

THE VALLEY

SUMMER 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: We were excited to welcome new Valley members in May! God is so good, and we rejoice together in the way God is moving in the Valley.

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Valley 75th Anniversary Celebration | Sunday, June 7**
 - Worship @ 9:30 AM
 - All-Church Picnic @ 11:00 AM
- Valley Office Closed: Friday, June 19 & Friday, July 3
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 6)**
 - Friday, June 12 @ 7 PM | Marimba Bullies
- **Summer 2026 VBC | June 16-19 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 8)**
- Valley Youth Mission Weeks | June 24 - 26th, August 5 - 7th (page 8)
- Valley Craft & Connect | Wednesdays: June 17, July 8, August 5 | 6 - 8 PM (pages 5, 6)
- **Valley Kids & Youth Echo Service | Sunday, June 28 @ 9:30 AM**
- Clearwater Forest Fest | Saturday, July 18 | ALL DAY!
 - <https://clearwaterforest.org/events/>
- Open Eye Figure Theatre Puppet Show | Sunday, August 2 | 6:00 PM (pages 7, 8, 10)
- Clearwater Chrysalis | August 12-16 (pages 7, 10)

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Indigenous Justice Taskforce Updates (page 9)**
- Monarca Election Defense Training | Wednesday, June 10 | 6 - 8 PM (page 5)
- **Golden Valley PRIDE | Saturday, June 13 | 12:00 - 6:00 PM (page 5, 6)**
- **"Rooted" Film Screening | Tuesday, June 23 @ 6:30 PM (pages 9)**
- Meals On Wheels Delivery Drivers Needed | 3rd and 4th Thursdays of the month (page 10)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

JUNE 2026

Dear Valley,

Summer is nearly here. The days are stretching longer, the air is finally warming, and all around us the world is waking up. Trees that stood bare through the winter are now full and green. Tomato and cucumber seedlings are just getting started in the soil, but before long, they will be heavy with fruit.

It's a season that reminds us of something essential: lasting growth doesn't begin above the ground. It begins below it, in the quiet, unseen work of roots going deep.

As we prepare to celebrate Valley Community Church's 75th Anniversary, I find myself thinking about the relationship between roots and growth, between what has always been true of this place and what is still becoming. I'm grateful for both.

In the few months I've been here, I've had the joy of discovering many of the traditions that root this community and will give us a solid foundation for years to come.



Rev. Kyle Sandison

There is a tradition here that faith doesn't stay inside these walls. It rolls up its sleeves. It shows up in the lives of our neighbors through the mission partners we've built relationships with across this community. We believe that following Jesus means going out to serve, to love, and to be present to the world around us.

There is a tradition here of belonging. We are, in our own words, "a Christian place of belonging for all." We believe every person is beloved by God, and we take seriously the work of making that felt in the warmth of our welcome and the depth of our relationships.

There is a tradition here of centering our children. We want our children to know, from the very beginning, that they belong to God and to this community. We don't treat them as the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today, and we celebrate every step of their growth into the people God is making them to be.

On June 7th, at our 75th Anniversary Service, we'll gather to celebrate all of this. We'll give thanks to God for 75 years of faithfulness. And we'll look ahead together, with hope and expectation, to all the ways God is not finished with us yet.

Finally, as summer begins, we also prepare to say goodbye to one of our staff members, Mariah Messer. Mariah has been an integral part of our staff as our Communications Director. She brings so much joy and energy and passion to her work, and this place will not be the same without her. Mariah, Pete, Rory, and Walter, you will be missed! May God bless you and keep you as you move to Kansas City and as you begin new work, school, and family rhythms there. It's a big loss for us here, but a huge win for Kansas City, and we are so excited for you all.

Grace and peace,
Kyle

It has been another great year in TEAMS and Youth Group! Thank you to program leaders, volunteers, and families for supporting these amazing Valley kids.



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 - May 2026

INSTALLATION OF REV. KYLE SANDISON



RAS FOOD HUB



4 FORMULA FOR HOPE LUNCHEON





**75TH ANNIVERSARY
Celebration**

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

3100 Lilac Dr. N, Golden Valley 55422

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

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 with music starting at 9:15 am, followed by an all-church picnic hosted by the Fellowship Committee!

