

2025 Annual Report



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A Message from Pastor Ryan,



When we stepped into 2025 with the phrase “We Get to Do This,” I imagined a year full of momentum. Amazing stories, clear signs of growth, and the sense that we were “heading somewhere.” What we experienced was more complex, yet my heart is full, and my hopes are high as we head into 2026.

Early in the year, we felt real loss. Several families we love felt it was time to move elsewhere. Our average attendance slipped from approximately seventy in 2024 to about sixty in the first half of 2025. Giving dropped from about \$18,400 to \$15,600 per month. We had to seriously consider questions about long-term sustainability and staffing. If we are being honest, it was unnerving.

Yet God, as always, provided for us in our time of need. As we faced these constraints, we received an unexpected provision: a generous legacy gift from someone who had passed away and a large federal employee retention tax credit. Strange... it was as if God knew we would need help specifically with our savings safety net and staffing. Coincidence? I think not!

These blessings gave us breathing room, yet they didn’t change the underlying reality that our regular income had shifted. We were in a season where what we had on paper and what we could sustain long-term did not match. Then, in a ministry leader gathering, we realized something. *“We know we are not who we used to be, but we don’t really know who we are now.”*

It wasn’t a criticism. It was an honest confession. We were still worshiping, serving, giving, learning—but underneath, we knew we were drifting without a shared sense of where God was leading us next. We were a church in between.

And strangely enough, this is where “We Get to Do This” began to deepen. It is easy to say those words when everything feels stable; it is something else entirely to say them while navigating loss, financial uncertainty, and questions of identity. Yet those were precisely the moments when God was drawing us into deeper trust.

By July and August—near the end of our second season—it became clear that we needed to pause and listen. We formed a Vision Team composed of everyday members of our church. We did not begin with strategies or slogans. We began by praying, listening to Scripture, listening to each other, and paying attention to the real story of Valley Chapel.

Over several weeks, through prayer and discernment, a clear calling emerged. We sensed that God was forming Valley Chapel into **“A Spirit-led community where the burdened are invited to be steadily formed by encounters with Christ.”**

When these words came together, they felt less like something we invented and more like something God revealed. They named what we had already been experiencing—grief, healing, steady growth, deeper prayer—and gave us language for the future. We realized that we are the burdened ones Christ is forming, even as we invite others into that same journey.

From this vision, our CREEK values took shape: Christ-Centered, Reverent & Fun, Empowered by the Spirit, Engaged Stewards, and Keeping Pace with the Next Generation.

Looking back, I can see how “We Get to Do This” carried us through the year.

We got to face loss honestly.

We got to make difficult financial decisions without panic.

We got to name that we were in-between—no longer who we were, not yet who we will be.

We got to listen to the Spirit and receive a vision we didn’t manufacture.

We got to remember that Christ meets burdened people right in the middle of their uncertainty.

As we look toward the coming year, I’ll let the rest of this report share the practical plans, goals, and next steps. For this letter, I simply want to say: we are moving from “we don’t know who we are” toward “this is who God is forming us to be.”

In the seasons ahead, we will let this vision sink in. We will practice the CREEK values in small, tangible ways. We will continue telling stories of encounters with Christ—whether in living rooms, hospital rooms, kids’ rooms, the sanctuary, or elsewhere.

We will learn how to be a Spirit-led community in real time, with all its beauty and mess.

We don’t know exactly what the numbers will look like. But we do know this: we do in fact get to do this. We get to walk together as burdened people being steadily formed by Christ. We get to join in what he is doing in Warsaw, in Wyoming County, in Ecuador, and in places we have not yet imagined.

It remains one of the greatest privileges of my life that I get to do this with you.

With love and hope,



LOVE GOD | LOVE PEOPLE | MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus gave clear commands for what the church is to do in every time and place. Our mission here at Valley Chapel is simply our local expression of something larger and far more ancient than any single culture, moment, or congregation.

(Matthew 22:37-38) "Love the Lord your **God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

(Matthew 22:39) "And the second is like it: Love your **neighbor** as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

(Matthew 28:19-20) "Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



Our first mission is always to **love God**. If we attempt anything else while neglecting that, everything we build will eventually crumble. In practice, loving God means worshiping Him—and worship in Scripture is notably communal. We pursue this through weekly in-person worship gatherings, livestreamed so that as many people as possible can join in one shared act of praise.

Second, to love God is to **love people**. Jesus said, "Whatever you have done for the least of these, you have done for me." Loving our neighbor means showing up, noticing needs, and helping in whatever ways we can—just like the Good Samaritan. At Valley Chapel, this takes many forms: crisis benevolence, food giveaways, and the everyday acts of kindness our people offer to the community.

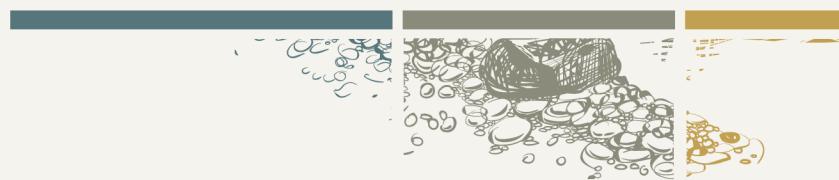
Finally, Jesus commands us not only to live out our own faith but to **make disciples** who do the same. We do this in two key ways:

1. We help spiritual explorers meet Jesus and walk toward Him until **Baptism**. This happens primarily through Sunday worship and special events.
2. Once someone chooses to follow Jesus, we **teach** them to obey everything He commanded by pursuing encounters with Christ together. We believe that when we steadily encounter Christ, we are steadily formed into the people God designed us to become.

