



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: 7:30am-
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and Wednesday**

Dates of Interest:

- Feb 22 - Lent Brown Bag and Program
- Feb 22 - BVM Dinner at PawPaw Patch
- Feb 25 - Second Sunday in Lent
- Feb 25 - Week of Compassion Special Offering
- Feb 28 - AAA Trip to the Fire Engine Museum in Avondale
- Feb 29 - Leap Day
- Mar 3 - Third Sunday in Lent
- Mar 7 - Lent Brown Bag and Program
- Mar 13 - Lent Brown Bag and Program
- Mar 14 - AAA Stone Bridge Farm
- Mar 17 - Third Sunday in Lent
- Mar 18 - Voice Deadline
- Mar 21 - Lent Brown Bag and Program
- Mar 23 - BVM Sing-a-long at North Hill Rehab

February 20, 2024

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A Word from Your Pastor

We have begun our Lenten journey on our way to the cross and culminating in the Easter celebration of Christ's resurrection. Over these forty plus days our thoughts turn to the suffering and sacrifice of our Lord, of his forty days in the desert after which he was tempted by the evil one, of his journey through the countryside teaching, healing, driving out demons and modeling for us the love, compassion, faith, and obedience to which we all should be striving.

In reality, this should be our everyday goal, the focus of our daily prayers and walk with Jesus and should not be limited to just these forty days.

But there is something about Lent that fuels this renewed interest in trying to understand what Jesus went through, to symbolically walk in his footsteps the best that we can and to gain a greater appreciation for the gift we have been given through his life, death, and resurrection.

It is also a reminder that as much as this world (and by world, I mean us human beings locked in sin) creates this chaos, this upheaval, this unrest - God has a plan, a plan to recover, to reclaim and to restore His world. A plan that included a personal visit, an in breaking into this world, an intervention the likes of which the world had never experienced before. With the arrival of Jesus in the flesh, God put this plan into motion taking a hands-on approach and proving beyond a shadow of doubt the incredible love God has for each and every one of us.

In becoming one of us, God through Jesus revealed just how valuable and precious we are, even in our sinful states and through Jesus provided us a way for our sins to not only be forgiven, but to be like they never happened. This is the power of God and God's love for us, the power to take that which is abhorrent, that which is evil, that which is life draining and turn it into that which is beautiful, righteous and life giving. Jesus through his life, death and resurrection not only took these sins upon himself, but actually became these sins so that we might be made pure and whole once again. And this was done out of a love that is beyond measure, that is incalculable, that is eternal, that is as consistent and as reliable today as it was when God called the world into being.

Maybe that is why Lent means so much to us, it is a reminder of this love, this love that endured temptation, that overcame ridicule and rejection, that even in the face of torture and death never blinked but rather took on the evils of this world all the way to and through the cross. Lent reminds us once again of this tragic journey, how the very Son on God suffered and died so that we might be redeemed, so that we might experience true salvation, so that our lives would not have an ending, but a brand-new beginning, in the here and now and in the ever after.

I pray we take time over these next forty days to reflect on our relationship with God, to examine our lives and choices we have made and to recommit ourselves to drawing ever closer to our Lord seeking only his will and purposes for our lives. And remember, that no matter where we find ourselves or what is going on in our lives, the love of God is more than strong enough to overcome any chaos, any upheaval, any unrest, and it is this love that will recover us, reclaim us, and restore us to the glory of our God. May we take what we learn here and apply it to the rest of our lives as we seek to be the people of God.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please be in prayer for Phyllis Kirk (Embellishments Bell Choir leader and member of Grace Christian) who is recovering at home from cancer surgery. Her recovery will probably be rather lengthy so please keep her rehab uppermost in our prayers.
- Ted Stuckenschneider was in UAB Hospital for tests to be done. Please pray for him and his recovery. He is now at home and in good spirits. He has a great joy for all the cards and prayers from everyone.
- Peggi Zinser's granddaughter Taylor had a baby boy Tuesday Feb. 6th. His name is Preston Charles Garvey and everyone is doing well. Congratulations!
- Ed and Ginny Guindon enjoyed a trip to Pigeon Forge to a Wildlife Wilderness Conference (Bud and Georgia Flora also attended). On the way home a deer ran out in front of them on the road but Ed was able to stop. Thank you Lord for protecting them and the deer. Also, they visited her father on his 90th birthday in Tennessee and are so grateful for him in their lives.
- Terry Nunnally said the Property Committee had a workday last weekend (the first Saturday of the month) and 11 volunteers showed up and gave a few hours of their Saturday. He said if anyone else would like to help please let him know.
- Margaret Cox had a joy for the 30th birthday of her youngest daughter who lives in Austin, Texas. She is so thankful for her. She is also remembering her mother who would have been 100 years old this year. They will celebrate her and her life on that day.
- Clarence Sellers had a concern and is asking for prayers for his good friend, Charles "Red" Farmer who had a stroke.
- Jean Thrasher's best friend got to come home from the hospital for one day and everyone came by and visited her. Your prayers are needed. Also, Jean's grandson had a high fever for three days but fortunately he didn't have any problems. They diagnosed the flu.
- Jan Watts' daughter was in the hospital with insulin issues. Please send your prayers for her recovery.
- Jan Watts' has had her surgery and needs your prayers for her recovery.
- Food Pantry Sunday will be March 3rd and the need is for Beans/Peas (canned or dried). However, you can bring your donations at any time during the month of March and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

