

THE VALLEY

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



Office: 763-588-0831
Pastoral Care: 763-445-9665
www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net

Cover Photo: Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! A meaningful Lenten season in the Valley culminated with a joyous Easter morning. Thank you to everyone who helped make this season special.

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Welcoming New Members | Sunday, May 3 @ 9:30 AM**
 - Pastor Sheila Sheldon, CRE, preaching
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 5)**
 - Friday, May 8 @ 7 PM | The Paper Clips
 - Friday, June 12 @ 7 PM | Marimba Bullies
 - This concert is dedicated to Fridays in the Valley sponsors Greg and Mary Rom. Come and celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary for this dynamic duo!
- **Grad Sunday | Sunday, May 17 @ 9:30 AM (page 7, 8)**
- **Celebrating Valley's 75th Anniversary | Sunday, June 7 (page 7)**
 - Prelude beginning at 9:15 AM with special music during worship by Jamie Marshall, Taichi & Robin Chen, Andrew Fleser and more!
 - **All-Church Picnic Lunch starting at 11:00 AM hosted by Fellowship Committee**
- Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals in May:
 - Wednesday, May 13 and May 27 @ 7:00 PM
- **Valley Handbell Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM**
- TEAMS & Youth End of Session Party | Sunday, May 17 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM (page 8)
- **Summer 2026 VBC | June 16-19 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 5, 7, 8)**
- *Special Recipe on page 9!*

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Land Acknowledgement Task Force Updates (page 9)**
- Formula for Hope Luncheon (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery fundraiser) (page 6)
 - Wednesday, May 6 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
- **Taste of the Burbs (PRISM fundraiser) | Thursday, May 7 (page 6)**
- *DRIVERS NEEDED* Meals on Wheels | 3rd & 4th Thursdays
- **Golden Valley Pride Festival | SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH | 12:00 - 6:00 PM (page 7)**

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

MAY 2026

Dear Valley Community,

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The season of Eastertide is in full swing, and resurrection hope is everywhere we look. Here in Minnesota, we know what it means to wait for new life. The warmth of these spring days, the first plants pushing through the soil, and the tender buds on the trees feel like nothing short of a miracle. These aren't just signs of the season. They are reminders of God's faithfulness, and an invitation for us to join God as people of new life, hope, and beauty.

Last Sunday, I had the joy of being officially installed as your pastor. As I've spent these first few months with you, one thing is clear: Valley Community is a congregation that doesn't just talk about new life, we live it out. I keep thinking back to Palm Sunday, when we filled the pews with food and then carried it all out to the PRISM Van together. We collected over **1,400 pounds** of food! That's the good news in action.

And the work doesn't stop there. Our Emergency Food Hub continues to deliver groceries to more than **150 families** every single week. And, just last week, I had the privilege of sitting in on a conversation with leaders from Valley, PRISM, and Community Emergency



Rev. Kyle Sandison

Service to dream together about even more ways we can meet food needs and work for lasting food justice in our community.

We also had a little fun along the way. A 17-piece(!) swing band brought the house down at Fridays in the Valley. The Red Rock Swing Back had us clapping, toe-tapping, and smiling as we raised money for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. It was the kind of evening that reminds you: joy is also part of the resurrection life.

There's plenty more to look forward to. We'll welcome new Members on **May 3**, hear from The Paper Clips at Fridays in the Valley on **May 8**, honor our graduates and educational ministries on **May 17**, and **celebrate Valley's 75th Anniversary on June 7**. We look forward to seeing you at these events and the many other ways you can plug in and be a part of what God is doing here at Valley!

In Christ,
Kylbe

Valley TEAMS kids have had a blast this session. Thank you to the adult leaders and helpers who make this program so meaningful in the lives of Valley's youngest members.



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 - April 2026

PALM SUNDAY



EGG HUNT



EASTER SUNDAY



Fridays in the Valley Presents:




the paper clips
MGTOWN TROMBONE SOUND

Friday, May 8, 2026 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
**GREATER MINNEAPOLIS
CRISIS NURSERY**

 Valley Community


Fridays in the Valley Presents:



Marimba Bullies

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12
7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
THE FATHER PROJECT

 Valley Community

 Valley Community

**SPRING GROUNDS
CLEAN-UP DAY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 2*
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

OUTSIDE
South Lawn
Playground
Patio

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
OR CALL THE VALLEY OFFICE
(763) 588-0831

*If needed,
weather make up day:
Saturday, May 9






**Valley
Lunch Bunch**

**MONDAY, MAY 4
11:30 AM**

**50^s
GRILL**

First Monday of
every month!

