



# 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**

## Spring Worship Schedule

### **Sunday Service**

June 26 10:30 a.m.

### **Sunday Service**

July 3 10:30 a.m.

### **Sunday Service**

July 10 10:30 a.m.

### **Sunday Service**

July 17 10:30 a.m.

### **Sunday Service**

July 24 10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- June 23 - Summer Begins
- June 25 - Regional Convocation Workshop Tuskegee
- June 29 - AAA-Cook Museum Decatur
- Monday, July 4th Office Closed for 4th of July.

## A Word from Your Pastor

**June 21 2022**

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## God Knows Your Name

Fred Craddock shares a story stressing the blessing of God knowing your name and loving you. Some years ago also in a small town in West Tennessee, a baby boy was born out of wedlock. As he grew up, life was tough for him. Some children were not allowed to play with him. He was shunned on the playground. People whispered behind his back and called him ugly names. He felt rejected and worthless and lonely. However, on his own, when he got to high school, he started going to church.

One Sunday morning, as he was leaving the sanctuary, he heard the pastor call his name. He stopped and turned around to hear those words he had come to dread: "Whose boy are you, anyway?" The young man froze in place, felt his whole body tense up, and wished that he could disappear. But, then the pastor said, "Hey, I know who you are! I can see it now. I see the family resemblance. You are a child of God. I can tell by the way you act you are close kin to God."

The boy was speechless. Do you know what that pastor was saying to that boy? He was saying effect, "God knows your name and you are special to Him."

That brief incident changed the boy's life. It gave him a new identity, a new source of worth and purpose. It turned his life around. Later, he became a governor of Tennessee, because on that day he realized that God loves us unconditionally, forgives our sins, and knows us personally by name.

And this same blessing is true for each one of us. God knows us by name. An because of this, the best is yet to be for each one of us. So, don't give up. Think positive! Don't let the world bring you down. Always remember that your name is written on the hand of Almighty God (Isaiah 49:16) He will not let you go. Now that is good news! God Bless, Edd

## A Prayer for Independence Day

O God, we give you thanks for this great country, for its north and south, east and west, for its mountains and rivers, trees and forests. We give you thanks for the hopes it has, of liberty and justice for all. We are especially grateful for the gift of your Son, who won independence from sin for all people by hanging on a cross and being placed in a grave only to be raised three days later. It is through His life, death and resurrection that we are fully set free from sin and the regrets of the past. Amen.

# Life in the Valley

## Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- All of our prayers and comfort are being sent to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, their members and attendees, first responders and the families of the three people who were killed there Thursday. Please Lord cover them all with your relief and peace and send the love of this church to them.
- Please church, continue to pray for a good resolution of the situation for Margaret Cox's sister's foster child, 5 year old Will. An investigation and a hearing is coming up presently and the family asks for your prayers again for the best outcome for the child.
- Our gratitude is expressed to Jane Churchill for preparing the Sunday Bulletin while Marilyn was quarantined with Covid.
- The driveway has been paved and repaired in front of the Sanctuary. We now have a smooth ride to worship.
- Sara Simon has a joy that her new granddaughter was born Friday and everyone is healthy. Congratulations to David and Lauren Lambert.
- The church has provided Marilyn with a new office chair. This will help her be more comfortable as she does her ministry of communication and office work.
- Marilyn is updating the Church Directory (and Yearbook) for 2022. If any of your contact information has changed please contact Marilyn.
- Everyone is encouraged to fill out the ministry Survey that you received at church Sunday or in the mail if you weren't there Sunday. This will be very helpful for the Search Committee in seeking a new pastor.
- Zack Pickard, the friend of the Spencers', is recovering in Boston from heart surgery. Thank you for your prayers.
- Please be careful driving during this heatwave in Alabama.
- Jean Thrasher joined the church on Pentecost Sunday. She has been a longtime friend and Christian worker and we now welcome her as a member of the church.
- For Sunday the 10th of July (and for the month of July) the Food Pantry items are sugar, flour and cornmeal.

## Awnings to be Replaced

The awnings on the front and the side steps will soon be replaced. The present awnings are faded, thin, and have lost their repellency. The property department has selected black as the color as it lasts longer. The awnings will be installed by Cain Awning Company for a cost of \$4,265.43. We are grateful for funds from the Memorial gifts and from the Wills of people who loved Valley Christian Church. All of us can think about this as we give to Valley and prepare our wills. - John Gregory

## New Verse

For those at worship on the 19th, here is the new verse for an old spiritual. You have to adjust the tune a bit.

*Upon that mountain, down in that valley,  
when my Lord spoke,*

*out of his mouth came love and hope.  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,  
I asked my Lord if all was mine.*

*Every time I feel the Spirit,  
moving in my heart, I will pray, sing, and act,  
Every time I feel the Spirit,  
moving in my heart, I will pray, sing, and act.*

This is for Valley Christian and our future. - John Gregory

## June AAA Event

Our next AAA event will be a trip to the Cook Museum of Natural Science in Decatur on Wednesday, June 29, 2022. Please meet at the church at 8:45am to ride the van. For reservations call Marilyn at the church office by Friday, June 24, 2022. We will eat lunch at 12:30pm at Big Bob Gibson's Barbeque, chosen recently by Readers Digest for preparing the "Favorite Sandwich in Alabama". The Cook Museum of Natural Science is a state-of-the-art natural science museum. It's not just for "bugs" although they are included. We'll see a large variety of live animals, some of the most amazing creatures and environments in nature. Many exhibits include interactive activities. Join us for a day of fellowship and fun by making your reservation now. Visitors are always welcome!

## Sermon Series for July

The sermon series for July will be focused on freedom. The following is the schedule for the sermons:

Sunday July 3	"Freedom - The Sacrifice of Jesus" Luke 23:32-43
Sunday July 10	"Freedom - The Crossing of the Red Sea" Exodus 14:5-8; 10-31
Sunday July 17	"Freedom - The Escape from the Big Fish" Jonah 1 and 2
Sunday July 24	"Freedom - The Healing of the Spirit" Luke 8:26-39
Sunday July 31	"Freedom - The Raising from the Dead" John 11:1-44

## Search Committee News

On Sunday, June 19, 2022, the Search Committee distributed congregational self-study surveys to those in attendance at the worship service. Members and regular attendees who were not present will receive their surveys in the mail. Please complete the survey and bring it to worship on Sunday, July 10. After the worship service, a box lunch will be provided for all in the Fellowship Hall, and the Search Committee will host a town hall meeting during which Valley members and friends can have an open dialogue together about what we are looking for in our next pastor and also our ideas for this new chapter in the church's life. The congregation's input through the surveys and the town hall meeting is vital to the Search Committee as we work in the following weeks to develop a congregational profile which will inform prospective ministers about Valley. The Search Committee looks forward to your input and participation in the lunch and meeting discussion on July 10. Please make your Ousler box lunch reservation with Marilyn Ireland at the church office by Tuesday, July 5, 2022 and choose from chicken salad, ham salad, egg salad or pimento cheese. There will also be extra a la carte sandwiches. - Ginny Guindon, Search Committee Chairperson