Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

Room to Change

Sunday, September 27, 2026 • 9:30 a.m.

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 2:1–13 • Matthew 21:23–32

There Is Room for You Here

Some arrive with deep faith. Some arrive carrying questions. Wherever you are on the journey, you are welcome in this place.

Visitor packets are available at the Visitor's Table and Welcome Centers. Fill out a welcome card if you would like someone to reach out to you.

Bold words are spoken together. L means Leader; **P means People**. *Please stand for hymns and other marked moments as you are able.

Gathering and Trusting God's Mercy

Prelude *He Hides My Soul* Arr. Jane Koss

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace of Christ

Please sign the Friendship Pad in your pew. Join us for coffee and cookies in Fellowship Hall after worship.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Outpouring of Waters • Trinity Ringing

Let Us Prepare Our Hearts to Worship God

Call to Worship

Jane Koss

L: We come before God with the lives we have actually lived.

P: God meets us here with mercy and truth.

L: Jesus Christ calls us to follow him.

P: We come to listen, and to be changed.

L: The Holy Spirit is at work among us.

P: With grateful hearts, let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* • verses 1, 2 and 4**

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, you know us completely, and you love us still. Your mercy gives us courage to come before you as we are. We praise you for Jesus Christ, who came among us as a servant, whose love held nothing back, and whom you raised from the dead. In him we see your heart and find our hope. We praise you for your Holy Spirit, at work among us even when we are slow to listen. You remain faithful through all our unfinished days. Receive our worship. Give us hearts glad to be in your presence and willing to hear your voice. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

We can grow accustomed to the sound of our own promises. God loves us enough to ask what has become of them. Trusting God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence for personal confession.

Unison Prayer of Confession

P: Merciful God, we have said yes to you with our lips while holding back parts of our lives. We have promised to listen, then prepared our answer while someone else was speaking. We have asked for forgiveness and kept another person's failure close at hand. We have mistaken being certain for being faithful.

Forgive us. Make us willing to receive correction, even from someone we have dismissed. Give us courage to repair what we can and trust you with what we cannot. Let the love of Jesus take shape in the way we live. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

L: Our hope rests in Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us and was raised to new life. His mercy reaches us in the truth of who we are. 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, we bring our questions and our familiar answers. Open the Scriptures to us. Where we have misunderstood, teach us. Where we have resisted, make us willing. Let us hear Jesus Christ speaking to our lives today. Amen.

Philippians 2 verses 1–13

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

1 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,
8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Anthem *Praise Him!* C. Courtney

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.

Praise God in his sanctuary; Praise Him for His mighty acts. Praise Him in the firmament of His power, Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him!

GOSPEL

Matthew 21 verses 23-32

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing
these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24 Jesus said to them, “I will
also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by
what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John come from
heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we
say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’
26 But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard
John as a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said
to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said,
‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29 He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later
he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the
same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did
the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell
you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God
ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did
not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and
even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

L: The words of God, for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Sermon Room to Change Rev. Blair Beaver

Responding to God's Word

OUR RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 1 and 35; Book of Confessions 7.001 and 7.035.

L: What is the chief purpose of human life?

P: Our chief purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever.

L: How does God renew our lives?

P: Through the work of God's free grace, we are renewed in our whole being in the image of God. We are enabled more and more to die to sin and live in righteousness.

Hymn of Response 729** ***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Invitation to the Offering

God has entrusted us with gifts that can become care for another person. With gratitude, let us offer what we have for the work of Christ among us.

Offertory *Come, Ye Thankful People* Come G. Elvey
Arr. T. Smith and D. Hustad

*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.

SENDING

Carrying God's Word into the World

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, receive these gifts and the lives from which they come. Through this church, may someone find food, companionship, or the courage to face another day. Guide us in using what you have entrusted to us. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the 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.

Closing Hymn 697** ***Take My Life **• verses 1 and 6**

***Charge**

Go with the freedom to listen again. Where love asks something of you this week, take the next faithful step.

***Benediction**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and forever. Amen.

*Postlude *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* Arr. M. Gaspard

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.

This Week at Valley

SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 3

Today After Worship

Coffee and cookies
Fellowship Hall • Everyone is welcome.

Seekers with Chuck Ramsay 10:45 a.m. • Classroom 5
Explore Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and Ruth.

Monday

Parkinson's Chair Exercise 9:00 a.m. • Charter Hall
Free class for people who have Parkinson's.

