



July 15 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

I am so grateful to everyone who came out and stayed after worship for the dedication of our Little Free Library. Thank you to everyone who made both the library and its dedication possible! While it occupies a relatively small patch of space next to our community playground, it represents an important next step in our overall vision for making our outdoors a space for the neighborhood and the wider Birmingham community. During covid-19, I have seen our outdoor space as a sanctuary just like our worship space—a place of relative safety to gather in. I have been thrilled at our commitment to bettering our outdoor space not for our own benefit, but so that the community beyond Valley's membership can benefit from what we can lovingly offer them.

The Little Free Library is part of that sentiment, offering to all a chance to sit down and read a good book. I am of the last generation to grow up without ebooks, and I confess that this is one area in which I am decidedly old-fashioned—I like being able to underline, highlight, and dog-ear a well-loved book. My parents instilled in me a fierce love of the written word, and I am overjoyed that we can help more parents and families facilitate that love for their children, and for each other.

Moving, both from Vancouver to Birmingham and now from our rental home in Cahaba Heights to our new home in Hoover, has shown me the one downside to my shelves of books: they are terribly inconvenient to move! So, I am appreciating lightening my load ever so slightly for our new home by picking out several books to donate to our new Little Free Library. I encourage you to do the same, not just now but whenever you notice its stocks running low, so that it can continue to be one of the unconditional offerings we give to the broader community.

We are not stopping at the Little Free Library, either! Valley members, especially Ed Guindon, have been hard at work on the expansion to our walking trail, and we even get to host a youth group delegation from Huntsville First Christian Church later this month, on Saturday, July 24, as they help us with the landscaping towards fully opening the trail expansion. I also continue to hope to add a picnic pavilion near the playground and new landscaping to our 280 side, depending on infrastructure projects by ALDOT and Jefferson County. These are exciting projects to make our property an even more welcoming space, and I cannot wait to see what comes of them.

Christ's and yours,
Pastor Eric

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Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 18
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 25
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 1
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 8
10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- July 28th—AAA Trip to the Kymulga Grist Mill /Covered Bridge in Childersburg
- August 7th—Blessing of the Pets in the Fellowship Hall
- August 20th and 21st—Congregational transformation Event at First Christian Birmingham.
- August 25th—AAA Trip to Bankhead House in Jasper

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- We have great news on Carol Speed's surgery. She did very well, is recovering nicely and was released from Lakeshore to continue recovering at home. Thanks for your prayers!
- Jean Thrasher's friend, Deno passed away and Jean is asking for your prayers for her family.
- Marilyn Ireland's newest granddaughter arrived on Thursday, July 8th, 2021 at 5:24pm. Her name is Adrienne Eloise Collins and she weighed 8 lbs. and 8 ounces and was 20.75 inches long. Mother and baby did very well. Her big sister Evangeline was very pleased as well as the rest of the family!
- Lola Kiser had a joy about America and how wonderful this country has been to her. She praises God for all the wonderful blessings she has received in this country.
- Peggy Zinser had a joy about the wonderful freedom to worship and freedom of speech that we all enjoy in this blessed land of the United States of America.
- Hal Clark is still recovering from his fall. Hal has improved physically, but always walks with a cane or walker now. A home health nurse and bath aide visit twice a week, and that's very helpful.
- Our treasured member Marilyn Cutcliffe had a bad fall and suffered a fracture. Please pray that she recovers quickly with no complications.
- Ruby Wilkes is in a cast but she is walking about and is increasing her mobility and is asking for our prayers as she continues to heal.
- Joan Noland is still recovering from a bad fall at Brookdale where she fractured her pelvis in two places. She is home and feeling much better as she receives home health care.
- We are so thankful for all the volunteers who helped with the Valley Workday and also the dedication, installation and planning of the Little Library Box.
- Please pray for Effie King's two sons, Dan and Larry— Dan has early Alzheimers and Larry is recovering from a pair of strokes.
- Please pray for our former interim minister Edd Spencer and his wife Mary Pat as Edd recovers from surgery.

Dedication of the Little Library Box

Valley Christian is proud to dedicate our new Little Free Library for the enjoyment of our neighborhood community. This is a trend that is sweeping neighborhoods across America and we are happy to participate and promote reading for both children and adults. This a program of "Take a Book Share a Book" and we hope everyone will enjoy this new addition of Valley Christian serving our community. Please enjoy.

The Fellowship and Evangelism Departments want to thank everyone that participated in the dedication of the new Little Free Library Box.

I also want to thank Russell Reeves for all the great pictures he took at the dedication. Please continue to bring new or gently used children's or adult books for the community to share. Peggy Zinser

