



# Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Fall Worship Schedule

**Sunday, Oct 10**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct 17**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct 24**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct 31**

10:30 a.m.

### Dates of Interest:

- Oct 10 — Bread for the World Sunday
- Oct 10 — Guest Pastor is Ryan Cagle from First Christian in Jasper
- Oct 17 — Guest Pastor is Ryan Cagle from First Christian in Jasper
- Oct 24 — Pledge Sunday
- Oct 31 — Start of "Yes, I Can" GBM pantry event

*From the Pastor's Desk*

## Coffee and a Story

As a kid, I was always happy to see the back of September. September meant going back to school after the long days of freedom during the summer, and there wasn't even a big holiday like October's Halloween, November's Thanksgiving, or December's Christmas (I was, I confess, much too young to appreciate the historical importance of Labor Day).

So if for no other reason than "It's not September," I've always looked forward just a bit to October. And we have lots to look forward to here at Valley, even after World Communion Sunday this past weekend. Our stewardship campaign for our 2022 budget is ongoing and will culminate in Pledge Sunday, October 24, and I encourage you to return your pledge card then (or before!). I will be off from October 8 – 17 and thus out of the pulpit on the Sundays of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. You will get to hear from Ryan Cagle, whom I introduced you to in our previous issue of the Voice, as he preaches on back-to-back passages from Mark 10. And after Pledge Sunday comes Halloween!

Amid this packed calendar, I can still see the days getting shorter and colder, and it can sometimes feel like I am running out of daylight hours to accomplish this task or get that to-do list completed. Again, after the long and languid days of summer, autumn can feel like it is vibrating at a much higher frequency!

I know that this is not the case for all of us, though. Even under ordinary circumstances, the shorter and colder days may lead to seasonal depression for you, and that is before factoring in the human toll of yet another wave of the covid-19 pandemic. If that is you, please know that we as the church are always there and ready to offer the light and love of Christ amid any coming bleakness.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not say a word in remembrance of our departed sister in Christ, Sarah Price of Greater Birmingham Ministries. Many of you knew her much longer than I did, and I would add my voice to yours in coming away so very moved by her testimony and her work for people experiencing severe economic hardship. As we look forward to All Saints Day almost exactly four weeks from now, we may pray to God in full faith that Sarah is indeed among those saints surrounding God in paradise. May she rest well from her labors and rise in glory to our God.

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

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## Life in the Valley

### Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Our faithful member Clarence Sellers is very ill and is at home. He needs your prayers.
- Please pray for Kohler Collier, who is recovering at home from COVID.
- Peggi Zinser is doing very well after her rotator cuff surgery, and the rehab center is now off lockdown. Peggi would be glad to accept phone calls from you.
- C.J. Cobb's (pastor of First Christian in Jasper) wife Nancy passed away recently. Please continue to pray for her family and friends. Her funeral was this past Sunday.
- Judy Englehart (the secretary at First Christian in Anniston) recently had major surgery at St. Vincent's. She is doing well. Please pray for her so that she recovers quickly.
- Lola Kiser's niece, Mary Kay Kramme's husband Joel needs your prayers. He is not doing well right now.
- John Neville is very grateful for Valley Christian's involvement in the Alabama Arise organization. He thinks that Valley's compassion and tender loving care to these individuals and all of our outreach recipients is outstanding. Thank you Valley.
- Ed Guindon said 15 people were worshipping with us on Zoom this past Sunday. Praise the Lord!

## Revealing God's Justice

We continue to receive the Reconciliation offering as we remember the voice of Isaiah in Isaiah 56:1 saying "Maintain justice and do what is right. Yes, the time is ripe to do God's Justice."

## Bread for the World Sunday, Oct. 10th

We have invited Ryan Cagle to be our guest speaker for Bread for the World Sunday. Ryan operates the People's Community Fridge ministry for residents of Walker County. The Community Fridge ministry provides fresh vegetables and fruits for families in need of assistance. Ryan is in the process of coming under ministry care with our region and is sponsored by First Christian, Jasper. I hope all of you who can, will be here or connect with zoom to hear Ryan tell us about this ministry.

## October AAA Event

The AAA trip which was scheduled for October 16, 2021 to Oak Hill Cemetery here in Birmingham has been cancelled by the cemetery officials because of COVID. We hope to re-schedule this trip at a later date, probably in the spring.

To replace the Oak Hill trip we have scheduled a visit to the Birmingham Museum of Art (2000 Reverend Abraham Woods Jr Boulevard, Birmingham,

AL 35203) on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 to view the exhibit of the Indian Mississippian Mound Builders, some of whom lived here in Alabama. The exhibit features objects highlighting the archaeology, art and history of the Mound Builders.

Please call Lola by Monday, October 11 for a reservation for the trip and lunch at the Fish Market restaurant (612 22nd Street South, Birmingham, Alabama). We will gather at the church at 10:30am for our visit at 11:00am and lunch at 12:30pm. Please use the rear parking lot at the museum to avoid stairs.



## The Appalachian Trail Event

Valley Christian had a great event in September which featured our former minister, Edd Spencer and his wonderful tales of the Appalachian Trail. Some of our neighbors, Carol Adair and Jimmie Davis along with his caregiver joined us too and sent along the following note and some pictures (see above).

"Enjoyed some food, fun, and fellowship yesterday at Valley Christian Church. After spaghetti, salad, and brownies with ice cream we were treated to a great talk on the Appalachian trail by Rev. Edd Spencer, who has section walked the entire trail. He has a wonderful way of tying in his trail experiences with his Christian messages. Nice time with some great people. Sincerely, Carol "

## Maria Colon's House Destroyed

Maria Colon and her husband lost everything including their two pets, when their house was destroyed by fire last Tuesday night. Maria is an elder at Primera Iglesia and is in ministry care with the Region. The Region is receiving a love offering for Maria. If you would like to contribute just mark your check for Maria Colon and mail it to the church or place it in the offering plate. Valley's check will be forwarded to the Region.