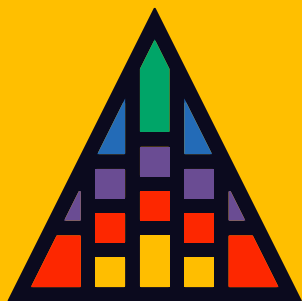




THE VALLEY

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



763-588-0831
www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Faith Formation Volunteers Needed! Talk to Sheila if you can help. (page 8)**
- Prismpalooza - October 3 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (pages 5, 6)
- **Fall Festival | Saturday, October 3 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM (pages 3, 6)**
 - Tickets on sale at the door or RSVP [HERE!](#)
- **Fridays in the Valley 15th Season has begun! (pages 5, 7, 10)**
 - Friday, October 9 @ 7 PM | Steve Lehto & John Wright
- **Fall Adult Ed | Sundays @ 11 AM (full schedule page 8)**
 - Recordings can be found on YouTube
 - *October 18th is Education Sabbath - No Adult Ed, Teams or Youth Group*
- **4th Annual Ĥaĥa Wakpadan Water Blessing | Monday, October 12 at 10:00 AM (page 7, 9)**
- Valley Craft & Connect | October 24 | 10:00 am - 2 pm (pages 5, 7)
 - Future Craft & Connect date: November 21
- **Trunk or Treat for PRISM | Sunday, October 25 | 4 - 5:00 PM (page 14)**
- 2026 Stewardship Season is Sunday October 25, 2026! (pages 7, 10)
- **Save the Date | Parents' Night Out - Saturday, November 14th 5:00 - 8:00 PM (page 10)**
- **Read on!** Don't miss all of the opportunities to connect this month and beyond.

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Land Acknowledgement Task Force updates (page 9)
- **New Volunteer Opportunity at PRISM on Thursday evenings in OCTOBER! (pages 5 & 6)**
- Clare Housing Community Event at Clare Terrace on Thursday, October 8 at 5:30 PM (pages 5 & 7)
- **NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers - call the Church Office if you can volunteer (page 5)**
- Bridging Dresser Build - Saturday, November 14th (page 10)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

OCTOBER 2026

Dear Valley,

As October begins, fall is in full swing! The leaves are turning, the harvest is coming in, and once again we're reminded of the beauty and provision of our Creator God. In every season, we give thanks for God's faithfulness and grace.



Rev. Kyle Sandison

Our ministry year is off and running. We kicked things off with a joyful **Homecoming Sunday** on September 13, and since then **TEAMS** and **Youth Group** have returned to their weekend rhythms, our **Adult Education** series is off to a great start, and **Fridays in the Valley** opened with a beautiful concert from our very own Chens and Marshalls. **Read on** in the Newsletter for the full Adult Education and Fridays in the Valley schedule. There's **no shortage** of ways to **connect** and get **plugged** in here **at Valley!**

October also brings our beloved **Fall Festival!** The Fellowship Committee has been busy putting together a **1950s-themed bash!** Dust off your poodle skirt and join us for an evening of fun that raises money for our **fellowship programs** and **mission partners**. **See you there!**

We also invite you to join us for the **Fourth Annual Ĥaĥa Wakpadan Water Blessing** on Monday, October 12 at 10:00 AM, held at Westwood Hills Nature Center in Saint Louis Park. Together we'll honor the Ĥaĥa Wakpadan and reflect on how we can better care for the land and water.

Valley Connects - September 2026

FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY



ADULT ED - SEPT. 20, 2026



Dr. Samuel B. Torres, Deputy CEO of NABS



TEAMS - PAN FLUTES!



BLUE THUMB NATIVE PLANT SALE





Valley will be hosting a booth at PRISMPalooza!

If you are interested in volunteering for an hour (or two!), talk to Sheila or email her at sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net

New Volunteer Opportunity at PRISM!

PRISM is piloting a program to get more Faith Partner churches involved in the week to week work being done at PRISM, and **Valley Community** is the first group they are asking.

Who: Valley - members, couples and families

When: Thursday evenings in **OCTOBER** from **5 - 7pm**

What: Sort and pack Hygiene Kits and Diaper Bundles for families who receive services at PRISM.

