



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2600 Cherokee Place
Birmingham, Alabama
35216
205-879-0419
Email: office@vccbhm.org
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8:00am-
12:00pm Monday-Friday

Dates of Interest:
September 2026

September is for
Donations to Jessie's
Place

- **Sep 5 - Valley Workday**
- **Sep 6 - Elders' Prayer
& Elders' Meeting**
- **Sep 7 - Labor Day
Office closed**
- **Sep 8 - Cabinet
Meeting**
- **Sep 9 - Disciples
Women
Men's Lunch**
- **Sep 17 - BVM Dinner**
- **Sep 18 - Set up
Fellowship Hall for AI
Seminar after NH vacates**
- **Sep 19 - AI Seminar
Dr. Andrew Daniel**
- **Sep 21 - VOICE
DEADLINE**
- **Sep 27 - Please turn in
Pledge Cards**



September 2026

VOLUME 77, NUMBER 9

A Word From the Pastor

I promise. How many times have we heard these two words and felt less than convinced. We hear it from our politicians, from business leaders, from friends and even from our families. I promise is so easy to say but not always that easy to keep for various reasons, some of which are out of our control. Our intentions were there, but situations changed or circumstances dictated a different approach. But there are those that have no intention of ever being delivered, those that are said to appease or deceive but will never see the light of day which makes it hard at times to tell what is really a promise and what is just window dressing.

We all know words have meaning, but all too often the words, "I promise," roll off the tongue as if we were ordering Danish pastries from the local bakery. We just do it without thinking. It is no wonder so many find it difficult to believe the words other say especially if actions tell a completely different story.

Even as Christians, we struggle with following through on the promises we make; to love one another as Christ has loved us; to provide for those less fortunate; to welcome all regardless of status, context or who they are or to actually be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Thankfully, we serve a Lord whose promises are rock solid, who says what He does and does what He says. When our Lord tells us His love for us will never end as Romans 8:38-39 reveals, we can take that to the bank. When our Lord tells us He will never forsake us as Deuteronomy 31:8 reminds us, we can believe it with all our hearts, minds and souls. When our Lord says He will be with us always as stated in Matthew 28:20, we can trust that it will be true.

But maybe the most convincing to us was shown through His life, death and resurrection for it was here that His actions revealed His true heart and true motive. Through His life He demonstrated the love of God through His healings, driving out of demons and His care and concern for all people regardless of who they were, where they were from or what they have done.

But it was His death on the cross that provided the most proof of His words, it is here that He paid the price for our sins, taking the penalty of those sins upon Himself and providing for us a path to redemption and salvation. As He hung on that cross, His words of mercy, grace, forgiveness and hope found new life as now we see the true cost of our sinful lives and the lengths our Lord would go to relieve that cost. The words of John 3:16 ring in our ears as we see the truth of God's love hanging on that cross.

And then with the resurrection of Jesus, we see the culmination of God's promise to recover, redeem and reclaim a wayward people back unto Himself for all of eternity for just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we too will experience a resurrection like His as confirmed in 1 Corinthians 6:14; and God raised the Lord and will also raise us by His power. Our destiny secured, our future laid out before us, our hope turned into reality, this is the promise of our Lord, and it is this promise fulfilled through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May we always keep our focus on our Lord as we seek to fulfill the promises we make to be better representatives of the love, mercy and grace of our Lord and may others see the truth of our promises in everything we say and do.

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

*“Yet the Lord longs to be
gracious to you; therefore
he will rise up to show you
compassion. For the Lord is a
God of justice. Blessed are all
who wait for him!”
Isaiah 30:18 NIV*



