



Voice

A PUBLICATION OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) Birmingham, Alabama



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2600 Cherokee Place
Birmingham, Alabama
35216
205-879-0419

Email: office@vccbhm.org
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

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A Word from Your Pastor

I have discovered in life that what happens to you is not as important as how you handle what happens to you.

The scripture in Acts 16 is a good example of what I am talking about. In the scripture story Paul and Silas are having a bad day. They had been dragged before the authorities where the crowd attacked and beat them. Their clothes were torn, they were whipped and after being severely beaten they were thrown in a dirty prison cell and chained to the wall. Then comes this amazing statement, "About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God".

Imagine, after all of that, they were able to sing! It was their stance toward an unfavorable circumstance. They lifted up the wonderful promise of God that when things are the darkest, it is still possible to sing.

This scripture indicates that it is a wonderful experience to sing at midnight. Their chains fell off and they were freed. Do you believe that if you learn to sing at midnight, when life is at its darkest moment, that some heavy chains of anxiety, discouragement and despair will roll away? This scripture suggests that if we concentrate on the good and positive things in our lives we could be set free from our negative feelings. We could be free to not only enjoy life but to go out and minister, enrich and enlighten others as Paul and Silas did.

So how are we able to sing at midnight, when life is darkest? Basically it is by taking a faith stance. It is by making a conscious decision to stand on faith, to believe that God will see you through. Believe that somehow, some way there will be a way. I am sure Paul and Silas believed that and so can we. Therefore, if you find yourself in some tough circumstance, try a change of stance. It may very well change the circumstance.

God Bless You, Edd

World Communion Sunday October 2, 2022

Sunday, October 2, is World Communion Sunday. Every year on the first Sunday of October, faithful Christians from different denominations and churches in every country of the world gather at the Lord's table for holy communion.

The celebration began 98 years ago in the depression days of 1933 when the storm clouds of Hitler hovered over Europe. At the time, Christian people around the world decided to overcome geographical, political and theological barriers by gathering around the Lord's table.

As we join the world around the Lord's table on World Communion Sunday, we will celebrate the Lord's supper in a special way. We will hear the words of communion for the bread and cup found in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 in the following different languages: French— Jessica Guindon, Spanish— Ed Guindon, Sign Language— Stacy Cason.

Invite a friend to worship on this special Sunday.

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

October 2 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 9 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 16 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 23 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 30 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Oct 1 - Valley Work Day
- Oct 2 - World Communion Sunday
- Oct 2 - Week of Compassion Puerto Rico Hurricane
- Oct 2 - Food Pantry Sunday (Rice, Pasta and/or Spaghetti Sauce)
- Oct 10 - Voice Deadline
- Oct 19 - AAA Event - Oak Hill Cemetery B'ham
- Oct 22 - Scarf Party hosted by Valley

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please pray for a strong positive outcome for our beloved member, Stewart Draper. He is at home recovering after procedures at Grandview Medical Center and doing very well.
- Please be in prayer for the family and friends of Lika Eatman, daughter of Robert and Ida Eatmon of Macedonia Christian Church. She passed away recently at 44 years old.
- Jan and Bill Watts' youngest grandchild, Joshua Watts was dedicated in worship last Sunday at his parent's church.
- Edd will be out of town on Sunday, October 9. Jan Watts will share the morning message.
- Ted Stuckenschneider's first cousin, Susan Gainey Vines' husband, Larry Vines became ill Thursday. He went to ER and ICU and died overnight - actually 1 am Friday morning. Susan's father was Ted's uncle, Andrew Gainey who taught Voice at Birmingham Southern and was the minister of music for many years at South Highland Presbyterian Church.
- The Food Pantry items for Food Pantry Sunday (10-2-22) and the month of October are rice, pasta and/or spaghetti sauce.

Week of Compassion - Puerto Rico Hurricane

On Sunday, September 25 and Sunday, October 2, we will be receiving a special Week of Compassion offering. Hurricane Fiona has hit Puerto Rico. They are still recovering from the last two hurricanes that hit them. They are without power and do not expect to have power for weeks. Mark your check for Puerto Rico. - Outreach Department

AAA's Spooky Halloween Event

The AAA group will go to Alabama's oldest cemetery, opened in 1871, Oak Hill, on Wednesday, October 19th. We will meet at the church at 9:30 and caravan by cars to Oak Hill Cemetery 1120 19th Street North. Our tour guide, Karen, will begin the tour at 10:00am. She is very knowledgeable about the interesting and infamous people interred there. The cost is \$10.00 for seniors per person. Please call Marilyn and let her know if you are going, the deadline is Wednesday October 12th. Please write a check for \$10.00 to Peggi Zinser in advance. We will need to double up in cars and not take too many because the parking is very limited. We will all meet in front of the cemetery office. Lunch plans are to go to Niki's.

A "Scarving" Party

You've never heard of a "scarving" party??? Well, don't tie yourself in knots - neither have I! A "scarving" party is similar to a quilting party except we will make scarves instead of a quilt. The Outreach and Evangelism Departments are planning a scarving party for everyone, both women and men, on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at 9:00am. The scarves are made of fleece, and the only skill required to make them is the ability to tie a knot,

which, we've all experienced. We will make 50 scarves to be given to the women who live at First Light downtown. This event will be a lot of fun and an excellent outreach project priding warmth to folks on a cold day. Make your plans now to participate. Everyone is welcome! - Lola Kiser

A Prayer For World Communion Sunday

God of blessing, we gather as a people connected throughout the world to praise your holy name. Christ's sacrifice for us all connects us through bread and grape as we partake in the great thanksgiving of our faith. Make us grateful for our diversity even in our oneness. Bless especially the people of all languages who celebrate with us this day. May Christians everywhere feel the strong link of our communion in the one God, Christ and Holy Spirit. As we celebrate the feast together, remind us of all your blessings in this meal we share with the world. Amen

Sermon Series for October

We have all been to a cafeteria restaurant. At the cafeteria you grab a tray and you walk down the line seeing all the delicious foods displayed behind the glass cases. You make your choices for the main course and select your dessert at the end. During October we are going to walk down the line of a spiritual cafeteria. We are going to discover in the following stories meals that bring us closer to Jesus.

World Communion Sunday, October 2 - "The Lord's Supper" 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sunday, October 9 - "Heavenly Bread" - Exodus 16:4-8

Sunday, October 16 - "The Picnic for 5,000 People" John 6:1-15

Sunday, October 23 - "God Feeds the Sparrows" Matthew 6:25-27

All Saints Sunday, October 30 - "A Great Cloud of Witnesses" Hebrews 12:1-2

May these extraordinary meals in scripture transform our ordinary lives into the extraordinary.



AAA Trip to Bama Bucks

Fifteen seniors of Valley Christian took a trip to Boaz, Alabama to Bama Bucks, an Exotic Animal Park and Restaurant. Some seniors enjoyed the wild game that was on the menu, Bison chili, Bison hamburgers and Bison lasagna. After lunch we all strolled through the park and saw Black Bears, Bison, Antelope, Deer, Ostrich and a kangaroo. It was a beautiful day with the most perfect blue sky.