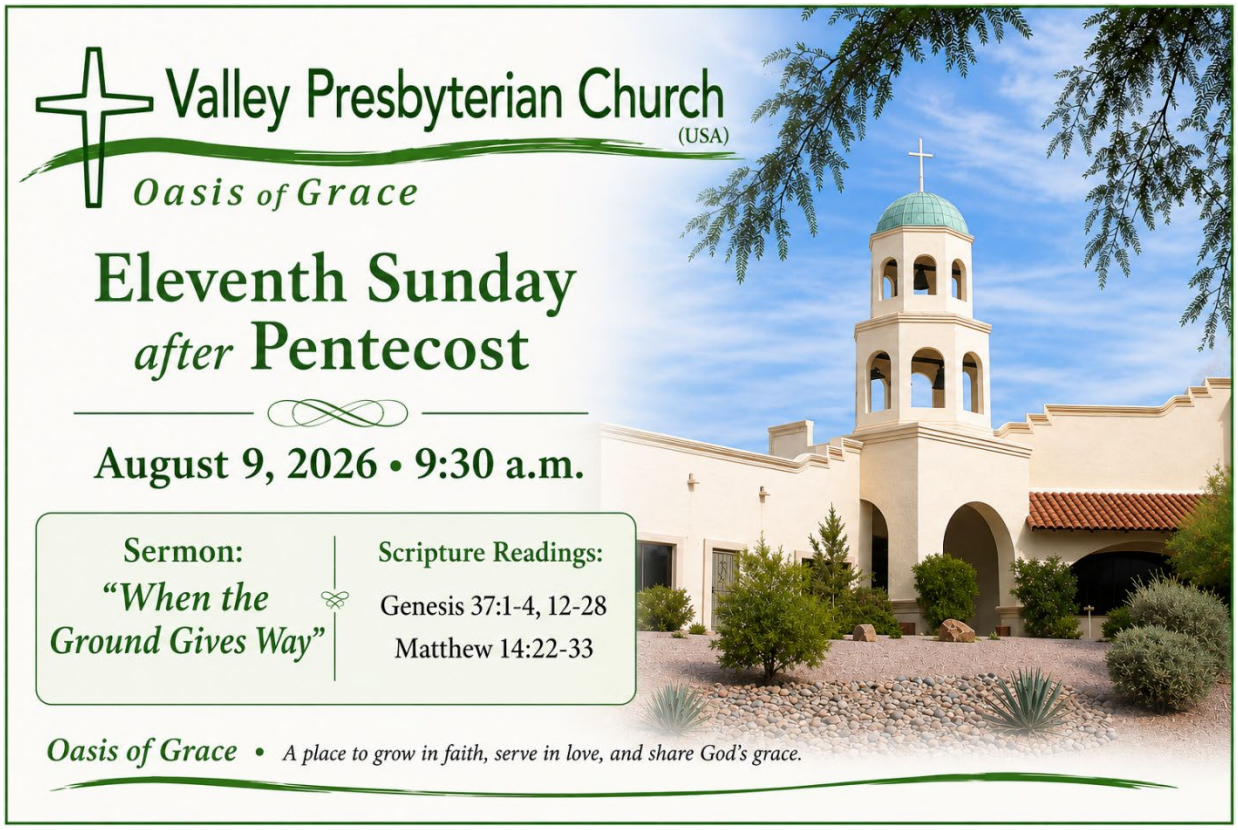

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *Adagio* A. Vivaldi

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**As we gather for worship, we invite you to sign the Friendship pad in your pews. This simple act helps us to strengthen our connection, care for one another, and to welcome those who are joining us today.*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE / OUTPOURING OF WATERS /TRINITY RINGING

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO WORSHIP GOD

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP Rudy Sweisfurth

L: We gather in the presence of the One who calls us by name.

P: God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.

L: When fear rises and the ground beneath us feels uncertain,

P: Christ comes toward us with words of peace.

