



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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COFFEE AND A STORY

As we get closer and closer to Pentecost Sunday, May 23, and our anticipated return to in-person worship in our beautiful Gothic revival sanctuary, I would like to take a few moments to share with you some important information so that we all have an idea of what to expect. This will be our first time worshipping together indoors after fourteen long months—and my first time worshipping with you indoors ever!—so to aid our shared excitement, I hope we can begin with shared understanding.

While most of us will be fully vaccinated for COVID by May 23, not all of us will be, and so a number of guidelines will be in place to protect everyone, and we ask that these guidelines be followed:

-Masks should continue to be worn by all adults, the only exception being when a person is engaged in a speaking role while leading worship. It is especially important to remain masked while singing.

-Social distancing in the pews will be facilitated—you will notice that every other pew is taped off. I know this means your “assigned” pew may not be available but think of this as the best opportunity you will ever get to reshuffle the unofficial seating chart!

-A designated greeter or other worship volunteer will hold a microphone for announcements and prayer requests so that the microphone is not passed around.

-Weather permitting, the doors to the foyer and sanctuary will remain open to promote air flow.

-There will be no passing of the offering plates through the pews. Instead, the deacons will retain possession of the offering plates as they come by for you to place your offering in the plate.

-Holy Communion, at least initially, will be partaken with individually enclosed elements, and will be distributed to you in your pews by gloved deacons. Please don't partake until I direct us all to do so.

-Worship will continue to be streamed live on our usual Zoom channel for anyone unable to, or uncomfortable with, attending worship with us in-person. You may join us there exactly how you have been. And if you are exhibiting *any* symptoms associated with COVID-19, please remain home!

These guidelines may change as public health circumstances dictate, and please be understanding as we work through some possible trial and error to implement them. We know that we cannot make in-person worship completely risk-free, and that attending in-person worship will have to be at your own risk. We invite you to make that decision in whatever way is best for you and your household.

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric



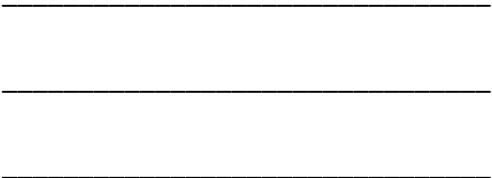
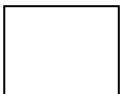
HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW CAROLYN AND TERRY?

Tomatoes, squash, beans, cucumbers, etc.

DISCIPLES WOMEN

Our next Disciples' Women's meeting will be Thursday, May 20, 2021, 10:30am at the church. Everyone is invited to join us. We are beginning a discussion of John Archibald's new book, "Shaking the Gates of Hell: A Search for Family and Truth in the Wake of the Civil Rights Revolution". Archibald is a prominent writer for the Birmingham News and a native of Alabama. The book examines the relationship between John and his father, a Methodist minister, and the role of the church in racial events in Birmingham in earlier years. We welcome visitors!

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ALDRIDGE GARDENS

**AAA
ACTIVE AGELESS ADULTS**

I. May AAA Event

On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, AAA will enjoy a trip to Aldridge Gardens, 3530 Lorna Road here in Birmingham. Everyone is invited to join us. Aldridge Gardens specializes in hydrangeas, and they are at their peak bloom now. If you would like to go with us, call Marilyn at the church for a reservation by Friday, May 14th. We will meet at the church to carpool at 10:15am. At the Garden, the Director of Education at Aldridge will give us an orientation/talk and then we will enjoy the flowers as we walk in the Garden. Afterward we will eat lunch at the Fish Market on Highway 31. Please call your reservation in to Marilyn by Friday, May 14th.

II. June AAA Event

On Wednesday, June 9, 2021, AAA will travel to Pinson, Alabama to visit the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. Turkey Creek is a place of unique beauty. The history of Turkey Creek Preserve dates back to prehistoric Native American inhabitants. Later on, an industrialist used the banks of Turkey Creek for a grist mill and iron forge. Today the area is part of our wonderful Forever Wild Land Trust. Everyone is invited to go with us on this trip. If you want to go, please call Marilyn in the church office by Friday, June 4th for a reservation. We will meet at the church at 10:15am to carpool. Please let Marilyn know if you can drive and take others. Maps will be available at the church when we leave. Lunch will be a box lunch (\$6.00 each including water) from Ouslers, like we have enjoyed before. The sandwich choices are chicken salad, ham salad, egg salad and pimento cheese. Charles Yeager, Manager of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve and grand nephew of Sarah Draper, will give us a talk about the Preserve for our program. Each person should plan to bring a chair. Come and enjoy the beauty of nature and the opportunity to fellowship once again with others from Valley. Guests are always invited!

III. September AAA Event

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall, Reverend Edd Spencer will present a program about the Appalachian Trail and his experience as he walked it. He will make it "come alive" for us so that we may feel as if we were actually there. After the program we will enjoy a "trail lunch" with foods that might be eaten on the trail. Everyone is welcome! Come and enjoy! More details to follow.

70 X 7

Hope you are continuing to collect non-perishable food items for the celebration of our 70th anniversary. The items will be taken to Greater Birmingham Ministry after our celebration on Pentecost, May 23. We are looking for any number of items as long as it has a 7 in the number. 7 x 7 7 x 70 7 or 17 or 27 or any number you wish. Bring them to the church anytime or on our first day to worship back in the sanctuary, May 23. A special basket is in the parlor marked 70x7. Thank you, Outreach Department

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Please pray for our member Hal Clark who had a bad fall. He is now in physical therapy and they are working to get him back up to speed with his walker.
- Joan Noland had a bad fall Sunday at Brookdale and fractured her pelvis in two places. She will be in St. Vincent's Hospital in Room 705 for the next two days and then will be transferred back to Brookdale where she will receive Home Health care.
- Please pray for our member Carol Speed who will be having her second heart-related surgery on June 15, 2021.
- Midge Hoke is back for a visit to Birmingham and staying with Jean Thrasher.
- Ed and Ginny's daughter, Rebecca, who is due June 18th was put back in the hospital for two weeks of bed rest. She is home now (still on bed rest) and the doctors say the baby can go ahead and come now at any time.
- Ed Guindon also wanted to thank everyone who participated in the Valley Workday this weekend. It was a great success and they got a lot done.
- Ted Stuckenschneider expressed a joy that Sarah and Stewart went to Christmount and what a blessing that is.
- Linda Reeves asked for prayers for her family who have had COVID but thankfully have had only mild symptoms.
- Linda Reeves talked to Leslie, our homeless person who visits us for help and found out that he had been living in a vacant house in Smithfield (westside) and that the city tore the house down.
- Valley would like to thank Linda Reeves for updating the large picture collage in the lobby and also for updating the bulletin board.
- The Adult Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm will continue on Zoom rather than changing back to in-person Sunday morning. The Tuesday evening time is more convenient for the participants. Please join us!
- Valley would like to thank Ed Guindon for the gorgeous Little Library Box that he built for the church and our friends and neighbors. We have lots of great books for kids and adults.
- Margaret Cox's sister-in-law and her husband, whose home was completely destroyed by a tornado are in awe of all the help and support from friends and community. They thank the Lord so much for blessing them.
- Please don't forget that we will come back in-person to the Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. What a blessing!
- Please call the church office for any news you want to add to "Life In The Valley".