BVM "Plus"

Building Valley Macedonia "+" is sponsoring a dinner meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00pm at the PawPaw Patch Restaurant in Homewood on Green Springs Highway. The "+" of this article means everyone is invited to come as we enjoy the food and fellowship with other Disciples and friends. We will go through the cafeteria line and then take our food to a private dining room for the program. Rev. Malugani will bring us a devotional followed by a discussion about our Easter plans for BVM. Come and bring a

friend as we rejoice in the wonder which is the miracle of Easter.

A March Sing-a-long

BVM invites you to go with us on Saturday, March 23, 2024 to the North Hill Nursing and Rehab Center, 200 Pine Hill Road, Birmingham, Alabama for this Sing-a-long. This is the Home where we sent the Christmas stockings for the residents. This event replaces a Christmas program for them, which we were unable to schedule. The songs will be those you know led by Sharon Hill from Macedonia Christian Church. You don't have to be an experienced singer—just come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. The van will leave the church at 10:00am for the 11:00am program. Afterward, we will have lunch at Applebee's restaurant. Join us as we celebrate in music and song the Good News of Easter!



From the Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny has asked that Valley and Macedonia Christian Churches help him by supplying Easter eggs for the residents of North Hill Nursing and Rehab Center. You can purchase plastic eggs to be filled with wrapped candy at drug stores, Dollar stores, etc. Please get these slightly larger than ordinary eggs. A dozen candy-filled eggs per family or person would be much appreciated. Bring your prepared eggs to the church on Saturday, March 23, 2024 and join us in traveling by van or car to the Center, 200 Pine Hill Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35217. We plan to caravan from the church at 10:00am for the 11:00am Sing-A-Long. Afterward we will enjoy lunch at Applebee's Restaurant. Many thanks from your Easter Bunny!

Holy Week Devotionals

Holy Week devotionals for our booklet entitled "Near the Cross" should be turned in to Marilyn or Lola by Sunday, March 3, 2024 so that we can distribute them on Sunday, March 17, 2024. Thank you for your help.

AAA Trip for February

Did you know that Birmingham has a hidden gem in Crestwood? The AAA seniors are going to take a tour of the Southern Vintage Fire Apparatus on Wednesday, February 28th. We will leave the Church at 10:00am and take the tour at 10:30am. Take a jacket; it might be chilly in the warehouse where the fire engines are located. This is a large collection with over 70 vintage fire engines, including a steam powered fire engine from 1857. The tours are given by volunteers and are a mission to enlighten and preserve the history and traditions of the firefighter profession. There is no admission charge, but a donation would be accepted. Please call Marilyn or Peggi to save a place on the van there is a \$4.00 gas charge. You can also drive; the address is: 4500 5th Ave So., Building F. We will eat lunch

at the Fish Market on Southside at noon. Please let me know if you are driving so I can make reservations for you for lunch. Peggi

Week of Compassion Offering

We will receive the 2024 Week of Compassion Offering on February 25. This offering is used during disasters to assist people in need.

AAA Trip to Stone Bridge Farms

Looking for some good country cooking in the country? The AAA seniors are going back to Sophia's Southern Buffet at Stone Bridge Farms on Thursday, March 14th leaving the church at 9:15am for 11:30am reservations. The menu includes: roast, several chicken dishes and pork chops, plus there are 12 sides to choose from plus a salad bar and 4 desserts, rolls and a drink are included for \$15.85 + tax. Please let Marilyn or Peggi know if you want to ride the van. Gas charge is \$8.00. You can also drive, the address is: 281 County Road 717, Cullman, AL 35055, but I will need to know for reservations.



Lenten Services

We invite you to join us for our weekly Lenten Lunch Devotions to be held on Thursdays, February 22nd, 29th, March 7th, 13th (Wednesday), and 21st beginning at 11:15 am. We will meet in the parlor.

We will have a Maundy Thursday Service on March 28th beginning at 6:00 pm. Macedonia will join us for this worship service.

Our Good Friday service will be at noon on March 29th.

Please join us as we seek to draw closer to Jesus during this Lenten season.

Easter Services

All are invited to join us at 8:30am, March 31st for our Easter morning service to be held (weather permitting) in front of the church.

Following this service, we will gather for a fellowship

breakfast hosted by Jean Thrasher and her team. We would like to have people sign up for this, so we know how much food to prepare. A sign-up sheet will be in the foyer.

We will then have our Easter worship service in the sanctuary at 10:30 am.

Come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in our homes, in our churches and in our hearts.

