



# 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**

## Spring Worship Schedule

### Sunday Service

Apr 30 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

May 7 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

May 14 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

May 21 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

May 28 10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- April 28 - AAA trip to Rattlesnake Saloon in Tusculumbia for lunch
- April 29 - Blessing of the Pets Event
- May 7 - Week of Compassion Emergency for storms in Alabama.
- May 7 - Food Pantry Sunday - Canned Meats
- May 8 - Voice Deadline
- May 14 - Mother's Day
- May 17 - AAA - Transportation Museum (Tuscaloosa)

**April 25, 2023**

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## A Word from Your Pastor

How long has it been since you had one of those moments that takes your breath away? I had one of those moments recently in Oak Mountain State Park. I was hiking along the top of Oak Mountain late in the evening and I had a clear view of the night sky that was absolutely breathtaking. A sky filled with the twinkling stars of God.

The glorious sight reminded me of the wise men in the Christmas story. In their journey, they followed the star to the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem. The star was their navigation point and it led them to the Christ child.

In almost every journey we make we have a navigation point. The markers we are using to make sense of the journey. The marker might be our home. The marker might be our job. It could be our church. The navigation point could be almost anything. But whatever it is, the navigation point helps us in our journey through life.

There is one more navigation point that is essential to life. One that really tells us who we are and what we should be doing. This navigation point is called our morning star. It is Jesus Christ.

Jesus can be our morning star that guides us in our interaction with people. He can be the morning star that helps us provide the right examples for our children and grandchildren. He can be the morning star that guides us through the stresses and pressures of life.

In hymn writing people know the name of Fanny Crosby. She wrote more than 6,000 hymns. Hymns that we are all familiar with; "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine, O What a Foretaste of Glory Divine"; "Jesus is Calling Thee Home, Calling Today, Calling Today"; "I am Thine O Lord, I Have Heard Thy Voice, and It Told Thy Love For Me".

What most people do not realize is that she was blind all her life. At the age of six weeks, she was blinded for life by an illness, but she never became bitter.

One time a sympathetic minister said to her, "I think it is a great pity that the Lord did not give you sight when He showered so many other gifts upon you". She quickly replied, "Do you know that if I had been able to make one request, it would have been that I should be born blind." "Why?" asked the surprised minister. "Because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be my Savior".

At the age of 95, Fanny Crosby passed into glory and saw the face of her Savior for whom she was willing to wait all the days of her life. That is the power of faith that claimed Jesus as her morning star. It was the blessing of allowing Jesus to be her navigation point in life.

Just as the sky is filled with stars, our lives are also filled with blind spots, duties, obligations, responsibilities, fears, hopes and dreams. We need a navigation point to keep us from getting lost, a navigation point that will not let us down, a navigation point that can give us the best truth there is about ourselves and our lives.

Jesus Christ is the navigation point. He is the morning star for us. He is a most wondrous star. He is Savior!

God Bless You,

Edd

## Life in the Valley

### Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Our prayers are with Jim Taylor and Andrea Clark who are receiving therapy.
- Please be in prayer for Terry Nunnelly's sister, Kay Hammett, who will be having rotator cuff surgery.
- Please pray for Billy McDaniel's friend who passed away.
- Praise God for my ministry with you the past year. There is information on the back of the calendar in this newsletter that lifts up some of our special moments together. - Edd
- Ed Guindon's puzzle presentation for the New Horizons Group was outstanding. He is indeed "Mr. Puzzle Man". Also Edd Spencer's Appalachian Trail presentation was wonderful and special.
- April was Administrative Assistant Month. We will celebrate the wonderful work of Marilyn serving the church on Sunday, May 7th.
- The Disciples Women meeting is Thursday, May 18th at 10:00am
- The Easter Offering total was \$530.00. Thank you generous members!
- 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.
- Food Pantry Sunday is May 7th and the need is for canned meat. You can bring your donations 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

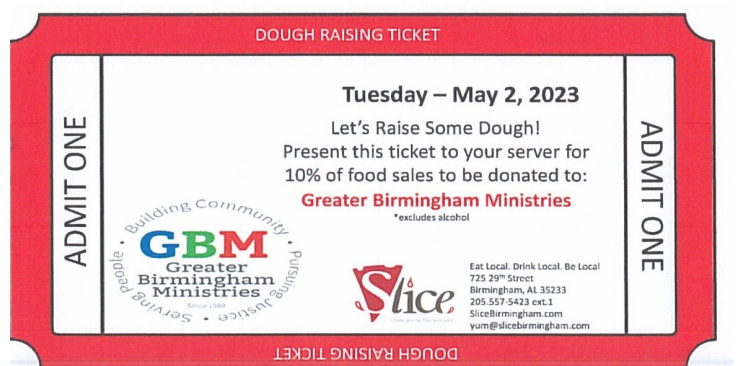
On Sunday May 7th we will be receiving gifts for Week of Compassion. This is for all the recent storms in Alabama and the Southeast. You may mark your check for any area you choose or you may put W of C and your gift will go where needed. Remember one day of sharing for those in need. Valley has been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

