

Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Birmingham, Alabama
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Email: office@vccbhm.org
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8:00am-
12:00pm Monday-Friday

Dates of Interest:
May/ Donations to GBM
Kool Pops

- **May 3- Valley Work Day**
- **May 4 - Elders' Prayer Blanket Sunday**
- **May 7 - AAA trip to Huo Bao Zhu Museum, Troy University**
- **May 11 - Mothers' Day Elders' Meeting Blanket Sunday**
- **May 12 - VOICE DEADLINE**
- **May 15 - BVM Dinner**
- **May 17 - Blessing of The Pets - Brookdale Senior Living**
- **May 21 - Disciples Women Men's Lunch**
- **May 26 - Memorial Day - Office Closed**

A Word From the Pastor

It is said that "music can soothe the savage beast," and while this may be true, one thing I do know is music has power to influence our mood and our wellbeing. Through music we can express great sadness, extreme joy and just about anything in between. Music can also help us tell our life's story with refrains and choruses that speak to our experiences and situations.

Music can create a sense of peace as well as give voice to issues that can cause us difficulties or trouble. Through music we can express our wildest dreams and our deepest regrets, our moments of success as well as failure, and times of peace as well as turmoil. Music can offer us a respite from the troubles of the day as well as remind us that we are not alone in the way we feel or what we see going on in our world. Music reminds us of just how connected we really are as a people as there are so many out there who have either experienced or are experiencing the same joys or sorrows that we have or are and it gives us a sense of belonging and confidence that we are not totally alone.

It is no wonder then music plays an important role in our faith journey as well. Our faith history is filled with music. Think Psalms here as many of them were set to music and were foundational in many acts of worship. And we have references to tambourines, harps, lyres, trumpets and flutes to name a few which tells us that music is an integral part of our faith journey.

But this music is not reserved just for times of organized worship, it speaks to us in our daily lives as well. Hymns like "Standing in the Need of Prayer", "What a Friend We have in Jesus" and "How Great Thou Art" can not only help us in time of need, but confirm to us the power and love of our God. They remind us that we are not alone, that we have a Lord who is with us each and every minute of our lives giving us guidance, providing us courage and walking with us through whatever it is we are experiencing.

Hymns also draw us closer to our Lord reinforcing our dependance on Him highlighting our trust and belief in His words as well as His actions. Hymns like "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" speak to His sacrifice while "Christ Arose!" and "He Lives!" remind us of His resurrection and victory over death and help us fathom the depth of God's love and commitment to recover, reclaim and redeem a wayward and sinful people.

Hymns like these and so many others can also say things that even the best of sermons fail to illuminate. This speaks to the power of our music and underscores its importance in our daily lives.

We all have our favorites, mine is "Here I am Lord," but we should not neglect the wide array of other hymns that we find in our hymnal as each one has a message and each one has the ability to change our lives and bring us closer to our Lord and His will for our lives.

So, yes, music can soothe the savage beast, but it can also help us navigate the ups and downs of our life's journey providing us hope, confidence, courage and a sense of peace even in a world such as ours. I pray we take time to not only sing these hymns but allow the words to sink into our hearts, minds and souls as I am sure we will not only find more meaning but experience a greater connection to our Lord and in doing so build a closer and more fruitful relationship with him.

Let us sing to the Lord!

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

May 2025

VOLUME 76, NUMBER 5



BLANKET SUNDAYS

On Sunday May 4 & 11, we will celebrate Blanket Sunday. We will receive \$10 for each blanket you purchase. You may purchase each blanket in honor or memory of someone you held in a blanket or someone who held you in a blanket. This money will be sent to Church World Service and they will distribute the blankets after disasters – fires, storms, etc. DW will have a table set up to receive your gifts on these two Sundays.



