



# Voice

A PUBLICATION OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ) Birmingham, Alabama*



**Valley Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Summer Worship Schedule

**Sunday, August 29**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Sept 5**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Sept 12**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Sept 19**

10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- August 25th—AAA Trip to Bankhead House in Jasper
- August 29th— Senior Adult Sunday
- Sept 6th—Labor Day—Office Closed
- Sept 15th— Lunch and Appalachian Trail Lecture by Edd Spencer—Fellowship Hall
- Sept 26th— Reconciliation Special Offering

**August 24 2021**

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*From the Pastor's Desk*

## Coffee and a Story

As our neighbors across the state continue to be hospitalized, and succumb to, the delta variant of covid-19, our hospitals here in Birmingham are at maximum capacity—a circumstance that seemed so unlikely even two months ago, and certainly unlikely to come about as quickly as it has. Such is the devastating potency of delta covid.

Because of these circumstances, and because we as Christians are commanded to love our neighbors as Christ loves us, Valley is called to again meet the moment by adapting our shared spiritual life together to help keep one another safe. In that spirit, the Valley cabinet convened after worship on Sunday, August 15, and arrived at a consensus that the following steps be taken:

- Effective immediately, no food or beverages will be served for post-worship fellowship.
- I will be masked throughout the worship service, as opposed to unmasking to preach and pray.
- Communion will be served slightly differently, and I will walk you through those steps in worship.

Additionally, in consultation with our worship department, we are now asking that in-person worshipers keep their masks on when sharing an announcement or a prayer request. I personally, as your minister and the father of a child too young to be vaccinated, remain deeply grateful for Valley's openness to adaptation and flexibility in the face of covid-19.

However, we continue to be the church at worship and in fellowship alike! This includes both the adult education class in our new series of monthlong classes on Sunday mornings before worship (which you can sign up for with Lola Kiser), and the Circle of Five listening sessions with me. You can reserve a Circle of Five session for a Monday afternoon with Marilyn Ireland in the office, and if you need to schedule an alternate date/time, please reach out to me directly. I hope to see you at one of those sessions between now and the start of October.

And in worship, we begin a new sermon series with September as we build up to the 60th anniversary of our beautiful Gothic revival sanctuary in October! I hope you will join us in-person or online for this new worship series, which I am very excited to share with you for this momentous occasion:

*"Sanctuary at Sixty: Five Acts of Worship to Make a Space a Sanctuary"*

- September 5: "My Help and My God," Psalm 42 (Praise)
- September 12: "Lord, Teach Us to Pray," Luke 11:1-4 (Prayer)
- September 19: "Proactive Vulnerability," Philippians 1:12-19 (Proclamation)
- September 26: "All Things Are Possible," Matthew 19:16-30 (Participation)
- October 3: "24 Hours Over Los Angeles," 1 Corinthians 11:17-26 (World Communion, Partaking)

Christ's and yours,  
Pastor Eric

# Life in the Valley

## Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Ed Guindon gave praise for the wonderful birthday celebration for his 60th birthday. He loved sharing it with his family, friends and church family. He also wanted to give thanks to the people who attended Valley workday at the church. Many thanks to John Gregory, Terry Nunnally, Beth Collier and Stewart Draper. Peggy Zinser also spoke up and thanked Ed for all he does for all of us.
- We had a request for prayers from \_\_\_\_\_ who has six grandchildren going back to school in masks. We especially pray for our kids and all they are being put through. Peggy Zinser also requested that we pray for her granddaughter who is in her senior year at Mississippi State.
- Peggy Zinser had two concerns that turned into joys with God's help. Her son-in-law is a pilot and was flying over Florida last week and the engine went out. But he was able to safely land and even without his passenger knowing that the engine went out. Also, her daughter Christy was at Navarre Beach this past weekend and was up to her neck in water when she heard her boyfriend yelling at her to get out of the water. When she looked around there was a shark right beside her but praise God she was able to get out safely.
- Elena Huegel from Global Ministries visited Valley last Sunday. Please pray for her as she continues her mission in Mexico at the end of September.
- Please pray for the family of our member, William Byrd Jr. . His father, William Byrd Sr. , who had visited with us, died recently.
- Carol Speed's good friend Vicky Shay (who visited us with her dog at our Blessing of the Pets event) husband, Harold Shay has been diagnosed with lung cancer last week. Please pray for him.
- Jan Watts has asked for prayers for her former daughter-in-law, Greta Watts, mother to Jan's two oldest grandchildren. She has COVID/pneumonia.
- Judy Seller's daughter's cousin's niece, Angie Williams, who was taken from a school bus in Georgia, was returned to her family. Thank you Lord!

