



# Voice

A PUBLICATION OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ) Birmingham, Alabama



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Office Hours: 8am-12pm  
Monday through Friday

## Fall Worship Schedule

**Sunday, Sept 26**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct 3**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct 10**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct 17**

10:30 a.m.

### Dates of Interest:

- Sept 26th—  
Reconciliation Special Offering
- October 3rd—  
Sixtieth Anniversary of Valley's Sanctuary
- October 3rd—  
Reconciliation Special Offering
- October 3rd—  
Stewardship Sunday
- October 3rd—  
World Communion Sunday
- October 3rd—  
A new monthly topic, "Mountains and Valleys" is starting in the October Fall Sunday School Classes.

**September 21 2021**

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*From the Pastor's Desk*

## Coffee and a Story

Naturally, as soon as I share with y'all how lovely autumn is here, we are in for day after day of weather that could have been straight out of the Pacific Northwest. Gray? Check. Constant drizzle of rain? Check. Suddenly cooler and darker? Check, check, check.

I promise I did not bring it with me, keep it in storage, and then unpack it with everything else when we bought our new house! But it can sure feel like weather does follow you at times, doesn't it? We might hope we bring the sunshine with us, or we may be a bit more like Eeyore and worry we bring the gloomy gray. Truthfully, I think such feelings are probably normal for us, whether because you feel a bit more gloomy seasonally because of the shorter days and cooler weather, or whether because as a season, the pandemic has taken such a toll on all of us.

But if you think the recent gray weather is going to slow us down in any way, have no fear—we have lots in store over the next several weeks, so much that I can barely keep track of it! Our annual stewardship season begins this upcoming Sunday, September 26, with my message on stewardship as our participation in the building of God's kingdom. Then, October 3 is World Communion Sunday. We will also be taking Reconciliation Ministry offerings on both of those Sundays. Then, we will have Bread for the World Sunday on October 10 with our guest preacher Ryan Cagle, who will also be covering October 17. Then comes Pledge Sunday, when we bring our pledge cards to offer on behalf of our 2022 budget-writing process, on October 24. Oh, and Halloween is the Sunday after that, too!

Whew, did you catch all that?

I also wanted to take a moment to introduce Ryan to all of you. He is a born-and-raised Alabamian who has recently returned after serving as a youth minister for an Episcopal congregation in Arizona. He is coming under care for ordination with the Alabama-NW Florida region of the Disciples of Christ and is being sponsored by First Christian Church in Jasper, where he also operates the People's Community Fridge ministry to benefit the people of Walker County. While community food banks can do an excellent job of delivering nonperishable staples, Ryan's community fridge ministry augments that by offering a way for families in need to be able to enjoy fresh produce and dairy products for a balanced diet. Ryan is passionate about bringing attention to food insecurity as part of his wider ministry, I look forward to Valley getting to hear his voice, twice!

With so much to say and do, I hope to see you soon on a Sunday morning here at Valley, for education at 9:30 and worship at 10:30.

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

## Life in the Valley

### Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Peggi Zinser is having shoulder surgery on Thursday, September 23rd. Please pray for our faithful member Peggi.
- Beth Gregory had surgery on her right thumb on Monday, September 20th. She is recovering well.
- Jean Thrasher's grandson, Barrett Simpson has strep. Please pray for a quick recovery.
- Please pray for Hattie Belle Lester, an inactive member who is in a nursing home in South Alabama. Her last surviving sibling passed away last week.
- Margaret Cox's family has recovered from their recent bout of COVID and a quarantine—they are doing well. We are grateful for the birth and good health of her grandson Noah.
- John Neville shared the news with the congregation of GBM's Sarah Price's death. She will be sorely missed. Please pray for her friends and family.
- Ted and Dana Stuckenschneider's friend, Beth Symborski's birthday was on 9-11. They would like to wish her joy on her birthday.
- Please pray for Andrea Clark's friend Josiah Duncan, a 5 year old with hydrocephalus who is in the hospital with a undiagnosed illness.
- Please pray for Katelyn Clark and Benjamin Devine, Valley members who have been ill recently. They have both recovered.

## Revealing God's Justice

The prophet Isaiah admonishes God's beloved in Isaiah 56:1 to, "maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. Frequently, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that "The time is always ripe to do what is right." The message is clear. We are to do what is right with the time and resources God has given us. It is a precious gift like the gift of reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

The Ministry of Reconciliation offers each of us the opportunity to "do what is right". Your giving supports diversity & inclusion through leadership development in colleges, provides grants to ministry partners to further the work of anti-racism. We will receive your Reconciliation offering on September 26<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Emergency Week of Compassion

The total received for our emergency Week of Compassion was \$760 - \$710 for Haiti Storm Relief and \$50 undesignated.

Truly, Valley is a compassionate Church. Thank you all.

## October AAA Event: Oak Hill Cemetery

AAA is planning a spooky Saturday event on October 16, 2021 and hope some members that work

will be able to join us. We are planning a trip to Oak Hill, Birmingham's oldest cemetery. Right now our tentative time is 11:00am for a minimum walking tour. There are benches along the way for those that might want to sit. The cemetery will have tour guides dressed up in period costume to explain some interesting facts about Birmingham's founding fathers and some of Birmingham's interesting scandals thrown in also. The fee is \$10.00. You need to make reservations so please call me or Marilyn if you are interested in going. Lunch plans have not been made at this time, but we will add a lunch after the tour. Stay tuned for more information. Thank you, Peggi Zinser

## Advent Devotional Booklet

This year the Advent Devotional Booklet will be entitled "Gifts Given and Gifts Received".

**Part I (Gifts Given)** This section will contain devotionals written about a gift you would give the Christ child. Is it a personal gift of yours you want to give Him, a gift your children enjoyed? Can He enjoy it now or sometime in the future? Is it a sacrificial gift? A gift of time? If you prefer, imagine you are living in Bethlehem at the time Christ was born, and tell us about your gift to Him. If you wish, write in the first person. Please tell us why you chose the gift you are giving Him and the story behind it.

**Part II (Gifts Received)** The devotions in this section should be written about a gift you have received from Christ. We have all received many gifts from Him, but, please choose just one and tell us the circumstances of the gift and why you chose it. Possible gifts include hope, forgiveness, compassion, courage, love, mercy, acceptance, joy, peace, the beautiful green earth we live on, music, water, family, friends, etc.

Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board or call Marilyn to add your name. You do not have to tell us your gift now. Devotionals are due November 1st.

## Adult Education Classes

The Adult Sunday School class, meeting by Zoom on Tuesday evenings, is finishing a book entitled "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. This book is a study of five essential practices of the Christian life. We will begin a new study soon, the book yet to be chosen, and we invite everyone to join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm by Zoom (Valley Meeting Room 1)

The Adult Sunday School class meeting on Sunday morning in the Autumn Series has one more Sunday studying Micah 6:8. Registration for the next class of the series, entitled "Mountains and Valleys", will be on Sunday, September 26th. The new class begins on Sunday, October 3rd at 9:30am. This class will look at mountains and valleys in the lives of Biblical characters as well as those in our own lives.