• DRIVERS NEEDED •



Meals on Wheels

3RD & 4TH THURSDAYS OF EVERY MONTH
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

• MAY 21 & 28 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:
Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:
Gail Smith
(3rd Thurs)
Marge Thurston
(4th Thurs)
use your directory
or call the office.

 **VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

If you are free on one or more days of
Compassion Camp and would like to help, we
would love to have you! We are looking for
group leaders, camp counselors, snack helpers,
and everything in between.

Sign up online [HERE](#) or in the Fellowship Hall to
let us know you are interested.
Info meeting date/s to come.

VBC DATES:
Tues, June 16 - Fri, June 19: 9am - 12pm

The More We Get Together

ON THE ROAD TO FELLOWSHIP AT VALLEY!

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Faith, Power, and the Soul of America

Rev. Dan Stark

Four Thursday Evenings: May 7, 14, 21, & 28, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

St. Luke Presbyterian Church | 3121 Groveland School Road, Minnetonka

In our current cultural climate, the lines between religious and national identity are increasingly blurred. Join us for this timely 4-week course as we unpack the history, theology, and modern-day impact of Christian Nationalism. This course provides a foundational understanding to distinguish a healthy love of country from a political ideology that seeks to merge American and religious identities.

Rev. Dan Stark serves as the Minister of Pastoral Care and Adult Education at Wayzata Community Church and is a Chaplain in the Air Force Reserves. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Dan holds a Master of Divinity from Emory University and two advanced degrees in biblical studies and theology from Luther Seminary.



USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR [CLICK HERE](#) TO ATTEND IN PERSON



Two seats remaining! Call the Office ASAP if you can join the fun!



GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY

Formula for Hope

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 12:00-1:00 PM

HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS

CALL THE VALLEY OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND



13th Annual Taste of the 'Burbs

Date: Thursday, May 7th, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: The Metropolitan Club & Ballroom

VALLEY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER FUN EVENING CELEBRATING AND SUPPORTING AN INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATION!



13th Annual



PRISM

8th ANNUAL GOLDEN VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL!

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH
12:00 - 6:00 PM
BROOKVIEW PARK



Golden Valley PRIDE Festival gets better every single year! Valley loves participating in this important community event and will have a booth again this year run by volunteers to support the event and meet folks in our community.

The 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.

VBC 2026!

Through Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, participants will explore what all living things need to live—shelter, food, water, air, and community—and how they can have compassion for the living earth, especially in their local ecosystems.

DATES:

Tues, June 16 - Friday, June 19: 9am - 12pm

Compassion Camp is for kids who will be entering Kinder - 6th Grade in Fall 2026.
Cost \$25 per family.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR VBC!



Do you have a graduate to celebrate this spring?

Please join us in honoring our 2026 Valley graduates Sunday, May 17 at 9:30 am.

If you or someone you know is graduating from a degree or certification program this spring, please notify the office by May 12 so we can include them in the bulletin.

office@valleychurch.net



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

75TH ANNIVERSARY Celebration

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Valley was officially organized as a congregation on May 20, 1951. We are excited to honor the history of this place and look ahead to the next 75 years and beyond! Mark your calendar now and join us for worship starting at 9:15 am followed by an all-church picnic hosted by the Fellowship Committee!

Worship - 9:30 am
All-Church Picnic - 11 am



3100 Lilac Dr. N,
Golden Valley 55422



the happier we'll be! 7

Congratulations to Valley High School Grad, Evan Miller!

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

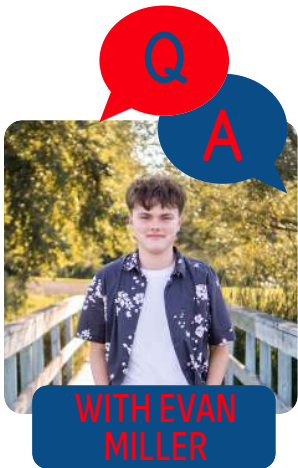
A: I am graduating from Armstrong High School. My plans after graduation are to attend NDSU with a major in Sport Management and a minor in Communications. I hope to one day work on the business side of the NFL.