## AAA Events

**August:** The AAA event for August is a trip to Jasper, Alabama on Wednesday, August 25th for our 11:00am tour and talk at the Bankhead Heritage House. Please call Marilyn in the church office for reservations by Friday, August 20th. We will travel by car to Jasper, leaving the church at 9:30am. If you can drive please let Marilyn know.

The Bankhead House was built in 1910 for John H. Bankhead, who served in the Alabama Legislature and the United States Senate. Tallulah Bankhead, an award winning actress, was his granddaughter and was raised in this house. We will eat lunch together about 1:00pm in Jasper.

**September:** A treat awaits AAA on Wednesday, September 15th when Reverend Edd Spencer will present a program in the fellowship hall about "The Appalachian Trail", which he has walked in its entirety. Lunch (\$4.00 per person) will be at 11:30 am and will feature a trail favorite. Reservations should be given to Marilyn in the church office by September 10th. Have you ever wondered about the Trail? Edd will answer our questions in an event of fun and fellowship together! Come and enjoy!

## A Journey on the Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail is the world's most famous footpath. It is 2,175 miles long wandering through 14

states from Georgia to Maine.

My Appalachian journey started on July 12, 1997 at the southern terminus of the trail at Springer Mountain in Georgia. From Georgia I headed north and kept walking until I reached the northern end of the trail at Mount Katahdin in Maine. This wonderful journey in the wilderness took me 19 years to complete the trail. I was a section hiker and took off a couple of weeks each year from my church ministry in order to hike the entire trail.

I look forward to sharing this experience with you on Wednesday, September 15 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. After a delicious lunch of salad, spaghetti, chocolate cake, peach cobbler and ice cream for dessert, I will lift up my journey on this fantastic trail.

In my presentation, I will share many of my experiences on the trail. I will use beautiful pictures of the trail, some magic, trail songs, stories about bears, and a moment of communion together.

I am excited about sharing my fellowship with the wilderness. Come and invite a friend as we discover appreciation for this extraordinary path on top of the Appalachian Mountains. Happy Trails, Edd

## Week of Compassion Special Offering for Haiti

On August 14 a 7.2 earthquake shook Haiti and 2 days later Tropical Depression Grace made a direct hit. On August 29 and September 4, we will receive a special offering for Week of Compassion for Haiti relief. Please mark your check for Haiti Relief and bring or send to the church. Outreach

## Just a Reminder

The first Sunday in each month is Pantry Sunday. We collect non-perishable food items for Greater Birmingham Ministries. Place your items in the Basket in the Parlor. Outreach

## Celebrating a Marriage

We want to finally celebrate Lauren Simon and David Lambert's marriage that took place last year. Our reception venue has a crowd limit due to Covid-19. We would very much like to share cake with our church family following worship services on August 29th. This will be held outdoors so that we can socially distance.

## 'Tis the Season....

.... To be preparing our Advent Booklet. The booklet this year will be in two parts: Gifts Given (Part I) and Gifts Received (Part II).

Part I will contain devotionals written about a gift that you would give the Baby Jesus. Why did you choose that gift? Is it a personal gift of yours that you want to give Him? Is it a gift your children enjoyed? Is it a gift He can use later in His ministry? Is it a gift He can enjoy now? Is it a sacrificial gift? Please include the reason for your choice of gift. There are many besides those mentioned.

Part II. The devotionals in this section should be written about a gift you have received from Christ. All of us have received many such gifts, but please choose just one and tell us the circumstances of the gift and why you chose it. Possible gifts include hope, forgiveness, compassion, courage, mercy, acceptance, joy, etc..

Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board or you may call Marilyn Ireland in the church office to put your name on the list. You do not have to tell us your gift—just your name on the list. Devotionals should be turned to the office by Monday, November 1, 2021.

Thank you! Merry Christmas! Lola Kiser