## 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 setup 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 medalion 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 Nunnelly

## Greater Birmingham Ministries/ Slice Fundraiser



## Board Approves Contract Extension for Edd Spencer

The original contract with our interim minister, Edd Spencer, expires at the end of April. It is clear that we will not have a new minister by then, so Edd has graciously consented to continue serving, but with a few modifications to our agreement. Edd and Mary Pat wish to be freer to travel and spend time with family as Edd moves toward full retirement, so he will be working in the office two weekdays (Monday and Thursday) rather than the three he works currently. In addition, they will be on vacation a couple of weeks in May and again in July. Edd will continue to be available as needed for hospital visits and other needs as well as participating in special events that fall on other days of the week or weekend (e.g. AAA, Brown Bag programs). The new contract runs through the end of August 2023, with the option to extend it one more time through Christmas 2023, if needed.

## Week of Compassion Reminder

May 7th is the One Day of Sharing Week of Compassion Offering for the recent storms we have had over the southeast.

(continued)

## Thanks for the Memories

For 72 years Valley Christian Church has stood as a special place in Birmingham representing Christ and calling people to prayer and service. Across these years it has been known for the wonderful people who made up its membership.

I celebrate that I have been a part of this wonderful ministry at Valley. On April 30 I will have completed a year of being your Interim Minister.

The following is a list of some of the ministries, programs and fellowship moments we have accomplished together in the past year. It has been an honor to serve Christ with you and I look forward to our remaining months together as you call a new pastor.

## Our Ministry Together

- Releasing doves to fly over Valley on Pentecost Sunday.
- The work of a fantastic Search Committee.
- Sharing 47 sermons with you.
- Outstanding offerings to outreach for the local communities.
- Outstanding offerings to Week of Compassion and the Disciple Mission Fund.
- The AAA trips with my two favorites—Cathedral Caverns and NOAA, the weather station.
- The Walk to Bethlehem inside the building and the nativity scene in the sanctuary.
- The Advent Brown Bag lunches and worship centered on the Animals at the Manger.
- The Advent and Lenten Devotional Books.
- Christmas Eve worship and coming forward for communion.
- The constant reaching out to the Cherokee neighborhood inviting them to worship.
- The New Horizons Senior Group
- Visiting in all of your homes.
- The coffee fellowship of visiting with friends and sharing delicious food.
- Sharing my ministry at Children's Hospital with magic.
- Laity Sunday with the Disciple Andrew visiting us and the Recognition for Christian Service.
- The sermon series on the Crosses of Lent.
- The Brown Bag lunches for Lent and the worship around "The Sounds of Lent".
- Ash Wednesday worship coming forward for the mark of the cross on our foreheads.
- The Maundy Thursday worship of meeting the twelve disciples of Jesus.
- The Walk to Calvary on the walking trail and the worship of the Lord crucified on the cross.
- Easter morning with the church filled with worshippers and Easter lilies.
- A delicious Easter breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.
- A chilly outdoor worship service for the celebration of Earth Day.
- And all the other worship services, fellowship activities and meetings at Valley Christian Church.

My gratitude is expressed to everyone for helping our church in advancing the kingdom of God.  
God Bless You, Edd

## Blankets of Hope

You can purchase Blankets of Hope on May 14th and May 21. These blankets are used to give to people who are involved in disasters of any kind. Church World Serves will take our gifts and give them to people in need. You can purchase them in honor or memory of anyone who has held you in a blanket or anyone you have held you in a blanket. Unfortunately, inflation has caught up with us. The blankets are now \$10.

## General Assembly Convention Center, Louisville, Kentucky

### July 29th - August 1st

Consider attending the 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on July 29 through August 1. The theme of the assembly is "The Kingdom of God Within us, Among us".

Engage in the dynamic discernment of the church, gather for energizing worship and deepen your faith with bible study and workshops.

Anyone can attend some or all of the every 4-year gathering of the denomination. You can reach out to Edd if you are interested to learn more about attending or how you can be involved.

## May AAA Event

Our May AAA event will be a trip to the Transportation Museum in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The museum is the result of the renovation of an historic swimming pool bathhouse designed by Don Buel Schuler, a protégé of the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It contains a variety of exhibits about local history and types of transportation. The van will leave the church at 9:30am for a \$5.00 per person guided tour at 11:00am. Lunch will be at the Blue Plate Restaurant at 12:30pm. Please call Marilyn for reservations by Friday, May 12th.

## Earth Day Celebration

We enjoyed a chilly outdoor Sunday Service to celebrate Earth Day for the world with the congregation enjoying the fresh air and the birds singing as we sat among the trees. Rev. Edd Spencer took several people on a tour of the church's walking trail to showcase the trees that we have here on our property that also grow in Israel. Everyone enjoyed this special service bringing our attention to the fact that we all need to care for this wonderful place God created for us.

