



**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**
2600 Cherokee Place
Birmingham, AL 35216
(205) 879-0419
www.vccbhm.org;
office@vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8:00am -
12:00pm Monday - Friday

Dates of Interest:

October 2026

October is for donations to
Grace Klein's
Give and Take Closet **and**
October is Fire and
Safety Month

- Oct 3 - Valley Workday
- Oct 4 - World Communion
Sunday
Reconciliation Offering
Elders' Prayer
Elders' Meeting
- Oct 11 - Adrienne
Standridge, Society of
St. Andrew, will be our guest
Board Meeting
- Oct 13 - Pastoral
Relations Committee
Meeting
- Oct 14 - Disciples
Women
Men's Lunch
- Oct 15 - BVM Dinner
- Oct 18 - **DEADLINE FOR
ADVENT DEVOTIONALS**
- Oct 19 - **VOICE
DEADLINE**
- Oct 25 - Yes, I Can Bags
will be distributed
- Oct 28 - AAA Trip to
Steele Orchard,
Cullman, AL

A Word From the Pastor

As we begin the last quarter of this year, I like so many others wonder where the time went. It can't already be nearing the end of the year and yet here it is. It is said, "Time flies when we are having fun," and if that is true, then I must be having loads of fun because for me, this year has flown by. That does mean it has all be wine and roses, there have been some difficulties along the way; my little incident with my thumb for example. But even that didn't slow down my perception that this year has sped by.

There is an old adage that states; "The older we get the faster time goes." I am feeling that now as it seems like we just began this year and it is already in the last quarter. Yes, I know, there are still the same 24 hours in each day, the same seven days in each week and the same 52 weeks in every year, but that doesn't change the feeling that time is speeding up, or at least my perception of it.

I guess as I get older, I am more cognizant of time and recognize that it really is limited, at least in the mortal world, which makes it all the more valuable and precious. What I do with my time is now more important than before and maybe this is a sign of maturity.

With age comes wisdom. Maybe so, I hope so. But the reality is time is moving along and there is no way to slow it down much less stop it so we might as well embrace it and try to make the best of it.

This can mean spending more time with family and friends. It can mean taking more time to enjoy a hobby or pastime. It can mean getting out in nature a bit more or taking time to marvel at the wonderful creation God has put before us.

But it can also mean spending time ministering to others; volunteering at a food bank, supporting victims abuse shelters, working to advocate for justice and dignity for others. It can mean spending more time in prayer seeking guidance for our lives as well as intercessory prayer for others. It can mean taking time to call our neighbors, friends or family to check in on them, maybe even send them a card or drop off some groceries. It could mean joining a prayer or Bible study group, becoming a mentor to another regardless of age or finding new ways to serve our local church.

This may not slow down our perception that time is speeding along, but it can fill that time with things that have meaning and purpose making positive differences in not only our lives but the lives of so many others.

I guess what I am saying here is I need to stop worrying about how fast time appears to be going and spend more time finding ways to use that time fulfilling the will of our Lord, something I am sure we can all spend a little more time on.

I close with this from Ephesians 5:15-16; *See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise redeeming the time because the days are evil.* This is from the NKJ and I like the phrase; *redeeming the time*, which points to taking advantage of the opportunities to serve. May we all take advantage of the time we have been given to be faithful and fruitful servants of our Lord and Savior and thus for the rest of God's wonderful creation without exception.

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





SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER - SPECIAL OFFERING

On Sunday, September 27, and Sunday, October 4, 2026, Valley Christian Church will collect the Special Offering for the 2026 Reconciliation Ministry. This year's theme is: *Beyond Restoration: Hope in Action*. You will receive an insert and envelope in your bulletin this Sunday. Please prayerfully consider your donation for this special offering.

Thank you, Peggi Zinser, Outreach Chair

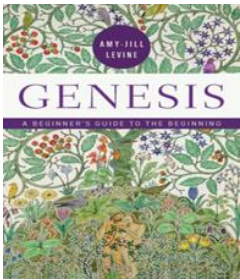


EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SEMINAR

On Saturday September 19, 2026, an AI Seminar was led by Dr. Andy Daniel in the fellowship hall. He explained how AI is transforming our world. AI's influence is vast and growing, touching nearly every aspect of our lives and industries. Here's where you can see it making a difference:

- In your daily life: Your smartphone's virtual assistant, personalized recommendations on streaming services, spam filters in your email, and navigation apps like Google Maps all rely on AI to function.
- Healthcare: AI is revolutionizing medicine by helping doctors diagnose diseases earlier through the analysis of medical images, personalizing treatment plans, and dramatically accelerating drug discovery.
- Transportation: Autonomous vehicles use AI for navigation, object detection, and real-time decision-making to drive safely.
- Business Operations: Companies use AI for everything from customer service chatbots and fraud detection in finance to optimizing supply chains and personalizing marketing campaigns.
- Entertainment: In video games, AI creates more realistic and challenging characters. In content creation, generative AI can now compose music, write scripts, and create stunning visual art.
- AI has taken over a lot of human jobs. Robots are doing manual labor that human beings were doing.