In 2025, perhaps the most impactful thing that happened was the discernment of a new God-given vision of what will come if we stay focused on our mission and more fully step into the values God has already been forming within our community. We believe that if we do these things we will be...



A Spirit-led community where the burdened are steadily formed by encounters with Christ



We see ourselves as a Chapel in the Valley, by a steady-flowing creek—a place where people can set down their burdens and reorient their path. A place where steady water shapes stones and, over time, the landscape around it. We believe God is calling us to do the same—not by fixing people, but by creating abundant opportunities to encounter Jesus Christ, who said:

Matthew 11:28–30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

A Spirit-led Community

Together, we aim to be active participants in the work of the Holy Spirit. Rather than making our own plans and asking God to endorse them, we seek to stay tuned to the Spirit’s movement and guidance—doing nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else than what the Spirit commands. We don’t discern this direction in solitude alone, but in relationship with one another. Therefore, we support one another as we learn to listen and obey.

The Burdened

Whether you are exhausted from the journey, wondering what’s real or what’s next, or wound tight from the demands and questions of life, this is a place for you to find rest and reorientation. We are not built to be a gathering of like-minded people celebrating our similarities, but a community where people with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and burdens come together and are united in their movement toward Jesus Christ.

Are Invited

In Jesus' parable of the great banquet (Luke 14), the Master commands his servant: "Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame." We believe God desires that all who are burdened would find Christ—and that He sends us out to invite them in. We do not wait for people to come to us. We go to them, walking with them toward Jesus through gentle, consistent invitation. It's an invitation, not a compulsion. Our aim is not to convince or convert, but to offer clear and steady invitations.

To Be Steadily Formed

Formation into the likeness of Christ is a lifelong journey. It happens in proximity to Christ, but we must consistently choose to stay close if we desire to become like Him. We are invited to come as we are, but being near Jesus never leaves us the same. We believe that the more we remain with Jesus, the more we will become like Him—if we stay close over time. Therefore, we orient our lives around steady rhythms that draw us nearer to Christ.

By Encounters With Christ

Valley Chapel can't save, heal, transform, or help anyone – only Jesus can. It is Christ alone who forms us, lifts our burdens, and gives rest, purpose, and healing. Therefore, drawing closer to Him must be the central purpose of everything we are and everything we do.

This vision is peaceful, rooted, and beautiful, but the Lord has made it clear to us that it will not become reality unless we stay on mission and live into the core values he's been forming in us. Just like stones must be in the creek to be smoothed by water over time, so we must step into the CREEK and learn to live as Christ has called us to live. These five values describe the kind of people we are steadily becoming as we follow Jesus together. Whenever we practice these values, we create the conditions where people can lay down burdens, draw near to Christ, and be steadily formed by Him over time.



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Christ-Centered

R

Reverent & Fun

E

Empowered by the Spirit

E

Engaged Stewards

K

Keeping Pace with the Next Generation



Christ-Centered

“Jesus is the One we stay close to, the One we listen to, and the One we are becoming like.” Christ is the steady center of our life together. Everything we do—our worship, our decisions, our relationships—aims to draw us closer to Him. Our gatherings are not built to impress or entertain, but to help us encounter the living Jesus revealed in Scripture. As we remain near Him, we are slowly and steadily formed into His likeness.

Colossians 1:15–23 — “The Son is the image of the invisible God...”

Reverent & Fun

“We practice joyful reverence—honoring what matters most, while celebrating that we get to do this together.” Reverence and joy are not opposites; they shape each other. We hold the work of formation with deep seriousness, because Christ is shaping real people with real burdens and stories. Yet we also practice a lightness and playfulness that flow naturally from people who are being set free. Our reverence keeps us grounded. Our joy keeps us moving. Both help people encounter Jesus through a people formed by Him.

Luke 10:21 — “Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit...”

Empowered by the Spirit

We aim to do “God’s will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else” (Ruth Haley Barton). We seek God not as a genie who grants wishes, but as the Holy Spirit who guides, convicts, strengthens, and sends. Prayer is our posture of listening and aligning. We discern together where the Spirit is moving, and then we step into that movement with trust. When we walk in step with the Spirit, steady formation becomes possible.

Ephesians 3:16 — “...that He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit...”

Engaged Stewards

Everything we have is God’s, and we place it all in His hands so He can form us through it. Stewardship is not merely about giving or volunteering; it is about surrender. Nothing we have—time, relationships, resources, gifts—belongs to us. Christ reshapes us as we release control and intentionally invest what we’ve been entrusted with into the work of His Kingdom. We are steadily formed as we practice open-handed obedience.

Matthew 25:21 — “Well done, good and faithful servant...”

Keeping Pace with the Next Generation

“We match our pace to those coming behind us so that no one walks alone toward Christ.” Formation is relational. Just as Philip ran toward the Ethiopian traveler, we adjust our pace to meet people where they actually are—especially the emerging generations of believers. We seek to understand their burdens, listen to their questions, and walk with them toward Jesus. We are steadily formed as we help others be steadily formed.

