



# Voice

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



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

## Fall Worship Schedule

### Sunday Service

Sept 4 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Sept 11 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Sept 18 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Sept 25 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

October 2 10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- Sept 3 - Valley Work Day
- Sept 5 - Labor Day Office Closed
- Sept 7 - New Horizons will begin their fall term at Valley
- Sept 11 - Called Congregational Meeting
- Sept 18 - A Called Board Meeting
- Sept 23-25 - Women's Retreat at Rolling Hills
- Sept 23 - AAA trip to Bama Bucks in Boaz.

**August 30 2022**

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## A Word from Your Pastor

There is a wonderful scripture in the New Testament. The scripture is found in the words of Hebrews 12:1-2, "And let us run with perseverance the race marked for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith". The first part of the scripture encourages us to run in the race of life with perseverance. In other words, hold on to your faith. Whatever happens, don't lose heart! Keep on moving! Keep on trusting God! Keep on growing spiritually! Don't give up! Don't quit!

But we need to be honest, sometimes we give up and quit. What do you wish you had not quit? College? Do you wish you would have finished and received a degree? How about piano lessons? Do you wish you had not stopped? What about exercise? Did you give up running or working out too soon? And what about God? Have you stopped praying or reading the scriptures in the bible? What do you wish you had not quit? And why did you quit? We all know the answer. It is the same reason we all quit. Because it is easy to quit.

How many times did Jesus think about quitting? Did He want to quit when they beat Him, cursed Him, betrayed Him and nailed Him to a cross? How many times did He think, "I can't do this. I want to quit. Surely there has to be an easier way than this? But He did not quit! He ran the race of life with perseverance. He endured. He kept the faith and we are called to follow His example of perseverance and endurance. To make the choice not to quit. With the example of Jesus before us, the choice is clear. With the help of God, we can say, "We will not quit the race of life".

So the scripture in Hebrews calls us to run with perseverance. It also says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith". Therefore, as we are running in the race of life, let us look up just ahead of us on the track at Jesus who has run this race of life before. He is the "author and perfecter of our faith". He is leading the way. If we look to Him, we can keep putting one foot in front of the other and not quit. God Bless You, Edd

## Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, September 11, 2022 after worship there will be a congregational meeting in the sanctuary for the purpose of reviewing the Congregational Profile that has been prepared by the Search Committee. Copies were distributed to those present for worship service on August 28th and will continue to be distributed to others by mail this week. What is the Congregational Profile? It's an important document that describes who Valley Christian Church is: our membership, staff, and organizational structure; building and grounds; worship style and services; outreach ministries; our goals; God's call for Valley, etc. The Regional Office first will use our Profile information to identify candidates who may be a good match for us and then supply the Committee with resumes of potential candidates to consider. The Profile also will be the initial source for any potential candidates to review and learn about Valley. The Search Committee encourages members and regular attendees to read the information on the Profile and come to the September 11th meeting with any questions, comments and feedback. During the week of September 12th, the Search Committee will finalize the Profile, present it to the Church Board for approval on Sunday, September 18th, and then submit it to the Regional Office. Thank you for your prayerful participation in this process. - Ginny Guindon Chairperson, Search Committee

## A Visit Together

Beginning in September, I would again like to visit in the homes of members and friends of Valley as I did with the church in January, February and March of 2020. An Elder of the church will be coming with me. If it is not convenient for us to visit in your home, then we could get together for a meal at a restaurant. My reason for these visits is to get to know each other better. To share our thoughts about the church, our faith, family and life. I will call and make an appointment because I know your time is valuable. Looking forward to our moments together. God Bless You, Edd

## Hark! Hark!

The herald angels will soon be singing, the birth of our Savior will soon occur, and we must prepare for this miraculous event called Christmas. Our Advent Devotional Booklet this year will be entitled "Letters to the Christ Child" and will contain a letter to the baby Jesus from each writer.

