



Voice

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



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2600 Cherokee Place
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205-879-0419

Email: office@vccbhm.org
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Spring Worship Schedule

Sunday, Apr 3
10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday, Apr 10
10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday,
Apr 14
6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, Apr 17
10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Apr 3 - Holy Week Devotional Booklets available for pickup
- Apr 10 - Palm Sunday and Easter Offering
- Apr 10 - Walking Trail Dedication
- Apr 13 - AAA visit to Valhermosa Springs Christian Church
- Apr 14 - Maundy Thursday Service
- Apr 14 and 15 - Good Friday and 24 Hour Prayer Vigil
- Apr 17 - Easter Sunday and Easter Offering
- Apr 17 - Easter Sunrise Service and Easter Breakfast as well as regular worship service

From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

Two weeks have now passed since I announced my intention to step down as minister of Valley Christian Church at the beginning of May, and I hope that these two weeks have given you some time to constructively process that news. I have had deep conversations with many of you to talk through thoughts and feelings around my decision, and I am grateful for the trust and vulnerability you have shown in those conversations. I take those feelings and trust to heart, and please know that my door will continue to be open to you for such conversations all the way through April as well.

In the meanwhile, we still have much to say and do together! Holy Week is fast approaching, and I am firstly very excited for the devotional booklets that are in the process of being edited before being sent out to you and being made available for pickup on Sunday morning. Our devotionals have been one of my favorite ministries of ours, and this one looks like another fantastic edition that I hope will serve you well this Holy Week, and that you might share with a friend or loved one too!

Circle the evening of Maundy Thursday, April 14, for a shared Maundy Thursday worship service held on Macedonia's conference call platform. Pastor Kenneth Hill and I have had some good conversations around planning the order of worship, and full disclosure, Maundy Thursday is one of my favorite days of the church year to worship. I am very excited to share one more with all of you.

Then, on Easter Sunday, please join us for a brief outdoor worship service around our cross at our front circle here at Valley at 8:30 am, followed by an outdoor (weather permitting) Easter breakfast before our usual 10:30 am worship service as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord.

Finally, here is how my last three Sundays—Easter and the two following Sundays—will look from a preaching and teaching standpoint. I look forward to sharing these last few Sundays with all of you.

April 17: (Easter Sunday): "The First Day of the Week," Luke 24:1-12

April 24: "What We Remember," 2 Peter 1:10-13

May 1: "Feed My Sheep," John 21:15-19

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

March 29 2022

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 6

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please pray for the Ukrainian people who have suffered much senseless violence and destruction and all the people who have helped and supported them during this invasion of their country.
- We are still accepting Week of Compassion donations for the Ukraine. Please mark your check "Ukraine" and the donation will be passed to them.
- In the announcements Sunday an error was made regarding our member William Byrd, Jr.. We had been informed by a returned envelope that he was deceased but it was his father, William Byrd Sr. who was deceased. Mr. Byrd Sr. passed away in August. We apologize for the error and any anguish this may have caused.
- Please continue your prayers for Janice Clifford, wife of our former minister Jim Clifford. Jim and Janice have found out that the chemo has shrunk her tumor and the doctors are now contemplating surgery to remove it. Praise the Lord! Please keep she and Jim in your prayers.
- We have another joy that Margaret and Jeff Cox have celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and we wish many happy returns to this beloved couple.

Easter Offering

April 10th and 17th

The Easter Offering supports several of the general ministries of the Christian church. It supports leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service missions, the formation of new congregations, support of pastors and chaplains, and so much more. Give generously as you support the general ministries of our church.

24 Hour Prayer Vigil

There will be a 24 Hour Prayer Vigil starting on Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 8:00pm and ending on Good Friday, April 15th at 8:00pm. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board for anyone who would like to pray and participate. If you would like to sign up over the phone, please call Marilyn at 205-879-0419 (if it is after hours please leave a message and it will be picked up and acknowledged)

April AAA Event

First Christian Valhermosa

On Wednesday, April 13, 2022, AAA will be going to First Christian Church at Valhermosa Springs in Somerville (Laceys Spring), Alabama. It is straight up I-65 between Cullman and Decatur. Take the Summerville Exit off of I-65. We will tour the beautiful Walk of the Trail of Scriptures that they have built there. We thought this would be a nice trip for the Easter Season. We might be able to rent a van if anyone is interested in going. The cost of \$300.00 would be divided among those who would want to go plus gas. I need to find out how many are interested in renting a van or would going in cars as we have been would be better for this trip. Please let me know as soon as possible so I can

see about reserving a van. We will leave Valley at 9:00 am and have a guided tour at 10:30 am and then lunch at the historic Freight House Train Terminal in Hartselle. - Peggi Zinser

Large Print Secret Place

Please let the office (205-879-0419) know if you are still reading the "large print" Secret Place Magazines by Monday, April 4, 2022. We have the regular print ones available to you already but need to know how many people want the large print.

April 3rd GBM Pantry Items

For April we have chosen Canned Vegetables (beans, peas, corn, etc.) 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. If you are worshipping by Zoom, just drop them off at the church any time. - Outreach Department

Dedication of the Community Walking Trail

The Evangelism and Fellowship Departments are planning the dedication of the Community Walking Trail after church on Palm Sunday, April 10th at the entrance to the trail in the upper parking lot. We will mark off a couple of parking spaces for this event and have several chairs available to sit in. We are looking for donations to buy a dogwood tree to be placed at the entrance. If you want to donate please call/see Peggi Zinser. We are also looking for other plants for planting around the trail, such as ferns, Lenten roses and any other plants that you might have to beautify the trail. Join us for a scavenger hunt and wild flower toss on the trail and refreshments on the circle.

Cross Words

Holy Week Devotional Booklet

Holy Week Devotional Booklets will be available at the church on Sunday, April 3, and will be mailed to shut-ins, out-of-town people and those unable to pick them up. Many thanks to those who wrote devotionals for the booklet and Marilyn Ireland for her work in printing and assembling the booklet. We hope you will find it helpful in your Holy Week devotionals. Happy Easter - Lola Kiser