Acts 8:29–30 — “The Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go...’ So Philip ran up to it.”

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

In 2025, the Board of Administration found itself navigating a year that felt a little like walking with the disciples on the Road to Emmaus—full of twists, surprises, and quiet places where Jesus showed up even when things felt uncertain. Each meeting began with Scripture and honest conversation, which helped keep the BOA grounded and united as we faced a year of shifting attendance, tighter finances, and big questions about Valley Chapel’s future.

Early on, we felt the pressure of lower giving and knew we needed to move carefully. But right alongside that challenge came unmistakable signs of God’s provision: a generous legacy gift and the final ERC funds. Those allowed us to not only stay steady, but also to practice generosity outward—sending \$8,500 to support a struggling Free Methodist church, the Bishop’s Crisis Relief Fund, and to our missionaries, the Crouses. That outward giving became one of the clearest joys of the year.

Throughout 2025, the BOA did its best to steward wisely—planning realistically, prioritizing people over programs, and celebrating encouraging signs as giving began leveling out toward the end of the year. Facilities improvements moved forward in small, meaningful steps: better lighting, thoughtful landscaping updates, and faithful attention to the everyday upkeep of our campus. Some bigger dreams—like the family bathroom—remain on hold, and that’s okay. The board is committed to pursuing the right projects at the right time.

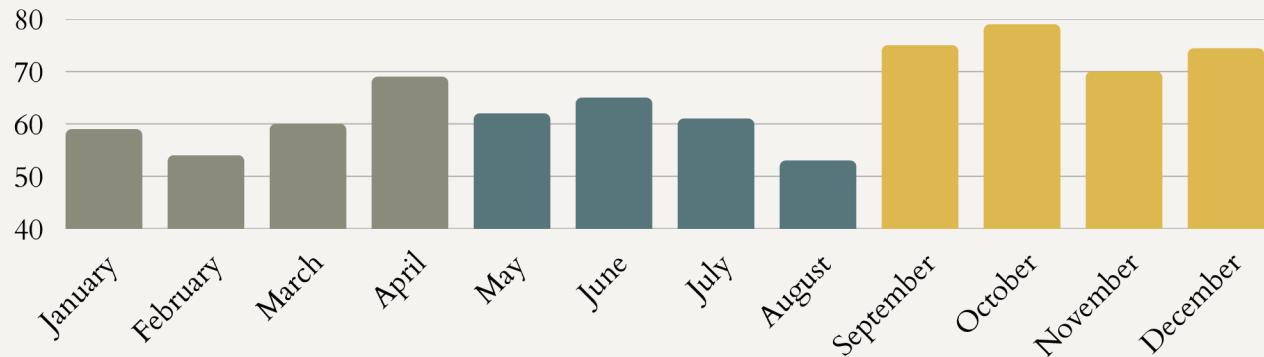
One of the biggest steps forward came through listening. The church-wide survey, discernment conversations, and the launch of a Vision Team helped clarify who we are becoming. From that work emerged a vision that feels both timely and Spirit-led: a community where the burdened are steadily formed by encounters with Christ. And as new people arrived carrying real hurts and hopes, that vision came to life right in front of us.

Heading into 2026, the BOA’s prayer is heartfelt and simple: that Valley Chapel would continue to be a place where real people encounter Christ; where burdens are shared; where hope grows steadily; and where all of us keep discovering, again and again, that Jesus is already walking beside us on the road.