Need: 4 to 6 volunteers each week

Where: PRISM 1220 Zane Ave N
Golden Valley, MN 55422

[Click here to Sign Up](#)

clare housing
HOME • HEALTH • HOPE

MN Senate 43, and House 43A and 43B Nonpartisan Candidate Meet- & Greet and HIV Long-term Survivor Town Meeting

- Hear stories from HIV long-term survivors
- Meet our state candidates
- Learn where state candidates stand on issues that matter to you, such as home, health, and hope

Join us for a free meal, community conversations, and an opportunity to learn more about your candidates & community!

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM CST
(Doors open at 5:30PM for community meal)

Location: **Clare Terrace**
3555 France Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN



Register by scanning the QR code or visiting bit.ly/districts43forum

Fridays in the Valley Presents:

Steve Lehto & John Wright



Friday

October 9, 2026

Concert begins
@ **7:00 PM**

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
**MISSIONS INC. PROGRAMS AND
THE HOME FREE SHELTER.**



Valley Community

Presbyterian Church
3100 Lilac Drive North | Golden Valley

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

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

• **OCTOBER 15 & 22** •
• **NOVEMBER 19** •

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley

CONTACTS:

Gail Smith
Marge Thurston
use your directory
or call the office.



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 lunch at 12 PM.



SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 24, 2026
10 AM - 2:00 PM
12:00 PM LUNCH





Celebrating 75 years of ministry at Valley and the Lord's Supper.



October in the Valley

The fun of fall is in full swing in the Valley! There are all kinds of events coming up this month that will give us all a chance to connect and come together in fellowship.

There is something for everyone and new participants are always welcome.

Volunteer Opportunity at PRISM!

DATE: THURSDAYS IN OCTOBER | **TIME:** 5:00 - 7:00 PM

PRISM is piloting a program to get more Faith Partner churches involved in the week to week work at PRISM, and Valley Community is the first group they are asking. This is a great opportunity for families to volunteer together! [Click Here](#) to sign up.

Who: Valley - members, couples and families

When: Thursday evenings in OCTOBER from 5 - 7 pm

What: Sort and pack Hygiene Kits and Diaper Bundles for families who receive services at PRISM.

Need: 4 to 6 volunteers each week

PRISMpalooza - Community Block Party!

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/3 | **TIME:** 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

A free, family-friendly event celebrating all that our community does for one another! Join us for an afternoon filled with: Children's activities, Local vendors, Live music, delicious food, Battle of the Burbs Food Drive. Come connect with your neighbors, support local vendors, and enjoy an afternoon of fun—all while helping PRISM continue providing food, housing support, and dignity to the community.

Bell Choir Practice

DATE: EVERY TUESDAY | **TIME:** 6:30 PM

Have you ever considered trying your hand at bell ringing? What's stopping you? The Valley Ringers love to share and teach others how to ring! Ringers and non-ingers ages 10 & up are welcome. The Bell Choir rehearses every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Valley Choir

DATE: WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAY | **TIME:** 7:00 PM

The Valley Choir sings during worship on the first and third Sunday of each month. They rehearse weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and at 8:30 AM on the Sundays they sing. All voices are welcome to come and sing with us!

Fall Festival - Back to the 50's

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/3 | **TIME:** 5-8 PM

A fun-filled night of food, music and friends, along with live and silent auctions, and the very popular Gift Card Wall. It will be a great night to get together as a community, have some fun, and raise funds for our community and Valley Fellowship projects.



Clare Housing Community Event

DATE: THURSDAY, 10/8 | TIME: 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Clare Housing is hosting a **Meet- & Greet** with MN Senate 43, and House 43A and 43B Candidates and a HIV Long-term Survivor Town Meeting. Hear stories from HIV long-term survivors, Meet our state candidates - Learn where state candidates stand on issues that matter to you, such as home, health, and hope. This is a **nonpartisan** event.

Join us for a **free meal, community conversations,** & an opportunity to learn more about your candidates and community.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Fridays in the Valley Concert

DATE: FRIDAY, 10/9 | TIME: 7:00 PM

Steve Lehto and **John Wright** are key members of Lehto & Wright, a **Minneapolis-based folk-rock** and progressive rock band that blends British Isles and American folk traditions. They combine traditional folk melodies with complex, guitar-driven progressive arrangements reminiscent of bands like Jethro Tull and Fairport Convention. A **Free will offering** will benefit **Missions Inc. Programs** and **the Home Free Shelter**.