L: Come, let us worship the God who is faithful in every season.

P: Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN** ***My Faith Looks Up to Thee **829**
(verses 1, 2, and 3)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Faithful God, before we sought you, you had already found us. Before we knew your love, you had already claimed us as your own. Through every generation your mercy has endured, your promises have remained sure, and your grace has never failed.

Gather us now by your Holy Spirit. Quiet our fears. Lift our eyes to Christ. Open our hearts to your Word, that in worship we may recognize your living presence among us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The good news of the gospel is not that God waits for us to find our way to him. The good news is that God has already come looking for us in Jesus Christ. Because we trust in God's mercy rather than our own goodness, we need not hide our failures or our fears. With confidence in God's steadfast love, let us confess our sins before God and one another. First silently and then together. Let us pray.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*silently – then together.)*

L: And now together.

Merciful God, too often we have trusted what we can see more than what you have promised. When fear has spoken loudly, we have believed it. When disappointment has come, we have doubted your goodness. When life became uncertain, we questioned your presence.

Forgive us for allowing our circumstances to become our guide instead of your Son. Restore in us the confidence that Christ is already at work even when we cannot yet recognize him. Teach us again to trust your grace, your promises, and your unfailing love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news. The One who came to the disciples in the storm still comes to us today. In Jesus Christ, God has reached toward us long before we ever reached toward him. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end,
Amen, Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living God, as your Word is read and proclaimed, give us ears to hear, hearts to receive, and courage to follow. Do not simply teach us about you. Help us recognize where Christ has already been at work in our lives. Through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT **GENESIS 37: 1-4,12-28 NRSVUE**

Joseph Dreams of Greatness

37 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land
of Canaan. [2] These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. [3] Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. [4] But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near
Shechem. [13] And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." [14] So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, [15] and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" [16] "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." [17] The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. [18] They saw him

from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. [19] They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. [20] Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” [21] But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” [22] Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. [23] So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, [24] and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

[25] Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. [26] Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? [27] Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. [28] When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

ANTHEM *River in Judea* J. Feldman/Arr. J. Leavitt

Often times I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody know.
Late at night I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on, go on.

There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing rover that my soul cries out to know.

I believe it keeps on travelin' but it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I'm weary and downhearted, long for the song it sings,
For the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings.

May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more:

There is a river in Judea, hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE READING **MATTHEW 14: 22-33 NRSVUE**

Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. [23] And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, [24] but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. [25] And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. [26] But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

[28] Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." [29] He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. [30] But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32] When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

L: The words of God, for the people of God.
P: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON "When the Ground Gives Way" Rev. Beaver

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **The Apostles' Creed**

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I BELIEVE in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE** ***Precious Lord, Take My Hand **834**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Every good gift comes from God. As God has been generous toward us, let us respond with grateful hearts, offering our gifts, our lives, and ourselves in Christ's service.

OFFERTORY *You Light Up My Life* J. Brooks
Peggi Briggs, Soloist

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, receive these gifts as signs of grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim the good news, to care for those in need, to strengthen your Church, and to make the love of Christ known in this community and throughout the world. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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 have sinned 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.

CARRYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN** ***Jesus Calls Us **720**
(verses 1 and 4)

***CHARGE**

Go into the world remembering this:

Do not let your circumstances tell you who God is.
Listen instead for the voice of Christ.
And wherever the ground beneath your feet may give way,
trust the One who is already coming toward you.

***BENEDICTION**

May the God who never abandoned Joseph, the Christ who walked upon the sea, and the Holy Spirit who gives courage in every season, bless you and keep you, hold you and guide you, this day and forevermore.

Amen.

***POSTLUDE** *A. Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Arr. M. McDonald

(* If able, please stand)

Worship doesn't end at the doors. It continues wherever you go, because the God we met here today is already present in the ordinary moments of our lives.

If today's service speaks to you, you can share it or revisit it anytime at valleypres.net

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY: Liz Haynes, in loving memory of her mother, Dorothy Haynes.

