



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

Pentecost Service

May 28 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jun 4 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jun 11 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jun 18 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jun 25 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- May 28 - Pentecost Sunday
- May 28 - Guest Minister Jan Watts
- May 29 - Memorial Day - Office Closed
- June 4 - Food Pantry Sunday - Summer snack foods for kids
- June 4 and 11 Pentecost Offering
- June 14 - AAA trip to Purdy Butterfly House
- June 16 - Elder/Deacon Supper
- June 18 - Father's Day
- June 18 - Cabinet Meeting

A Word from Your Pastor

May 23, 2023

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I am not a very good housekeeper. I do not like sweeping floors. Sometimes I am tempted to take a shortcut and sweep all those dust balls, dog hairs, dirt and whatever else is on the floor, under the rug so no one will see it. But sweeping all that mess under the rug does not get rid of any of it. It just makes it look better. But I know it is there. And Mary Pat probably has a pretty good idea that it is there, too.

Sometimes, we are also tempted to take a few shortcuts in cleaning up the messes in our lives. Instead of putting jealousy, hatred, greed, pride and an unforgiving spirit where they belong, which is under the grace of God, we try to hang on to them and hide them away in our hearts and souls. We may end up looking good to others, but God knows they are still there. And so do we.

Maybe it is time we all did a little spring cleaning in our hearts, to see what we have got hidden there. May the Lord help us to trust Him with all our hearts and especially those areas we try to hide from Him and others.

God Bless all of us in our spring cleaning, Edd

On-line Giving Capabilities

Valley has engaged the services of EasyTithe to offer interested persons the option of secure on-line giving via the church website (www.vccbhm.org). Many churches now offer this capability on their websites, which allows church members and friends to contribute their tithes and offerings conveniently from anywhere at anytime, either once or on an automatic recurring basis. As always, Valley gladly will continue to accept checks and cash through the mail, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate during Sunday morning worship.

To give, choose the "Giving" tab on the home page of the website and you will be directed to another page to sign up. You may designate which fund you wish your contribution to help (General Fund, Special Day offerings, Memorial Gifts, etc.), and you may give via credit or debit card, Google Pay, or ACH (from your checking account). The processing fee is 0.75% for ACH donations and 1.99% for credit or debit cards and Google Pay; contributors have the option to cover this fee if they wish to. For example, the processing fee for a \$50 gift via ACH is only 38 cents. Additionally, Valley pays 77 cents for each contribution transaction. Contributions are directly deposited into the church's bank account and the financial secretary receives notification by email. The donor also receives an email receipt. If you are interested, please explore the page on the website. I am available for any questions or to provide assistance with using the feature.

Special thanks go to Tim Devine for his help in the implementation of this feature on Valley's website. - Ginny Guindon

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 28th is Pentecost Sunday. It is the day we celebrate the birthday of the church throughout the world. It is the day in the Book of Acts in the New Testament when the followers of Jesus were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. They said that the filling with the Holy Spirit felt like the wind. Did you ever watch an eagle fly? It never flaps its wings. It simply soars. It rides the current of wind. We are like the eagle, born to fly. Our Pentecost worship on May 28th will enable us to soar with the spiritual wind of God. Jan Watts will bring the Pentecost message. May we all wear something red to church for this color is the symbol of the fire of the spirit.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- The Emergency Week of Compassion Day of Giving totaled \$1,060. This was for the earlier storms we have had in the Southeast and Midwest. Thank you to all who supported this great cause. - Sarah Draper
- Edd will be on vacation two Sundays in May. In his absence Dale Braxton, Interim Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Alabama/Northwest Florida, preached on Sunday May 21st. Our own Jan Watts will preach on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.
- Edd will be on vacation for the next two weeks. Please call Stewart Draper, who is chair of the elders, if you have any concerns.
- Continue to pray for our Search Committee members who are doing a wonderful job on our behalf in seeking a new pastor for Valley.
- The Cabinet Meeting has been changed from the third Sunday to the fourth Sunday of the month in June (the 25th) because of Father's Day.
- Food Pantry Sunday is June 4th and the need is for summer snacks for kids. You can bring your donations at any time next month and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

Sermon Series for June

At our last cabinet meeting, I asked the members for suggestions for sermon topics in the month of June. Lola Kiser came up with the idea of preaching on questions that Jesus asked. She picked out the following scriptures that lift up His questions to each one of us. The following are more questions, scriptures, and sermon titles for the month of June.

Sunday, June 4th - "Parable of the Sower" Mark 4:1-20

Question of Jesus - "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?" Mark 4:13

Sunday, June 11th - "Judging Others" Matthew 7:1-5
Question of Jesus - "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" Matthew 7:3

Sunday, June 18th Father's Day "Ask, Seek, Knock" Matthew 7:7-11
Question of Jesus - "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?" Matthew 7:9

Sunday, June 25th "Love for Enemies" Luke 6:27-36
Question of Jesus - "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" Luke 6:32

June AAA Trip -

The Purdy Butterfly House

Who doesn't like to see fluttering butterflies? Well, the Valley AAA seniors will see about 1,000 native brightly colored ones on their visit to the Purdy Butterfly House in Huntsville on Wednesday, June 14th. This trip is during the peak season for seeing butterflies and is housed in the nation's largest open air butterfly house. We will leave the church at 8:30 for a

visit time of 11:30. They have a shuttle for 5 people. Gas charge will be \$8:00 and tickets are \$16.50. If time permits we can go to the gift shop after the visit at the butterfly house. Lunch is at the German restaurant Ol' Heidelberg Café at 1:00pm Please call Marilyn to sign up to ride the van by Friday, June 10th.

An Elder/Deacon Gathering

Elders, deacons and their spouses are invited to the Spencer's on Friday, June 16th for supper. This will be a celebration of the elders and deacons ministry at Valley Christian Church. Together we will enjoy a meal, play a few silly games and close with a short vesper service.

Search Committee Update

The committee continues to receive names of candidates from Interim Regional Minister Dale Braxton and we study and discuss those profiles both on our own and as a group. We meet on most Monday evenings at the church building.

Of the candidates that we've considered as good possibilities for Valley, some were already in discussions with other churches or had already decided to accept a position with another church, and some wanted or needed to stay in a certain part of the country for family reasons.

On Monday, May 1st, we conducted a Zoom interview with a candidate who shortly thereafter decided to accept an offer from a church where he and his family would be closer to a relative who depends on them for assistance.

We pray for God to send the right person in His time, and we ask that the congregation join us in this prayer. - Ginny Guindon, Chairperson

General Assembly

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.

Pentecost Offering

We will receive the Pentecost Offering on June 4th and June 11th. The Pentecost Offering helps us to ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Half of our gifts supports local church movement through our region's ministry. The other half supports New Church Ministry efforts across the US and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders. So, thank you for participating in the new thing God is still doing-just as in the beginning.