



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
2600 Cherokee Place, Birmingham, AL 35216
(205) 879-0419
www.vccbhm.org; valleycc@bellsouth.net

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NO.5

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Years ago, while I was attending Auburn University, I would come home on the Old Highway 280. The highway would twist and turn through a lovely little canyon near Oak Mountain called The Narrows. Probably many of you have driven along this lovely short stretch of highway. When I would approach The Narrows, I knew that I was close to home. The Narrows were a beautiful landmark reminding me that just over the mountain was home. Jesus also used the word narrow to emphasize the closeness of home. He said in Matthew 7:14, "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life." Therefore, during this Lenten season of sacrifice may we choose the narrow way of Jesus and to live life His way. When we do that, we will discover that the narrow way, the way of sacrifice for Jesus, is the way that brings the most joy and the most abundant life. Jesus is the way home to God. God Bless You, Edd

LENTEN WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Friday, March 13th Brown Bag Lunch and the St. Andrew's Cross worship.
- Sunday, March 15th Third word from the cross – "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise"
- Friday, March 20th Brown Bag Lunch and the Anchor Cross worship
- Sunday, March 22nd Fourth word from the cross – "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me"
- Friday, March 27th Brown Bag Lunch and the Greek Cross worship
- Sunday, March 29th Fifth word from the cross – "I Thirst"
- Friday, April 3rd Brown Bag Lunch and the Jerusalem Cross worship
- Sunday, April 5th Palm Sunday – The sixth and seventh words from the cross – "Father Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit. It is Finished".
- Thursday, April 9th Maundy Thursday meal followed by Maundy Thursday worship and communion.
- Thursday, April 9th – Friday, April 10th Twenty-four Hour Prayer Vigil
- Friday, April 10th Good Friday worship service outside by the cross.
- Sunday, April 12th Easter Sunrise and breakfast at Macedonia Christian Church
- Sunday, April 12th Easter worship at Valley

TWENTY-FOUR HOUSE PRAYER VIGIL

THURSDAY, APRIL 9th – FRIDAY, APRIL 10th

Our twenty-four hour Prayer Vigil is Thursday April 9th beginning at 8:00am and ending at 8:00pm on Friday. This year, people will be praying from 8:00pm Thursday until 8:00am Friday morning in their homes. The final twelve

hours of the Prayer Vigil will be in the sanctuary from 8:00am Friday morning until 8:00pm Friday night. A prayer chart will be in the narthex beginning Sunday, March 15th. Please sign-up to pray at home or in the sanctuary. This is a special time to pray as we remember the sacrifice that the Lord made for us.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP AND MEAL THURSDAY, APRIL 9th at 6:00PM

Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, lifts up the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum", which means a verbal commission. It is associated with Jesus' verbal command after the Lord's Supper, found in John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another". We will celebrate this special night with a meal sponsored by the fellowship ministry at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. After the meal we will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00pm for Maundy Thursday worship. The service will include special music by the choir, a dramatic presentation by Edd, and walking forward to receive Holy Communion. Invite a friend to come with you on this holy evening.

EASTER SONRISE SERVICE AND BREAKFAST

May we join our Disciple friends at Macedonia Christian Church on Easter Sunday at 8:00am for a Sunrise Worship Service followed by breakfast. The address is 2438 Wenonah Oxmoor Road SW 35211 – 205-942-7274. Come celebrate Easter as we praise the Lord and gather around the tables with great food and fellowship.

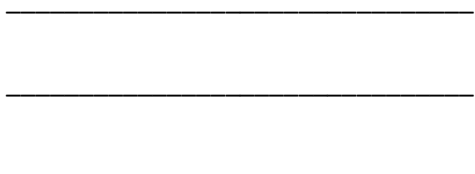
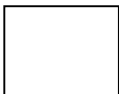
SHARING THE WORD

Edd will be out of town for a wedding in Oxford, Mississippi March 20th – 22nd. In his absence John Gregory will lead the Friday Lenten Service on the Anchor Cross on Friday, March 20th. Jan Watts will bring the Sunday morning message on the fourth word from the cross, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" on Sunday, March 22nd. May God bless these two pastors as they share God's word with the people of Valley.

WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

A total of \$865 was donated to the Week of Compassion Special Offering in February. Thanks to all who gave so generously!

