# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Sunday, August 23, 2026

# GATHERING US IN

**PRELUDE** — Come, Just As You Are, Joseph Sabolick, arr. Mark Hayes — Rachel Williams, piano

**LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

**GATHERING MUSIC** — *Holy, Holy, Holy*, John B. Dykes, arr. Melody Bober

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God calls ordinary people into extraordinary service.

**People: We come to worship the God who works through unexpected lives.**

Leader: God brings hope from despair, courage from fear, and joy from sorrow.

**People: We come to hear God's story and sing God's praise.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**† Hymn #769** — ***For Everyone Born*** — vss. 1 & 2

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

**Refrain:**
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, **(Refrain)**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** — Rachel Hole

Merciful God, we confess that we often value power more than faithfulness, comfort more than courage, and certainty more than trust. Forgive us when fear keeps us silent, when prejudice blinds us to your work, and when we fail to recognize your image in others. Renew us by your grace and send us forth in hope. Amen.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor:** Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**All:** In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**SUNG RESPONSE #698** ***Take, O Take Me as I Am***

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

## HEARING THE WORD

**TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS** Julie Westerlund

**Congregational Blessing:** You are God's beloved child.
With you God is well pleased.

*Ruth & Hannah: The Song of Faithful Love & Hope*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ruth 1:16-17, 1 Samuel 1:12-18, 26-28

**REFLECTION** Pastor Sheila Sheldon, CRE

**MUSICAL RESPONSE #475** ***Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*** vss. 1 & 3

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

## *Rahab & Esther: The Song of Courage*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Joshua 2:8-11, Esther 4:13-16

**REFLECTION**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE #726** ***Will You Come and Follow Me*** vss. 1, 2, & 5

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## *Mary: The Song of Holy Possibility*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 1:46-49

**REFLECTION**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE #693** ***The Gift of Love***

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**MINUTE FOR MISSION** Fridays in the Valley - a New Season! Sue Ruby

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***OFFERTORY** *Canticle of the Turning* Valley Choir
arr. Anne Krentz Organ

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, you have always worked through willing hearts and open hands. Receive these gifts and use them to proclaim your love, strengthen your church, and bring hope to the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## SENDING US OUT

† **Hymn #765** ***May the God of Hope Go with Us***

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Stairway to Heaven* Taichi Chen, violin
Robert Plant and Jimmy Page Rev. Kyle Sandison, guitar

**The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.**

**Chancel Flowers**
Sunday, August 23
Sponsored by Roger Michael
*In honor of our wedding anniversary*

† Please rise in body or spirit.

# Joys and Concerns

Valley member and former Golden Valley mayor, **Mary Anderson,** is turning **100** on August 26th! To celebrate her century of life and service, her family is gathering birthday cards filled with wishes, stories and memories from the many lives she's touched! If you'd like to make her smile by sending her a card, please send cards to: Mary Anderson, 5200 Wayzata Blvd, #201, Golden Valley, MN 55422.

Prayers for **Gwyn Lang**, who traveled to Stevens Point, WI to be with her mother, who is fading and sleeping a lot, though seems comfortable.

Continued prayers for **Valley Members** in their ongoing health journeys. Updates can be found here as they are made. For those who have them, stay up-to-date by following their **CaringBridge** profiles here:

**Carolyn Anderson** recent labs showed her Leukemia numbers went up and she has restarted her chemo pill. She is hopeful that she will have a positive response with meds.

**Carole Martens** will have a follow up on her CLL in a few months.

**Taichi Chen** has the week off from chemo this week.
https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen

**Janet (& Rick) Carlson:** A recent scan revealed a concerning sore on Janet's foot and is causing them to put the stem cell transplant process on hold for now. This delay is a big disappointment for Janet and the Carlsons so keep them all in prayer during this time.

To support the Carlsons, Valley staff set up a Meal Train. Please sign up at https://mealtrain.com/ne11n6. For updates on Janet, please follow **Rick's** CaringBridge: https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rickcarlson101

**Susie Potter:** No chemo planned for now. Susie will go back in 6 weeks for both tests again & then see oncologist. There may be a trial drug available. Stressing quality of life.
https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susiepotter

## EASY WAYS TO GIVE TO VALLEY AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GIVE ONE TIME OR RECURRING

1. **MAIL YOUR CHECK TO VALLEY**
   - In the memo of the check, indicate what your donation is for (i.e. Pledge, PRISM, etc.)
2. **ONLINE GIVING**
   - Visit Valley's secured online giving by visiting: https://valleycommunitypresbyterianchurch.breezechms.com/give/online to make a one-time or recurring gift to Valley or our community partners.
3. **AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT**
   - Contact Chelsie Larsen: 507-272-1914 | chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

# This Week at Valley

**Sunday, August 23**
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

**Monday, August 24**
6:00 pm Garden Potluck
6:30 pm Session Meeting
7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

**Tuesday, August 25**

**Wednesday, August 26**
8:30 am Westminster Staff Retreat
6:00 pm Joy of Recovery OA Group

**Thursday, August 27**
10:00 am Meals on Wheels
5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

**Friday, August 28**

**Saturday, August 29**

**Sunday, August 30**
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

**Notice of Recording**: Please note that services are broadcasted via live stream and digitally recorded on our YouTube Channel.

