



Voice

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



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A Word from Your Pastor

There was a very wealthy man who, with his young son, shared a passion for collecting art. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasure to their collection. They both shared a great love and affection for art. But war came to the nation, and the young son left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic. The father was devastated with sorrow and sadness.

One morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. When he opened the door, a soldier greeted him with a large package in his hands. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you." As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told everyone of his love of fine art. "I am an artist like your son", said the soldier, "and I want to give you this". As the old man unwrapped the package, he found a portrait of his son inside. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace. After the soldier left, the painting went above the fireplace, with the old man pushing aside thousands of dollars worth of art. Then the little old man sat in his chair looking at the painting he had been given.

As Christians, we should be like the old man and remember another son who gave his life on a cross to forgive us of all our sins and give us eternal life. We need to push aside everything in our lives and make room for His picture. We need to give Him the center of attention. We need to sit down and look at His portrait and praise God for His love. During this Thanksgiving season may each one of us turn our eyes upon Jesus. May we be thankful for the picture of God in the presence of Jesus. For His painting of love is worth more than all the treasures in the world. God Bless You, Edd

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, October 30, is our congregation's Commitment Sunday. A Sunday when we will walk to the table and place our Commitment Cards for 2023 in the Offering Tray. Everyone is urged to be in church on this Sunday as this service will enrich our understanding of Christian Stewardship. October 30 is also all Saints Sunday as we remember those who have served the church and gone to be with the Lord. This year we will remember two special members of Valley who died this past year. We will remember Hattie Belle Lester and Joan Noland.

Senior Adult Retreat

The Senior Adult Retreat is for seniors who are members or guests of the Christian Church in the Alabama and Northwest Florida Region. The retreat is Thursday, November 3 - Friday, November 4. It begins at 11:30am for lunch on Thursday and concludes after lunch on Friday at 1:30pm. The theme is "Our Disciples Saints of Old and Today". Dr. Mark Benson, Pastor of First Christian church in Meridian, Mississippi, will be our keynote speaker. The retreat will be at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, Al. The cost options are available in the church office. Let's have a good group of our seniors attend. For more information contact Edd.

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

October 30 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Nov 6 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Nov 13 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Nov 20 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Nov 27 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Oct 30 - All Saints Sunday and Commitment Sunday
- Nov 1 - All Saints Day
- Nov 1 - Advent Devotionals Due
- Nov 5 - Valley Work Day
- Nov 6 - Daylight Savings Time
- Nov 6 - "Yes I Can" GBM Event
- Nov 7 - Voice Deadline
- Nov 8 - Election Day
- Nov 9 - AAA Event St. Elias B'ham

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- We would like to thank Regina Rozsa for substituting for Margaret at worship last Sunday. What a wonderful talent she has.
- Our heartfelt thanks to Jean Thrasher and Phillip Traywick for the beautiful fall flower arrangements in the Sanctuary. What a blessing!
- We are having a Thanksgiving Dinner after church on Sunday, November 20th. After dinner, we will decorate the church for Christmas. More information will be in the next issue of the Voice.
- Pat McDaniel's sister is now clear of cancer. Praise the Lord!
- We would like to thank Terry Nunnally, Peggi Zinser and Ed Guindon for attending the Safety Seminar by the JeffCo Sheriff's Office.
- Please pray for Margaret Cox's five year old great-nephew Will. The court is making a final decision of custody on Wednesday, October 26th. We want what is best for Will.
- The Week of Compassion for the Hurricanes is now at \$1450.00. How wonderful!
- Nine people met at the Scarf Party this past weekend. They made 50 scarves for First Light and they will be on display this coming Sunday.
- 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 Advent/Christmas Brochure coming soon.

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.

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.

Sermons for November

November is our month to offer God our Thanksgiving for the gift of life - to thank him for all of our blessings. Therefore the sermons for some of the Sundays in November will focus on our Thanksgiving for the love and grace of God.

Sunday, November 7th - "Make a Joyful Noise"
Psalm 100

Sunday, November 13th - Bread for the World Sunday - Elizabeth Wix is preaching.

Sunday, November 20th - The Ten Lepers"
Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, November 27th - The First Sunday of Advent -
"The Angels" Luke 2:8-14

November AAA Event

Our next AAA event will be a trip to St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church in Birmingham on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 leaving the church by van at 9:30am for a 10:00am tour and talk. The Old Testament prophet Elijah (Elias), depicted on a stained glass window, is the patron saint of the church. The "Maronite Rite" name is from a holy hermit called "Maron", who lived in Northern Syria in the 4th and 5th centuries. After the tour of the church we will have lunch at 11:30am at the Fish Market Restaurant (Southside). Please make your reservation with Marilyn in the church office by Friday, November 4, 2022. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Advent Devotional Booklet

Remember that devotionals for our 2022 Advent Booklet are due on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Thank you for returning these to Marilyn by that date so we can have the booklet ready to distribute in time for the First Sunday of Advent. Lola Kiser

A Time To Give Thanks

There was a remarkable lady named Corrie ten Boom who served the Lord. She and her family lived through the Nazi holocaust and they hid Jewish people in their home who would otherwise have been killed. When she was in a Nazi prison camp it was such a flea ridden and terrible place that she could not stand it. Her older sister said, "But I have found something in the Bible that will help us. It says, "In all things, give thanks". Corrie said, "I can't give thanks for the fleas." Then her sister said to Corrie, "Then give thanks that somehow the guards didn't check our belongings and our Bible that is with us". She gave thanks for that. But Corrie would not even think of giving thanks for fleas. Later, the sisters found out that the only reason they were not harassed by the guards was because the guards were so repulsed by the fleas that they would not go in. Therefore they gave thanks to God for the fleas.

This story reminds us to give thanks for the presence of God in any situation. To realize that even through the worst circumstances, God can work. To be reminded that even the cross where Christ dies can be a tool that brings a new and beautiful life. Because God is with us in all situations of life we can say with the Psalmist in Psalm 118:24, "this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it".

Yes I Can

Again, the year we will be collecting food for Greater Birmingham Ministry and St Anne's. We will hand out "Yes, I Can" bags on Sunday, November 6th. We are asking that you return them on Sunday, November 13th. We will need to take the food sometime the week of the 14th to give GBM time to disburse the food.

Thanksgiving Offering

We will receive the Thanksgiving Offering on November 13 & 20. This offering goes to support Higher Education & Leadership Ministries. In other words our colleges, universities, divinity house & seminaries. We have set a goal of \$500. Help us reach this goal as we support the future leaders of our church. Thank you for your gifts.