Earth Day at Miracle Academy

While Tuesday April 22 is worldwide Earth Day, Valley Christian and Macedonia Christian will be sprucing up the flower beds that are around crepe myrtles in front of Miracle Academy. Jean Thrasher is providing garden soil to raise the beds, Pastor Rick is donating a supply of landscape bricks, and Carolyn Nunnelly dug up several plants that she can spare from her yard. If anyone else has over crowded bulbs in your own flower beds, please take this opportunity to do some thinning. Our goal is to complete the bed closest to the building's entrance. We may be able to do another if we have enough materials and time. Instead of getting down on your knees in the dirt, some of you may choose to stay in the cafeteria and work as a group to evaluate the possibility of taking on the window treatment project for that large room. Let's aim to arrive at Miracle Academy by 9:30 AM. A caravan will leave from the church at 9:00 AM for those who need rides or want to travel as a group. Our activity shouldn't last much longer than midday. Drinks and gardening tools will be provided. Be sure to pack a sack lunch. Being at the school for this brief period will help us understand exactly what we as a committed partner can do in the future to help beautify the facility. Pray that God is pleased when He sees what people are doing on Earth Day 2025.



TROY'S TERRACOTTA TROUP

On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, AAA will enjoy a trip to Troy University, in Troy, AL, to see the Terracotta Warriors at the Huo Bao Zhu Gallery in the Janice Hawkins Cultural Arts Park. On display at the outside gallery are the replicas of 200 Chinese Terracotta Warriors. These towering soldiers were created by Dr. Huo Bao Zhu, a sculptor from Xian, China. They replicate the original Terracotta Warriors, unearthed in March 1974, by a group of peasants digging a well. The originals were buried for more than 2000 years, along with the body of the first Emperor of China, to protect him as he journeyed to the afterlife. We will leave the church at 8:30 AM. Please be here at 8:15 AM to start loading the van. Lunch will be at Sister's Restaurant at 12:30 PM. The gas fee is \$8.00 per person. Please let Peggi or Lola know by Wednesday, April 30, 2025, if you plan to go. Everyone is welcome!

Peggi Zinser and Lola Kiser



CWF/DW DONATION

The CWF/DW voted to provide 95 art canvases to Miracle Academy. The students will use the canvases for original artwork to be sold as part of a fundraiser for the school. Sarah and Stewart Draper and Ellen Malugani delivered the canvases and met the principal, who was very excited and appreciative about the donation and stated that art was one of the students' favorite activities.



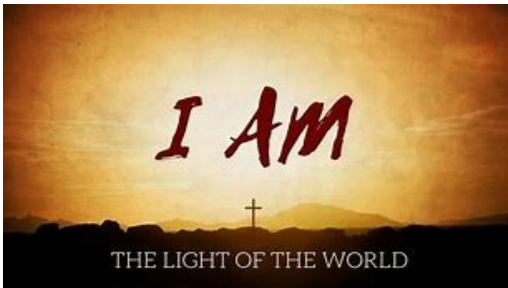
MAY MONTHLY DONATION TO GBM

Outreach will be collecting KOOL POPS to take to GBM the first of June. These are Freeze and Serve Pops for kids to have a refreshing flavored frozen pop to enjoy during the hot days of Summer. I found these at the Dollar Tree. We will need a bunch of these to last the Summer so please pick up a couple of boxes. Thanks, Outreach Department



BE YE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER

Our next BVM meeting will be on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the Paw Paw Patch Restaurant In Homewood. The program will be entitled “Acts of Kindness - Random and Intentional”. Together we will discuss examples we have experienced and look at opportunities to express kindness to others. How do we begin? How can you help? Everyone is welcome! Come and join us as we learn from each other! Lola Kiser



The poem, *Good Friday*, written by A.J.M Smith in May, 1935, was printed in our Good Friday, April 18, 2025, Bulletin. It appears below as well. The poem is a poignant tribute to Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross.

The final words of *Good Friday* are:
“What answering meed of love
Can this frail flesh return.”

Meed is an Old English word; it has been in our language for about 1,000 years. It meant an earned reward or wage.

Meed calls to mind “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV

Our salvation is only possible because our Saviour made the ultimate sacrifice. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We praise Him!

Good Friday

This day upon the bitter tree
Died One who, had he willed,
Could have dried up the wide sea
And the wind stilled.
And when at the ninth hour
He surrendered the ghost
His face was a faded flower,
Dropping and lost.
Who then was not afraid?
Targeted, heart and eye,
Struck, as with darts, by godhead
In human agony.
For him, who with a cry
Could shatter if he willed
The sea and earth and sky
And them re-build,
Who chose amid the tumult
Of darkening sky
A chivalry more difficult-
As man to die,
What answering meed of love
Can this frail flesh return.
A.J.M Smith, May, 1935