, or click here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CA8A92DA1F58-63167764-installation>

SPRING CLEANING

SATURDAY, MAY 2
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

OUTSIDE

South Lawn
Playground
Patio

INSIDE

Sanctuary
Community Rooms
Fellowship Hall Chairs



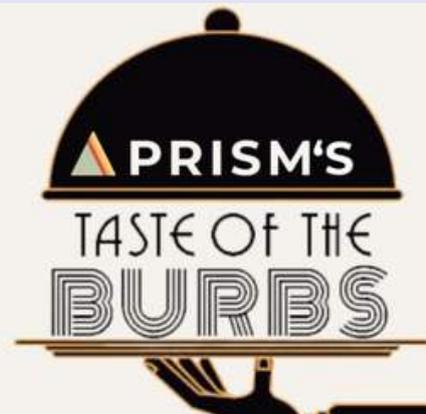
Call the Office if you are interested in joining the fun!



GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY LUNCHEON

Date: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026
Time: 12 - 1:00 PM

Location: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis



13th Annual Taste of the 'Burbs

Date: Thursday, May 7th, 2026
Time: 6:15 PM

Location: The Metropolitan Club & Ballroom

Contact the Valley Office if you are interested in attending!

CALENDAR

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

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

Saturday, April 4
11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
NO Adult Ed, Confirmation, TEAMS & Youth

Monday, April 6
Office Closed (Good Friday Observed)
11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, April 7
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 10
7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, April 11
10:00 am Craft & Connect

Sunday, April 12
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed
11:00 am New Members Class
12:30 pm Strat-O-Matic Baseball event
5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, April 14
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16
10:00 am Meals on Wheels
5:30 pm IJTF Meeting

Sunday, April 19
9:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Adult Ed
5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, April 21
11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 23
10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, April 26
9:30 am Worship Service
Rev. Kyle Sandison Installation Service & Potluck Brunch
5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, April 27
6:30 pm Session Meeting

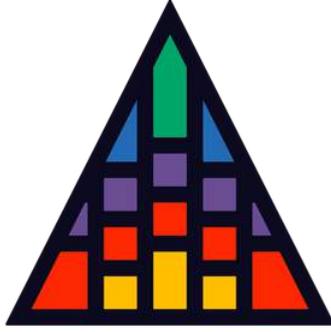
Tuesday, April 28
1:00 Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

BIRTHDAYS

Larry Johnson
Ben Fadell
Jeanine Miakotina
Colin Poynter
Ray Anderson
Mikum Kunkel
Rob Morrow
Jim Parks
Larry Eklund
Mary Schuette
Tom McKeon
Alexandria Slack
Pat Daily
Jaxon Hein-Smith
Iris Hagelin
Jeff Lewis
Devin Smith
Jacob Labelle
Emmett Soltau
Chelsie Larsen
Leone Johnson
Sam Sheldon
Betty Thorne
Rachel Williams
Becky Grosshuesch
Mike Pinter

Becky Brooking
Betsy Nichols
Mae Rudeen
Dede Hanson
Greg Van Heest
Andres Freeberg
Jeremy Lund
Charlie Rudeen
Camille Pinter
Ben Sheldon
Elsie Grosshuesch
Brian Hole
Missy Rudeen





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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Scan to give online

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