



Voice

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



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Email: office@vccbhm.org
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Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday, Oct 24

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct 31

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov 7

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov 14

10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Oct 24 — Pledge Sunday
- Oct 31— Start of "Yes, I Can" GBM Pantry event
- Nov 1—All Saints Day and Advent Booklet Deadline
- Nov 4 & 5—Senior Adult Retreat—Rolling Hills
- Nov 7—Finish of "Yes I Can" GBM Pantry Event
- Nov 10—AAA Event—Classic on Noble—Anniston

From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

I am looking forward to returning to the pulpit after two Sundays away, and I trust that you had a positive experience of my friend and colleague Ryan Cagle bringing the Word from Mark's Gospel on those two Sundays. We immediately jump right back into the thick of things on Sunday, October 24, with Pledge Sunday. Pledge Sunday is the culmination of our annual month-long stewardship campaign in which we prayerfully invite each of you to bring your pledge cards to worship and present them to the deacons as they receive the morning offering. These pledge cards are vital tools for our stewardship department in planning and writing the 2022 budget, and we appreciate not only your generosity but your willingness to participate in the pledging of your gifts so that we may plan accordingly for the coming year.

October 24 is more than Pledge Sunday—it will also kick off a new five-week sermon series that will take us up to the start of Advent at the end of November. The covid-19 pandemic's direct and indirect impacts on us as a society and a country remain ongoing, and truthfully it will be some time after the dust settles before we will really know for sure the extent of those impacts. But an immediately clear one to me has been the increasingly urgent need for peacemaking as a discipline.

I try to differentiate between peacemaking and peacekeeping on the basis that keeping the peace suggests that there is already a peace in place to maintain, which has perhaps been missing for many of us during covid. From upheaval with our jobs to increased partisanship and violent divisiveness in our politics, I am witnessing an absence of true, deep peace, which means that rather than peacekeeping, we need peacemaking: the making of peace.

What does that look like? Well, the Bible gives us some clues, and we will cover some of what Jesus, Stephen, Paul, and James the brother of Jesus had to say about the nature of making peace in extraordinary times. I hope you find this series useful, and I look forward to sharing it with you:

Autumn 2021: "Peace I Give, Peace I Leave: Making Peace in Times of Strife"

October 24: "Blessed are the Peacemakers," Matthew 5:1-12

October 31: "A Meditation on Mediation," Matthew 18:10-20

November 7: "Who Appointed Me?" Acts 7:23-35

November 14: "Building Up Peace," Romans 14:13-22

November 21: "The Seeds of Justice," James 3:13-18

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

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Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Two of our beloved members have suffered surgery to removed basil-cell carcinoma from their faces. Terry Nunnelly had one on his nose that was severe and caused quite a bit of pain. He did start healing and get better after a few days of rest. John Gregory had one on the side of his nose where the skin was not so tight and he has recovered nicely. Please continue to pray for both of these special men in our lives.
- Our member Bobinell Ricci is in Plantation Nursing Home right now for 21 days of therapy. She is feeling a little better. Please send your prayers to her.
- Two of Ted Stuckenschneider's friends have passed away recently. Dr. Richard Vest, who is an oral surgeon had a bicycle accident and broke his neck. Also, Ted's 96 year old friend from Columbus, Mississippi fell and broke two ribs then passed away this past Saturday. Please pray for their families and friends.
- Ryan Cagle asked to lift up in prayer a woman and her children in Walker County who are in a domestic violence situation and need to live peacefully and safely.
- Ryan Cagle also asked for prayers for the Freeman and Goss families in Walker County who have family members who recently passed away.
- Maria Colon and her husband are doing well after the devastating fire to their home. She did suffer first degree burns to her arms as well as the loss of her beloved pets.
- Clarence Sellers is feeling better but still at home recovering from COVID.
- Peggi Zinser has now left rehab and is at home recovering from her shoulder surgery. She is improving.
- Lola Kiser's niece, Mary Kay Kramme's husband Joel needs your prayers. He is not doing well right now.
- Marilyn Cutcliffe's new phone number is 205-968-1181. You might want to jot it down in the new Valley Yearbook and Directory.

"Yes, I Can" Food Bags

It is almost Thanksgiving and time to remember those who need a little help in order to have a happy Thanksgiving. Each year we bring food items for Greater Birmingham Ministry and St. Anne's home. GBM will distribute food to those in need. St Anne's is a half-way house for women who need a little extra help getting back on their feet. We will give the bags out on Oct. 31st and ask you to return them on Nov. 7th. You do not have to have a bag.

Just bring your items by the church between Oct. 31 and Nov.7. Thank you for your continued support to "the least of these".



November AAA Event

Our next AAA event will be a trip to Anniston, Alabama for lunch at the restaurant "Classic on Noble", 1024 Noble Street, Anniston, Alabama 36201, on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. We will caravan in cars leaving the church at 9:30am for lunch at 11:30am. Please call Marilyn in the office by Friday, November 5, 2021 for reservations. The "Classic on Noble" is a beautiful restaurant, the food is excellent, and the atmosphere is like restaurants used to have. Some of the members of First Christian Church in Anniston, Alabama will join us as we celebrate the feeling of Christmas in the air. Everyone is welcome to join us for this event.



Advent Devotional Booklet

If you are writing a devotional for the Advent Devotional Booklet please remember that we would appreciate receiving your devotionals by Monday, November 1, 2021. These can be sent to Marilyn in the office or given to Lola Kiser. Many thanks to all who are writing devotionals. There is a list on the bulletin board by the office door in case you need to see which part you are writing about, Part I, a gift you would give the Baby Jesus, or Part II, a gift Christ has given you.

