



Voice

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



April 2026

VOLUME 77, NUMBER 4

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(Disciples of Christ)
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**Office Hours: 8:00am-
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**Dates of Interest:
April 2026**

- April - Donations to Three Hots and a Cot
- Apr 2 - Maundy Thursday Service
- Apr 3 - Good Friday Prayer and Service
- Apr 4 - Valley Workday
- Apr 5 - Easter Sunday
Easter Offering
Elders' Prayer
- Apr 8 - Men's Lunch
- Apr 9 - AAA trip to Imerys Gantt's Quarry and Observation Site Sylacauga, AL
- Apr 12 - Board Meeting
- Apr 13 - VOICE DEADLINE
- April 15 - Disciples Women
- Apr 16 - BVM Dinner Paw Paw Patch
- April 24, 25, 26 Regional Assembly, Montgomery

A Word From the Pastor

After forty long days, the Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection is here. The solemnness of Maundy Thursday, the darkness of Good Friday, the emptiness of Holy Saturday are replaced with the joy and excitement of Resurrection Sunday. Our Lord is alive, He has defeated the cross, He has left the tomb behind, and He is at the right hand of our gracious and loving God.

We are right to celebrate, to lift voices in joyous victory, to feel relief and breathe easier knowing that our Lord has done just as He said He would. But what comes next? What does the resurrection mean to us? How does the resurrection of Jesus affect our daily lives? What do we do with it?

For many of us this points to a reevaluation of our lives and the choices we have been making. It causes us to think about the value of life and how precious is our time here on this earth. We start to think about changes we can make to align our lives closer to the will and desires of our Lord. We also see others differently knowing that their lives are just as valuable as ours and worthy of love, compassion and grace. We start to live what is called a resurrection life.

Some key components of what we call a resurrected life is the movement from fear and hopelessness to a new spirit led life filled with confidence and everlasting hope. It is a life that knows even in the darkest of valleys, our Lord is with us illuminating our way through by His never ceasing light of life. It is recognizing no matter where we go, who we are or what our circumstances are, our Lord is with us and will never leave us nor forsake us.

Through the resurrection of Jesus, we have a new identity and purpose, one that is dead to sin but alive in Jesus. We are new creations who are no longer tied to the ways of this world, but rather seek to live our lives in service to God and His people. We choose to live in love, compassion and peace treating others as we ourselves would like to be treated.

Being a people of the resurrection, we cling to God's Word relishing it and leaning into it in times of turmoil as well as times of joy. We engage our Lord in frequent prayer, listening as much as speaking and seeking ways to draw closer to Him and His will for our lives. We are not afraid to proclaim the good news, to give a reason for our joy and to share our testimony with others, not out of pride or arrogance but in complete humility and reverence.

Living a resurrected life means coming alongside the hurting, the forgotten, the lost, offering a shoulder to cry on, words of encouragement and the spirit of hope that comes through a relationship with Christ. We live into the words of Jesus by not coming to be served, rather to serve and be a light for others allowing them to see the love of Christ shining through us.

Living a resurrected life means relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit rather than trying to control every situation or circumstance. It means trusting in our Lord, allowing Him to set our path and our direction. It means getting out of our comfort zones, opening ourselves up to new opportunities to share the love of God and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Living a resurrected life means we know the cost paid for our salvation, a cost that demonstrated the love and commitment our God has made to recover, redeem and reclaim each and every one of us, a love that is total, complete and without end. It is this love that we live into each and every day as people filled with the resurrection life.

Pastor Rick Malugani
Senior Minister
Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



THE EASTER OFFERING

Love answers the call from congregations throughout the world, as new leaders rise up to provide education, mentorship, and support. Our gifts will aid with health and medical needs, social services, and housing. We will be receiving these gifts on two Sundays, Palm Sunday, March 29th and Easter Sunday, April 5th. Valley is a very caring and giving church; we cannot be there, but our gifts can help those who can be there to provide these services.

Thank you, Peggi Zinser – Outreach



Dear Church Family, I wanted to reach out and share a heartfelt thank you for your incredible generosity toward my mission project. Because of your donations to the mission kits and “caboodles”, I have been able to personally deliver twenty-eight hygiene bags to homeless men and women throughout our local community. Seeing the relief and gratitude on their faces when they receive these essentials is a direct result of your kindness. Your support did not just provide soap and toothbrushes; it provided dignity and a reminder that they are seen and loved by this congregation. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus alongside me. I look forward to seeing how much more we can accomplish together as this mission continues.

With gratitude, Jackie Ivey



**APRIL 2026 DONATION BASKET
THREE HOTS AND A COT**

The April Donation Basket is a new place for which we will be collecting items this year. It is called Three Hots and a Cot at Saint Benedict’s Veterans Center. This home is a beautifully renovated Victorian Cottage housing eight men plus staff in the East Lake area. They provide services to help Veterans regain their independence. Their needs are toiletries, socks, coffee, all paper goods, and cleaning supplies. Please bring your items and leave them in the basket, and we will take those items to them at the end of April. Thank you. Peggi Zinser Outreach Department



LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday, March 29th

Remembering the joyful crowds that lined the road as Jesus made his way into Jerusalem, on Palm Sunday we will each be given a palm frond as we enter the church. We ask that you hold them until instructed to bring them to the front where they will be placed in a couple of vases. This will happen at the very beginning of the service and gives us the opportunity to share in the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and kick off our Holy Week experience. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

Service will begin at 4:00 PM. This service will focus on the Last Supper and the promises made by Jesus on that fateful evening.

Good Friday, April 3rd

The Sanctuary will be open for all who wish to come for personal prayer, meditation and reflection from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM with a pause for the noon service. Elders will be present as we remember the terrible price paid for our salvation. During the Good Friday Service at noon we will recount Jesus’ journey to the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 5th

We will gather for worship in the sanctuary at 10:30 AM. To allow more time for rest on this holy day and for families to be together, no early morning worship service, breakfast or coffee fellowship are being planned.



“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, ‘Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.’” John 1:29 KJV



AAA APRIL 2026 TRIP - IMERY'S GANTT'S QUARRY AND OBSERVATION SITE

Our trip will be on Thursday, April 9th. We will travel south to Sylacauga for the Marble Festival. The van will leave the church at 8:15 AM, so please be here by 8:00 AM. There is a free one-hour guided bus tour leaving from the Sylacauga Library at 9:30 AM to see Imery's Gantt's Quarry and the Observation site. Afterward, we will return to the library and watch a 30-minute film. Back on the van, we will travel two blocks to an open field where there will be displays of sculptors actually carving the marble. Lunch will be at Booker's Restaurant, a meat and two. The gas fee is \$10.00. Please let Peggi Zinser know if you plan on riding the van or if you are driving. This is a once-in-a-lifetime trip, unless you were there when Michelangelo carved the statue of David. Peggi Zinser



REGIONAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 24 - 26, 2026

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the upcoming Regional Assembly April 24 - 26 at First Christian Church Montgomery. The theme this year is Unity, and we will have the opportunity to experience worship in three different styles through the weekend. Saturday afternoon will include a visit to the Equal Justice Initiative with a time of reflection to follow. This is a great opportunity to connect with other Disciples from our Region as we worship and learn together.

Register online at <https://www.alnwfdisciples.org/regional-assembly>.