4th Annual

Ĥaĥa Wakpadan Water Blessing

DATE: MONDAY, 10/12 | TIME: 10 - 11:30 AM

Westwood Hills Nature Center

8300 W Franklin Ave, St Louis Park, MN 55426

Please join us in honoring Ĥaĥa Wakpadan (Bassett Creek) through a water blessing and educational activities. We'll also celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day through song and land acknowledgment. Indigenous participants will share ways to care for the lands and waters of Mni Sôta Makoce (Minnesota).

Ĥaĥa Wakpadan Loopet Loppet

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/17 | TIME: 7 AM - 7 PM

5K Fun Run/Walk Starts at 9 AM!

Join other walkers, runners, and supporters of the Loppet Foundation. Stop into The Trailhead to view the portrait photography exhibit all day and the Native vendor market from 9:00am - 2:00pm. There's even a free Little Loppet for kids at 10:30am. Bring the whole family! [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Valley Craft & Connect

DATE: SATURDAY, 10/24 | TIME: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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 lunch at 12 PM.**

Trunk or Treat for PRISM

DATE: SUNDAY, 10/25 | TIME: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

A community event with a cause! Hosted by Valley Youth. Kids come for a safe trick or treating experience. If you would like to decorate your car and hand out treats, talk to Sheila to reserve your spot. Can't wait to see you there!



STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS UPON US!

Kick-Off of the 2026 Stewardship Season will be
Sunday October 25, 2026!

It's the time of year where we are all asked to prayerfully support the ministries that have sustained us and show gratitude for the many things our Valley family does, both in the church and in the community.

Stewardship materials will be available to pick up on Sunday, October 18th. Any materials that are not picked up in person will be delivered the following week. Please plan to attend worship, either in person or virtually, to hear important updates from the Stewardship Team on 10/25 and 11/1.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION

Childcare is available in the Nursery for kids 4 and under.



Valley Kids Choir

Choir director Hsu-hui Wang has been working with our children during faith formation to learn a song and then sing it in worship on October 4th for World Communion Sunday!

Kids in grades Kindergarten - 8th are welcome to join her. They will meet her in the Sanctuary at 9:00 AM on 10/4 to rehearse before worship.



INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM |

Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room Illustrated Ministries creates all of the curriculum we use for Faith Formation and VBC. We've added their Invitation to Play curriculum to give kids another way to engage with the stories in the Bible to keep them learning, playing, and exploring their faith!



FAITH FORMATION |

Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Sunshine Room & Sanctuary Valley kids ages 5 - 3rd grade are invited to join us in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings for Faith Formation. As our kids start to grow and want to explore worship in the Sanctuary, there is a space for them to do that. Find Sheila if you have questions!



TEAMS & Youth Group |

Sunday afternoons 1:00 - 3:00 PM
TEAMS Program is for kids entering 4/5 grades (STEM based activities with Faith Formation)
Youth Group: Middle School & Senior High (Service Projects, Fellowship, Bible Study & More)



CAN YOU HELP? FAITH FORMATION & NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We give thanks to James for her work with us and we wish her all the best in her new job. We are looking for volunteers to help lead in the Sunshine Room and care for our littlest in the Nursery. Please talk to or email Sheila if you can help with this important ministry!

Adult Education Schedule

- Adult Ed classes will take place at 11:00 AM. Coffee and pastries welcome!
- Classes will be held in the Cornerstone Room, unless otherwise noted.
- Classes will be recorded and available on YouTube as we are able.
- Full class descriptions available in the Sept. Newsletter and [online here](#).

**October 4 | Ĥaḥá Wakpádan
(Bassett Creek)**
with Cassandra Roy (Ojibwe)

**October 11 | Informed Food
Security Initiative - Hennepin County**
Kassy Nystrom, Food Security
Abbie Zahler, Public Health

October 18 | Education Sabbath

October 25 | Voting Safety
- Jackie Wells -
MN League of Women Voters

November 1 | Papua New Guinea
Jennie & Paul Minter

November 8 | Rooted Documentary
Stories From Minnesota's Farming Future

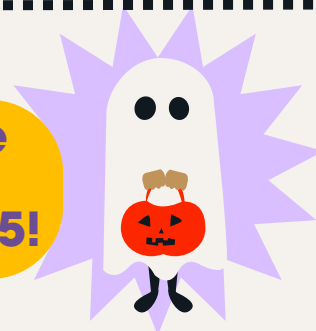
November 15 | Funeral Planning
Sheila Sheldon, CRE

November 22 | Follow the Raindrop
Julie Westerlund

October 18 | NO ADULT ED

**Trunk
or
Treat**
for
PRISM

Everyone is invited to participate in the
Trunk or Treat event beginning at
4:00 pm at Valley on Sunday, October 25!



