



Voice

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



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Email: office@vccbhm.org
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Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Winter Worship Schedule

- Sunday, Feb 13**
10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb 20**
10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb 27**
10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Mar 6**
10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Feb 6 - Food Pantry Sunday
- Feb 13 - Elders' Meeting
- Feb 16 - AAA Event - trip to Museum of Natural History in Tuscaloosa
- Feb 19 - "African American Music in the Church" Seminar at Valley
- Feb 20 and 27 - Week of Compassion
- Feb 21 - Voice Deadline

February 8 2022

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From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

I want to thank all of you who were present this past Saturday to say farewell to our sister in Christ Hattie Belle Lester—and especially to all of you who helped make Saturday possible—as we committed her to eternal life, just as many of you were when we sent off our sister in Christ Joan Noland in late December. While not always easy, I believe our presence (whether in spirit or in person) and prayers at such farewells are one of the most important ways that we can be the church together. The moment and space in which someone leaves this world is sacred, and we honor that sanctity with our faithful farewell to them in God's house.

Looking ahead, I know we have some important events coming up as February turns to March and as the post-Epiphany season of Ordinary Time turns to Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on March 2 this year, and after not having an in-person worship service in 2021 due to covid-19 we are returning to offering an in-person Ash Wednesday worship in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm. It will be a brief but beautiful service in which the imposition of ashes will be offered to mark both our penance and our belonging to God as we begin the Lenten season together. I am also already hard at work crafting many of your "Cross Words" into my Lenten sermon series, and I will be sharing the results with you in the next issue of the Voice.

February is also Black History Month, and Valley will commemorate it with a special seminar on the history of music in the historically Black church. Organized by our own Lola Kiser and led by Mary Godfrey, the associate minister for music at Snow Hill Christian Church in Fort Deposit, this seminar is open to all and will take place from 9:00 am to noon on Saturday, February 19, in our fellowship hall. I hope to see you there!

Finally, just a brief note as to my availability: I will be taking Monday, February 14, off—not for Valentine's Day or to recover from the Super Bowl, but simply because I will have had to work on several Saturdays in a row and am recognizing the need for a day off for Sabbath rest in their place. I will be in the office as usual on Tuesday, February 15 and am grateful for your understanding.

Christ's and yours,
Pastor Eric

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Thank you to everyone who participated in helping with Hattie Belle Lester's memorial service. It was very nice and well-attended by the Valley Faithful. Please continue to pray for the family and especially for her daughter Ellen Alsobrook, who lost her husband in October.
- Please pray for Andrea Clark's mother as she continues to have trouble with her breathing and fluid on her lungs.
- Thank you so much for your prayers for Marilyn Ireland as she underwent an arteriogram. The doctor says she is cleared and ready to go. There was no blockage.
- Please continue to pray for beloved member Clarence Sellers after his recent hospitalization.
- Ed and Ginny Guindon brought a visitor Sunday, Dave Chapman, who is a college friend of Ginny's and from her hometown of Johnson City, Tennessee.
- Marilyn Cutcliffe was injured in a bad fall and needs your prayers.
- Janice Clifford, wife of our former minister, Jim Clifford, is being treated with chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. Please pray for them.
- We suggest that you bring Peanut Butter and Jelly for the Food Pantry on February 13th this month.

February AAA Event

The AAA trip for February will be to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on Wednesday, February 16th. We will meet here at the church at 9:00am for a 10:30 tour. There is an admission charge of \$1.00 for seniors. The museum is the oldest in the State of Alabama founded in 1831. We will see exhibits from the Age of Dinosaurs, the Coal age and Ice age, with exhibits about geology, zoology, and Paleontology. They have on exhibit a skull of an American Mastodon dredged up from the Tombigbee River near Demopolis and a Meteorite that hit a woman in Sylacauga in 1954. We will have lunch at the Blue Plate Restaurant recommended by Gary Edge who will be joining us for the tour. Reservations must be in by 12:00 on Friday the 11th, please let us know if you can drive. They have asked that we wear masks.

Lent Devotional Booklet

Thank you very much for suggesting words you associate with the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. We received a good collection of these words. Eight of them will be chosen as topics for the devotionals in our Lenten Devotional Booklet and the others will be used in Lenten services or sermons. Many thanks for your help! - Lola Kiser

Thank you from Carolyn Nunnelly

I was truly caught by surprise on Laity Sunday when Melinda presented me the plaque for Christian Service. So many of you give more of your time and talents to Valley and are more involved in church activities than I am. Yes, I do liven up when it comes to planning fellowship and fun and food! "Blessing of the

Pets" and "Appalachian Trail" were especially rewarding events to me because working with Pastor Eric, committee members and volunteers proved that we can enjoy being together in spite of COVID. Could it be that the panel making the 2022 Christian Service selection was influenced by the memory of a hot spaghetti aroma? For whatever reasons I am humbled and honored to have received the recognition. Thank you and blessings to each and every one of you. — Carolyn Nunnelly

Week of Compassion Offering Love Remains

The week of February 13th & 20th we will be receiving the Week of Compassion offering. The theme this year is Love Remains. When a disaster has taken everything, all that remains is the love that is shown by others. This is what Week of Compassion does for people across the planet- it restores broken dreams, resurrects hope, and carves a path into the future. Through all kinds of weather and even in the unknown, love remains.

GBM Pantry 2022

We are going to try something new for our pantry this year. We are selecting an item for each month. For February we have chosen Peanut Butter and/or Jelly. You can bring any one item or as many of each item as you want. We will announce each month's item at the end of the previous month. We try to bring the items the first Sunday of each month. Because we are late starting, for February we will bring them on the second Sunday. If you are worshipping by Zoom, just drop them off at the church any time. - Outreach Department

Education Seminars

The Education Department will offer a series of seminars this year on times other than Sunday mornings. The topics will be of interest to everyone and will address current subjects. The first seminar, entitled African American Music in the Church, will be on Saturday, February 19, 2022 from 9:00am—12:00noon in the Fellowship Hall. The Associate Minister of Snow Hill Christian Church, Mary Godfrey, will conduct the seminar, which will include a history of African American music from its beginning in Africa to the present. Mary is a native of Graysville, Alabama (a suburb of Birmingham) and now lives in Hayneville, Alabama. She is a graduate of UAB and is currently enrolled in Lexington Theological Seminary. We invite everyone to this event - friends and visitors are always welcome! Please wear masks. - Lola Kiser

Some Tips From Our Tornado Preparedness Session

During an emergency event:

1. do not use the elevator.
2. please go to the hall upstairs or to the hall downstairs.
3. do not leave the building.

We would like to thank Lt. Bormar of the Mountain Brook Fire Department for his in-depth session after worship.