Special guests & musicians, time for fellowship, bounce house, face-painting, dedication of a commemorative 75th Anniversary tree, and more!

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

SIGN UP in Fellowship Hall or scan the QR Code to bring a side or dessert.



MONARCA
DEMOCRACY DEFENSE

Valley Community Presbyterian Church
3100 Lilac Dr. N, Golden Valley, MN 55422
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Join Monarca and your community for a Democracy Defense training to ensure every citizen can cast their ballot safely and that every person has a voice in our country's future.

TO REGISTER OR LEARN MORE:
scan the QR code
or visit the link below!
bit.ly/MDDGV0610

UNIDOS MN
COMMUNITY • LEADERSHIP • POWER

**GOLDEN VALLEY
PRIDE
FESTIVAL**

Saturday, June 13
12:00 - 6:00 pm
Brookview Park
200 Brookview Pkwy N,
Golden Valley, MN 55426

Family-friendly, 2 music stages,
food trucks, bounce houses,
games, vendors, and
community organizations

Valley Craft & Connect

Craft & Connect is for anyone who enjoys a day crafting, working on a puzzle or just chatting with friends.

Come catch up on a project, start something new or see what others are working on for inspiration! There will be craft supplies, puzzles & cribbage boards available.

Bring a dish to share for dinner at 6 PM.

WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 17, 2026
6:00 - 8:00 PM
DINNER AT 6 PM

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Closed in
observation of
Juneteenth
Freedom Day
6/19/26**

Regular hours will
resume on 6/22/26

ON THE ROAD TO FELLOWSHIP AT VALLEY



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



10th 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.

FRIDAY,
JUNE 12
7:00 PM

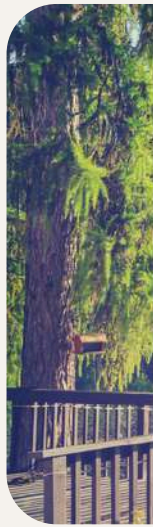


Marimba Bullies

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
THE FATHER PROJECT

Greg and Mary Rom are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on
June 12, 2026

Please join us in celebrating this milestone by attending the
Fridays in the Valley concert!
Reception to follow.



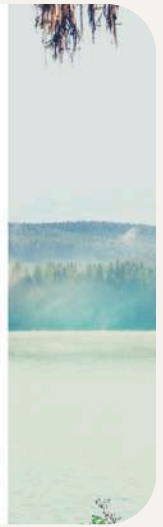
CLEARWATER CHRYSALIS
WOMEN'S RETREAT

AUGUST 13-16, 2026
OPTIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY - AUGUST 12

KEYNOTE: REV. ANNA KENDIG FLORES
THEME: SPIRITUAL WARRIORS FOR LOVE
HEALING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Visit <https://clearwaterforest.org/>
for more information and to register

CLEARWATER FOREST
CONTACT CLEARWATER WITH QUESTIONS
218-678-2325
REGISTER IS NOW OPEN!



4TH ANNUAL VALLEY NIGHT OUT!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
DINNER - 6:00PM | SHOW - 7:00PM

We're grilling dinner and hosting a performance of Open Eye Theater's **JEREMY & THE GIANT KING!**

We're hosting a performance of "Jeremy & the Giant King". Grab your friends! Come for a picnic and stay for the show. We'll provide hot dogs, lemonade, ice cream and you bring a side to share. All are welcome!



Valley Craft & Connect:
Summer Edition

Craft & Connect is for anyone who enjoys a day crafting, working on a puzzle, chatting with friends or even just reading a book.

***Optional:** Bring a dish to share for dinner at 6 PM. If you're unable to bring anything, please don't let it keep you away!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026
6:00 - 8:00 PM
AT VCPC

SECOND LOCAL
YOUTH MISSION
WEEK

August 5 - 7th

Help out at a variety of local mission sites and have fun with Valley friends!

CONTACT SHEILA IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN THE MISSION WEEK!

July 18, 2026
CLEARWATER
FOREST FEST

Free Event Open to the Public
EVENTS ALL DAY FROM 8 AM - 7 PM



16595 Crooked Lake Road
Deerwood, MN 56444

the happier
we'll be!

