



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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Website: www.vccbhm.org

Office Hours: 8am-12pm

Monday through Friday

Spring Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

Apr 16 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Apr 23 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Apr 30 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

May 7 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

May 14 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Apr 16 - Quarterly Cabinet Meeting
- Apr 22 - Earth Day
- Apr 23 - Earth Sunday - Outside Worship
- April 24 - Voice Deadline
- April 28 - AAA trip to Rattlesnake Saloon in Tuscumbia for lunch
- April 29 - Blessing of the Pets Event
- May 7 - Week of Compassion Emergency for storms in Alabama.

April 11, 2023

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A Word from Your Pastor

I celebrate the wonderful Search Committee we have at Valley and the wonderful job they are doing. Their ministry of searching for a new pastor reminds me of another Search Committee in the Bible. It was a Search Committee of one person named Samuel. He was searching for a new king for Israel. You can read about his search in I Samuel 15:34-16:13. Let me share the story with you.

Samuel is sent by God to find a new king. God says to Samuel, "Fill your horn with oil and go. Go to Jesse who lives down the road in Bethlehem, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." "What?" thought Samuel. "No nationwide search? No church profiles to fill out? No resumes to read? The town and home, already picked out?" Samuel was the Search Committee who went off looking for the next king, and God had made it all easy by narrowing the search down to the little town called Bethlehem.

Samuel came to the house of Jesse and Jesse sent his sons in one by one for interviews with Samuel. Samuel interviewed them all and in every case something was not quite right. In every case Samuel would say, "No, that's not the one. Next..."

Samuel learned four things about his search process. First the search takes a lot longer than you think. Second, you look at a lot of candidates who on the surface look pretty good, but are not quite right somehow. They all have good qualifications but there is still something missing.

Third, you should never give up because the right one will come along someday. And fourth, the most important one, God does the choosing. God chose David to be the next king.

We think we have God's plan for our lives all figured out, but it is God who does the choosing. We think we have the right person for this position or that, and we work hard at the choice, but it is God who does the choosing.

Notice that God often chooses ones we would least expect. Why? Because God does not look on appearance. God always looks on the heart. Look at David, the youngest son of Jesse. David was so young and just a nobody in the family. He was the one who was chosen to be king because God looks not on appearance; God looks on the heart.

Some people say I am too old or I am too young, God will never want me. That may be what David thought that day as Samuel came around looking for a new king to take Saul's place. The farthest thing from David's mind was that he would even be considered, much less chosen. But let me say it again, God does not look at age or outward appearance; he looks at the heart.

All of us at Valley Christian need to remember that God has called you and me in a special way to serve him. He will choose a new minister to come and serve Valley. Because that is the way that God works. Thanks be to God! Samuel may be the Search Committee, but it is God who does the choosing. God Bless You, Edd

Outdoor Worship - Sunday, April 23

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. This year Earth Day is Saturday, April 22. A day where Christians have an opportunity to reflect on how to care for God's creation. On Sunday, April 23 we will gather outside for worship to lift up the splendor of the Earth and nature, how our spirit can be nurtured by God through creation, and how we can protect our precious home. Our sanctuary for the service will be by the magnolia tree near our playground. In this outdoor sanctuary we will celebrate the beauty of the earth through special music, a sermon on "The Giving Tree", and a creative sharing of communion.

