



Voice

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



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Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Office Hours: 8:00am-
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Dates of Interest: July 2026

July is for Donations to
the National Benevolent
Association

- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 5 - Elders' Prayer Elders' Meeting
- July 6 - Office Closed in Observance 4th of July Weekend
- July 8 - Disciples Women Men's Luncheon
- July 10 - Valley Work Day
- July 10, 11 General Assembly online
- July 12 - Board Meeting
- July 14 - Set up for Ancient Egypt Presentation and Lunch
- July 15 - Ancient Egypt Presentation and Lunch
- July 16 - BVM Dinner
- July 20 - VOICE DEADLINE

A Word From the Pastor

One of the first "renewal" activities Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embarked on was to revisit our vision statement. We took the better part of a year to pray, to have discussion sessions and to work out what we felt God was calling us to be now and in the future. Now that we are removed from that by a couple of years, I thought it would be good to go back and see how we are doing.

Our statement reads: *Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a Bible-based, Spirit-filled family where the love of God meets the world through outreach and a growing commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.*

This not only states how we see ourselves now but how we see ourselves in the future. Valley is a Bible-based family that cherishes the inspired Word of God and believes it is authoritative for how we are to live and structure our lives. It is the foundation for not just learning, but experiencing the love of our Lord, His compassion, strength, mercy and grace. God's Word provides us guidance, fills us with hope and reminds us that our God does have a plan for us, a plan for our welfare and our future.

We also are filled with the Spirit of our Lord, that same Spirit Jesus told us would come and teach us all things and remind us of all Jesus said to us through God's Word. It is this Spirit that moves in and about us opening doors, presenting opportunities and providing us strength and courage to step out of our comfort zones to answer the call our Lord has placed upon us. It is this Spirit that walks with us, that comforts us and that reveals God's everlasting presence in our lives.

Valley is a very loving congregation that seeks to love one another as our Lord has loved us and we show this through our various outreach missions and activities - singing at Pine Hill Nursing Home in conjunction with Macedonia Christian Church; offering pet blessings both at our facility as well as at Brookdale Senior Living; planting and providing a garden filled with tomato plants that are there for the community to enjoy and harvest; providing food, clothing and necessary items to those in need through our partnerships with Greater Birmingham Ministries and Grace Klein Ministries. We have also put together some emergency packs filled with toiletries, socks, underwear and food that are distributed to homeless people living in our community. We work with Christian World Services in providing blankets for people worldwide who are dealing with earthquakes, fires, tornados and other events. We have opened our facilities up to the community welcoming Manna Market, New Horizons, several Quilting groups and a Bell Choir. We are also nesting a Korean Christian Church that is reaching many in our community.

We have held seminars on church evolution, spiritual reflection and have more scheduled for this year, the next being "The Way of Revival", led by retired Disciples Pastor, Rev. Dr. Cameron Douglas. We are always looking for ways to grow in our faith, to share with others and to bring the love of our Lord into contact with all we see. This is not all, but for a small, and dare I say it aging church, we have not stopped looking for ways to be positive difference makers in our community and world. We don't start with reasons not to do something, rather we seek ways to make it happen knowing that with God on our side, we can accomplish much more than we ever thought we were capable.

This is who Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is, but we are not resting on our past rather we are looking to the future and how we can be better servants and representatives of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we continue to seek ways to be His hands and feet in our communities and world.

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

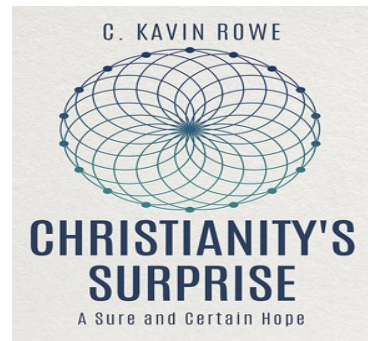


AAA TRIP TO TALLADEGA COLLEGE

On Wednesday, June 3rd the Valley Seniors and a friend from Anniston First met at the Talladega College Museum for a tour of the *La Amistad* Slave Ship Murals. The Director, Perry Trice, introduced us to five vibrant murals, painted in 1980. The painter, a black artist, Hale Aspacio Woodruff, researched newspaper archives and accounts of the uprising and revolt. He then used the photos to accurately paint everyone's face in the clothes of the day. The *La Amistad* Slave Ship was one of the turning points in the fight against slavery. In 1839 a Spanish Schooner illegally kidnapped and transported a large group of men from Sierra Leone to Cuba to sell them for slaves, but the captives revolted, killed both the cook and captain, took control of the ship and demanded to be taken back to Africa. However, the men were deceived and taken up the East coast of the United States where there was a law that no new slaves could be brought into the country. The US Navy intercepted the ship, and the men were taken to Connecticut, where, finally, this landmark case against slavery went to the Supreme Court. The Court ruled in their favor and declared them free men. Since none of the captives could speak English or Spanish, they were unable to communicate until a sailor was found who could understand and speak their language. It was found that some of the men were educated and wealthy landowners who had been caught up in the raid. The Supreme Court ordered the ship to return the men to Sierra Leone, Africa. After returning to Africa, some of the former captives and an abolitionist launched a Christian Educational Mission, the AMA. Talladega College is just one of several higher educational institutions that are still in existence today. The value of the murals is estimated today to be worth \$50,000,000. The mural exhibit will be leaving Talladega College by the end of June and will travel to Austin, TX, to be displayed there, and will then travel to Barcelona, Spain. To top off a wonderful day, we had a delicious lunch at the Stampede Restaurant in Talladega. Peggi Zinser