Q: Do you have one Valley memory that stands out to you?

A: A favorite funny memory is when my brother's (Ty) phone went off during a Christmas Eve service and Pastor Richard commented about it from the pulpit. It shows what a friendly community Valley is!

Q: Would you like to give a special thank you to anyone?

A: I want to thank Brian Hole for being my confirmation mentor. Because Brian had also been my frisbee coach, it meant I was really comfortable talking with him. I also want to thank my mom and granddad for their constant encouragement!



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



Calling All Volunteers!!

Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings and VBC!

All of these opportunities for Valley kids cannot happen without help from our Valley grown-ups. Talk to Mariah Messer or sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested!



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) | What Every Living Thing Needs

Tuesday, June 16 - Friday, June 19; 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! [Registration is open](#) now 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



Education Sunday

Sunday, May 17th at 9:30am

Mark your calendars for a Sunday celebrating Valley graduates! Make sure to email Rachel (Office@valleychurch.net) so that we can celebrate you and/or your grad.



TEAMS & Youth End of Session Party | May 17 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

The last day of Youth Group and TEAMS for the school year is Sunday, May 17!

All TEAMS and Youth Group volunteers, participants, and their families are invited to join us for a celebration! We'll play games and eat dinner together. Thank you to all youth, parents, and volunteers for making this year such a success.



Clearwater Forest Camp

Summer 2026!

Looking for a fun camp experience? Then you will want to check out all the Clearwater Forest has to offer. Welcoming campers entering 3rd grade - 12th grade, there is something for everyone. [Learn more here!](#) Talk to Sheila about available scholarships.

Indigenous Justice Task Force

May is American Indian Month in Minnesota! Check out the [Bloomington Indigenous Art Fair](#) on Sunday May 17 or seek out other opportunities to celebrate with the Native community.

To learn more about approaches for repairing historic wrongs, Valley's Indigenous Justice Task Force has been watching a [series of recordings](#) from the **Reparations Learning Tables** offered by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. If you'd like to learn with us or have any questions, please reach out to Task Force leader Jennifer Biggs.

On Earth Day (April 22), the Native-led organization **NibiWalk** hosted its [Ĥahá Wakpádan Water Walk](#). Valley's Task Force was honored to share information about the creek and the **Ĥahá Wakpádan / Bassett Creek Oral History Project** with the event organizers. Additionally, NibiWalk used their website to share the **2-minute pronunciation video** that Valley produced in 2023. [The video](#) is also available on Valley's YouTube channel.

To learn more about the Twin Cities as an Indigenous landscape, please join us at these engaging events:

- Sunday October 4 at 11:00am – **Adult Education presentation** by Cassandra Roy (Anishinaabe) about her year-long project to photograph the creek in all 4 seasons. Many thanks to the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Golden Valley Historical Society, Hennepin History Museum, and The Loppet for their support! **The photos below were taken by Cassandra in February near the south end of Medicine Lake.**
- Saturday October 17 - **Ĥahá Wakpádan 1-Loop Fun Run**. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration [here](#).
- Fall 2026 - **Fourth Annual Ĥahá Wakpádan Water Blessing**. Time and location TBD.

The Task Force is busy planning more educational events for 2026.

Please check back next month to learn more!



As summer quickly approaches and your calendar starts filling up with BBQ's and picnics, Margie Deutsch's family wanted to share a very special recipe with her Valley family:

Margie Deutsch's Famous Sauerkraut

Ingredients:

- Sauerkraut 1-1.5 pounds - from the refrigerated section (not jarred)
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 8 oz applesauce
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 bay leaf

Instructions:

- Drain sauerkraut and wash once
- Melt butter in saucepan
- Add sauerkraut and applesauce to pan
- Add water to cover
- Add brown sugar, salt, and bay leaf
- Bring to boil, reduce heat to simmer for 1-1.5 hrs until liquid is gone





Valley Community Staff



REV. KYLE SANDISON

As Pastor and Head of Staff, Kyle's days are filled with crafting worship liturgies, leading services, and preaching. He enjoys meeting with members, hearing their stories, and praying alongside them. Kyle also provides leadership for the Staff, Session, and church committees, and loves working with others to help them achieve their goals.