TEAMS & YOUTH GROUP END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



The Valley Education Corner

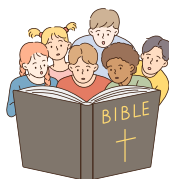
FAITH FORMATION

Summer Faith Formation



While Faith Formation in the summer looks a little different as we take a break from our regular curriculum, kids will still explore weekly lessons through Bible stories, children's literature and play. James will be here to offer a familiar face and lead the group.

Vacation Bible Camp (VBC)



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

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! There are 19 Valley kids signed up to come and learn with us. We also have 12 Valley grown-ups who have already volunteered to help, but the more the merrier! Email Sheila or Mariah to sign up!

Open Eye Figure Theatre Driveway Tour Puppet Show



Sunday, August 2: Dinner @ 6:00pm, Puppet Show @ 7:00pm

We're hosting a performance of "Jeremy & the Giant King". Grab your friends! Come for a picnic and stay for the show. We'll provide hot dogs, lemonade, ice cream and you bring a side to share. All are welcome!

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS

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.

Valley Kids and Youth Summer Echo Service



Sunday, June 28: 9:30 AM

We invite all of our Valley family to worship on Sunday morning, June 28, to show support for Valley Kids and Youth! Vacation Bible Campers will share several camp songs and Youth Group members will share out about the first Local Mission Trip days.

Valley Youth Local Mission Weeks | June 24 - 26th, August 5 - 7th



This year, we are offering two mission opportunities, each will be local and unique. Youth are welcome and encouraged to attend both! If you have not already registered and are interested in attending, please reach out to Sheila right away!

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.



Photo taken by Cassandra Roy at James I. Rice Park in Minneapolis as part of a year-long photo project.

On Earth Day (April 22), the Native-led organization **NibiWalk** hosted its [Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Walk](#). Valley's Task Force was honored to share information about the creek and the **Ĥaĥá 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 photo above was taken by Cassandra.
- Saturday October 17 - **Ĥaĥá Wakpádan 1-Loop Fun Run**. The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration [here](#).
- Fall 2026 - **Fourth Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Blessing**. Time and location TBD

The Task Force is busy planning more educational events for 2025. Please check back next month to learn more!

A FILM BY THE GREAT NORTHERN

ROOTED

STORIES FROM
MINNESOTA'S
FARMING FUTURE

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS START CLOSE TO HOME

PREMIERING MARCH 26TH

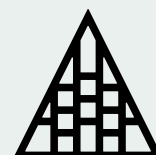
YOU are invited to join with others to view a new documentary that highlights the challenges and achievements of those growing food close to home in Minnesota.

When: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

Where: Valley Community Presbyterian Church
3100 Lilac Dr N, Golden Valley, MN 55422

Hosted by Carolyn Anderson and
Elders Climate Action Twin Cities

Refreshments and follow up discussion included.



• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

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

• JUNE 18 & 25, JULY 16 & 23 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:

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



VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Closed

in observation of
4th of July

Friday 7/3

Valley Staff will be
back in the Office on
Monday 7/6

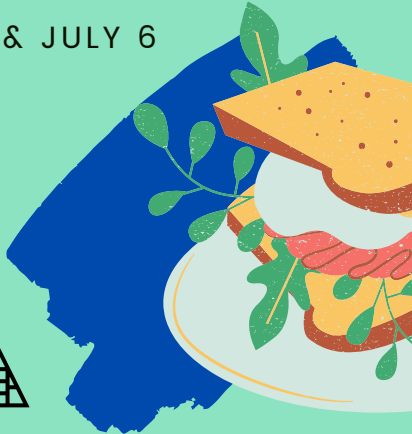


Valley Lunch Bunch

MONDAY, JUNE 1 & JULY 6
11:30 AM

50^s GRILL

First Monday of
every month!



JUNE 16, JULY 21 | 11:30 AM

MEN'S LUNCH

Group meets at 50's Grill in
Brooklyn Center.

**NEW ATTENDEES ARE
ALWAYS WELCOME!**



Join us for Open Eye Theatre's Driveway Tour puppet show!

