



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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COFFEE AND A STORY

Dear Valley,

At Pastor Edd’s gracious invitation, I would like to continue our introduction after having the blessing to meet most of you at one point or another in June. I will be doing so here in the Valley Voice over the course of the next few installments of a column I’m calling Coffee and a Story. To me, coffee is sacrosanct, almost sacramental—if the Gospels were not clear that the Last Supper was taken with the fruit of the vine, I would be perfectly happy serving up coffee as part of communion!

For me, the ritual of morning coffee comes with reading—either the news or something for pleasure. Either way, I am taking in a story as I enjoy my first cup of coffee for the day. I hope you can imagine taking in my words in our newsletter the same way—and perhaps some of you really do read the newsletter that way! In the alternative, I invite you to imagine my sharing these words with you over cups of coffee on a front porch (appropriately socially distanced for now, of course).

I have my stories to share with you, just as I imagine you do with me also. I look forward to telling, and being told, those stories. For now, I would share that our decision to come to Birmingham and to Valley was an easy one, even though decisions of this magnitude are not always so easy.

That is how it has been for Carrie and me when it comes to such soul-sized decisions, though. We have a shared set of values, and that has shone through across our marriage. When Carrie was pregnant with Sadie Lou, it took us all of part of one conversation over dinner to agree on Sadie’s name—when I was a boy, Sadie was short for Satenig, my great-grandmother, and Lou is Carrie’s mother Nancy’s middle name. It made so much sense to us to name our daughter after these extraordinary women that any other possibilities quickly faded into the ether. From before she was born, our daughter was Sadie Lou, and I could not imagine Carrie and I giving her any other name.

Such was the case for our decision to accept the call you have voted to issue. Doing so made so much sense to us that any other possibilities had long since faded into non-options. The Holy Spirit has made it abundantly clear to us that Valley and Birmingham are where we are next meant to be, and following the Spirit’s lead in this instance has been as clear to us as what to name our daughter.

There will surely be speed bumps along our walk together, and obstacles to overcome and paths to agree to embark upon together. Those moments will take holy and sacred work from each of us, and especially so given the collective moment we are all experiencing amid a global pandemic. But I am prepared to journey through those moments with you, and to help create consensus around how we continue rising to this collective moment in the name of God incarnated in Jesus Christ.

Carrie, Sadie, and I are excited to soon make Birmingham our next hometown, and Valley our next home church. As we begin our sojourn eastward, I am in prayer for you, and I hope to see you soon. Christ’s and yours, Pastor Eric

A PRAYER FOR A NEW MINISTRY AT VALLEY

Almighty God, help our spirits be open to your Spirit as Eric comes to be our pastor. Through his ministry, open our ears to hear new sounds and our eyes to see new sights. Together may we grow in faith and serve you. In your holy name. Amen.

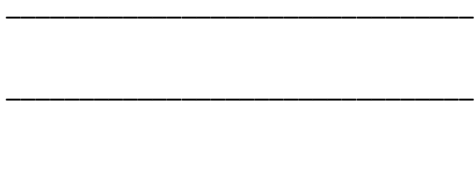
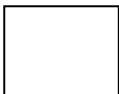
A PRAYER FOR THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

Almighty God, these are difficult times. The darkness closes in, and we cannot find the hope you promise. Send us your light. Send us your comfort and promise that the future will come with renewed blessing. Help us to trust, even in this time, as Jesus did during his trials and even in his loss of life. We are a people of the resurrection; grant us this hope of a new day dawning, we pray. In our Lord’s name. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR LOVING KINDNESS

Father, your grace does amaze us. Thank you for doing for us what we could never do for ourselves. Remind us of how much forgiveness cost you, and how much that tells us about your abundant love and grace. In Christ’s name. Amen.

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LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Please pray for John and Cindy Neville’s two nephews, Reid Hollis and Harrison Neville, who have tested positive for COVID19
- The Elders have sent Eric, Carrie and Sadie Lou greetings from Valley. You may join them by sending words of welcome to Eric and his family through his email – atcheson@gmail.com
- Marilyn is designing a database for all the members and friends of Valley. This will be a blessing as we will have all birthdays, anniversaries, addresses, phone numbers and other information in one place that can generate letters, labels, directories and reports.
- Edd and his family are enjoying precious moments together this week in some cabins beside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Our gratitude is expressed to John Gregory, who brought the message on Sunday, July 19 while Edd was on vacation.
- Every Tuesday at 6:30pm, there is a church school class on Zoom led by John Gregory. Contact the church office for information on how to connect to the class.
- There is a lost and found box in the church office with several items in it.
- Please share what is happening in your life, for all of us to read in “Life in the Valley”.

August 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30am Worship “Jonah”	3 Voice Deadline	4 6:30pm Church School by Zoom	5 Happy Anniversary Billy and Pat McDaniel	6	7	8 9:00am Valley Workday
9 10:30am Worship “Peter and the Storm”	10	11 6:30pm Church School by Zoom	12 Pastor video “Water of Life” Happy Birthday Jim Taylor	13 Left- Handed Day	14 Happy Birthday Ed Guindon	15
16 10:30am Worship “The Bent Over Woman” Mary Pat Spencer Preaching	17 Voice Deadline	18 6:30pm Church School by Zoom	19 Happy Birthday Benjamin Devine	20 11:30am Men’s Luncheon at Johnny Ray’s ?	21	22
23 10:30am Worship “Paul and the Philippians” Happy Birthday Ann Johnsey and Jennie McElroy	24 7:00pm Board Meeting by Zoom	25 6:30pm Church School by Zoom Happy Birthday Billy McDaniel	26 Pastor video “Thanks for the Memories” 10:00am AAA Trip to St. Elias Church ?	27	28	29
30 10:30am Worship Life in the Valley Edd’s Last Sunday	31	Sept. 1 Eric’s first day as Pastor of Valley Christian Church				