There is no overall theme for the letters. We anticipate that they will be very different from each other. Some people may want to write letters expressing love, adoration, thankfulness, etc.. Another possibility is to write a letter to Jesus as if you were some character in the Christmas story - perhaps the innkeeper or his wife, one of the shepherds or wise men, King Herod, Mary or Joseph, a traveler passing through Bethlehem, etc.. Maybe one of the animals with your help would write such a letter.

The devotionals should be given to Marilyn in the office or to Lola Kiser by November 1, 2022, about 250 words for each. We would appreciate your signing the list on the bulletin board if you are willing to participate. Thank you very much for your help! - Lola Kiser

## August AAA Event

Our AAA event for September is a trip to Bama Bucks restaurant in Sardis City, Alabama for lunch on Friday, September 23, 2022. Bama Bucks is a steakhouse and wild game restaurant in Etowah County on top of Sand Mountain. The restaurant is surrounded by a large variety of animals such as black bears, bison, antelopes, elk, deer, etc.. The menu is 70% domestic and 30% wild game. We can also enjoy an antique barn filled with unusual products, a general store and a walk-through wild life sanctuary. The van will leave the church at 10:00am for an 11:30am lunch followed by the other available activities. For van riders, there will be a \$6.00 fee for gas. This trip is scheduled for Friday because the restaurant is not open on Wednesday. Please give your reservation to Marilyn in the office by Monday, September 19, 2022. Everyone is welcome!

## Reaching out to Cahaba Heights

The Evangelism committee has contacted a company in Georgia to locate new move-ins to the 35243 zip code for the Cahaba Heights area of Vestavia Hills. We will receive approximately 20 names and ad-

resses each month for four months. We have already received 38 names and have sent out packets of information about us hoping to attract visitors and potentially new members. Each packet contains a cover letter from our Minister Edd Spencer, our brochure and a map with directions both to and from our church. We are planning a mailing each month until November. - Peggi Zinser

## New Horizons Seniors' Lecture Group's Fall Schedule

Don Long, the President of New Horizons wrote and told us that they would be delighted to have church members attend up to three sessions of their choice to determine whether they wish to become members of New Horizons. The New Horizons Fall Schedule is attached to this Valley Voice newsletter. The group meets on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00am to 12:00pm in a eight-week fall session starting on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

Also, he extended a special invitation to church members to attend their opening session on Wednesday, September 7 at 9:00am when they will meet in the church sanctuary for a presentation by John Gregory, a former pastor of the church, who will talk about the Church's history and the Church's beautiful stained glass windows.

## Sermon Series for September

September begins with Labor Sunday on September 4 which precedes Labor Day. The emphasis of this special day is on the dignity of work and how it provides services for others. During September, the sermons will focus around work in the New Testament. We will look at the work of carpenters, shepherds, fishermen and farmers. And we will follow these jobs in biblical times as workers share with us scriptural truth.

The schedule for the sermons is as follows:

Sunday, September 4 - "The Carpenter - Building a House on a Rock" Matthew 7:24-29

Sunday, September 11 - "The Shepherd and the Lost Sheep" Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 18 - "The Fishermen in the Storm" Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, September 25 - "The Farmer Planting on Good Soil" Matthew 13:1-9

## Congratulations!

Our congratulations to minister Mary A. Godfrey from Snow Hill Christian Church who has been chosen to attend the Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany, August 31 to September 8, 2022. Mary was nominated by Lexington Theological Seminary, where she is a student, and selected by the Week of Compassion to receive a scholarship award to attend the Assembly.

Most of us know Mary from our seminar on African American music in the church, which she led for Valley last spring. We are very pleased to have her represent the Alabama Northwest Florida Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

## A Prayer for Labor Day

On this Labor Day, we remember those who have been faithful and hard working in so many ways to make life good for us and for this nation; and we give You thanks for them and for the sacrifices they have made. We pray, Lord, that in like manner, You would use us, and the work we do, to make life good for others. We pray especially for those without work and those unable to work, that You would sustain and provide for them from Your grace and tender mercies. We pray for those in difficult work situations and ask for your encouragement and peace to abide with them. To those who are overworked, we ask for strength and rest to nourish them. Keep us strong and faithful in You, Lord Jesus, remembering that You who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. In Your Name, we pray and we live. Amen.