We're hosting a
performance of
Jeremy & the Giant King

Date & Time:

Sunday, August 2, 2026
Picnic Dinner at 6:00 PM
Show starts at 7:00 PM

**GRAB YOUR FRIENDS! COME FOR A PICNIC
AND STAY FOR THE SHOW!**

**WE'LL PROVIDE HOT DOGS, LEMONADE, ICE
CREAM AND YOU BRING A SIDE TO SHARE.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

 Valley Community



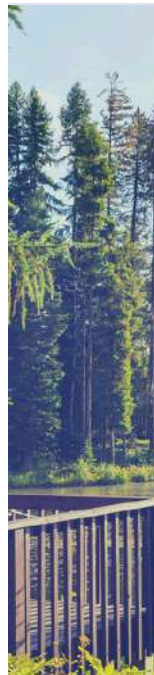
CLEARWATER CHRYSALIS WOMEN'S RETREAT

AUGUST 13-16, 2026
OPTIONAL SERVICE DAY - AUGUST 12

Visit www.clearwaterforest.org for more
information and to register

CLEARWATER FOREST

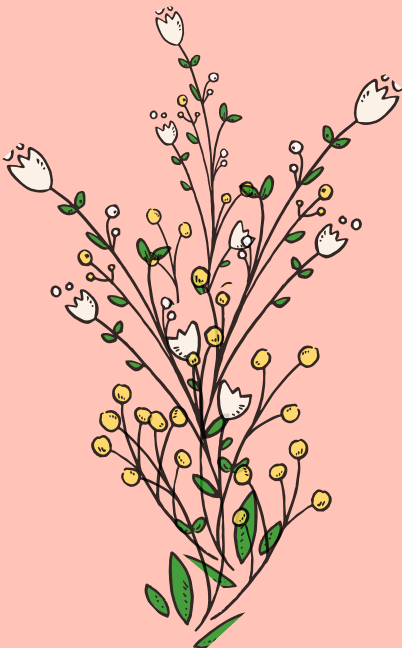
CONTACT CLEARWATER WITH QUESTIONS
218-678-2325
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS

Eleanor Kopischke	Ann Roach
Connor Gottschalk	Axel Boyd
Alice Zieska	Beth Carlson
Carol Bright	Catherine Parks
Tom Magill	Dawn Schuldt
Mary Jo Bailey	Steve Wasmoen
Paula Landis	Jill Weihrauch
Jackie Graham	Rick Carlson
Odin Willey	Taichi Chen
Christy Smith	Jean-Luc LaBelle
Mike Vogel	Sharon Buffington
Lucy Feneis	Henry Lake
Ella Halverson	Duncan Fadell
Dan Marshall	Marit Willey
Bonnie Carlson	Kaden Craven
	Larren Boyd
	Sam Malecha
	Tom Day
	Craig Michael
	Tim Grosshuesch
	Kate Reinert
	Lois Schmidt
	Jay Tarbell
	Ben Kummer
	David Toering



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

Monday, June 1
First Day of LGBTQIA+ PRIDE Month
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Wednesday, June 3
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, June 7
VCPC 75th Anniversary Celebration
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
 11:00 am All-Church Potluck Picnic

Wednesday, June 10
 6:00 pm Monarca Election Defense Training

Friday, June 12
 7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, June 13
 12:00 - 6:00 pm Golden Valley PRIDE Festival at Brookview Park

Sunday, June 14
9:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday, June 16
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp
 11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon @ 50's Grill

Wednesday, June 17
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp
 6:00 - 8:00 pm Craft & Connect

Thursday, June 18
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels
 5:00 pm Indigenous Justice Taskforce

Friday, June 19 - Juneteenth
Office Closed
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, June 21
9:30 am Worship Service

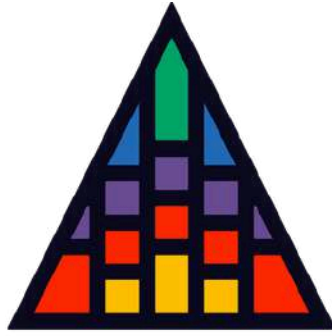
Monday, June 22
 6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, June 23
 6:00 pm 'Rooted' Movie Screening

Wednesday, June 24 - Friday, June 26
 Local Youth Mission Days - Part 1

Thursday, June 25
 10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, June 28
9:30 am Worship Service



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



VCPC

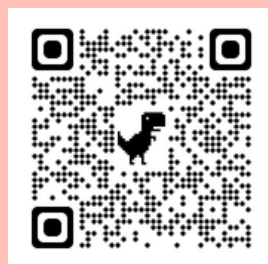
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

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.

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



Scan to give online

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