AAA TRIP TO BILL AND JAN WATTS’ LAKE HOUSE

On Saturday, August 9, AAA members from Valley Christian Church and friends drove to Bill and Jan Watts’ Lake House on Smith Lake. We arrived at 11:00 AM and brought a variety of deserts and beverages. Hawaiian rolls, chicken salad, ham salad, turkey, ham and cheese were furnished by Bill and Jan. Everything was arranged on the island in the kitchen so everyone could serve themselves. After we greeted one another and the food was ready to be served, everyone went outside on the beautiful porch, that has a breathtaking view of the lake, where Jan prayed over the food, gave thanks for the fellowship, beautiful weather, and God’s Blessings. We went back inside, had a delicious meal, conversed with one another and relaxed for a while. Bill and Jan’s nephew was there to help with putting out the food, serving and cleaning up after we finished eating. After lunch Bill asked if anyone wanted to take a ride in the boat or a swim in the lake. There were ten of us, including Bill who drove the boat. We rode to the end of the dam and back to the end of the slue. It was a perfect day to take a boat ride; the water was calm and there were not many people out on the water at that time of day. Before we knew it, like the phrase “Time flies when you’re having fun!”, it was time for us to leave. We thanked Bill and Jan for inviting us to their beautiful home, and for being so hospitable. We said our goodbyes, and we were “On the Road Again”. It was an enjoyable trip, very pleasant and relaxing. Thank you, Bill and Jan Watts for opening your beautiful home to us and for making us feel so welcome! Betty G. Dykes



IVEY / COX WEDDING

Congratulations to Jackie Ivey and Danny Cox on their wedding on Saturday afternoon, August 15th. The wedding took place in Valley Christian Church’s sanctuary. The bride looked beautiful as she walked down the aisle; the sanctuary flowers were lovely, as were the decorations in the banquet hall. A big thanks to Ellen Malugani, who assisted the bride, and the two precious flower girls and handsome ring bearer. Congratulations again to Mr. and Mrs. Cox on a most elegant wedding officiated by Reverend Rick Malugani.

Peggi Zinser



SEPTEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

September is the month we make a commitment to support the church for the coming new year. Our theme for 2027 is taken from 1 Peter 4: 10.

*“Whatever gift each of you may have received,
use it in service to one another, like good stewards
dispensing the grace of God in its varied forms.”*

September 27th will be Commitment Sunday for 2027. Please be in prayer for what your gift will be for 2027.

Stewardship Committee



SEPTEMBER 2026 OUTREACH DONATION BASKET

For the September Donation Basket, we are collecting items for Jessie's Place, a women's and children's rescue facility in downtown Birmingham. The items needed are: snacks for adults and children, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, paper plates and cups, body wash, toilet paper and washing machine detergent.

Thank you, Outreach Committee, Peggi Zinser, Chair.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PIANIST, DANNY LEE!

We are excited to welcome our new pianist, Danny Lee. Danny is a retired music director, and he will begin playing for us on September 5th. He is on a mission trip to parts of Asia, including Thailand, Hong Kong, and Viet Nam. Danny has asked to be sent our Sunday Bulletin so that he might familiarize himself with our service. He has also borrowed one of our hymnals to practice and be ready to play for us on the 1st Sunday in September. I know we will be pleased to meet him and introduce ourselves to him at coffee fellowship.

Personnel Committee, Peggi Zinser Chair.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SEMINAR

Our next Education Department will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall, and will be led by Dr. Andrew Daniel. The subject will be Artificial Intelligence (AI). Dr. Daniel is a retired physician who is especially interested in AI. The seminar will be an introduction to AI, and will be on an elementary level. AI already affects our society in many ways and will continue to do so. The church will not be an exception to these changes. The seminar will begin at 9:00 AM and will conclude around noon, with a coffee break in the middle of the discussion. Everyone is invited to attend. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors! Thank you, Education Department, Lola Kiser, Chair.



SEPTEMBER 2026 AAA ADVENTURE

The seniors are planning on visiting one of our favorite places to eat. We will go to Niki's West for lunch on Wednesday, September 16th for a delicious meat and three meal. Please be at the church ready to load the van at 10:45 AM. We will be at Niki's by 11:30 AM. The gas fee to ride the van is \$5.00. Please let Peggi Zinser know if you would like to go and if you are riding the van or driving by Friday, September 11th. Thank you, Peggi Zinser



First Day of Autumn 2026

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 7:04 PM CDT