## The 23rd Psalm

In the summer of 1970 when I was in seminary, I served as a National Park minister in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. I served on the North Carolina side of the park and lived on the Indian reservation in Cherokee, North Carolina. My ministry was to lead worship services in the National Park campgrounds, be available for pastoral care to visitors to the park, and minister to the Cherokee youth at a church in Cherokee.

An Indian family in Cherokee shared with me the following translation of the 23rd Psalm. A version of the Psalm that gave me a new thought about Psalm 23.

The Great Father is my Shepherd Chief. He throws out to me a rope, and name of the rope is love. And He draws me in, and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water is not dangerous. Sometimes my heart is very weak and I fall down. He lifts me up and takes me to a good trail. Sometimes He will take me into a place between the mountains. It is dark there, but I will not be afraid. I will not be afraid, for it is there that the Shepherd Chief will meet me and I will be safe and satisfied. His love gives me a staff to lean on. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of food. My cup He fills until it runs over. He will stay with me on the trails through life, and afterwards I will go to live with the Shepherd Chief forever.

## Prayers for Valley Christian Church

In the last issue of the Valley Voice, the following prayers were listed for us to pray for Valley Christian Church. Please pray them again as we as a church move forward into the future.

### A Prayer for the Church

O God, we pray for the church. Full of committees and paperwork to make our institution run, we remember that we are about more than these things. Grant that the church will be a place of spiritual formation, a place that calls forth in all people that which is greater than us. Bless Valley Christian Church and all your churches O God. Lead the church where it needs to be, on a holy adventure. Amen.

### A Prayer for Change

O God, change is upon us at Valley Christian and we are not sure what the future will bring. So, O God,

teach us through bible stories that change brings new opportunities. Help us to welcome the new, embrace the different and move forward in the great expectation that all things work together for good for those who love God. Bless the change we face and help us work together to follow your path of serving you in new ways. The new ways of change in the future that will allow us to grow. Amen.

### A Prayer for the Future

O God, in the midst of all that is before us as Valley Christian Church, come and give us peace. When we are frightened, hold us tight. When we are depressed, reassure us. When we are angry, soothe our spirits. For when we put our trust in You, You will not lead us astray. Teach us to give our future to you, for the glory of your vision for Valley Christian Church. Show us how to sacrifice in meaningful ways, not always needing to see instant results. And in the midst of change, give us the confidence of your love above all else. Amen.

## Life in the Valley

### Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Pat McDaniel's sister Margaret is now having another procedure to do the biopsy that was inconclusive last week. Please pray for a good outcome.
- Terry Nunnally had his "Watchman" procedure to his heart and he is feeling very well. He thanks you so much for your prayers.
- Please be in prayer for Ann Johnsey, who is recovering from surgery at home.
- We welcomed a visitor, Conley Alderson from Maryville, Tennessee this past Sunday.
- Margaret was praising God and thanking him so much for her daughter accepting the Lord into her life this past week. Praise the Lord! He is good!
- We thank God for the beautiful wedding of John and Katelyn Richardson. We wish them many happy years together and that God will bless them richly.
- Jean Thrasher's brother had a bad fall but is better this week. Please pray for him.
- Joel Kramme, the husband of Lola Kiser's niece, has Parkinson's. Please keep them in your prayers.
- The Food Pantry items for Food Pantry Sunday (September 4th) and the month of September are coffee, tea and/or hot chocolate.

## Be Patient

A ship strayed off course near San Diego some years ago. The ship got stuck in a reef at low tide. Twelve tugboats failed in their attempts to move it. Finally, the captain instructed the tugboats to leave. He decided, "I will just be patient and wait." He waited and waited. The high tide appeared. All of a sudden the Pacific Ocean began to rise. The rising tide lifted the ship and placed it back in the channel. What human power could not do, the rising tide of the Pacific Ocean did! We face challenges of growth at Valley. Maybe we should be patient and realize that there are things we cannot do. Maybe we should let the tide of God in the power of the Holy Spirit roll in!