



The Pastor Nominating Committee
is excited to introduce

THE REVEREND
SUSAN TINDALL

as our candidate to become
Valley Community Presbyterian Church's
next Pastor



Meet Rev. Susan
on June 2!

“The areas of ministry I most value in my calling are faith formation, hospitality, and outreach. Each of these areas are directly correlated to scripture and the church throughout time. While programs, curricula, and formats change, at its core the church has been directed to build one another up in their faith through lifelong learning, to welcome one another with open arms, and to reach out to the most vulnerable in our midst. These areas of ministry define us as the people of God. When we work together in these areas of ministry, we build up the body of the church and make an impact on the communities we serve.”



...build
a faith community
where **all** ages
are **welcome...**

“I believe God is calling me to a ministry setting where I can use my gifts of teaching, preaching, and collaboration to foster a faith community with people of all ages. Teaching has always been part of my sense of call even before I started pursuing a career in pastoral ministry. Preaching has been an unexpected discovery in terms of my particular gifts. Preparing and delivering sermons are closely related to teaching and have become an opportunity where I feel deeply connected to my faith through the process of making scripture accessible to all people. My gifts and experiences in preaching, teaching, and collaboration will help build a faith community where all ages are welcome, all ideas are considered, and changes can be embraced as we strive to be people of faith together.”

To my new friends and fellow siblings in Christ at Valley Community Presbyterian Church

I know we have yet to meet one another, but I have heard so much about you, and I look forward to the weekend of June 1 and 2 when we will have a chance to gather for fellowship and worship. From the first time I interviewed with the thoughtful members of your PNC, our conversation flowed with a certain level of ease and spirit-filled discussion. While Zoom is not the easiest interface and is met with technical difficulties, I was impressed with how they created a welcoming digital space where everyone could share. That atmosphere continued as we shared time in Portland. Previously, I had only spent one weekend in Portland for a seminary friend's wedding. It just happened that the wedding took place at Valley Community Presbyterian Church and Pastor Robin was also in attendance! It honestly felt as though God was winking at me just to remind me of how the family of God can be present anywhere, even far from places previously called home.

While I hope we have more time to get to know one another well, for now, I'd like to introduce myself beyond my credentials. I am a pastor's kid and have been a lifelong PC(USA) member beginning with teething in church nurseries. Throughout my life, I have always felt I could go anywhere because I could find a public library and a church to foster opportunities I value most: my love of reading, commitment to lifelong learning, and nurturing my faith. This journey originally led me to pursue elementary education at Millikin University; however, my sense of call changed early in my professional career. God's call led me to Princeton Seminary where I could combine my love of learning with theology. I earned a degree in Christian Education/Youth Ministry and a Master of Divinity.

I am married to Liam O'Donnell, and we are parenting our own pastor's kid, Maeve. She is seven years old and loves art, her stuffy collection, and cats (of which we have two, Coffy and Cosmo).

I have served the church as a Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader, Christian Educator, Associate Pastor, and most recently coming alongside a church as a Transitional Associate Pastor. During my tenure as an Associate Pastor in Pennsylvania and Illinois, I filled in as the head of staff for various amounts of time. I've been part of small and large congregations, rural and city churches, traditional churches, and new worshiping communities. Throughout all my experiences, one thread continues to sew us together: hope. We have reason to stubbornly hope because we believe in a God who loves us beyond measure and freely gives us grace without boundaries.

We are heading into a time as the church with no guidebook or navigation system. Everything we rely on no longer serves us in the same way, yet we can count on our relationship with God and one another. Valley has been doing the hard and diligent work of thinking about how to be the church here and now: outward reaching and driven to form new partnerships in the community. This work and vision for ministry is why I feel called to be your next Pastor. We will discern a future different from other chapters in your church story but will solidify an identity as a faith community anchored in love, worship, service, and hospitality. Friends, may the Holy Spirit fill our days leading up to June 2 as we discern our future together living into hope and sharing God's love freely with one another.

Grace and peace to all of you,
Rev. Susan Tindall



A Letter from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began work in the spring of 2023. After completing the Mission Discernment Profile, which was written with the revisioning work done by Session as the basis for the qualifications we are seeking, it was approved by the Commission on Ministry. Once our profile was uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection, we began accepting and reading Personal Discernment Profiles from pastors across the country. The work of our Session served as the guide for our selectivity and discernment, and it soon became clear that the Holy Spirit was leading us directly to one specific applicant, The Rev. Susan Tindall. Pastor Tindall became the benchmark by which all others were measured, and God's hand in our discernment was clearly present from our first interaction with this finalist we present to you, our church family.

While the PNC agreed upon a consensus model for discernment and decision-making, it was unanimous that we extend a call to Pastor Tindall. Each member of the PNC was drawn to Pastor Tindall's authenticity, strong faith, vision, and leadership. Multiple events over the past many weeks revealed God's intent for Pastor Tindall and our church. Our prayer each time we met was for our future Pastor. We prayed that God would make the way to Valley clear, and we saw God's faithfulness and will for the future of our church home, this beautiful place where we all come together in community to worship. Our church family was at the heart of our discernment, and we are confident that you will love Pastor Tindall as we do and that you will witness the work of the Holy Spirit as we transition over the next months. May God continue to bless our beloved community.

