



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

Spring Worship Schedule

Sunday Service
Apr 24 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
May 1 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
May 8 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
May 15 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
May 22 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- May 1 - Food Pantry Sunday (Canned Fruit)
- May 8 - Mother's Day
- May 9 - Voice Deadline
- May 10 - District II Ad Hoc Meeting at Valley
- May 15 - Valley Board Meeting
- May 23 - Voice Deadline
- May 30 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

As our time together draws to a close with my final Sunday preaching and leading worship fast approaching on May 1, I want to use this last newsletter article to you as a sort of in-between space to move from my sermon last Sunday on what we choose to remember to my upcoming sermon on May 1, when I will preach on Jesus's thrice-repeated commission to Peter: feed my sheep.

None of us would feel fed at just any church—we can have allergies or strong preferences in a spiritual way just as we might with our physical diets. But I believe that being fed at church means a balanced diet, just like the food pyramid I grew up memorizing as a child. To me, that means studying both Testaments (not just the New Testament), preaching on all the Gospels and Paul and the non-Paul letters, and trying to switch things up. For instance, after our January-February sermon series on the Philistines, which was all Tanakh/Old Testament, we have been entirely in the New Testament for March and April. That was very much on purpose!

One of my deepest hopes for you, Valley, is that you will nourish yourselves on the entirety of God's Word and counsel to guide you through this upcoming transition period. I pray that you would seek God's Word and counsel across all our Scriptures and lived experiences, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will in turn illuminate God's Word and counsel to you.

While I still feel personally invested in Valley's future, it will from now on be purely as a passive spectator. I fully intend to permit Rev. Edd Spencer as your interim, and whomever your next settled minister will be, a free hand in their ministry to you, and so please do not be offended if we run into each other and I politely decline to discuss anything church-related, or if you do not see me commenting on your social media pages for a spell. All of that is to respect Valley's transition.

I close my final column to you by repeating my words at our congregational meeting with our Regional Minister, Rev. John Mobley, last August: for any moments when I was a conduit for God's passion, grace, and love for you, I am profoundly grateful. For any moments when I was an obstacle to God's passion, grace, and love for you, I humbly ask you to forgive me, and I will strive to do likewise. Valley Christian Church will always remain in my prayers, and I hope that Carrie, Sadie, and I always remain in yours.

Christ's and yours,
Pastor Eric

April 26 2022

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Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please pray for the Ukrainian people who have suffered so 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.
- Please continue your prayers for Janice Clifford, wife of our former minister Jim Clifford. The doctors performed surgery on the tumor and it was successful. However she did have complications from the surgery and had to go back in the hospital. Please keep her and Jim in your prayers.
- Thank you for your prayers for our beloved member, Stewart Draper. The doctors say he is doing well now.
- Please pray for Ruby Wilkes and her husband Robert Wilkes (of our sister church Macedonia Christian). Ruby is now out of intensive care and in a regular room in St. Vincent's after two bad falls and emergency surgery. She is recovering.
- Jan Watt's lost her 34 year old niece in an accident and the family needs our prayers because of the loss of this beautiful young woman.
- Please pray for Terry Nunnelly's cousin, Jack Smith, who is having surgery at UAB Hospital for throat cancer. Also, pray for Jack's wife, Lila, as she has Alzheimer's.
- Carolyn Nunnelly wanted to thank everyone who helped with the Walking Trail Dedication. The plants and labor were so gracious and appreciated that everyone provided. It is a joy working with you. Also, Margaret Cox found every item on the Scavenger Hunt - good job Margaret!
- We want to thank John Gregory, Ed Guindon and Ginny Guindon for attending the Regional Assembly and representing Valley Christian. You are much appreciated and respected!

Blankets of Hope

On May 8 and May 15, DW will receive donations for Blankets of Hope. Church World Service will distribute these blankets all over the world in times of disasters – tornados, hurricanes, fires, If you would like to purchase a blanket in honor or memory of someone who held you in a blanket or someone whom you have held. Someone will be in the foyer both Sundays to receive your gifts. The blankets are \$5 each.

Education Seminar

The Education Department is pleased to present a seminar entitled, "The Church and Senior Adults" on Saturday, June 4, 2022, 9:00am—12:00noon in the Fellowship Hall. This seminar will be led by Melvia Carter from Snow Hill Christian Church in Fort Deposit, Alabama and will address the role of senior adults in the church. What can the church do for senior adults and what can senior adults do for the church? All ages are invited to participate in this challenging and interesting discussion. We hope you will come and bring a friend! - Lola Kiser, Education Dept



Valhermosa Springs Christian Church Trip
April 2022 AAA Event

May 1st GBM Pantry Items

For May we have chosen Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, cherries, 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

Interim Minister will be Rev. Edd Spencer

The executive committee has tentatively reached an agreement with Edd Spencer to return as our interim minister beginning May 8th, pending board approval. We welcome back Edd and know he will be helpful in seeing us through this transition.

Gifts, Memorials and Bequests

The Trustees, Moderator and the Minister make up the Gifts, Memorial, Bequests Committee. This year from the Living Endowment we have received \$24,884.08. We are asking the members of the church to help us find a need and use this money. It can be spent on some improvements at the church. It can be given to a very needy cause that helps those less fortunate. Some Department can use it for a program that is not funded in the budget. Do you have an idea? If so, please send an email to office@vccbhm.org with all the details. We would like to hear from you by April 29th.



Valley's Walking Trail Dedication 4-10-22

Thanks to everyone who put in this tremendous effort for Valley! Your time and energy is so valued and esteemed!