A NOTE FROM YOUR WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

Did you know that every Sunday we have large-print worship bulletins available in addition to regular-print size? And that we also have hearing devices in the drawer of the cabinet next to the elevator? The purpose of these items is to allow worshippers to participate more fully in the service. Please ask me or any of the other deacons for any assistance you may need. Thank you, Ginny Guindon.



CHRISTIANITY'S SURPRISE

"We have developed societal amnesia and ignorance of what Christianity originally was - and what it still can be." The writer of our next study for the Bible Class, C. Kavin Rowe, feels we have an attitude that we know all there is to know about the Christian faith. Feeling that there is nothing new to learn about the Bible, we miss the surprises from the scripture that speak to us in our new day and for many a new age. Please join this class that begins on June 30 at 6:30 on Tuesday evenings, via Zoom. You may speak with John Gregory for more information and for a book. Thank you.



JULY AAA – ANCIENT EGYPT PRESENTATION

On Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 9:00 AM in our Fellowship Hall we will enjoy a special AAA event, featuring a presentation by Tom Cain about ancient Egypt, the architecture, local culture and the monuments. A few years ago Tom gave us an excellent presentation about Ukraine and his trip there. July's event will feature his recent trip to Egypt with other "Egyptologists" and his course of study through the University of Oxford. Everyone is welcome to come and hear Tom's fascinating presentation about ancient Egypt. Afterward we will all enjoy a delicious spaghetti lunch prepared by our Fellowship Department. Please make reservations by Friday, July 10, 2026, with Peggi Zinser. Mark your calendar now to join us for Tom's presentation, lunch and our fellowship together.

Lola Kiser, Education Department Chair



DONATION BASKET

The Outreach Department will not request items for the Donation Basket for the month of July. The Disciples of Christ Church has a Special Offering for the National Benevolent Association in July. You will be receiving more information about this in your July bulletins. This Special Offering stays locally to empower health and social service leaders. **In August, our Donation Basket will be collecting back to school supplies for both Greater Birmingham Ministries and Grace Klein.** You may begin bringing items before August if you wish. A list of needs are: loose leaf binders with paper, Expo markers, pencils, regular markers, wipes, construction paper, and pens.

Thank you, Peggi Zinser



GENERAL ASSEMBLY JULY 10 AND 11, 2026

Register now for the Disciples of Christ General Assembly and join us here at Valley as we begin a new era of online General Assemblies. The Assembly will be Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, 2026. Registration is \$30 per person. The theme is **BEYOND: Love Surpassing** and is based on Ephesians 3:14-21. There will be worship services on both Friday and Saturday, along with opportunities to learn more about the General Church and other Disciples Churches across the country. Lunch will be provided at the church on Saturday, July 10. Please let us know if you will attend. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Guindon. Thank you.

“Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.”

1 Chronicles 29:11 NIV



UPSTAIRS KITCHEN SEASONAL PLATES AND NAPKINS INVENTORY

The upstairs kitchen's leftover plates and napkins, as well as cups for fall and a Halloween tablecloth, have been organized. Please check our inventory when you are having coffee fellowship or an event, and add to these assorted plates and napkins as needed. The inventory is located in the large plastic container in the cabinet next to the window.

1. VALENTINE - NAPKINS
2. ST. PATRICK'S DAY - NAPKINS
3. EASTER - ASSORTED NAPKINS
4. SPRING & SUMMER - ASSORTED PLATES & NAPKINS
5. FALL - CUPS & NAPKINS
6. HALLOWEEN - TABLECLOTH & NAPKINS
7. CHRISTMAS - PLATES & NAPKINS
8. HAPPY BIRTHDAY - PLATES & NAPKINS



AAA AUGUST 2026 A TRIP TO THE LAKE

The August 2026 AAA event will be a much anticipated trip to Jan and Bill Watts' Smith Lake Home on Saturday, August 8, 2026. We will relax on the lakefront porch, enjoy the bountiful lunch the Watts will prepare for us and later, swim or take a boat ride if you wish. Valley folks are invited to bring desserts. Additional information will be available soon, but please make the date on your calendar now. Thank you, Lola Kiser