Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 9, 2026

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE — *Reverie*, Claude Debussy — Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC — *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, *Joseph M. Scriven* — Matt Weiss, guitar & vocals

tCALL TO WORSHIP — Pastor Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Leader: God lifts us from death to life and preserves us for God's purposes

ALL: through the compassion of Jesus Christ our Lord and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: With thanksgiving, praise the Lord!

t Hymn #463 — ***How Firm a Foundation*** — vss. 1 & 2

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;
you are our Maker, and to you we pray.
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;
great is the one whom we worship this day!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to step out in faith, trusting in you for all things. We respond to your command but then sink in doubt and fear. We hide from the challenges of bold discipleship. We are not able to fulfill your commandments for our purposes are never in full accord with yours. Forgive us, we pray, when we confess with our lips but do not believe in our hearts.

Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances. Lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy. Though we are distracted by noise all around, allow us to hear your voice even when it is the sound of sheer silence…

Moment of silence

We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

t 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 #188 ***Jesus Loves Me***

Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *This Lonely Road*
Matt Weiss

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14:22-33 (CEB)

SERMON *What Kind of Faith Do We Have?* Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

† Please rise in body or spirit.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn #353 ***My Hope is Built on Nothing Less***

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**

When he shall come with trumpet sound,O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. **(Refrain)**

MINUTE FOR MISSION Youth in the Church and the World — Justin Toering, John Toering

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** *In the Sweet By and By*
Sanford Bennett and Joseph Webster

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. Because there is so much more we can become, and so much more we can do, we pray that our faith will increase; that our practice of generosity will be enlarged; and that our joy in believing will encourage others as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

*From May through August, loose offering collected during worship is designated for **Clare Terrace**.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #754 ***Help Us Accept Each Other***

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jeu
Phillipe Sagnier

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers
Sunday, August 9
Sponsored by Bonnie & Terry Goslinga
In celebration of 51 years of marriage today!
Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall!

† Please rise in body or spirit.

PERSEVERING toward WHOLENESS*

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed constitutional governance, racial justice, gender justice, denominational finances and the direction of the church, laying groundwork for work continuing through the next assembly.

Co-moderators elected, GA228 to be held in Puerto Rico

Commissioners elected the Rev.Marta Pumroy-Cordero, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Border Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the **Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer**, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, as co- moderators. They will preside at GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Commissioners also **approved full, in-person assemblies**, including an exhibit hall, beginning in 2030.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners approved RIW-04, declaring that the **Israeli government has violated international law** prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza. As amended, RIW-04 directs the denomination's Office of Public Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to Israel and purchases from Israel. It also encourages members to avoid products from Israeli companies linked to violations of international law.

Constitutional interpretation, missiology, and mission co-worker dismissals

Following testimony on staff dismissals during **World Mission's closure**, the assembly approved CON-02, directing PL&W and the A Corporation to revise employment policies to prohibit nondisclosure covenants for employees, with a report due to the 2028 assembly. RIW-01 calls for review of the processes that terminated mission co-worker positions and World Mission. RIW-02 directs the development of a new missiological statement for global engagement.

Climate and Environmental Justice

The Climate Justice Committee approved CLJ-02, "Changing Course for a Green Future," **directing divestment from more than 50 companies** by 2030 and barring new investments in them. All CLJ items were placed on the consent agenda, including a call for education on regenerative farming and prioritizing responses to the climate crisis.

White Christian nationalism

Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to declare White Christian nationalism and similar ideologies **"a theological error"** incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ; language changes in the *Book of Order* require presbytery ratification. Commissioners rejected an amendment that would have removed references to White Christian nationalism from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race report.

Racial justice

The Racial Justice Committee advanced several recommendations **strengthening the denomination's anti-racism work**, including RAC-04, "The Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Race," directing "PL&W to create a tracking system that displays the progress/completion of all GA business… related to race, racism, and White supremacy …"

THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK
GA 227
MILWAUKEE

For full stories about General Assembly or other news from the PC(USA):
Visit our website: pres-outlook.org
Follow us on social:
Facebook: Presbyterian Outlook
Bluesky: @presoutlook.bsky.social

***Note:** this is an abridged version

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Dave McCunn** who got a new pacemaker on July 27. He is home and doing well.

Karen Chancellor asks for prayers for her son **William Chancellor** who was in a car accident this week. He does have some scrapes and bruises but thankfully no one was seriously injured. Unfortunately, his car will likely be totaled.

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: began his tradtional chemo. While there weren't any significant reactions, he did have a fever and overall, is not feeling well. Another scan will follow in 6-8 weeks. https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen

Janet (**& Rick**) **Carlson:** This week, Janet began a series of 13 tests over two weeks to determine whether she can do a stem cell collection and transplant. That decision will likely be made at the end of August.

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 will go in for tests on Monday, August 11 an then follow up with her oncologist on August 18. 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 9
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Monday, August 10
7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, August 11
Polling Site - 7am-8pm
6:30 pm Mission Possible- Cornerstone Room

Wednesday, August 12
Clearwater Chrysalis
6:00 pm Joy of Recovery OA Group

Thursday, August 13
Clearwater Chrysalis
1:30 pm PRISM Backpack Distribution
5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

Friday, August 14
Clearwater Chrysalis

Saturday, August 15
Clearwater Chrysalis

Sunday, August 16
Clearwater Chrysalis
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
July 26: 198 (88 in-person)
August 2: 210 (96 in-person)

PRISM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Backpack Distribution 2026

Now that all the backpacks and supplies have been collected and sorted, it is time to get them to the kids!

What: 4-6 volunteers per shift

When: Thursday, August 13

Shift A: 1:30-4:00 PM | Shift B: 4:00 - 6:30 PM

Where: PRISM 1220 Zane Ave. N, Golden Valley

Who: Anyone 9 years old and up!

Contact Sheila to sign up or scan the QR Code. (763) 588-0831

SUMMER CHOIR

Love to sing?
Join us for Summer Choir!

Sunday, August 23

8:30 AM Rehearsal

9:30 AM Worship Service

Hsu-hui Wang, conductor
Rachel Williams, piano

Help Grow Our Shared Ministry of Fellowship!

Fellowship Hour is where we reconnect with friends, welcome new faces, and continue the conversations that began in worship.

It's one of the ways we live out being the church together.

We're looking for individuals, couples, families, and groups to grow our team of Coffee Hosts for Sundays throughout the year!

It's a simple way to serve with a meaningful impact—and the more people who sign up, the less often each person needs to host.

Never hosted before? No problem! It's easy, and we'll provide instructions.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!

Questions?
Contact Sam Schellhaas, Fellowship Elder, or call the office 763-588-0831.

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

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!