Indigenous Justice Task Force

Update! The Indigenous Justice Task force has embarked on a training called Sacred Reckonings. Find out more about it below!

Members of the **IJTF** have embarked on a training called **Sacred Reckonings**.

<https://www.sacredreckonings.com/> It is a "movement of white Christians towards repair and reparation." Other churches, including Oak Grove Presbyterian, have taken this training and used it to inform the next steps for their congregation in anti-racism and restorative work.

The first phase of our training was in person and included a **powerful tour of B'dote** (where the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers converge) and memorials to George Floyd, Renee Good, and Alex Pretti, showing us the ways these events are connected and tied to the harm done by the **Doctrine of Discovery**. We have an extensive written guide with evaluations and work to be done plus meetings over the next couple of months. The IJTF will be coming to Session and the congregation with recommendations for potential actions.

On Sunday 9/20/26, IJTF and Adult Education co-hosted Dr. Samuel Xochikoyotl Torres, Deputy CEO of the **National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition** (NABS). Forty-nine people were able to join this impactful conversation! Dr. Torres shared information about the deeply harmful U.S. Native American Boarding School System (in which the Presbyterian Church played a significant role), the resultant generational trauma, and how truth telling and collaboration is essential to repair these harms and to work towards healing and justice for all. Following his presentation, we joined in fellowship and shared conversation over a delicious meal from **Native Harvest Catering**.

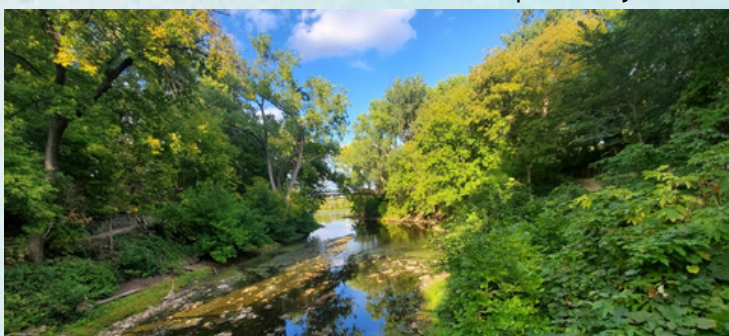
This fall, the Indigenous Justice Taskforce has several events related to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Please join us in celebrating Native people and cultures!

- **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!
- **Saturday October 17 - Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Loopet Loppet and 1-Loop Fun Run.** The Loppet Foundation has already opened registration [here](#).
- **Monday, Oct. 12th from 10:00 -11:30 am - Fourth Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Blessing.** *More details and optional registration [here](#).*

The Task Force is busy planning more educational events for 2026 - 2027.
Please check back next month to learn more!

Fourth Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Blessing

Ĥaĥá Wakpádan is the Dakota name for Bassett Creek



Please join us in honoring Ĥaĥá Wakpádan (Bassett Creek) through a water blessing and educational activities.

We'll also celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day through song and land acknowledgment. Indigenous participants will share ways to care for the lands and waters of Mni Sóta Makoce (Minnesota).

RAIN OR SHINE, FREE, AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY!

Attendees may bring chairs, blankets, and water bottles. Free parking. Carpooling is encouraged. Registration is optional.

Visit or [click here](#) to register:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 10-11:30 AM
WESTWOOD HILLS NATURE CENTER
8300 W FRANKLIN AVE, ST LOUIS PARK, MN 55426

As always, thank you to the Endowment Committee for supporting Valley's Indigenous Justice work!

If anyone is interested in joining the VCPC Indigenous Justice Task force, we would love to have you!
Reach out to Jen Biggs to learn more.

Funding provided by Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, City of Golden Valley Environmental Commission, and Valley Community Presbyterian Church. Additional support is provided by 12 other community partners.