Dr. Daniel's presentation was informative and we appreciate his coming to Valley and sharing with us.
Betty Dykes



A STUDY IN GENESIS

The Bible class on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM has begun a study on "Genesis" by AJ Levine. The book will focus on 6 stories from Adam and Eve to Joseph. The study includes a presentation by Dr. Levine for each class. This is an opportunity to hear and see the writer of the study. Please call John Gregory if you are interested and you will be provided with a book for the study. Connect with the class on Zoom through the

web site vccbhm.org.

John Gregory



OCTOBER DONATION BASKET

Long before I started coming to this church, fifty-four years ago, there was a thrift sale. People from this church brought clothes, shoes, household items, blankets, sheets, china, artwork, and small appliances; we even had a car once. Most Valley members, in one way or another, worked to put this together and filled our Fellowship Hall for one weekend in October. Times have changed now, and we no longer have the sale here, but all around us are those who need a helping hand and could benefit from our donations of various items we no longer need or use. Use your sharp eyes, go around your house, look in your closets, and find something that could help someone else; all items brought in will go to Grace Klein, who will, in turn, give everything away. No fee; if you need it – you take it. Larger items that do not fit in the basket will go down the hall to the choir room for safekeeping.

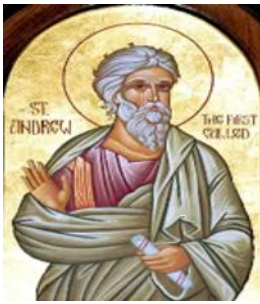
Thank you, Peggi Zinser, Outreach Chair



OCTOBER IS FIRE AND SAFETY MONTH

Every year at about this time, we go over our safety and security policy for the congregation. We will take a few minutes at the end of the service on Sunday, October 18, 2026, for our annual review of what to do in case of an emergency, such as FIRE, TORNADO, HEART ATTACK AND AN INTRUDER during our service. If you have any suggestions regarding any of these topics, please give Peggi Zinser a call.

Thank you, The Security Team



GUEST SPEAKER OCTOBER 11TH SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Adrienne Standridge, Program Coordinator for the Alabama Regional office of the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA), will bring the message during morning worship on October 11th. SoSA was formed in Virginia in 1979 by three pastors and their families as a ministry to address the problem of world hunger. Today volunteers in the southeastern states and beyond continue to glean excess produce from farm fields, orchards and farmers' markets and deliver the fresh goods to food banks/pantries, low-income and elderly housing complexes, social service agencies, homeless shelters and more. The food is then distributed to those in need. SoSA takes its name from Jesus' disciple Andrew and the feeding of the 5,000 (plus women and children) as recorded in John 6: 5-14. To the disciples, it seemed an impossible task to feed the large crowd that had sought out Jesus on the mountainside, but while the other disciples questioned, Andrew got to work and found among the crowd a young boy who had five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew brought what he'd found to Jesus, believing that if we do our part, the Lord provides abundance, enough for all. We look forward to hearing about the important work SoSA is doing, some of it right here in our state, and how we might contribute to the efforts. Please plan to come hear Adrienne on October 11th.

Ginny Guindon - Worship Department



AAA OCTOBER TRIP TO STEELE ORCHARD

Is there anything better than apple cider and apple-fried pies in the Fall? We are going to Cullman, Alabama, to the Steele Orchard on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. They will give us a mini tour of the facility, where we will learn about the history of the orchard, how they pick and grade the apples, and produce the other apple products they sell in their gift shop. There is a small fee of \$4.00 for the tour, which begins at 11:00 AM. Please be at the church at 9:00 AM to load the van and be ready to leave the church by 9:15 AM. There are some chairs at the Orchard, but if you have a camp chair, you need to bring it with you. The gas fee is \$5.00. The gift shop has apple cider, mini apple muffins, fried apple pies, and apple loaves. Did I mention FREE SAMPLES? Lunch is at Applebee's at 1:00 PM. Please let me know if you plan to go to Cullman with us and if you want to ride the van. I also need to know who is driving.

Thank you, Peggi Zinser



HO! HO! HO!

It's Christmastime again in the Valley - Valley Christian Church, that is. We have already received a nice Christmas present - a complete list of people who are writing devotionals for our Advent Devotional Booklet. This year the title of the booklet is *"The Ornaments of Christmas"*. This will include unusual types of ornaments as well as Christmas tree ornaments. Many thanks to our writers and those who help prepare the booklet.

Merry Christmas to all!

Lola Kiser, Education Department Chair.

***"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given, and the government
will be on his shoulders. And he will be
called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6 NIV***



CHRISTMAS WITH FRIENDS

We and BVM will enjoy caroling with our friends at Pine Hill Rehabilitation and Nursing Home on Friday morning, December 11, 2026, at 11:00 AM and again at Miracle Academy on Wednesday morning, December 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us for these events as we provide Christmas happiness for both young and old. Please speak with Peggi Zinser for transportation instructions. Thank you, Lola Kiser.

***"Today in the town of David a Savior has
been born to you; he is the Messiah, the
Lord." Luke 2:11 NIV***