BY THE NUMBERS

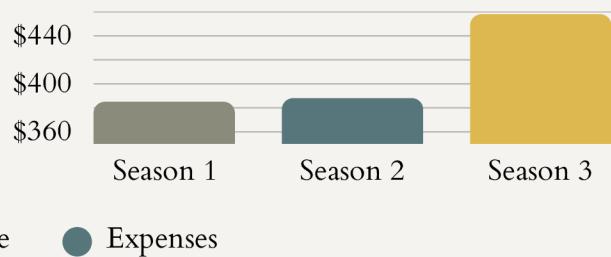
Average Worship Attendance



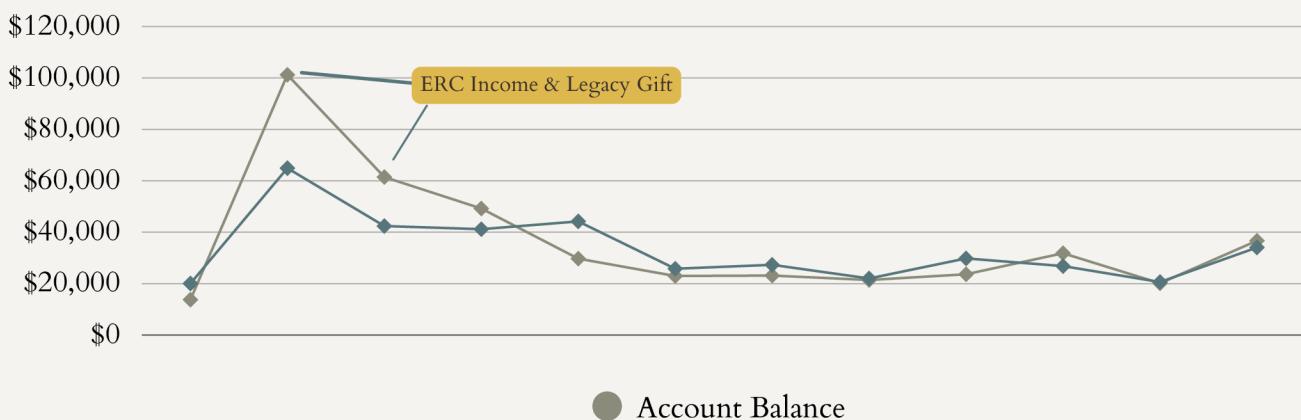
Giving Households



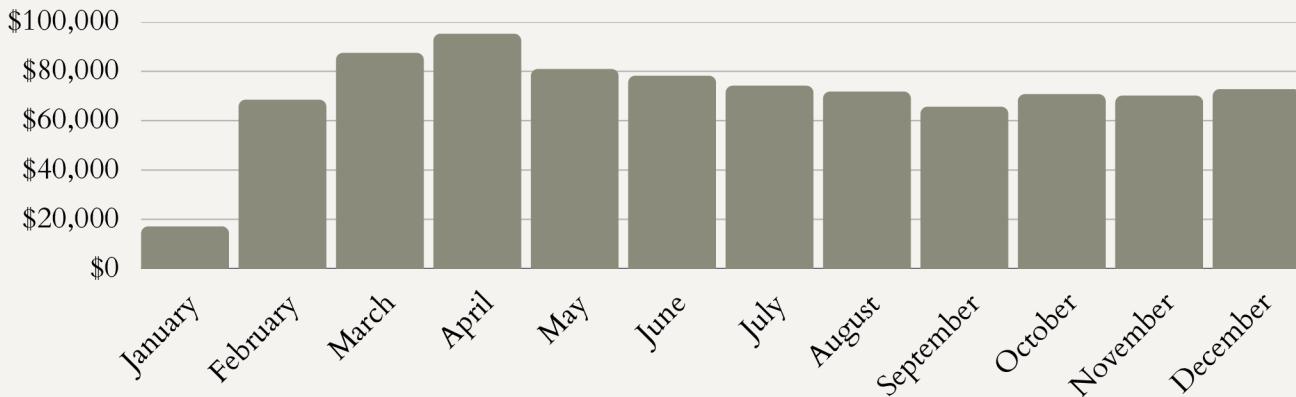
Average Monthly Giving



● Income ● Expenses



● Account Balance



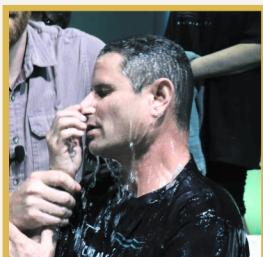
BAPTISMS

Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them...” (Matthew 28:19).

We believe God is always drawing people toward life with Him, yet Scripture teaches that we must be “born again”—leaving behind what once rejected God and becoming a new creation by the Holy Spirit. Baptism marks this new beginning. It is our adoption into God’s family and the starting line of a lifelong journey of faith.

Because of this, baptism is for people of all ages and capacities. It is not limited to those who can articulate their faith; both children raised by baptized parents and adults coming to know Jesus are invited into the waters.

We also affirm that baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit does not need to be repeated. Still, many who were baptized as children desire to publicly affirm that their baptism was—and remains—real. In these moments, we joyfully participate in a reaffirmation, not to redo it, but to mark a new season of life and celebrate the enduring power of Christ’s salvation.



We celebrate this milestone with...

- Drew Phillipi (Baptized)
- Jeremy Collings (Baptized)
- Andrea Lamitina (Baptized)
- Olivia Hoffman (Baptized)
- Colson Kaack (Baptized)
- Laurel Kaack (Baptized)
- Doug McCrary (Recommitted)
- Lisa McCrary (Recommitted)
- Marleigh Wright (Recommitted)
- Sherri Spaich (Recommitted)
- Diane Horn (Recommitted)
- Kelly Marley (Recommitted)

NEXT STEPS TAKEN

WORSHIP

103 First-Time Guests

39 New Worshippers

MILESTONES

91 Stones in the CREEK

6 Baptisms

6 Reaffirmations of Baptism

1 First Sermon Preached

1 New Partner

STEWARDSHIP

10 Next Steps of Stewardship

15 First-Time Givers

6 New Regular Givers

COMMUNITY

38 First Time Attending a Group

12 First-Time Volunteers

7 New Leaders

What follows is a chronological snapshot of how our shared life unfolded throughout 2025.

JANUARY

- We started our 11th year of the Pop-Up Pantry. We distribute food to an average of 230 families each month with the combined effort of Foodlink and an average of 35 volunteers. The program is a huge part of how we Love People.
- Ladies in Fellowship Together gathered for a light meal and to make reversible bowl cozies.
- George Clark, a long-time partner in our congregation, passed away. Some of us will remember his crazy hats, but all of us will be grateful for his giving heart. He left Valley Chapel his life insurance gift of \$50,000.



FEBRUARY

- We received a tax credit for retaining employees during 2019 and 2020, and our first reimbursement arrived in February.
- We held our last “Simple Church” in the Ministry Center. These gatherings helped us remember that church can still be church when it’s simple.
- We had our first Leader’s Lunch. We shared stories, discussed our calendar, and encouraged one another.
- We gathered ‘snack’ items for Snack Pak 4 Kids, a program that supports children who may lack the food they need at home.



