



Voice

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



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A Word from Your Pastor

I have learned that it is easier to judge people than to forgive them. The role of judge is a role we play constantly. Ministers judge their colleagues and their congregations and in turn are themselves judged by those same colleagues and congregations. Husbands judge their wives and wives their husbands. Parents criticize their teenagers and teenagers criticize their parents. Students and teachers judge one another. Blacks and whites judge one another. You and I are constantly making judgements about the television programs we see and the sermons we hear and the music we listen to and the books we read and the products we use. We sit in judgement of persons, of institutions, of ideas, and of the weather. Judgement takes over our lives.

The bible leads us away from this role of being a judge that sometimes consumes us. It does not see us as judges, but sees God alone as the judge. The bible sees us as forgiven sinners. Therefore the only attitude we can take toward our fellow sinners whom God has pardoned is an attitude of forgiveness. We should not be judging but forgiving. Forgiveness is the only appropriate attitude in view of our own status as forgiven sinners.

Jesus calls you and me to be forgivers and peacemakers in our homes, in our churches, in our neighborhoods, and wherever we find ourselves. Jesus tells us to leave the judging to God and to get on with the forgiving.

We need to remember the message of the cross. On the cross Jesus accepted into His body and spirit the punishment for sin. Therefore since the punishment for sin has already been given to our crucified Lord, you and I do not need to go around punishing people with our criticisms and complaints. We need to remember that the price of not forgiving can be very high. That price can be loneliness. It can be a lifetime of bitterness. It can be negative emotions which can destroy a person's body. The price of our refusals to forgive can be extremely high.

Finally, Jesus was a human being who knew how to forgive. How He did it will certainly be helpful to us. Here is an example of how he handled judgement and forgiveness. One day they brought to Jesus a woman caught in the act of adultery. They wanted him to judge the case. Should she be stoned in accordance with the Law of Moses, they asked? What do you say, Jesus? He stood up and said to them, "Let Him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her". When they heard it, they went away and Jesus was left along with the woman standing before Him. Jesus looked up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one judged and condemned you?" She said, "No one Lord". And Jesus said, "Neither Do I judge or condemn you. Go and do not sin again". God Bless You, Edd

Outreach and Evangelism Event

On Saturday, October 22nd the Outreach and Evangelism Departments are planning to make 50 fleece scarves for the ladies at the First Light Facility, Downtown. We will have tables for cutting the scarves and tables for wrapping and signing Christmas cards. All are welcome to come and help with this project. We have designed the Christmas Event card that will go into the November mail out to zip code 35243, we have been receiving about 30 names each month. The Evangelism Department has been working on up-dating the articles on the web site and plan to have this completed by the end of the year. If you have any pictures that we can use to update the picture gallery at the awning entrance please let me know so they can be included. Peggi Zinser - Chair

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

October 16 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 23 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 30 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Nov 6 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Nov 13 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Oct 16 - Cabinet Meeting to plan Advent and Christmas
- Oct 19 - AAA Event - Oak Hill Cemetery B'ham
- Oct 22 - Scarf Party for First Light hosted by Valley
- Oct 23 - Elders' Meeting
- Oct 24 - Voice Deadline
- Oct 30 - All Saints Sunday and Commitment Sunday
- Nov 1 - All Saints Day

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Week of Compassion Emergency Offering for Puerto Rico and Florida was \$1,195. You are truly a church with the heart of Christ. Thank you for giving.
- A big thank you to Rev. Jan Watts for an inspiring sermon about bread last Sunday.
- We are blessed to have Phillip Traywick worshipping with us every Sunday.
- We would like to welcome Regina Rozsa to Valley. She will be substituting for Margaret on the piano on Sunday, October 23rd.
- Our gratitude is expressed to Jessica Guindon, Ed Guindon and Stacy Cason who shared the words of communion in different languages on World Communion Sunday.
- Have you noticed the new outside awning over the front door? It will shelter us from the storms as we go inside to the sanctuary and praise Jesus who shelters us from spiritual storms.
- A huge thank you to our faithful, hardworking member, Ed Guindon for all the work of cleaning up our playground after the improvements by Birmingham Water Works has finally been done. We are so grateful for all the work he does as Property Chair. He is abundant!
- Plans are being made for an exciting Advent and Christmas season at Valley. Look for information on the worship services and Christmas programs in the November Valley Voice newsletter.
- Please pray for a strong positive outcome for our beloved member, Stewart Draper. He was at church Sunday and is doing very well.
- Jan Watts has a joy that her youngest grandson was dedicated to God this past Sunday in his parents' church. He is a blessing to all.
- Mary Pat Spencer had a joy that Edd and Mary Pat's granddaughters both participated in track races this past weekend. The oldest won the entire race at Troy University. The youngest is in the 9th grade at Chelsea and came in 23rd of 288 girls. They are a blessing to the family.
- Thank you so much to Jean Thrasher and Phillip Traywick for purchasing and planting the beautiful mums at the sanctuary doors. God bless you!
- Margaret Cox's grandson walked for the first time this weekend and she has watched the video continuously and gotten so much joy from it.
- Ginny and Ed Guindon spent part of last week with their two daughters and grandson Scotty in Jackson Mississippi. It was a wonderful family event.
- Our neighbor, Mr. Davis, on Cherokee Road just had his 105th birthday. What an inspiration he is! Happy Birthday Mr. Davis!
- Please remember that the Advent Devotionals are due to Marilyn in the office by Tuesday, November 1, 2022.
- The Food Pantry items for the month of October are rice, pasta and/or spaghetti sauce.

Please Say Yes

It is that time of the year to nominate new leaders for 2023. The nominating committee is Ed Guindon,

Chair and the members are Carolyn Nunnally, Judy Sellers and Jean Thrasher. Please say yes if you are contacted to lead the church into the new year. A year that is very important as Valley calls a new minister. Also it is time for Stewardship Financial Campaign as we make our commitments for 2023. Sara Simon will lead the campaign. Our theme is, "Blessed - In Order to Bless". Please consider increasing your commitment to the Lord and His church. Our commitments are very important as Valley calls a new minister.

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 Nikis's West on Finley Avenue.

With My Whole Heart Hymn Festival

First Christian Church of Birmingham
4954 Valleydale Rd.
Birmingham AL 35242
Also streamed live on YouTube.



Led by David Gambrell
Charles Kennedy, Organ
October 23, 3 p.m.

Commitment Sunday

On Sunday, October 30th we will dedicate our financial commitment to the Lord for 2023. Your commitment card will be mailed to you next week.

Bread for the World

Bread for the World Sunday is November 13, 2022. The church will send letters to support the cause of the hungry. A speaker from St. Andrews Society will be on the program during worship. She is Elizabeth Wix, Alabama Regional Director of St. Andrews Society. They are Gleaning America's Fields and Feeding America's Hungry.

Search Committee Update

The church board approved the Congregational Profile on Sunday, September 18th and the Search Committee sent the Profile to the Regional Office the following day. Interim Regional Minister Dale Braxton met with the Search Committee on Monday, October 10th and advised as we prepare to consider potential ministerial candidates. Please continue to pray for God's guidance in this important process. - Ginny Guindon, Search Committee Chairperson