



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

Spring Worship Schedule

- Sunday Service**
August 21 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
August 28 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
Sept 4 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
Sept 11 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
Sept 18 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- August 20
"Climate Change"
Seminar
- August 24 AAA
trip to Cathedral
Caverns in Wood-
ville, Alabama
with lunch after
at Wintzell's in
Guntersville
- August 28 Senior
Adult Sunday
- August 29 Voice
Deadline
- Sept 3 - Valley
Work Day
- Sept 5 - Labor
Day Office Closed

August 16 2022

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A Word from Your Pastor

All of my life I have had a strong affection for trees. I love the forest and spend much of my leisure time walking in the woods. Trees are really a thing of beauty. With their beauty they touch our lives and make our hard moments of life a little softer. But in order for trees to bring a blessing to our environment, they must have light. The trees must receive the life giving rays of the sun. Their beauty and life is made possible by the wonder of the sun reaching down to them. In the same way our lives depend on the light of the sun to survive. But we also need a light that is closer than ninety three million miles away. We need the power and light of the Son which is as close as our hearts. The light made known to us by God through His Son, Jesus Christ. In this holy light the promise is clear when the Lord said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

In this scripture Jesus states that He is the Light of the world. But He continues in Matthew 5:14 by sharing with us that "You are the light of the world." He gives us a compliment and says you too are what I am! He says that just as He shines as the light of the world, we also shine as light. People will look at us and they will not see darkness. They will see light!

Therefore, it is important that we reach up for the light of the Son and share it with others as the sunlight covers the trees, may we allow the Sunlight to cover Birmingham and the world. To shine with the light of Christ in our homes, on the job and at play.

So, who shines? We do! Where do we shine? In the world! Why do we shine? To give God the glory! So, shine, Christian, shine. God Bless You, Edd

The Psalms

There are 150 Psalms in the Old Testament. These Psalms are the prayers of the people of Israel. They contain all the emotions of the people of Israel. Words of struggling believers who felt alone and abandoned. But they are also words of joy, thanksgiving and praise. The sermon series for August will center around some of these Psalms. I hope that the following Psalms will speak to us the things of God.

Sunday August 21 Psalm 56 "Put My Tears in Your Bottle"

Sunday August 28 Psalm 137 "Singing the Lord's Song in a Foreign Land"

August Education Seminar

On Saturday, August 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, Dr. James McClintock will lead a seminar on climate change. Dr. McClintock has been at UAB since 1987 and is currently the Endowed University Professor of Polar and Marine Biology. Dr. McClintock's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation for the past 33 years. For the past 15 years this has included research on the effects of rapid climate change. He has recently returned from his 16th research expedition to Antarctica. His presentation will be a personal story-based approach to increase our knowledge and awareness of this important and timely issue.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Midge Hoke is staying with Jean Thrasher for a while and visiting us at church. Midge is 103 years old! Good to see you Midge!
- Ed Guindon's actual birthday was this past Sunday and the congregation serenaded him with "Happy Birthday"! Many happy returns Ed.
- Sarah Draper had a joy from the donation that Valley gave Children First, We received a wonderful thank you note from their Director about how grateful they are to Valley.
- Pat McDaniel's sister Margaret is having a biopsy this week. Please pray for a good outcome.
- Terry Nunnally is having a "Watchman" procedure to his heart on Wednesday, August 17th. He is humbly asking for your prayers.
- Carol Speed's friend Vickie Shay's father, Jim Wheeler (who went on a AAA trip with us) is in the hospital. Please pray for him.
- Margaret Cox had a joy that her family went to North Carolina for a reunion with many of their relatives there. Also Margaret and her sisters had a wonderful get-together during her vacation. Also, Margaret is continuing to ask for prayers for her great nephew Will that his custody situation will be resolved in his best interest.
- Please remember that we are still having a Week of Compassion for the Kentucky floods. Please note "Kentucky Floods" on your check.
- John Gregory had a grateful "thank you" to everyone who prayed for him when he had his successful procedure on his heart with no blockage.
- Valley is so grateful that Lola Kiser has recovered from her infection and a fall and is back at work volunteering for us.
- John Neville had a joy that a letter from our donation that Valley gave to Greater Birmingham Ministries in his honor reached him. He also got a letter from Alabama Arise in regard to a donation from Valley to the memory of Hattie Belle Lester that he posted on the bulletin board.
- Please be in prayer for Ann Johnsey, who is recovering from surgery at home.
- We welcome Bud and Georgia Flora, who have a sabbatical from their regular church once a month and will be attending Valley once a month.
- Carolyn Nunnally had a joy that her sister Fay has visited her and she also visited Valley.
- The Food Pantry items for Food Pantry Sunday (August 7th) and the month of August are canned and dried beans and peas.

Prayers for Valley Christian Church

A Prayer for the Church

O God, we pray for the church. Full of committees and paperwork to make our institution run, we remember that we are about more than these things. Grant that the church will be a place of spiritual formation, a place that calls forth in all people that which is greater than us. Bless Valley Christian Church and all your churches O God. Lead the church where it needs to be, on a holy adventure. Amen.

A Prayer for Change

O God, change is upon us at Valley Christian and we are not sure what the future will bring. So, O God, teach us through bible stories that change brings new opportunities. Help us to welcome the new, embrace the different and move forward in the great expectation that all things work together for good for those who love God. Bless the change we face and help us work together to follow your path of serving you in new ways. The new ways of change in the future that will allow us to grow. Amen.

A Prayer for the Future

O God, in the midst of all that is before us as a church, come and give us peace. When we are frightened, hold us tight. When we are depressed, reassure us. When we are angry, soothe our spirits. For when we put our trust in You, You will not lead us astray. Teach us to give our future to you, for the glory of your vision for Valley Christian Church. Show us how to sacrifice in meaningful ways, not always needing to see instant results. And in the midst of change, give us the confidence of your love above all else. Amen.

Katelyn Clark and Jonathan Richardson Wedding

Together with their families, Katelyn Clark and Jonathan Richardson invite you to share in their wedding celebration on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at 4:00pm in the afternoon at 2109 Pinehurst Drive, Gardendale, Alabama. Please join them afterwards for dinner and dancing. Wedding details, registry and RSVP can be found at this link:

www.zola.com/wedding/clarkrichardsonwedding

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Christmas is nearer than you think and so is our Advent Devotional Booklet! This year the title will be "Letters to the Christ Child". Each devotional will be a letter you would write to the Baby Jesus, covering whatever you want to tell him. We will post a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board soon. Devotionals should be turned in to the office or Lola Kiser by November 1, 2022 to allow time for printing and distribution of the booklets by the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022. Thank you very much for your interest and help. Merry Christmas! - Lola Kiser

August AAA Event

Our August AAA event will be a trip on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 to Cathedral Caverns State Park and a tour of the cave there. The park is a recreation area and natural history preserve located near Woodville in Marshall County. The cave, the park's main feature, was developed as a tourist attraction in the 1950's. We will leave the church by van at 8:15am for an 11:00am tour. Reservations are required and are \$15 per person. They do accept credit cards. We must have reservations given to Marilyn by Wednesday, August 17. The tour is about 1.5 miles round trip and requires 90 minutes walking time. A golf cart is available for 2-3 people if needed. There are some steep hills but no stairs. We will eat lunch at Wintzell's Oyster House in Guntersville afterward. Join us for a fun day!

Called Congregational Meeting

The Search and Call Committee would like to have a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday Sept 11, 2022 after church to discuss the Congregational Profile.