MARCH



- We partnered with the United Church of Warsaw for Ash Wednesday.
- We welcomed a new Partner to our family, Becky Perkins.
- AJ Hoffman began leading our Facilities Maintenance Team. He has been hard at work making this space beautiful.
- GriefShare started another successful session. Lauren MacConnell has made a huge impact in many grieving families.

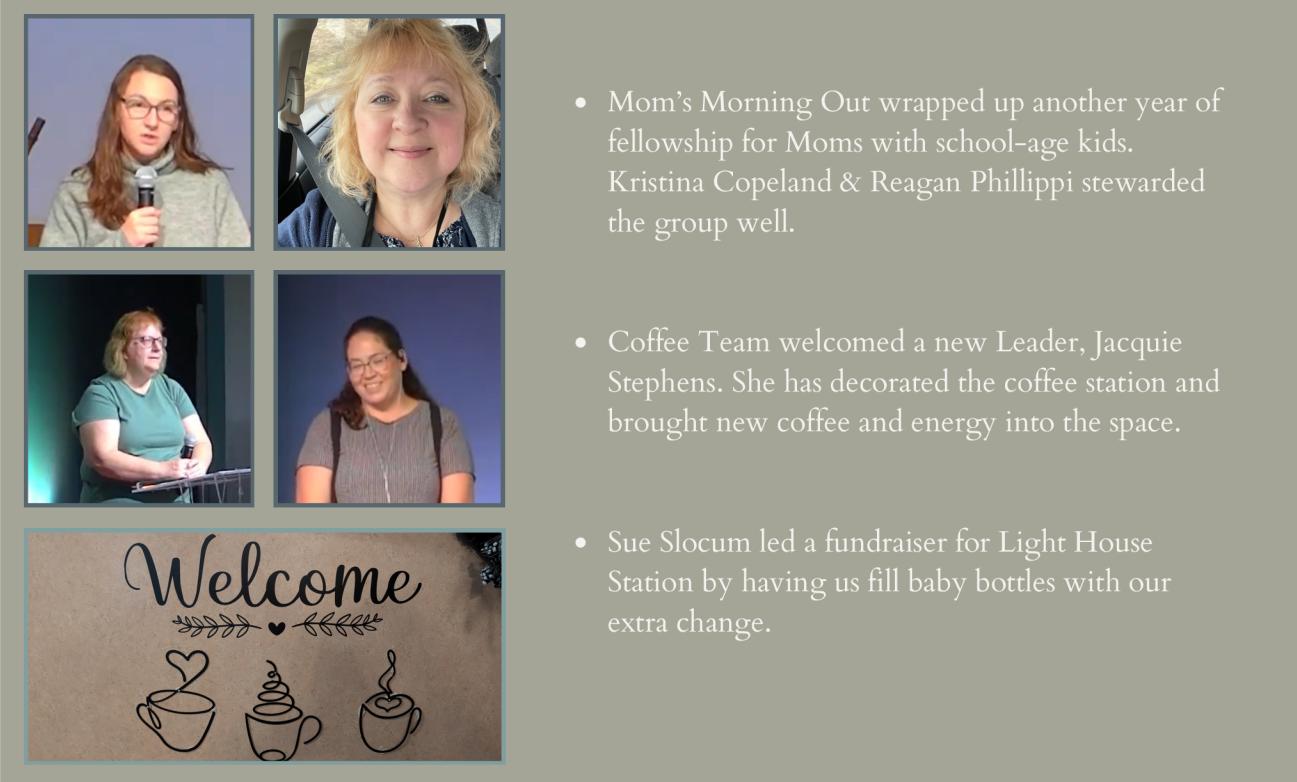


APRIL

- On Maundy Thursday, we celebrated alongside our brothers and sisters from West Middlebury Baptist Church and the United Church of Warsaw.
- Our first baptism of the year was Drew Phillipi. Congratulations, Drew!
- We had a few recommitments: Doug & Lisa McCrary and Marleigh Wright.
- Chronic Joy started their second session. Tina Johnson led us through our second book in our study series, and we shared and prayed for each other.
- We celebrated Holy week including Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Easter included Baptisms and placing daffodils on a cross.



MAY



- Mom's Morning Out wrapped up another year of fellowship for Moms with school-age kids. Kristina Copeland & Reagan Phillipi stewarded the group well.
- Coffee Team welcomed a new Leader, Jacquie Stephens. She has decorated the coffee station and brought new coffee and energy into the space.
- Sue Slocum led a fundraiser for Light House Station by having us fill baby bottles with our extra change.

