



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

Wednesday Service

Mar 8 12:00p.m.

Sunday Service

Mar 12 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Service

Mar 15 12:00 p.m.

Sunday Service

Mar 19 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Mar 26 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Mar 8 - Brown Bag Luncheon and Worship
- Mar 12 - Third Sunday in Lent
- Mar 15 - Brown Bag Luncheon and Worship
- Mar 26 - Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Mar 26 - Distribute Holy Week Booklets to Members
- Mar 29 - Brown Bag Luncheon and Worship
- Apr 2 - Palm Sunday
- Apr 6 - Maundy Thursday

March 7, 2023

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A Word from Your Pastor

Many of us cross the Cahaba River on the Highway 280 bridge. For some of us it is a daily crossing and for others a few times a week. As we cross the river and look upstream toward the east, the river is calm and peaceful. It looks like a perfect spot for spending a summer afternoon floating down the river in a canoe. But if we look down the river on the west side, we see a waterfall and few rough spots in the river. Not the best place for a calm float on the Cahaba.

The Highway 280 bridge over the Cahaba with the river's peaceful side and hard side is an illustration of life. If it were up to me I would choose the quiet and calm waters. But as I read the scripture I am reminded that Christ would choose the rough waters, the hard side.

When you read the New Testament accounts of Jesus' life, you discover that the road that Jesus chose to travel was the one that left to suffering and difficulty. He chose the hard way. He could have escaped a great deal of suffering. He could have played it safe as His disciples wished Him to do, and voiced the suffering of His last week on earth in Jerusalem. But His life and mission would have been a failure if He had. A suffering world needed a suffering Savior.

And for some good reason, God has given to all of us the desire to follow this example of Jesus and choose the hard way of struggle. Worthwhile projects, truly regarding achievements that capture our interest and demand our best, always seem to involve struggle. To be with a loved one or friend through difficult days brings us satisfaction.

To give oneself on behalf of another is to enter into deep joy. By giving ourselves for others, even though that is a harder way, we gain a deeper appreciation of life and become closer to God. If we try to plan a life that avoids struggle, and always do things the easy way, then life loses its zest and we find ourselves questioning our way, purpose and being.

There are times when I want to cry out to God and say "Why must I choose the hard way?" Then I think of the Apostle Paul who rejoiced in life in which he was beaten with rods, shipwrecked, and stoned, yet achieved a sense of satisfaction and came to the end of his life saying: "I have fought the good fight and run the race and I press on toward the goal of Jesus Christ." Without a battle there is no victory and without a hard way there is no life.

Just maybe during Lent God is calling us to get up and choose the hard way. The way of the cross and following Jesus in making sacrifices for His way of life. May we remember in choosing the hard way that the cross keeps reminding us that difficulty is no excuse for refusal. Serving Christ is tough, but He calls us to the task. God Bless You, Edd

Wednesday Brown Bag Lunch and Worship

The Wednesday brown bag lunches and worship have been well attended. Consider coming to one during the remaining Wednesdays of Lent. The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, March 8 - "Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet"
- Wednesday, March 15 - "The Crowing of the Rooster"
- Wednesday, March 29 - "The Nails"

Lunch every Wednesday is at 11:30am and worship at 12:00noon in the sanctuary.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Our prayers are with our beloved member Jim Taylor, who is undergoing tests at UAB.
- Our prayers are with John Churchill, who is at Ascension East.
- The 2023 Week of Compassion Offerings is \$1,400.55. Thank you for serving God and serving others.
- Food Pantry Sunday is March 5th and we are accepting canned or dried peas and beans. You can bring them any Sunday.
- Beth Gregory had a very successful knee replacement surgery and she and John were thrilled by how well it went. Hopefully she can continue without pain now. Bless you Beth.
- Margaret Cox has asked us all to pray for Jeff's Aunt Sally who has been moved into assisted living. Jeff and his sister Lisa are responsible for her now and she had three health issues right after she moved in. Margaret is grateful that those issues were taken care of and she is better now.
- Margaret also has asked for prayers for Will, her sister's foster child who will be six years old this birthday. They want to surround him with love.
- Please pray for Pat McDaniel's niece, Doris Watkins. She has been diagnosed with cancer. God Bless and heal Doris.
- The storm this past Friday blew a pine tree on our power lines. We were without power at the church on Saturday morning. The power company repaired the lines Saturday evening and we had power Sunday morning. Our gratitude is expressed to Alabama Power.

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.

What We Believe

- *Open Communion.* The Lord's Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all believers.
- *Diversity of opinion.* Each person is free to determine individual belief guided by the Bible, the Holy spirit, study and prayer.
- *Baptism by immersion.* In baptism the old self-centered life is set aside and a new life of trust in God is made possible. Although we generally practice baptism by immersion, we honor other baptism traditions as well.
- *Importance of church unity.* All Christians should cooperate in ministry wherever possible, affirming each other as sisters and brothers in Christ.
- *The Ministry of all believers.* Both ministers and lay persons lead worship, direct service opportunities and nurture spiritual growth.
- *Freedom of belief.* We are called together around one essential of faith: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

March AAA Event

AAA has a very interesting trip lined up for March. Mark your calendars for March 22, 2023. We will be going to Calera to NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a meeting with the director, John de Block for a tour of the facilities. NOAA was founded by Richard Nixon and is under the Commerce Department and is a uniformed and saluted agency. NOAA is a federal agency that is focused on the conditions of and exploring of the oceans and conditions of the atmosphere. Not only do they track hurricanes, but also map Sea Turtles following their ancient migration routes and how they survive. We will leave the church at 10:00am for a tour at 11:00am then we will have lunch at Betolone's, an old world Italian Restaurant at 12:30. Please call Marilyn and let her know if you are going and if you are driving or want to ride the van. The van is first-come availability. Peggi Zinser

Maundy Thursday Communion Thursday, April 6, 2023 7:00pm

There is a holy evening at Valley Christian on Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 7:00pm. On this night we will gather in the sanctuary to remember the first Lord's supper of our Lord and his disciples. The meditation will be focused on the twelve disciples as presented in Leonardo's painting of the "Last Supper". We will walk forward to the Lord's table to receive communion. Invite a friend for this special service.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 7, 2023 12:00noon

Our Good Friday service is at 12:00noon on Friday, April 7th. We will gather outside by the cross in front of the sanctuary. From there we will follow a person carrying the cross on our walking trail. Along the trail we will lift up the seven last words of Jesus on the cross. George and Judy Dudley will lead us in songs of the cross in our journey on the trail. Our service will end in the sanctuary with a moment of darkness pointing toward the suffering and death of Jesus. In case of rain we will worship in the sanctuary. Invite a friend to walk to Calvary.

Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 9:00am

The men of Valley will prepare our Easter morning breakfast at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We celebrate that they will be serving us homemade biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon, grits, orange juice and coffee. After enjoying breakfast and our fellowship together, we will gather in the sanctuary for Easter Worship. Gather to celebrate a risen Lord. Invite a friend to breakfast and worship.

Easter Lilies

On Easter Sunday our sanctuary will be decorated with 33 Easter Lilies. A lily for every year Christ lived on earth. A lily to celebrate this glorious news that He has risen. This year the lilies are \$13 each. You are encouraged to purchase one in honor of or in memory of a loved one.