

# NEXT STEP 1


DISCOVER CEDAR VALLEY



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**NEXT STEP**  
HANDBOOK





# SUNDAYS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING!

Whether you just started coming to Cedar Valley or you've been around a while, NEXT STEP is where you'll start to find your place in our church family. Meet other people and learn about ways to engage in our church community.

# WELCOME TO NEXT STEP | STEP 1

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## FOUR BASIC NEXT STEP CLASSES OFFER AN INTRODUCTION TO CEDAR VALLEY:

### STEP 1 Discover Cedar Valley

Unpack what Cedar Valley is all about. Hear our lead pastor's story, and learn about the rest of Cedar Valley's pastoral staff.  
**1st Sunday\***

### STEP 2 Develop Your Faith

Discover what it means to have a relationship with Jesus, grow in your faith, and be led by the Holy Spirit.  
**2nd Sunday\***

### STEP 3 Deploy Your Gifts

God can use you to make a real difference in someone's life! Recognize how He's wired you and find out which areas of ministry are a natural fit for you.  
**3rd Sunday\***

### STEP 4 Declare Your Devotion

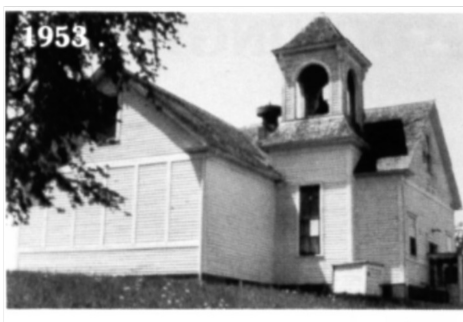
Explore membership at Cedar Valley and find out how to use your faith story to help others.  
**4th Sunday\***

All four steps are required for membership. It's recommended that you attend them in order, but they can be attended at any time.

\*There are no classes on the even months. Classes are only offered January, March, May, July, September, and November.

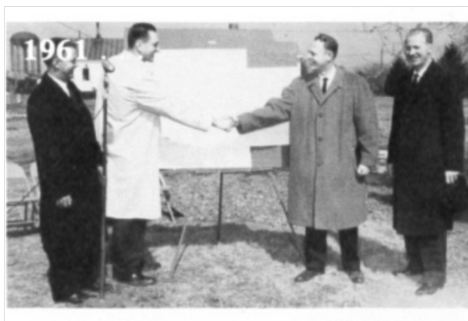
## OUR RICH HERITAGE

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### CEDAR VALLEY CHURCH EST. 1953 (FORMERLY BLOOMINGTON ASSEMBLIES OF GOD)

In 1953, a small group of Christians formed one of the first congregations of Pentecostal believers in Bloomington, Minnesota. Their first service took place at the old Kimball school building at 8600 Cedar Avenue South in March of that year. Three months later, the congregation met to organize and incorporate as Bloomington Assemblies of God Church. Since then, our church has been in four locations, funded multiple remodeling and expansion projects, and planted numerous churches.



Arvid Kingsriter, our founding pastor, and his wife, Marian, served for over 35 years before handing the church off to his son-in-law and daughter, Jerry and Kathy Strandquist in 1989. They served for 26 years before retiring in August 2015. Our current lead pastor, Neal Rich, and his wife, Kim, were brought before the membership and approved on January 10, 2016.

Cedar Valley is a multi-generational church with a focus on community and a passion for missions and reaching the lost. With programs for newborns through senior adults, we have something to challenge everyone to grow in their walk with Jesus.



# THE PASTORS



**Neal Rich**  
Spouse: Kim  
LEAD

THEN I WILL GIVE YOU  
SHEPHERDS AFTER MY  
OWN HEART, WHO WILL  
LEAD YOU WITH  
KNOWLEDGE AND  
UNDERSTANDING.

