



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

Winter Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

Feb 12 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Feb 19 10:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 22 12:00 p.m.

Sunday Service

Feb 29 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Mar 5 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Feb 14 - AAA event - Rev. Edd Spencer 's Valentine Magic and Lunch
- Feb 19 & 26 - Week of Compassion Offering
- Feb 20 - Presidents Day
- Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday Worship at Valley
- Feb 26 - First Sunday in Lent

February 7 2023

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A Word from Your Pastor

One summer I was hiking on the Appalachian Trail along a beautiful high ridge in the Blue Ridge Mountains. I was enjoying the hike in the wilderness until I came to a clearing, where to my surprise there was a garbage dump. Like most garbage landfills it was filled with old cans, bottles, mattresses, furniture, tires and all the unpleasant things that people throw away. As I stood in the middle of the dump, I lifted up my eyes from the dump and looked at the view in the valley below. The view was amazing and the scenery from the garbage dump was one of the best views along the trail.

Many years ago our Lord was walking up a trail carrying a heavy wooden cross. He came to a place called Golgotha that some traditions say was the city of Jerusalem's garbage dump. A dump that contained broken pottery, animal bones, and other disposed items of the first century. In the soil of the dump the soldiers began to dig the hole for the cross. His young body was nailed to the cross beams as they lay on the ground. Then the soldiers raised the cross upright and it was placed in the hole that was dug for it. The terrible pain of the crucifixion for our Lord began in a garbage dump.

Yet, the view from the dump of Calvary was amazing. For it was from the summit of the place that God shared with us the magnificent view of His Love. The darkness of sin was destroyed so that God and human beings could walk hand in hand. A bridge in the shape of a cross was built over the dump of our disobedience. God walked across it and met us with the gift of forgiveness. We are no longer separated, for the relationship has been repaired through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, "Who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

What a view this is from Calvary. Standing on this mountain, the view into the future is magnificent. We see the promised land of eternal life! We know that "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor things to come, nor powers, no height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)

Lent begins Wednesday, February 22. A holy season when we will be climbing Mount Calvary and remembering the suffering of our Lord. On that summit we will look out at a beautiful view of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. From the summit of Calvary during Lent we will remember the amazing grace that comes to us from a garbage dump. God Bless You, Edd

Ash Wednesday - The Beginning of Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The name of Ash Wednesday is the result of a tradition in which the Pastor burns the palm leaves which have remained from the previous year's Palm Sunday and, after blessing the ashes, uses them to mark a cross on the foreheads of the worshippers. As the Pastor makes the mark he shares the words, "Remember, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

The mark is worn on the worshipper's forehead throughout the day as a symbol of their sorrow for their sins. From biblical times the art of sprinkling oneself with ashes has been a repentance for sin. When Job came to appreciate the holiness of God and his own state of sinfulness, he said, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:5)

Therefore, the first day of Lent and the next forty days of lent until Easter, Christians demonstrate their humility before God.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Stewart and Sarah Draper are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this week. What a blessing!
- On Sunday, January 22nd, the Devine family was recognized in morning worship. They will be attending a church closer to their home and a church that has Sunday school and programs for their two boys. We will miss them and wish them the best.
- Ted Stuckenschneider's sister and one of his friends are ill and need your prayers.
- Peggy Hiller has now moved back into Brookdale last week. Praise the Lord Peggy!
- We have a joy that John Neville's son Daniel is moving to Indiana with a new job!

Ash Wednesday Worship

We will worship in humility on Ash Wednesday, which is Wednesday, February 22 at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. The service will include a meditation on the body of Jesus, His voice, eyes, hands and feet. Following the meditation the worshippers will walk forward to receive the mark of the cross on their foreheads and holy communion.

Lenten Worship Opportunities

There will be many opportunities to worship our Lord during Lent. The following are the moments we can worship the Lord.

Wednesday, February 22, 12noon
Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15 and 29
Wednesday Brown Bag lunch 11:30am and worship at 12:00noon on the "Sounds of the Passion".

Sundays during Lent the sermons will focus on the different forms of the cross.

Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm
Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Friday, April 7, 12:00noon
Good Friday Worship

Week of Compassion

RISE UP ANEW
Week of Compassion
February 19 & 26

As the relief, refugee, and development mission for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), DOC works with our partners to alleviate suffering around the world. Please give generously. Thanks, Sarah

Men's Retreat

March 17-18, 2023
Alabama 4H Conference Center
Columbiana, Alabama
"Reflecting Jesus in our Lives"
Leader: Dave Alexander

The Ministry of Valley's Building

The building of Valley Christian Church is used often during the week. Of course there is worship and special services, the work of the church office, committee meetings and fellowship gatherings. There is also the following groups that use the buildings of Valley.

- Manna Market
- Birmingham Quilt Guild
- Evening Star Quilt Guild
- New Horizons Senior Lecture Group
- Embellishments Bell Choir

We celebrate that all of these groups are using the facilities at Valley Christian Church.

Holy Baptism

Anyone who would like to reaffirm their baptism or be baptized for the first time should contact Edd. A Pastor's class will be available to discuss the meaning of baptism for participants. Baptism will be in the morning service on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Devotional Booklets

This year we will have two types of devotional booklets for the Easter season. We have purchased Lenten Devotional Booklets entitled "Water and Spirit" which begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Our own booklet written by members and friends of Valley will be a Holy Week Devotional Booklet for the days of Holy Week beginning Sunday, April 2, 2023. Both types of booklets will be available at the church for pickup on the Sunday before the first scheduled devotional. You are welcome to one of each type.



It's Magic

Join AAA for a Valentine Magic program led by Reverend Edd Spencer on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. In addition to a magic show for AAA, Edd will tell us about his experiences at Children's Hospital, where he brought the world of magic to seriously ill children. The program begins at 10:30am followed by a spaghetti lunch at 11:30am prepared by the Fellowship Department. (Donation \$3.00 per person) Everyone is welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall, members and friends alike!

A Prayer for Lent

O God, as we begin our journey through Lent this month, be by our side. Constantly encourage us to find strength to live our lives for you. Fill us with determination to grow toward maturity of mind and spirit. Fill us with desire to become the people you want us to be. Fill us with your grace and mercy. Help us remember that these are the words that give us life and new life. Amen.