



Voice

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



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2600 Cherokee Place
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Email: office@vccbhm.org

Website: www.vccbhm.org

Office Hours: 8am-12pm

Monday through Friday

Winter Worship Schedule

Sunday, Jan 16

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Jan 23

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Jan 30

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Feb 6

10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Jan 11 - Men's Luncheon at Taziki's in the Colonnade
- Jan 16 - 12 noon Board Meeting
- Jan 16 - Week of Laity
- Jan 17 - Martin Luther King Day - office closed
- Jan 19 - 10:30 am AAA event - Birmingham Museum of Art
- Jan 20 - 10:30 am Disciples Women Meeting
- Jan 23 - Laity Sunday
- Jan 24 - Voice Deadline

From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

As 2022 begins, I want to make a pair of requests, each of them different but still very much spiritual.

First, as the omicron variant of covid has thoroughly supplanted the previous delta variant, I ask all of you as powerfully as possible to please get a covid-19 booster if you have not done so and are already vaccinated, or to please get vaccinated if you are not already. I am mindful of all the ways we have sacrificed and altered our ways of being church for almost two years, and vaccines both save lives and help protect others, and so lessen the chances of sacrificing even more ways of being church. Please prayerfully consider getting vaccinated or boosted if you are not already!

Second, as Lola Kiser and I plan together Valley's Holy Week devotional booklet (and my Lenten sermon series to lead up to it) I wanted to let you know that we will be asking you one Sunday or two coming up to offer a word—a single word—that you associate with the crucifixion, or with Christ crucified. The words that you submit will form the basis of that devotional and sermon series!

I also want to express my gratitude to everyone serving in a leadership role this year, and to ask you to put the morning of Saturday, January 29, on your calendars for our annual planning retreat. Due to omicron, I want to leave open the possibility that the retreat may take place online again this year.

Finally, now that the Christmas season has concluded, we are into an eight-week stretch of ordinary time before the start of Lent. Laity Sunday covers one of those weeks on January 23, and for the remaining seven, I built a sermon series around Israel and the Philistines. We will hear stories of famous heroes like Samson and David, and I believe these stories have much to tell of God's care and providence in the face of privation. As we enter year three of this pandemic, I think that sentiment is as relevant and needed as ever. I look forward to sharing this series with you!

Post-Epiphany 2022: "The Philistines are Upon Us: The Sea Peoples' Impact in God's Word"

January 9: "The Tamarisk Tree Planted," Genesis 21:22-34

January 16: "The Arc of History," Exodus 13:17-18, Joshua 13:1-3

January 23: Laity Sunday

January 30: "The Year Civilization Collapsed," Judges 13:1-5

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

January 11 2022

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Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Our oldest living church member, Joan Noland, passed away on December 23rd. She would have been 100 years old this month. Her funeral service was at John Ridout's in Homewood and was well-attended by the Valley faithful.
- Lauren Simon Lambert (daughter of Sara Simon) and her husband David Lambert are expecting their first child in June.
- Taylor Ann Brent, granddaughter of Peggi Zinser and niece of Christy Zinser, was married to Denton Garvey on Saturday, January 8th at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church.
- Katelyn Clark, our beloved member, is engaged to John Richardson and will be married in August.
- Ginny Guindon had a joy that she avoided a severe car crash. Praise the Lord!
- John Churchill became ill at the first of the year and was finally diagnosed with respiratory infection. He was hospitalized and released.
- Jim Taylor had a positive test for COVID the last week of the year but he only had 1 or 2 days of symptoms. He is out of quarantine now.
- Many thanks to John Gregory who preached for Valley on Sunday, January 2nd when John Churchill was scheduled to guest preach and became ill.
- Janice Clifford, wife of our former minister, Jim Clifford is going in for follow-up surgery on Monday, January 24 to remove another small tumor Please pray for them.
- Carrie Atcheson, wife of our pastor Eric Atcheson, had surgery for a torn meniscus the first week of the new year. She is doing much better this week and is recovering at home.
- Our sister church, Primera Iglesia, whose members have been meeting at Valley for several years, has moved to another location in North Shelby county where most of their members live. Pastor Roberto Rodriguez and Edith Carreras attended church on January 2nd and thanked the whole congregation for hosting their church these past years. They are very grateful and thankful. Valley wishes them the best at their new location as they continue their mission of sharing Christianity.
- Please pray for Andrea Clark and any health issues she may have.
- Please pray for Ted Stuckenschneider. He received a diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis this past week.
- Please pray for Bill Caughran's cousin, Anita. She has had a blood clot and brain bleed this past week.
- Please pray for George and Judy Dudley. George is retired from First Christian Athens and his spouse Judy has been hospitalized with fluid buildup and breathing difficulties but is responding well to treatment.
- The stepgrandfather of Ginny Guindon, Carolyn's father, passed away a couple of weeks ago. He was 96 years old and lived a wonderful life. Carolyn got to be with Calvin before he passed.
- Please pray for Marilyn Cutcliffe's nephew Thomas Edward Cutcliffe, Jr., who has been diagnosed with cancer and Marilyn's cousin, Murray Sawyer who has an aneurism.
- Please pray for Sarah Draper's nephew, Randy Yeager. He is a diabetic and having surgery on his big toe.

- Please pray for Melinda Robertson, our beloved member, who had a fall and broke some ribs.

Week of Laity January 16th - 23rd

This is an annual observance to recognize service from members of the congregation to Valley and the whole church. On the 23rd the message will be shared by Sarah Draper. Ted Stuckenschneider will serve as worship leader. The strength of the congregation comes from the members in their giving of time, treasure and talent. May we all have the hope and inspiration within ourselves to find joy in serving the church, the Body of the Living Christ. May our commitment and joy be caught by other people. - John Gregory

Laity Sunday

On Sunday, January 23, 2022 we will celebrate Laity Sunday with the Christian Service Recognition worship service. Since we were unable, due to COVID, to have the Recognition Service in 2021 we will celebrate both years of 2021 and 2022. After the worship service, please join us in the parlor for light refreshments.

Week of Compassion

We will be receiving Tornado Relief Funds on January 16th and 23rd for Mayfield, Kentucky. The tornado that hit there completely destroyed that small town. All the funds will go to Week of Compassion to be used to help restore the town. Please mark your check WOC, Mayfield, Kentucky. All moneys will go to Week of Compassion to be distributed.

January AAA Event

Everyone is welcome to join with AAA for a trip to the Birmingham Museum of Art, located at 2000 Reverend Abraham Woods, Jr. Boulevard on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. We will enjoy a self-guided tour of an exhibit about the Mississippian Indian Mound Builders who lived in the southeast and midwest from approximately AD 1000 to AD 1550. We will meet at the church at 10:30am to caravan to the museum for an 11:00am tour. Entry to the museum is easiest if you park behind the museum. After the tour we will have lunch at approximately 12:30pm at the Fish Market Restaurant, 612 2nd Street South, Birmingham, Alabama. Please call Marilyn in the church office by noon Friday, January 14th for reservations.

Tornado Preparedness

On Sunday, January 30, in conjunction with the "Week of Compassion - Kentucky Tornado Relief" we will have Mt. Brook Fire Department's Lt. Bomar here after church service to give us important safety directions. Lt. Bomar has viewed our church interiors, both upstairs and down stairs and he will give instructions on where to go and what to do in the event of a tornado in our area.