Bible Study 1:00 p.m. • Classroom 5

Valley Readers September 28 • 2:00 p.m. • Classroom 1
This Book Made Me Think of You by Libby Page. Led by Carol Wilking.

Tuesday

Cardio Drumming 9:00 a.m. • Fellowship Hall • All are welcome.

Prayer Ministry 9:30 a.m. • Sweet Family Room

Line Dancing with Steve and Nancy
Fellowship Hall
Noon — beginners
1:00 p.m. — advanced beginners
2:00 p.m. — advanced

Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal 2:15 p.m. • Sweet Family Room

This Week at Valley

September 27-October 3

Wednesday

Parkinson's Chair Exercise 9:00 a.m. • Charter Hall

Men's Bible Study 9:00 a.m. • Classroom 1

Chair Exercise with Mia Cooper 10:00 a.m. • Charter Hall

Choir Rehearsal 3:15 p.m. • Sanctuary
Interested in singing? Contact Jamie Reed at Jamie@valleypres.net.

Thursday

The Chosen October 1 • 2:00 p.m. • Spiritual Life Center
Roman soldiers require Jesus and the disciples to carry their gear. Mary and Martha learn a lesson about hospitality.

Friday

Parkinson's Chair Exercise 9:00 a.m. • Charter Hall

Chair Exercise with Mia Cooper Noon • Charter Hall

Continuing This Fall

Write Where You Are September 18–October 16, 1:00–2:30 p.m.• Classroom 5
Writing as a spiritual practice with Linda Piotrowski. Explore our sense of self, our world and God in a season of gathering and letting go. Contact the office for meeting dates.

Coming in October

Journey Through Grief Mondays and Thursdays, October 5–29
1:00 p.m. • Sweet Family Room With Carolyn Hill and Deb Jones. Contact the church office for details about attending.

Weekly Rock Painting Class Thursdays, Starting October 8 • 11:00 a.m.

Classroom 1 Carol Peeler and Kimberly Beaver will be hosting a Rock Painting Class. Free to attend, please contact the office to register.

Why Do Presbyterians Do That Thursdays, October 8–November 12
1:00 p.m. • Classroom 5 A six-week conversation with Rev. Blair about what Presbyterians believe, why we worship and govern the church as we do, and what it means for following Jesus. Call the office to register.

Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 10 • 10:00 a.m.
Under the solar panels

Breath as a Prayer Fridays, October 23–November 20, 1:00 p.m. • Classroom 5
Join Linda Piotrowski and others for a peaceful time of reflection as we quiet our minds, open our hearts and listen for the gentle voice of God.

Questions or Registration

Church office
(520) 625-5023
vpc-office@valleypres.net

Help with Breeze

Breeze helps you keep your contact information current and access church information. Contact the office for help getting started.

Giving and Our Life Together

Giving Through August 31

Giving period	Received	Budget
August 2026	$38,732	$62,500
January–August 2026	$503,812	$500,000

August giving was $23,768 below budget. Giving for January–August was $3,812 above budget. These figures compare giving with its budget; they do not show expenses.

Worship on September 20

Sanctuary attendance: 173 • Online viewing: 53
Year to date: 9,294 sanctuary attendance; 3,634 online viewing.
Year-to-date totals cover multiple services.

Sanctuary Flowers

Joe and Jan Harnish, celebrating their 62nd anniversary; and Bob Lillie, celebrating Mary's birthday and their 69th anniversary.

Please remember those in the Hospital or Rehab: Marcia MacDonald.

The Nominating Committee invites Valley members interested in joining the associate pastor search to pick up a form at the church office.

People and Ways to Connect

Church Leadership and Staff

Rev. Blair Beaver — Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev.blair@valleypres.net

Rev. Diane Christopher — Pastor Emerita

Rev. Joe Hawkins — Pastor Emeritus

Jamie Reed — Director of Music

jamie@valleypres.net

Jan Brachel — Organist and Accompanist

Cindy Brown — Communications and IT Specialist

cbrown@valleypres.net

Linda Hester — Business Office and Events Coordinator

lhester@valleypres.net

Maria Ramirez — Reception and Administration

Gilbert Guerra and Martin LaMarche — Custodian

gilbert@valleypres.net, Martin@valleypres.net

Steve Hart — Sound Technician

Alice Sanchez — Nursery Attendant

Maureen Ramsay — Clerk of Session

clerk@valleypres.net

Stay Connected

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Contact the office to receive email reflections and church news. We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

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