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

TICKETS AND INFO AT
THEHIVECOLLABORATIVEMN.COM



SONGS AND POEMS
PERFORMED BY
JAMIE MARSHALL

WITH **WESLEY FRYE,**
JENESSA IVERSON,
RYAN MARSHALL,
AUDREY SNYDER,
JACK STRAND, AND
HUNTER BATTERSON

OCTOBER 23, 7PM
OCTOBER 24, 7PM
OCTOBER 25, 2PM

THE HIVE COLLABORATIVE
677 HAMLINE AVE.

Valley Community
PC(USA)

Hosted by
Valley Youth

Oct 25
4-5 PM

Trunk or Treat
for PRISM

Candy

A
Community
Event
with a
Cause!



Bring pantry items for PRISM and
help us fill the trailer at our annual
Trick or Treat for PRISM drive.
Can't wait to see you there!

3100 Lilac Drive North | Golden Valley MN 55422

- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

FRIDAY, November 13 | 7:00 pm
Pavel Jany & Dean Harrington

SUNDAY, Dec. 6 | 7:00 pm
Above Average
Tuba Quartet

FRIDAY, January 8 | 7:00 pm
Bernstein Chamber Players
(Sue Ruby & friends)

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

STEWARDSHIP 2026

KICK-OFF SUNDAY
OCTOBER 25, 2026

Join us as we enter a new
Stewardship season together!



DEDICATION SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2026

BRIDGING DRESSER BUILD

NEW LOCATION:

12864 HWY 55, PLYMOUTH, MN 55441

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 volunteers needed.
Dress comfortably in clothes you
can get dirty.

Close-toed shoes required.

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
VISIT BRIDGING.ORG FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT ANDREW PITAN WITH QUESTIONS (507-475-0118)



 **Valley Community**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5th grade
& under



Click here or
Scan the QR code
to register!



Parents' Night Out!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
5:00-8:00 PM

\$5 PER CHILD

Kids 5th grade and under ENJOY
a night of fun with Valley friends!
We're having a glow party!
Dinner, glow tag, dance party
and more!
Mom and Dad enjoy a night out!

 **Valley Community**

CALENDAR

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

Saturday, October 3

5:00-8:00 pm **Fall Festival: Back to the 50s!**

Sunday, October 4

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Adult Ed - Cassandra Roy (Ojibwe):

Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ (Bassett Creek)

1:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, October 5

11:30 am Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, October 6

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, October 7

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 8

5:30 pm Clare Housing Community Event at Clare Terrace

Friday, October 9

12:30 pm Reception for Marilyn Munns

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley: **Steve Lehto & John Wright**

Sunday, October 11

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Adult Ed

Kassy Nystrom & Abbie Zahler

- Hennepin County -

Informed Food Security Initiative

1:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, October 12

10:00 am - 11:30 am

4th Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing

Westwood Hills Nature Center

St Louis Park, MN 55426

Tuesday, October 13

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, October 14

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, October 15

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, October 18 - Education Sabbath

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, October 20

11:30 am Men's Lunch

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, October 21

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 22

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Saturday, October 24

10:00 am-2:00 pm Craft & Connect

Calendar (cont.)

Sunday, October 25 -

Stewardship Kickoff

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Adult Ed

Jackie Wells: **Voting Safety**

4:00 pm Trunk or Treat

Monday, October 26

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 27

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, October 28

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 29

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Cawhorn

Lonnie Johnson

Brayden Rude

Reid Nichols

Gail Smith

Rachel Hole

Brandon Novy

Cathy LaPoint

Valerie Craven

Nancy Husnik

Aubrie Larsen

Thom Reinert

Madelyn Soens

Alexander Kara

Jack Perry

Earl Robertson

Max Westerlund

Ginger Jackson

Myron Jones

Chrisdel Nyongkah

Cheryl Smith

Peggy Meyer

Linda Wold

Lillianna Schellhaas

Andrew Freeberg

Les Freeberg

Hanne Sandison

Ann Keen

Kyle Boyd

Earl Michael

Alex Graham

Nancy Olson

Mary Ann Winter

Janet Triplett

Catherine Paulson

Norman Chervany

Ann Van Heest





Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



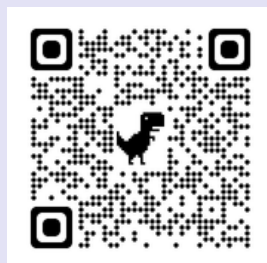
VCPC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

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

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