**Special thanks** to our Stream Team: Katie Decker, Roger Graphenteen, Myron Jones, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Brandon Novy, Janet Triplett, and Kurt Wheeler for broadcasting the services!

# Valley Staff

**Ministers**
The entire Valley Community!

**Pastor & Head of Staff**
Rev. Kyle Sandison

**Educational Ministries Director**
Pastor Sheila Sheldon, CRE

**Office Administrator**
Rachel Hole

**Music Coordinator**
Rachel Williams

**Interim Choral Director**
Hsu-hui Wang

**Choral & Handbell Director**
Janet M.T. Carlson

**Faith Formation Lead**
Jamese Decker

**Custodian**
Hunter Sheldon

**PARISH ASSOCIATES**
Rev. Jim Cook
Rev. Bill Davnie
Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau
Rev. David Phillips
Rev. Nancy Phillips
Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

**SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**
August 9: 189 (84 in-person)
August 16: 189 (99 in-person)

# A Very Special Milestone!

Valley member and former Golden Valley mayor, **Mary Anderson,** is turning **100** on August 26th!

For more than 50 years, Mary's been a steady, loyal presence in local government and community: giving her time, energy and heart to the people around her.

To celebrate her century of life and service, Mary's family is gathering birthday cards filled with wishes, stories and memories from the many lives she's touched!

Your message will mean so much to her and to all of us who love her!

# Valley Lunch Bunch

MONDAY, AUGUST 31*
11:30 AM

**50s GRILL**

*DATE CHANGE DUE TO LABOR DAY!

# Valley Community
# HOMECOMING SUNDAY
## SEPTEMBER 13

**HERE'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO:**

- **Blessing of the Backpacks** for Valley kids
- Funner Brothers donut holes and coffee
- **Bouncy House**
- Directory Info Update Station
- **Registration for the year of youth and kids programming**
- Sign-ups for fall activities and volunteer opportunities

## FALL FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**

**DONATIONS WANTED**

**Silent Auction Items Wanted:**

- MN College Sports tickets
- Gift cards that you have not used
- Acts of Service (Soup of the Month, Cooking Class, Tea Party, Ride to Airport, Fall Lawn Clean up, etc.)

**Live Auction Items Wanted:** (Valued over $200)

- Cabin Experiences
- Timberwolves Game Experience
- Dinner Party
- Other Ideas Welcome!

**Please Bring Donations to the Church Office by September 20th.**

# Clare Housing Supper Club

New Opportunity! Join a 4 x 4 Dinner Group with Clare Housing. Prepare, serve, share and cleanup up after the evening meal for 4 neighbors living in one of Clare Housing's Community Care Homes.

**CONTACT:**
**SARAH FADELL**
TO LEARN MORE

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

# Meals on Wheels

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**3RD & 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**ROUTES INCLUDE:**
Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

**Sign Up on Breeze or in Fellowship Hall**

**Volunteer Coordinators:**
Gail Smith - 3rd Thur
Marge Thurston - 4th Thur
or call the office.

Valley Community

# Happy Birthday Valley Family!

Michael Deef
Larry Matthews
Ingrid Sandison
Sofie Vogel
Jack Westerlund
Richard Marshall
Rev. Bill Davnie
Donald Carlson
Dawn Williams
Ruth Wilterding
Luke Priem
Jessica Goslinga
Jack Larsen
Sean Linc
Miles Rudeen
Douglas Smith
John Gove

Bennett Gonsior
Finbarr McCarthy
Jennifer Brant
Kelsie Hagelin
James Husnik
Jay Perry
Maddie Pukite
Melissa Gottschalk
Mark Musta
Rev. Jim Cook
Mary Anderson
Alexander Dunham
Ben Brooker
Mildred Davison
Sharon Decker
Arlene Freeberg
Carole Martens

# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

—Established May 20, 1951—

## 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.

LOGO DESIGN BY WÓOKIYE WIŊ (SISSETON WAHPETON DAKHÓTA AND OJIBWAY)

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Scan to give online!