THE ROSE ON THE BAPTISMAL FONT IS ON HONOR OF: Jack Carter.

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL OR IN REHAB: Monte Crook.

Today is the Congregational Meeing to accept Frank Coggins resignation as VPC President of the Corporation, and to elect Ron Darrah as President to fill the term until the end of the year.

Want to stay updated on daily happenings?
Subscribe to our daily e-blast by emailing the church
@ vpc-office@valleypres.net or call us at 520-625-5023.

WELCOME TO VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are glad you are here. Set against the beauty of the Santa Rita Mountains, Valley Presbyterian Church is a place where people come to worship, to heal, to reconnect, and to remember they do not walk through life alone. Some arrive here with deep faith. Some arrive carrying questions. Some simply come looking for peace. Wherever you are on the journey, you are welcome in this place. We believe God meets people in everyday life, in friendship, in prayer, in laughter, in service, in music, and in the quiet moments when the soul finally slows down enough to listen. So, take a breath. Rest for a while. Let the noise of the world fade for just a moment. There is grace here. There is room for you here.

VISITORS: Please consider yourself at home while you are with us today. Visitor Information Packets are available at the Visitor's Table and Welcome Centers. You may also fill out the welcome card if you would like someone to reach out to you. You can learn more about the life and ministry of Valley Presbyterian Church at **valleypres.net**, where you can sign up for our daily Eblast reflections and monthly newsletter. ***Welcome to God's house*!**

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
As of June 30, 2026		Through Week 31 (08-02-2026)	
Monthly Giving Support	$ 54,528	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	172
Monthly Giving Budget	62,500	YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary	8,125
YTD Giving Support	424,377	Weekly Viewing On-Line	118
YTD Giving Budget	375,000	YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line	3,074
S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2026 Per Capita is $43.90 per member			

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARKINSON'S CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. in the Charter Hall. This is a free class for people who have Parkinson's.

BIBLE STUDY-Mondays, 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5.

CARDIO DRUMMING – Cardio Drumming, Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

PRAYER MINISTRY – Tuesdays, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room.

LINE DANCING WITH STEVE AND NANCY—Tuesdays, starting at noon for Beginners, 1:00 p.m. for Advanced Beginners and 2:00 p.m. for Advanced in the Fellowship Hall.

UNNAMED WOMEN OF THE BIBLE – Scripture Study 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5. Join us in person or by Zoom. This six-week class is hosted by Cheryl Conner. The second class is August 11, "Daughters of Zelophehad"

JOYFUL SPIRT ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL – Tuesdays, at 2:15 p.m. in the Sweet Family Room.

CHAIR EXERCISE WITH MIA COOPER – Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and Fridays at 12:00 p.m. in the Charter Hall.

PATIO SALE SORT – Thursday, August 13. 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

THE ORIGIN OF HYMN MUSIC WITH MAUREEN RAMSAY AND LINDA FREEMAN – Friday, August 21, at 2:00 p.m. Join Maureen and Linda in the Spiritual Life Center. Come listen to beautiful Hymn Music, sing a-long or tap your foot.

CARD MAKING FOR YOUTH ON THEIR OWN IS BACK – Wednesday, August 26, at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. The students enjoy and appreciate receiving these cards with positive messages, inspiration, encouragement, and love.

Please recycle your bulletin in the blue bins.

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

STAFF

REV. BLAIR BEAVER, Senior Pastor *Head of Staff*
REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Pastor Emerita*
JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*
JAN BRACHEL, *Organist/Accompanist*
CINDY BROWN, *Communications/IT Specialist*
LINDA HESTER, *Business Office/Events Coordinator*
MARIA RAMIREZ *Reception/Administrative*
GILBERT GUERRA & MARTIN LAMARCHE, *Custodians*
STEVE HART, *Sound Technician*
ALICE SANCHEZ, Nursery Attendant
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*