You might be surprised to learn that: Kyle recently learned how to get on the roof to inspect the roof top HVAC units.

Favorite Cookie: Grammy's White Chocolate Dipped Pistachio Shortbread cookies

PASTOR &
HEAD OF STAFF



PASTOR SHEILA SHELDON, CRE

Recently you may have noticed that during worship we are referring to Sheila as Pastor Sheila. This is related to her role as CRE. In the PCUSA there are many CREs who are described as pastor because their commissioning includes pastoral responsibilities. Sheila's commission includes, among other things, administering sacraments, preaching, and leading worship. And so, the Session recently approved using the word pastor to describe her role. This is in addition to her role as director of educational ministries for all ages at VCPC.

You might be surprised to learn that she also: supports our tech team, and is our funeral/wedding coordinator.

Favorite Cookie: Peanut butter chocolate chip

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR & COMMISSIONED
RULING ELDER (CRE)



RACHEL HOLE

Rachel is responsible for the efficient operation of the Church office, including the coordination of all administrative, accounting, and various forms of communication activities of the Staff and Congregation. She acts as a liaison among various church groups, helps to manage church resources efficiently, and maintains an organized environment conducive to worship and fellowship. She also provides support for Kyle, Sheila, and Mariah - they all work as a team to make sure things get done around Valley.

You might be surprised to learn that she also: has taken on updating print materials and organizing and labeling various spaces throughout the building.

Favorite Cookie: She loves many cookies, especially the ones she bakes! She's a big fan of spritz.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



MARIAH MESSER

As Communications Director, Mariah spends a good deal of her time creating monthly newsletters, managing Valley's social media accounts, proofreading church bulletins and emails, and creating promotional materials for church and community events. She is called on to support church committees in their work, such as Mission Possible, Stewardship, Worship, Indigenous Justice, and Fellowship. Valley is a very busy place and she works hard to get the word out! Mariah also supports other staff members with their projects and initiatives.

You might be surprised to learn that she also: collects compost and waters all of the church plants every week.

Favorite Cookie: Snickerdoodle

COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

CALENDAR

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

Saturday, May 2

9:00 am Valley Spring Grounds Clean-Up

Sunday, May 3 - **New Member Sunday!**

9:30 am Worship Service with communion

Pastor Sheila Sheldon, CRE, preaching

11:00 am Adult Ed

5:30 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, May 4

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, May 5

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 6

12:00 pm Formula for Hope Luncheon

Thursday, May 7

6:00 pm Taste of the Burbs Gala

Friday, May 8

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, May 10

9:30 am Worship Service

Education Sabbath

Tuesday, May 12

1:00 Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 pm Mission Possible Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 13

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 17 - **Education Sunday**

9:30 am Worship Service

11:00 am Adult Ed

5:00 pm Youth/TEAMS End of Year Party!

Monday, May 18

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, May 19

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon @ 50's Grill

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 21

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, May 24 - **Pentecost**

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, May 25 - **OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday, May 26

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 28

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, May 31

9:30 am Worship Service

BIRTHDAYS

Gregory Rom

Crystal Boyd

Bob Tripet

Walt Hanson

Annette Nichols

Ana Freeberg

Jackie Goiffon

Earl Shenk

Shirley Toering

Brian Hassel

Susan Tracy

Lucas Kopischke

Elizabeth Brooker

Vivian Bi

Suzan Gibson

Len Biggs

Kevin Hagelin

Amy Matthews

Haley Brooker

Thomas Schuette

Lloyd Olson

Jan Sacco

Herb Nichols

Jennifer Soens

Dan Priem

Carolyn Anderson

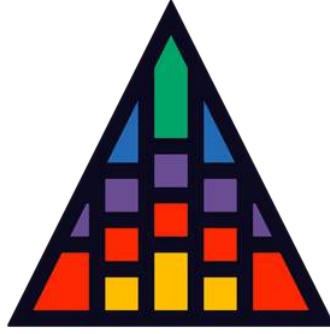
Sandra McCarthy

Kiersten Rude

Lynn Thier

Lillian LaBelle





Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



VCPC

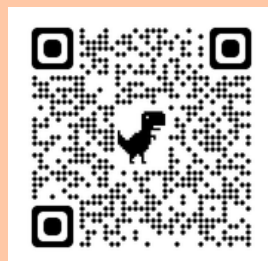
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

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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