JUNE



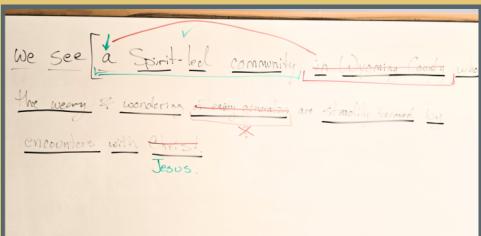
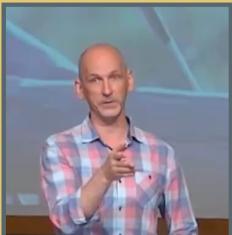
- We held our second group of baptisms and recommitments! Congratulations to Jeremy Collings, Andrea Lamitina, and Sherri Spaich.
- Chris Gates & Tina Johnson took on leadership of our worship team. Helping our singers and musicians lead us in musical worship on Sunday mornings.
- James Rasmussen began leading our Liturgy Team. That includes Worship Hosts, Scripture Readers, and Pastoral Prayer Team.
- The second Free Lunch of the year. Sue Slocum and her team do a wonderful job and make delicious food!

JULY

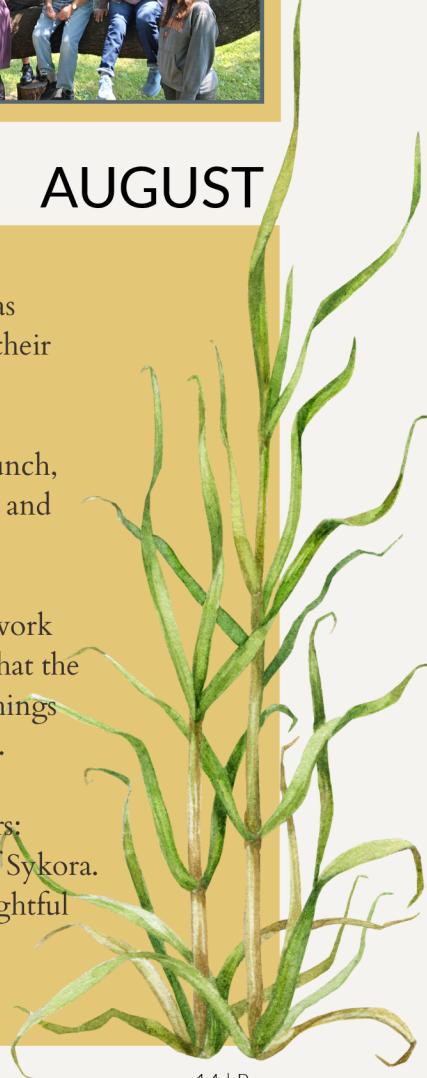
- Olivia Hoffman was baptized! This was a big moment for the family, as it was through God's provision that she was able to be born despite a miscarriage scare during the Explore '24 trip.
 - Elaine Southard returned to share to sermon with us. Her sermon was about loving one another as God loves us. We celebrate with her as she begins her new season as lead pastor in Hornell!
 - Valley Chapel started the process of discerning a new vision for our church. The team spent a Saturday in deep prayer at Beaver Meadows. The groundwork was laid to fully hear our new invitation from God.



AUGUST

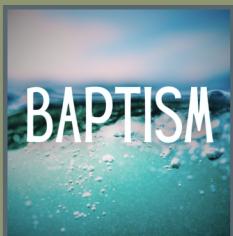


- August at Valley Chapel was quiet as families enjoyed the second half of their summer.
 - We held our bimonthly Leader's Lunch, where we learned, prayed together, and supported one another.
 - The Vision Team continued their work discerning and refining the vision that the Lord was giving us. By this point things were starting to become more clear.
 - We had two excellent guest speakers: Kristina LaCelle-Peterson and Josef Sykora. They brought with them some insightful lessons.



SEPTEMBER

- We celebrated our third group of baptisms. Congratulations to Laurel Kaack and her son, Colson.
- There were two recommitments, too! Congratulations to Diane Horn and Kelly Marley.
- Kelly Marley started a new group, Community Walk. They have been walking around Warsaw, the Ministry Center, and even Letchworth Park.



OCTOBER



- We started October with a wedding. Congratulations to AJ & Shannon Hoffman!
- Mid-month, we had a Women's Gathering. It was a wonderful day organized by Kristina Copeland and Kasey Rovito. Dr Rebecca Letterman was a guest speaker (and the speaker at the Women's Gathering). She talked about seasons of life, trauma, and the role our bodies play in our faith.
- We officially launched the new Vision series called "Steadily Formed."



NOVEMBER

- Gail Nasca stepped up to lead our church in our annual Angel Action Christmas cause. We collected toys and other gifts so families in need could shop for Christmas at no charge.
- Lisa Beals started leading the Nursery Team, helping create a safe, clean, and fun space for our little ones during worship.
- AJ Hoffman launched “Rally Point,” a small group for veterans that provides community and discipleship.
- Kristina Copeland delivered her first sermon. She taught us how to be “Reverent & Fun.”
- We placed our stones in the CREEK and took “Steps of Stewardship” as we came to learn the New Vision.



DECEMBER



- The Spirit prompted Reagan Philippi to organize volunteers to participate in Warsaw’s “Moonlight Magic” winter festival. It was our first year at Moonlight Magic. We wrapped some gifts, but the unexpected highlight was Sherri and Joe’s Chili winning the People’s Choice Award at the town Chili Cookoff! We were blessed with the opportunity to love people at a local event.
- Our last Free Lunch of the year. Sue Slocum and her team served lasagna. It was a snowy day, but enjoyed by all who came.
- We had a beautiful evening of worship on Christmas Eve with 110 in attendance, our highest attendance service of the year.