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216**



HOLY BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS

A class for holy baptism will be offered after church on Sunday, March 29th and Sunday April 5th. This class will be led by Edd and will last for thirty minutes. This class is for children, grandchildren, youth and adults who are considering baptism. Also, if you are an adult and want to rededicate your life and be baptized, then this class can be a wonderful opportunity for you. Holy Baptism will be on Easter Sunday, April 12th in morning worship. Please contact Edd if you are interested.

GOOD NEWS IN TWO'S

The first good news is that our 2020 Yearbook will be available after worship, this Sunday, March 15th. It contains updated membership and friends' information, Valley leadership, District/Regional information and local hospital data. The second good news is that the 2020 Lenten Devotional Booklet will be available after worship on Sunday, March 29th and Sunday, April 5th on the desk near the elevator. In this booklet you will find a devotional, written by a member of Valley, for each day of Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing through Easter. Thanks to all who worked on these publications! Enjoy!

MARCH AAA

Our AAA March event will be a trip to Valhermosa Springs Christian Church near Hartselle, Alabama on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The van will leave Valley at 8:30am for a 10am tour of the Valhermosa Church and grounds. Included will be their Trail of Scriptures walking trail which is especially significant since this is just before Maundy Thursday and Easter. Their minister, Rev. Jeremy Harbin, will be the leader for our visit.

The church was founded in 1830 and now worships in its fourth building which was built in the 1950's. As a rural country church at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains, First Christian seeks to hold on to practical Christianity and a worship service that embodies the faith and songs of Southern Appalachia.

After the tour we will have lunch at the All State Restaurant in Cullman, Alabama. Everyone is welcome to join us! Please sign the reservation list on the table near the elevator.

COLLECTING BABY AND TODDLER FOOD FOR GBM

Valley will collect nonperishable baby and toddler food on March 8th through March 22nd to be donated to Greater Birmingham Ministry (GBM) in late March. These donations can include formula, packaged items such as cereals, juices and finger foods, along with jarred baby food and any other items that might be helpful for families to feed their young children. We will have boxes available for these donations at the front of the sanctuary each Sunday. Thanks for giving!

EDUCATION NEWS

The Education Department is sponsoring a special seminar from 9:00am to 12:00noon on Saturday, March 28, 2020 led by Rev. Tabitha Isner, an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Interim CEO of Christian Services for Children in Alabama, Inc. This organization, a partner agency of the National Benevolent Association, provides services to families in crisis and therapeutic foster care for children and youth who are behaviorally challenged. We have invited District II churches as well as Valley members and friends. Mark your calendar now and join us for this educational event!

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida is March 20th-21st at the

Rolling Hills Retreat Center in Calera, Alabama. The Retreat Leader is Rev. Roger Peadro, who is the pastor of the First Christian Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The theme for the Retreat is "Men in Motion". The registration cost is \$100 per person. Please see Edd if you are interested in attending.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is April 24th-26th at First Christian Church in Meridian, Mississippi. The theme is "What Does the Lord Require of You?" The speakers that will lift up this theme are Rev. Lori Tapia, who serves as the Executive in the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Also, Dr. Christal Williams, who serves as the Regional Minister for Tennessee and Dr. Mark Benson, who serves as the Senior Pastor of First Christian Church in Meridian, Mississippi will be speakers at the Assembly. To date we have five members of our church attending the Assembly. Please consider joining this group. More information is available on the table in the narthex or contact Edd.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult Sunday School class has begun a new Lenten study using the book and video entitled "The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days". In "The Passion Play" Rob Fuqua follows the biblical story of the Passion and shows how the amazing play presented by the people of Oberammergau in Bavaria, Germany impacts the villagers and all who see the performances. This play has been presented in Oberammergau every ten years since 1634. The class meets at 9:15am each Sunday. Everyone is invited to this interesting and challenging study led by Rev. John Gregory.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We want to welcome all young adults to our new bible study, meeting at 9:15am each Sunday in our library. During the course of each week we will listen to a podcast from Views from the Porch and come together to discuss. You can listen on your iPhone through the Podcast app or at <https://podbay.fm/podcast/1413459689>



TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Lauren Simon
and
David Lambert

INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THEIR WEDDING

SATURDAY, APRIL FOURTH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY
AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE
MOUNTAIN BROOK, ALABAMA 35216

followed by reception at

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS
2612 LANE PARK ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35223

