



# The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
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## VALLEY CALLS DR. ERIC ATCHESON

On July 2, the congregation voted to call Dr. Eric Atcheson as the Senior Minister of Valley Christian Church. He is a native of Kansas City and a lifelong disciple. He is married to Carrie and they have a daughter, Sadie. Dr. Atcheson graduated from Pacific School of Religion and Seattle University. He is presently serving a church in Vancouver, WA. He will begin ministry here at Valley on September 1. His first Sunday to worship with us will be September 6. You will hear more about this in the future. Please pray for Eric and his family as they make this move to Birmingham and we at Valley prepare for his arrival.

## A WORD FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

A nurse at Children’s Hospital, before listening to a child’s chest, would place the stethoscope into their ear’s and let them listen to their own hearts. One day she let a four year-old child tuck the stethoscope in his ears and placed the disk over his heart. “Listen”, she said, “What do you think that is?” He thought for a moment and then his face broke out in a beautiful smile. “Is that Jesus knocking?” he said. Come Lord Jesus and knock on the doors of our hearts. May we let you in. For we need your power to set us free. We need your love to set us loose. We need your life to give us liberty. We need your cross to give us courage. Please, Jesus come in. God Bless You, Edd

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7<sup>th</sup> – Lauren Simon Lambert    27<sup>th</sup> – Will Simon  
19<sup>th</sup> – Roberto Rodriguez    30<sup>th</sup> – Andrea Clark  
21<sup>st</sup> – Beth Gregory

## VIRTUAL CAMP

Due to the pandemic, the Alabama/NW Florida region, of which we are a part, has decided not to hold summer church camps in a traditional way this year. In its place, they are designing an alternative church camp experience, which will utilize packets (containing trinkets, candy, Bible lessons, etc.) for all campers and Zoom sessions (containing keynote addresses and activities) for the older campers. The camp will be held July 31 – August 3. As we have shared in the past, Valley will send a gift to the Region to help support the camp.

## LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- We extend our sympathy to the family, friends and church of Thomasine Glenn (member of Macedonia Christian Church) who passed away last week.
- Please pray for Sharon Hill’s (Macedonia Christian Church) father who came home from the hospital ICU and is recovering.
- Please pray for Marilyn Cutcliffe’s granddaughter, Cerys Cutcliffe who is hospitalized with repeated migraines.
- Please pray for Billy McDaniel’s cousin’s husband, Mike Gibson who is very ill and has complications from diabetes.
- Please pray for Melinda Robertson, Carol Speed and Terry Nunnelly.
- Every Tuesday at 6:30pm there is a Sunday School class on Zoom led by John Gregory. You can join the meeting two ways:
  - ✓ **By telephone (audio only)**  
(312) 626 6799  
Meeting ID: 829 5294 8962
  - ✓ **Join Zoom Meeting on smart phone, tablet or computer – click the link below**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952948962>
- Every Sunday at 10:30am join us for worship by video or telephone. You can join the meeting two ways:
  - ✓ **By telephone (audio only)**  
1 (312) 626 6799  
Meeting ID: 867 5713 3623
  - ✓ **Join Zoom Meeting on smart phone, tablet or computer - click the link below**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623>
- Workday at the church is Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 9-12.
- Well done Valley! Our mission of giving for others through the Region is higher at this time than last year.

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2600 CHEROKEE PLACE  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216



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## SERMON SERIES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

During the month of July and August the sermons focus on different personalities in the bible. Just ordinary people in the old and new testaments that struggled in life like all of us. But in their struggles they had an encounter with God that changed everything.

So, it is my prayer as we look at these people, we can discover that the changes God made then, he can make now with each one of us. A reminder that God can use ordinary people in 2020 to do extraordinary things.

During this series of sermons, we are blessed to have John Gregory and my wife, Mary Pat, to share the Word. Their thoughts will add a richness to our understanding of God's word. The schedule for the sermons are as follows:

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, July 19 <sup>th</sup> | "Living Through These Times – Prayer, Reflection and Witness"<br>John Gregory preaching |
| Sunday, July 26 <sup>th</sup> | "David and Goliath"<br>1 Samuel 17  |
| August 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | "Jonah and the Big Fish"<br>Jonah 1-4   |
| August 9 <sup>th</sup>        | "Peter and the Storm"<br>Matthew 14:22-33   |
| August 16 <sup>th</sup>       | "The Bent Over Woman"<br>Luke 13:10-17<br>Mary Pat Spencer preaching                    |
| August 23 <sup>rd</sup>       | "Paul and the Philippians"<br>Philippians 1-4   |

## A PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

We just celebrated the Fourth of July and the joy of living in this country. The following is a prayer for our country.

Dear Lord, we hear conflicting words about our country. Some are telling us that our nation is headed for disaster. Others are telling us that we are on the threshold of a new day.

Like the parable your Son told, it seems that as the wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest, so the good and evil in our country keep growing at the same time. It is hard for us to sort it all out.

Help us to sort some of it out by looking back to see what was planted by our forefathers when our country was born. We remember that they labored for liberty, justice, equality and individual freedom. We still see these flowers growing in the midst of all the weeds. Help us to know how to nourish the causes of justice, freedom, peace and the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".

Lord you guided our forefathers and foremothers through the birth pains of a new nation fighting for independence. Guide us through these tough times of sticking to the great causes that must never die, until we can affirm that we are "one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all". Amen.

## TRUTHS TO GUIDE THE SOUL

- ❖ Be fishers of men and women. You catch them and God will clean them.
- ❖ Don't insert a question mark where God has a period.
- ❖ Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- ❖ God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts"!
- ❖ God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- ❖ If God is your co-pilot, swap seats.
- ❖ Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty.
- ❖ The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

## GOOD FRIENDS

At Valley we are all good friends. We are a family who loves the Lord and have Christian love for one another. The following thoughts symbolize our friendship and love for each other.

- Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them as we are experiencing now by being sheltered at home, but you know they are always there.
- Don't frown in these difficult days in which we live. You never know what friend is falling in love with your smile.
- Most people walk in and out of your life, but only friends leave footprints in your heart.
- Our friends at Valley are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.
- You may be only one person in the world, but sometimes to a good friend you are the world.
- We are not perfect and our friends at Valley are ones who can put their finger on a fault without rubbing it in.



Our Lord has the whole world in His hands during the Coronavirus.