STORIES



I am so VERY grateful for our kids ministry. I think there is a fine line between teaching the kids and them wanting to come to church. Kolton can hardly wait for Sunday morning. He learns from Pastor Ryan and then gets to “play” it out in the kids room . It’s perfect. Thank you to all involved.

~ Cheryl Volk

I'm deeply grateful for the way Christ has moved in my life through Gordon's cancer journey. Walking through the fear of diagnosis, treatments, and the long surgery drew me closer to His strength and peace. Seeing Gordon now cancer-free fills my heart with thanksgiving. God's presence carried us through every valley, reminding me of His faithfulness and love. This season has transformed my faith, grounding me more fully in trust, hope, and a deeper relationship with my Lord.



~ Jacquie Stephens



I see Christ working in the new relationships I am forming. He is working in them and in me when we talk about His character, what He is doing in our lives, how He is using us, remembering His promises, and sharing hard stuff with one another. He is using us to encourage one another, support one another, to love one another.

~ Lauren MacConnell

“And let us not neglect our meeting together,...but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:25

From fellowshipping and praying together in Piecemakers, to getting to know ladies while serving in nursery, to participating in a Prayer Trio this summer, to talking and walking in the Community Walk group, to traveling with VC friends to visit a mutual friend in a memory care facility, to helping clean a home for move-in, to babysitting a 3-year-old along with other VC “grandmas,” to helping a single mom. This is my VC community story as I have been learning this year how valuable “meeting together” is. What is your story?

~ *Ann Towner*



One thing that sticks out to me from this year, is getting to be a part of the Women's Gathering. It was exciting to see everything come together, especially with the music. I loved how Rebecca kept referring back to the songs chosen in the message that she gave. It just shows how God works in all different ways. I have always wanted to lead worship at a Women's Gathering, so being able to make my heart so full. Thank you to Kasey and Kristina in all of the work that went into it, and for listening to God when you heard God calling you to do something like this.

~ *Tina Johnson*

WE GOT TO DO THIS...

A glimpse of the work we were privileged to do together in 2025.

None of the life described in these pages happened on its own. Behind every gathering, every meal shared, every prayer offered, and every event were leaders and volunteers who said, “Yes, Lord—send me.”

Together, we planned, coordinated, showed up early, stayed late, and made room for people to encounter Christ. Some led visibly, others behind the scenes—but all shared in the privilege of getting to do this



What follows is a curated view of the events, causes, groups, and teams we stewarded...

EVENTS

Kasey and Kristina led the “Embracing Seasons of Grace” Women’s Gathering in October. Guest Speaker Rebecca Letterman delivered meaningful insights on recognizing the seasons we find ourselves in and how they affect our bodies. The event had 27 participants and even birthed a small group from one of the seasons! The women’s gathering was a faithful and gentle, and formative event.



At the Spirit’s prompting, Reagan Phillipi led a group of volunteers to participate in Warsaw’s “Moonlight Magic” festival by offering free gift wrapping. Sherri and Joe led us to win the chili cookoff. We discovered that there can be unexpected blessing to saying yes to the nudges of the Spirit.



We partnered across denominational lines for Ash Wednesday, Spy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning! The Kingdom of God is so much larger than us at Valley Chapel.



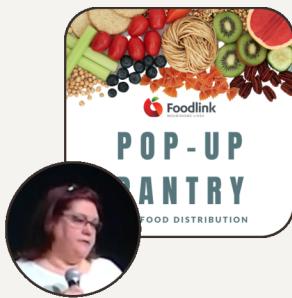
CAUSES

Gail Nasca led the Angel Action Christmas gifts. She coordinated with Community Action to collect toys, clothing, gift cards, and other items so that families in need could shop for Christmas at no cost.



We've been privileged to partner with St. Michael's Roman Catholic Parish to provide a Free Lunch for a few years. The lunch provides not only food, but a simple way to equip our community to love their neighbors. As always, Sue Slocum has done a fabulous job. They made a variety of lunches, starting with Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Pasta Bake, Chicken Stew, and ending with Lasagna.

This year, for Advent, we decided to help our friends in Ecuador. Money was raised to provide scholarships that will help Ecuadorian teens to travel to and participate in the Jumeli Youth Conference. We raised over \$2,000, enough to send 8 teens with a scholarship. Thank you to all!



Over a decade ago, the Holy Spirit told Lisa McCrary to "feed your community." In 2025, we completed our 11th year of the Pop-Up Pantry. Monthly, we distribute a truck (about 10 pallets) of food to over 200 families in the area. Lisa and the many dedicated volunteers do a fantastic job of showing our community that God cares about their whole lives. We love people holistically and with dignity.

Sue Slocum led the fundraiser for Light House Station with the Baby Bottle Campaign. We filled baby bottles with our loose change and lots of bottles were returned full. Lighthouse Station officially closed in 2025, but we were privileged to journey with them as they served moms and children.



Snack Pak 4 Kids is a program that provides school age kids with food for the weekends when they otherwise may not have enough. The food is provided by both Foodlink and donations from people like you. Gary Towner collects the donated items and delivers them to the team that fills the backpacks.



GROUPS

Chronic Joy is a group where those suffering from chronic illnesses can find community and hope, and learn to follow Jesus faithfully while carrying their pain. They meet for two sessions each year. Each session is about 13 weeks. Tina Johnson started the group at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and it has been a blessing to those who attend.



