



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2600 Cherokee Place
Birmingham, Alabama
35216
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Email: office@vccbhm.org
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8:00am-
12:00pm Monday-Friday

Dates of Interest:

July - Donate Cooling
Station Supplies for
Boutwell Auditorium

- July 4 - Office Closed
- July 5 - Valley Work
Day
- July 6 - Elders' Prayer
and Elders' Meeting
- July 9 - Disciples
Women
Men's Luncheon
- July 13 - Board Mtg
- July 14 - VOICE
DEADLINE
- July 17 - BVM Dinner
Paw Paw Patch
- July 18 - Set up for
The Church in
Transition Seminar
- July 19 - The Church
In Transition Seminar
- July 22 - Pastoral
Relations Committee
Meeting
- July 28 - Evangelism
Committee Meeting

A Word From the Pastor

I am on an email list that provides daily reflections called Kingdom Calibrate. This particular one by Patrick Morley caught my attention. "The turning point in our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is."

How often are we locked into a view of God that is more akin to a personal servant rather than the author of our redemption, salvation and eternal life? It happens more than we might like to accept and even the staunchest of believers have moments where we believe we know exactly what we want and how we want it delivered. Our prayers may become more like a set of instructions to God on how to handle a particular situation rather than give the issue to God and allow God to set the path, even if it is one that tests us or takes us in a totally different direction.

This was the problem Adam and Eve faced and their decision has had a lasting impact on our lives today. Now it is easy to place all the blame at their feet, or in their mouths but we all make choices every day that either lead us closer or farther away from our God. The Israelites in the desert faced this as one moment they believed in and trusted God, especially when He delivered them from danger, but they also had moments where they believed they knew better and that trust waned.

Maybe the greatest example of this came by way of Jesus. We all remember His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Unfortunately, many there believed He was coming as a mortal king to overthrow the Roman government, something they dearly wanted Him to do. But when He didn't meet their expectations, they rejected Him and crucified Him.

The point of all of this is, even today we all too often box God in limiting His influence by conforming Him to our standards, our wants and our image of Him. We take the idea of a personal relationship with our God to mean that He is at our beck and call at any time and any place to do our will and fulfill our desires. When He does, we rejoice, when He doesn't, we rebel, we question and we may even start to doubt the very love of our God. It has happened in the past and it still happens today.

But this is not what our God is all about. Yes, God wants to be in a vibrant and fruitful relationship with us, that was clearly evident in the life of Jesus, but it is a relationship built on trust and belief. A trust in God to do what He says He will do and a belief that even when times are hard, our God will be with us. You see, God wants to be our helper, to come alongside us in our times of trouble, but God also wants us to realize that the path forward may be what we want but, in the end, will be what we need. God doesn't want to see us struggle, but at times it is in the struggle that we learn the greatest lessons, about our God and about us. We may find a strength we never knew we had; we might be led to a path that unlocks an even greater treasure than that which we seek, and we might just find that what we thought we wanted was nothing but fool's gold.

The biggest lesson from this is: God is God, we are not. We need to allow God to be God, not the God we want, but the God who is; and in doing so build a relationship with Him that will not only stand the test of time, but last for all of eternity. Praise be to God!

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

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*“Blessed is the nation whose God is
the LORD, the people he chose for his
inheritance.”*

*Psalm 33:12
New International Version*



NEW ASSOCIATE REGIONAL MINISTER

We welcome Rev. Timothy O’Neal as the new Associate Regional Minister for the Alabama/NW FL Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. O’Neal is the minister of Harrison Street Christian Church in Greenville, AL, where he has served since 1999. He was one of the first participants in the PEPP (People Energized Prepared Productive) program and one of the first leaders of the Regional Convocation.



AAA MAY TRIP TO CAHABA RIVER LILIES

Our recent trip was to view the Cahaba River Lilies. Even with the intense rains, the lilies were spectacular. We all had a great time enjoying the wonder and serenity of God’s beauty displayed before us. We also enjoyed a time of fellowship as we ate at Sadie’s Restaurant. Our next trip will be to visit a bamboo forest that was used as a training ground for troops on their way to Vietnam.



AAA JUNE TRIP

On Wednesday, June 25, 2025, AAA will travel to Prattville, AL to visit Wilderness Park and the Bamboo Forest. Prattville is known as a “fountain city” for its many artesian wells, which we might also see. There is a short walk around a lake in the park, if you are interested in this. Please call Peggi or Lola for reservations. The van will leave the church at 9:30 AM for the trip. Please be at the church by 9:15 AM. Van transportation will be \$8.00 per person. Lunch will be at a local restaurant.



AAA NEWS

AAA will take a vacation break for July 2025. On Saturday, August 23, 2025, Jan and Bill Watts have invited AAA and Valley to their Smith Lake home for a delicious lunch. The van will leave the church at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be at 11:30 AM, followed by boat rides, swimming and visiting with friends. For drivers, the Watts’ address is 696 County Road 175, Crane Hill, AL. Mark your calendar now to enjoy a wonderful day at the lake. Reservations can be made with Peggi or Lola!



Many thanks from Valley Christian Church to the AL/NW FL Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the \$500.00 grant for our “Transitions” seminar series which begins this summer. Topics for this summer are “The Church in Transition”, led by Rev. Rick Malugani on Saturday, July 19, 2025, 9:00AM - 12:15 PM and “Health in Transition” led by Dr. Beth Gregory on Saturday, August 16, 2025, 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM (July 19 and August 16). Mark your calendar now! Lola Kiser



TRANSITIONS

Our Transitions Seminars are coming up soon and we hope you will plan to come.

Saturday, July 19 ,2025 9:00am - 12:15PM
The Church in Transition
Rev. Rick Malugani

Saturday, August 16, 2025 9:00am - 12:15PM
Health in Transition
Dr. Beth Gregory

Both sessions will be in the Fellowship Hall at Valley Christian Church. Mark your calendar now for these two special events! Lola Kiser



REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

At Valley, we are blessed with facilities for church life. The building is serviced with both volunteer and professional help. Recently, we have incurred several expenses in maintaining our building and grounds. Among them are three separate charges for HVAC repair totaling over \$4,100; \$2,150 for dead tree removal, and \$660 for inspection and maintenance of our fire alarm system.

In addition, there are many smaller expenses as well as volunteer efforts involved in replacing Emergency Light batteries, purchasing and installing new Exit signs, plumbing repairs, security enhancements, etc.

Many people benefit from our facilities. Please pay attention to the weekly calendar of events in our bulletin. Through use, age and wear, parts of our facilities always need repair or replacement.

We are blessed with a lot of labor from several members on our Work Mornings. We are also blessed with no debt. This is possible through our offerings and the gifts of members through their wills and bequests, as well as memorial gifts. About five years ago, VCC received a gift of \$250,000 from a will. Walter set the bar high for us. His gift has helped us with many things, including these recent expenses, but the balance of that gift is rapidly diminishing. Gifts like these continue on, sometimes long after the donor or honoree’s life time with us. We too can help VCC to continue on through our wills, bequests, and special gifts. John Gregory



KOREAN CHURCH

Along with the various groups using our building, we have a new addition. For the last couple of months, we have been nesting a new church called the Good News Church. They are a non-denominational church originating in South Korea with a mission to bring God’s word to people in several cities across this country. They are currently meeting for worship downstairs at the same time we are worshiping upstairs. We feel privileged to offer our building in one more way to spread God’s word and are in discussions with Pastor James Ki and his wife, Katie, about future needs as they grow their church. If you see them around on a Sunday morning, please offer them a warm welcome!