—JEREMIAH 3:15



**Vicki Graham**  
Spouse: Doug  
EXECUTIVE OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS



**Jonas Sjostrom**  
Spouse: Shiloh  
PRAYER & EVANGELISM



**Michaela Beaver**  
Fiancé: Ken Kabore  
WORSHIP



**Weston Buckley**  
Spouse: Katie  
CONNECTIONS & GLOBAL MISSIONS



**Laurie Johnson**  
Spouse: Mark  
DEAF MINISTRIES



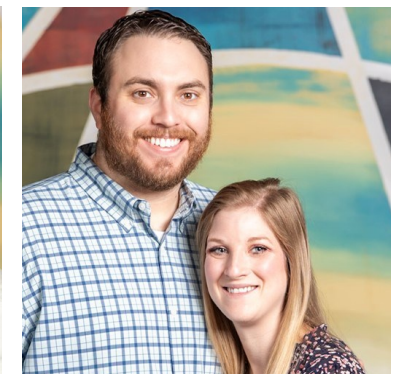
**Hillary Leeper**  
Spouse: Greg  
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



**Daryl Velasco**  
Spouse: Sue  
SENIORS



**Nick Fladager**  
Spouse: Natalie  
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



**Ty Berbereia**  
Spouse: Amber  
KIDS

# STEP 1 DISCOVER CEDAR VALLEY

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## OUR MISSION

Because we dream of being a vibrant multi-ethnic, multigenerational church reflecting Jesus to our neighbors and the nations.

## OUR PURPOSE

Leading people from where they are to where God wants them to be.

### ▶ OUR CORE VALUES

#### 1. First & Foremost | We worship God

*Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. —Matthew 22:37-38*

#### 2. Teach & Train | We're devoted to God's Word

*All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. —2 Timothy 3:16*

#### 3. Love & Lead | We love others as God loves us

*Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. —John 13:35*

#### 4. Neighbors & Nations | We make Jesus known

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. —Matthew 28:19*

#### 5. Life & Laughter | We celebrate transformed life

*So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. —Romans 5:11*

## HELPING PEOPLE GROW

### 1. Come Find Hope

- **Hearing the Gospel initially and repeatedly**

God wants you to be connected to a local church because He knows we thrive in community.

- I \_\_\_\_\_ in God's family with other believers.

*Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. —Galatians 6:10*

*So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all the others! —Romans 12:5*

- I need \_\_\_\_\_ to grow spiritually.

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. —Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)*

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. —Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12*

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- I need \_\_\_\_\_ to grow spiritually.

*You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. —Hebrews 3:13 (NLT)*

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. —Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)*

- There is \_\_\_\_\_ when people pray together.

*... If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. — Matthew 18:19 (NLT)*

- Believers in \_\_\_\_\_ show Jesus to the world.

*(Jesus) I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. —John 17:21 (NLT)*

*Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.—John 13:35*

## The "One Anothers" of Christian Community

- ▶ Serve one another | Galatians 5:13
- ▶ Accept one another | Romans 15:7
- ▶ Forgive one another | Colossians 3:13
- ▶ Greet one another | Romans 16:16
- ▶ Bear one another's burdens | Galatians 6:2
- ▶ Be devoted to one another | Romans 12:10
- ▶ Honor one another | Romans 12:10
- ▶ Teach one another | Romans 15:14
- ▶ Submit to one another | Ephesians 5:21
- ▶ Encourage one another | 1 Thessalonians 5:11

## 2. Join a Team

- **Using your God-given gifts to serve the church**

In Next Step class three, Deploy Your Gifts, we'll help you discover your gifts so that you can begin serving in a place that best fits who you are. Joining a Team will help you connect with others and help you fulfill God's purpose for your life.

## 3. Engage in Community

- **Developing Spiritual growth in community**

Purpose of small groups from (Acts 2:42–47)

- \_\_\_\_\_ They DEVOTED THEMSELVES to the apostle's teaching . . .

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- \_\_\_\_\_ . . . and to the fellowship, and to the breaking of bread . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ . . . and to prayer . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ . . . they gave to anyone as he had a need . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ . . . they ate together with glad and sincere hearts . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ . . . And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## 4. Change Our World

- **Going, giving, and praying for neighbors and the nations**

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. —Matthew 28:19-20*

## STAY CONNECTED

**Cedar Valley has a newsletter available to help you stay connected!  
Sign up to received the latest news sent right to your inbox at [cvchurch.org](http://cvchurch.org).**







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