Community Walk is a group led by Kelly Marley. They meet on Monday evenings and walk around the area such as Letchworth State Park, Warsaw Park and even in our own Ministry Center on bad weather days. This group started when the Spirit nudged Kelly. It has proven to be a meaningful way to remember that spiritual and physical health go together!

GriefShare is a 13-week Christian-based support group program that helps people navigate the loss of a loved one through video seminars, small group discussions, and workbooks, offering a safe space to find hope, learn coping strategies, and connect with others experiencing similar grief, covering topics like loneliness, anger, guilt, and fear in a Christ-centered, biblically-grounded way. Lauren MacConnell leads the group faithfully, with help from partners like Sam Monteleone and Jane Elias.



Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) is a great group of women and girls (some men & boys too) that get together once a month from September through June for a light dinner and to learn a new craft. They have a great time under Sandy Wilkinson's leadership.



Mom's Morning Out is a time for moms, from the moment they are expecting until their youngest is 18, to connect with other moms. There is no child care provided. They are led by Kristina Copeland and Reagan Phillipi. The group has proven to be a meaningful place to make connections and for moms to learn to follow Jesus together.



The Piecemakers Quilt Group has met most Fridays since 2006. We learn and practice the art of quilting as well as other handwork skills, believing that our creator God has given everyone the ability to create. At each meeting there is a short time of devotions which includes Scripture and prayer. Since its beginning, the Piecemakers have tried to live in community. We "rejoice with those who rejoice, we mourn with those who mourn," both inside and outside group meetings. We welcome women who want to practice any handwork skills and who want to fellowship with other women.

Rally Point Ministry is a community for veterans to connect, heal and grow after leaving the military. We offer a safe place for veterans to recharge and regroup. At Rally Point, veterans can find hope, purpose and fellowship.



TEAMS

The Coffee Team helps create a welcoming atmosphere each Sunday by offering coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and water. Their cheerful presence and steady service set a tone of hospitality and generosity, reminding us that shared rhythms—even small ones—can help people feel at home. *Led by Jacquie Stephens.*



The Connect Center is a key team that helps people experience Valley Chapel's hospitality. This team aids guests and regulars alike, helping people find their way and answering questions with warmth and care. Through simple presence and attentiveness, they help ensure that no one feels unseen or unsure during their time with us. *Led by Lisa McCrary.*

The KiDZ Ministry creates space for children to encounter Christ in age-appropriate, playful, and meaningful ways. After the children's lesson during worship, volunteers "play-teach" with kids—helping them explore faith through stories, creativity, and relationships. This team partners with families to nurture a love for Jesus that can grow steadily over time. *Led by Pastor Ryan.*



The Liturgy Team serves the congregation by guiding us through worship with Scripture readings, prayers, liturgies, and announcements. Through thoughtful preparation and faithful leadership, they help us listen for God's voice, respond together, and leave worship oriented toward faithful living. *Led by James Rasmussen.*

The Nursery Team lovingly cares for our youngest members, providing a safe and nurturing environment during worship. Their service allows parents and caregivers to participate fully in worship, knowing their children are being well cared for. This team quietly supports the formation of families and the life of the whole church. *Led by Lisa Beals.*



The Tech Team serves behind the scenes to support sound, livestream, slides, lighting, and more. Their work ensures that worship is accessible, clear, and distraction-free—both in the room and online. Though often unseen, their steady problem-solving and preparation make shared worship possible week after week.

Led by Pastor Ryan.



TECH TEAM



USHER, GREETER, & SECURITY TEAM



This team offers both welcome and care. From greeting people at the door to helping with seating and flow, and providing safety and security, they help create an environment where people can worship with ease and trust. Their presence reflects a deep commitment to loving people well.

Led by Gary Towner.

The Worship Team leads us in song and music each week, helping us give voice to praise, prayer, and trust in God. Through faithful rehearsal and shared leadership, they invite the congregation to participate fully—so that we come in singing and leave with melodies and truths still shaping us.

Co-led by Tina Johnson and Chris Gates.



WORSHIP TEAM



All 3 of the following teams are led by AJ Hoffman.



MAINTENANCE TEAM

The Maintenance Team cares for the building's interior and functional needs through repairs and ongoing upkeep. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, yet it plays a vital role in supporting ministry and stewarding the spaces entrusted to us.



LAWN MOWING TEAM

The Lawn Team faithfully maintains the church grounds through regular mowing and seasonal care. Their work keeps our property safe, accessible, and welcoming, even though it often goes unseen.



GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club tends to our outdoor spaces through planting and seasonal care. Their work adds beauty and creates a welcoming environment that reflects care for God's creation and for those who gather here.



To a Spirit-led 2026!

This report offers a snapshot of one year in the life of Valley Chapel—but it does not tell the whole story. That story continues every week as people gather to worship, serve, pray, and take small, faithful steps together.

If you are new to this community, the best place to begin is simply to show up—to worship with us, to share a meal, to join a group, or to lend a hand alongside others. Formation here happens through presence, relationship, and time.

Whether you are just beginning to explore Valley Chapel or have walked here for years, we are grateful for the part you play in the shared life of this church.

We trust that God will continue to shape us—steadily and faithfully—as we seek to love God, love people, and make disciples together.



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