Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 6, 2026

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE — *3 Preludes for Piano: II. Andante*, George Gershwin — Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC — *Try a Little Tenderness*, arr. George Shearing

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord!
People: Sing to the Lord a new song, sing praise among the faithful.
Leader: Let the people of God be glad;
People: Let us rejoice, dance, and sing.
Leader: For the Lord rejoices in the people;
People: God gives glory to the humble of heart.
Leader: Let us worship God!

† Hymn #396 — ***Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*** — vss. 1, 2, & 4

Brethren, we have met to worship
and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power
while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us?
Moses' sister aided him.
Will you help the trembling mourners
who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior.
Tell them that he will be found.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely;
let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners
till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven;
at his table we'll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us
with sweet manna all around.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Sheila Sheldon

Gracious and loving God, you have commanded us to love one another, yet we confess the ways we have fallen short of this perfect law. We have withheld love from our neighbors, nursing grievances instead of seeking reconciliation. We have harbored judgement and bitterness rather than offering grace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Cleanse our hearts, and teach us what it means to truly love our neighbors as ourselves. May your grace transform us so that our lives may reflect your light to a world in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.
(***repeat***)

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*
arr. Craig Courtney *in the style of Mendelssohn*

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 13:8-14

SERMON *The Time is Now* Rev. Kyle Sandison

† Please rise in body or spirit.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn #203 ***Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love***

Refrain:
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. **(Refrain)**

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away. **(Refrain)**

These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. **(Refrain)**

Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you. **(Refrain)**

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Rest as Resistance* Sara Schiebout

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Sancta Dorothea*
Franz Liszt

*From September through December, loose offering collected during worship is designated for **Every Meal**.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy and loving God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed those who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #761 ***Called as Partners in Christ's Service*** vss. 1, 2, & 4

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *You'll Never Walk Alone*
Richard Rodgers

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers
Sunday, September 6
Sponsored by The Sandisons
In honor of Arik's 5th Birthday tomorrow!

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall!

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Rev. Rebecca Tollefson**, who suffered a fall last week and fractured her 12th vertebrae. She is at Mercy Hospital and waiting to hear about surgery.

Prayers for **Linda & Alan Wold**, whose son-in-law, **Lou' s**, liver cancer has spread even while on a clinical trial. Doctors indicate there is nothing more they can do. Please pray for Lou, their daughter **Kimberly**, and Lou's family as they all traverse this sadness and give them strength as they grieve while continuing to appreciate every moment of life.

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: The new tests at Mayo showed a moderately restricted blood flow in one of Carolyn's main arteries (LAD) of her heart. It can be treated with medication which she will try. She feels like some progress was made.

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

Taichi Chen continues chemo treatments. https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen

Janet (**& Rick**) **Carlson:** The stem cell stimulation process will officially begin on Saturday, 9/5/26. **Janet** will have appointments at the hospital that day through next week to prep for harvesting and transplant. They are hoping for the transplant to happen on or around 9/13. Prayers that all steps go smoothly and lead to a successful transplant!

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 aa month 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, September 6
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day
Office Closed
7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, September 8

Wednesday, September 9
6:00 pm Joy of Recovery OA Group
6:00 pm Deacon Meeting - Library
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10
5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

Friday, September 11
7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, September 12

Sunday, September 13
Homecoming Sunday
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Hour
11:00 am Adult Ed - Rev. Anna Kendig Flores
PCUSA General Assembly 2026
1:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group Open House

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 23: 231 (116 in-person)
August 30: 227 (124 in-person)

FALL FESTIVAL

BACK TO THE 50's

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3
5:00 - 8:00 PM

$15 ADULT
$10 KIDS

Tickets on Sale Now!
Fellowship Hall or online

VCPC CHOIR

LOVE TO SING?
JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

CHOIR SUNDAYS 2026

Sunday, September 13
Sunday, September 20
Sunday, October 4
Sunday, October 18
Sunday, November 1
Sunday, November 15
Sunday, December 6
Sunday, December 20

Rehearsals take place weekly on **Wednesday at 7:00pm** and at 8:30 am on the Sundays we sing.

Hsu-hui Wang, interim director
Rachel Williams, piano

Fridays in the Valley Presents:

Taichi Chen, Robin Chen, and
Melinda Marshall, violin
Richard Marshall, viola

Friday, September 11, 2026 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
EVERY MEAL - DISTRICT 281

Valley Community

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.

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

Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Adult Education | September 13 | 11:00 AM

PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

Rev. Anna Kendig Flores
Co-Executive Presbyter of the PTCA

Rev. Anna Kendig Flores will provide an overview of the PC(USA) General Assembly—what it is, how it works, and why it matters. This session is especially helpful for those who are new to the denomination or want to better understand our polity. She'll also highlight key changes that came out of this year's General Assembly and discuss how they may impact the Church moving forward.

Hosted in The Cornerstone Room

Happy Birthday Valley Family!

Frankline Nyongkah
Lennox Mead
Alan Wold
Arik Sandison
Aaron Craven
Arnold Schellhaas
Pius Nti
Jeff Soltau
Hayden Gautsche
Claire Reinert
Pete Messer
Christine Phelan
Jonathan Schellhaas
Ted Arneson
Steve Bauer
Katie Decker
Gwen Rouleau

Evonne Kirchenwitz
Liam Bonner
Sevdina (Nina) Bonner
SuAnn Bygd
Mark Freeman
Jamese Decker
Tom Jenson
Mariah Messer
Andrew Westerlund
Helmut Winter
Peter Brant
Paul Minter
Emily Steffel
Sarah Gonsior
Deborah Poynter
Jennifer Biggs
Bellinda Nti

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!