Before the worship service we will have an opportunity at 9:30am to attend Sunday School on the walking trail. Edd will lead the class along the trail by sharing thoughts about trees and plants growing on our church grounds that also can be found in the Holy Land. The class will use images from nature to illustrate the teachings of Jesus. In case of rain the Sunday School class will be in the parlor and worship in the sanctuary. Come to Sunday School at 9:30am and worship at 10:30am as we praise Jesus in a beautiful outdoor setting at Valley.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Our prayers are with Jim Taylor and his therapy at UAB. Our prayers are also with Andrea Clark receiving therapy at her mother's home.
- Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Ruby Wilkes from Macedonia Christian Church, who went to be with the Lord.
- The driveway connecting to Highway 280 has been closed because of a sinkhole.
- The walking trail has been completed around the church building. Come walk the trail for health and to enjoy the beauty of nature. A walk of four times around the church is one mile.
- The 2023 Yearbook/Directory will be shared with members and friends this Sunday.
- Valley was blessed with some meaningful Lenten and Holy Week services.
- Thank you to everyone who prepared the breakfast and the tables for Easter morning.
- The church cabinet will meet after worship on Sunday, April 16th to plan church programs through August.
- He is Risen! Easter worship was glorious with the Easter Lilies, the Easter story, resurrection hymns, and a large group of people praising God.
- Members and friends of Valley sent Easter greetings through Easter cards to all the home-bound members.
- Ed Guindon and Edd Spencer will be sharing a program with New Horizons. Ed will talk about "Puzzles - Fun or Frustration" on Thursday, April 20. Edd Spencer will lead the group on "A Journey on the Appalachian Trail" on Friday, April 21.
- Edd will finish a year of ministry with Valley on Sunday, April 30.
- Food Pantry Sunday was April 2nd and the need is for canned fruit. You can bring your fruit at any time this month.

April AAA Event

The April AAA senior trip on Friday, April 28 is to a very unique restaurant called the Rattlesnake Saloon in Tuscumbia. It is a one of a kind restaurant located in the foot hills of the Appalachian Mountains. We will be eating under a large over hang of a cave. There is a good variety on the menu of hamburgers, BBQ and salads. We will leave the church at 8:30 for our 11:30 reservation. Wear your jeans, comfortable shoes and take a sweater. If anyone is driving the address is 1292 Mount Mills Road, Tuscumbia, 35674. Call Marilyn to reserve your van seat. This is a first come first serve seating. Please let Marilyn know if you are driving. Peggi Zinser

One Day of Sharing Emergency Week of Compassion Offering

On Sunday May 7th we will be receiving gifts for Week of Compassion. This is for all the recent storms in Alabama and the Southeast. You may mark your check for any area you choose or you may put W of C and your gift will go where needed. Remember one day of sharing for those in need. Valley has been very generous in the past when we remember our neighbors who are suffering. Thank you.

Stewardship

We are charged by God to be good Stewards of all that He has given us. We are responsible for using our time wisely, for using all the talents that he has entrusted to us, and for the gifts that we return to him. This is a note of thanks to all of you for your dedication to Valley. Stewardship Department

Blessing of the Pets

Valley Christian Church is going to the dogs! This year's event to honor pets will be held offsite at Cahaba River Walk (3503 Overton Road next to the River Run bridge) on Saturday April 29th at 10am. Since this park has a playground for dogs, we hope it will attract more of the general public's interest. Our Pastor Edd Spencer will direct the program. If no one has paid to reserve the pavilion at the park, we may use it free of charge. Otherwise, we will set-up at the semicircle on the riverbank. Since parking is limited, the church van will be used to transport members who are interested in going. It will be leaving the church at 9am. Unless there is a major weather threat, the Blessing will go forward come rain or shine. Owners must have their pets on leashes or in carriers when they bring them to the Blessing. Participants will be given certificates and bandanas. Also, anyone who wants to remember a pet from the past will have the opportunity to add a paw print on the Rainbow Bridge. We are grateful for all of God's animals for they have enriched the lives of mankind. St. Francis of Assisi especially has been known by the world for his devotion to caring for animals and nature. He was also highly revered for his ministry to the poor and underprivileged, and he left this important message "If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men." That is why a medallion of St. Francis will be sewn in the tip of each bandana. Thanks to Edd, Lola, Peggi, Carol, Jean, Beth, Ginny and Marilyn for helping to plan this fun day at the park. - Carolyn Nunnally

Sermon Series for April

Sunday April 16th "Thomas, the Doubter"

Sunday April 23rd "The Giving Tree"

Sunday April 30th "Thanks for the Memories"

Greater Birmingham Ministries/ Slice Fundraiser