Comments from the Pastor Nominating Committee

“God chose Rev. Susan Tindall to be the next Pastor of Valley Community Presbyterian Church long before the PNC had the pleasure of meeting her. Our job was to remain faithful until God’s intent was clearly revealed, to learn and grow together, and to pray that God would make the way to Valley easy and certain for Pastor Susan. Her personal and spiritual qualities, along with her intellect and leadership skills align with the characteristics and abilities the PNC defined using the work of our Session as the foundation. Pastor Susan’s laughter during interviews, her genuine interest in our dreams and goals, and her authenticity warmed our hearts and made clear God’s will for our next season as a church family. We are overjoyed to bring Pastor Susan into our Valley home.”

- Amy Dee, PNC Chair

“From the moment I first met Susan I sensed that she could be Valley’s next Pastor. Her conversational manner and genuine interest in us drew me to her. As we learned more about Susan it became increasingly evident that she is a rarity. Her understanding of where we are as a church and her openness to the vision Valley has embarked upon for the future are clear. She is fun and personable as well as wise and thoughtful. I am grateful beyond measure that she felt the call to Valley and feel blessed that she will be leading us in our next steps.”

- Amy Rheingans

“We opened each meeting by praying for ‘the person who even now is being called to serve our congregation and community.’ Indeed, God led Rev. Susan Tindall to us. This was evident during our first interview and grew each time we talked with her. Her warmth, openness, insightful comments, and thoughtful questions for us underscored her faith and insight into the challenges facing churches. She brings experience dynamically leading a staff and congregation and knows the value of being involved in the broader community. Susan genuinely and powerfully shares God’s love, and I am ecstatic she will be leading Valley into a bright future.”

- Jan Bellis-Squires

“Reverend Susan Tindall is uniquely qualified to be Valley’s next Pastor. She has the knowledge, experience, personality, and enthusiasm to relate to people of all ages. Susan is a very pleasant person who works well with coworkers, parishioners, and children. She presents well-thought-out sermons that are grounded in scripture and relevant to all.”

- Harry Reeder

“I am thrilled to welcome Susan as our next pastor. Her deep faith and love for the Church have been evident from our first conversation along with the hope and vision for how God’s Church needs to evolve in this time and place.

I know that Susan’s warmth and ability to cultivate meaningful personal connections will immediately endear her to Valley. We are blessed to welcome Susan, Liam, and Maeve to Valley Community Presbyterian Church.”

- Sarah Martin

“Susan stood out in the very first moments of our conversation. She had the kind of peaceful, confident presence that conveyed she was open to growth because she was fully trusting God. As we asked her questions, Susan effortlessly answered from a place of experience, empathy, and compassion. I especially appreciated the way Susan was interested in our staff and congregation. It told me she was visualizing herself joining our Valley family. Meeting her in person confirmed that she was going to be a wonderful next leader, and I can’t wait for the Valley family to meet her, too!”

- Tina Teed

“There are times when you know you have made the right choice. After months of praying, reading faith statements and resumes and watching videos, the PNC unanimously identified Susan as the candidate to be our next Pastor. After talking with Susan over a cup of coffee, I found her to be compassionate, thoughtful, and enthusiastic. It was reassuring when a reference (a senior pastor) endorsed Susan and said she is well suited for our position. She went on to say that Susan is aware of the trends taking place in the church and the need for community outreach. She described Susan as having a good leadership style and being an excellent preacher. It is now up to the congregation to welcome and give her the support she will need as she transitions to our Pastor.”

- Jim Sandberg

THE REVEREND
SUSAN TINDALL'S
STATEMENT OF FAITH



Many have tried to define God in an image or in words or even in a melody. The words, the songs, and even the art are incomplete. Yet we continue to speak, to sing, to draw, and to write because we cannot help but be inspired by what God has revealed to us. God is the Creator. With the gentle touch of a mother and the open arms of a father, God continues to hold and nurture all of creation. God claims each individual by creating each one with God's own imprint and covenants with humanity to be God with us and for us. God is present still and continues to reach out in everlasting love and grace to humanity despite our continued disobedience. God's sovereignty over history is best seen in God's action in Jesus Christ. God the Son, Jesus Christ, took on flesh for the sake of humanity. In his life, God the Son

demonstrated what God intended for humanity. He placed value on those who were unvalued, spoke truth to power, healed the sick, and welcomed the stranger. In Christ's life, death, and resurrection, God reconciled the world to himself, a gift we receive by grace through faith. This act of reconciliation is part of the ongoing restorative work of God who longs to heal the world of human sin. Jesus Christ continues to be present with us still through the work of the Holy Spirit and through faith. God the Holy Spirit is the convener and advocate for humanity. The Holy Spirit guides, inspires, and continues to reveal God's plan for humanity. God the Holy Spirit intervenes for us and is the only way for us to respond to God in faith.

Through the inspiration of God and the biblical narrative, the church is called to participate in radical hospitality, to break bread with one another, to drink from the same cup, and to invite in the stranger. We act on our faith by celebrating the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism. The sacraments are visible signs and seals of God's invisible grace through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the sacraments, we remember God's saving work in Jesus Christ to renew our confidence that in the ordinary things of bread, juice, and water God meets us. In the sacraments we also hope for a day when Christ will come again. We stake our hope in a world to come with no pain and no suffering but where we are fully restored to God's loving presence. I believe that God is not done with us yet and continues to inspire us to participate in the covenant story of everlasting love and abundant grace.

