



# 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

Mar 26 10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday Service

Mar 29 12:00p.m.

### Sunday Service

Apr 2 10:30 a.m.

### Maundy Thursday Service

Apr 6 7:00 p.m.

### Good Friday Service

Apr 7 12:00 p.m.

### Dates of Interest:

- Mar 26 - Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Mar 26 - Distribute Holy Week Booklets to Members
- Mar 29 - Brown Bag Luncheon and Worship
- Apr 2 - Palm Sunday
- Apr 6 - Maundy Thursday Service
- Apr 7 - Good Friday Service - "Walk to Calvary"
- Apr 9 - Easter Breakfast and Easter Worship
- Apr 10 - Day after Easter Office Closed

**March 21, 2023**

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## A Word from Your Pastor

Our community is covered with a golden splash. Everywhere we look there is something covered with pollen - our cars, houses, patio furniture and clothes are golden in color. I even have trouble finding my car in the morning because it looks like a golden bush. There is pollen everywhere! And this reality of the natural world reminds me of a reality in the spiritual world. God has also covered the world with His love. His love is everywhere! Look at the beginning of that wonderful scripture in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world." The word of God says that God so loved the world. He does not love just one nation, not just one culture, not just one kind of people. No, He loves the whole world. His love is falling everywhere! God loves the whole world. He even loves our enemies. There are people we just do not like. There are people we want to put down and criticize. But we must remember that God is determined to love everyone. He is determined to let His love fall on the rich and poor, the weak and strong, the saint and sinner, and even our enemies. Next time you see the pollen everywhere also remember that God's love is everywhere. He loves each and every one of us. Praise be to God. God Bless You, Edd

## Maundy Thursday Communion Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:00pm

There is a holy evening at Valley Christian on Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 6:00pm. On this night we will gather in the sanctuary to remember the first Lord's supper of our Lord and his disciples. The meditation will be focused on the twelve disciples as presented in Leonardo DiVinci's painting of the "Last Supper". We will walk forward to the Lord's table to receive communion. Invite a friend for this special service.

## Good Friday "Walk to Calvary" Friday, April 7, 2023 12:00noon

Our Good Friday service is at 12:00noon on Friday, April 7th. We will gather outside by the cross in front of the sanctuary. From there we will follow a person carrying the cross on our walking trail. Along the trail we will lift up the seven last words of Jesus on the cross. George and Judy Dudley will lead us in songs of the cross in our journey on the trail. Our service will end in the sanctuary with a moment of darkness pointing toward the suffering and death of Jesus. In case of rain we will worship in the sanctuary. Invite a friend to walk to Calvary.

## Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 9:00am

The men of Valley will prepare our Easter morning breakfast at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We celebrate that they will be serving us homemade biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon, grits, orange juice and coffee. After enjoying breakfast and our fellowship together, we will gather in the sanctuary for Easter Worship. Gather to celebrate a risen Lord. Invite a friend to breakfast and worship.

## Easter Lilies

On Easter Sunday our sanctuary will be decorated with 33 Easter Lilies. A lily for every year Christ lived on earth. A lily to celebrate this glorious news that He has risen. This year the lilies are \$13 each. You are encouraged to purchase one in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

## Life in the Valley

### *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Our prayers are with Jim Taylor and John Church-ill who are recovering at home.
- Our prayers are with Andrea Clark, who is recovering at the home of her mother, Sue Mohon. Her address is 4444 Spunky Hollow Road, Rem-lap, Alabama 35133.
- We have a correction to the total of the 2023 Week of Compassion Offerings. It is \$1,455.00. Thank you for serving God and serving others.
- Our last Brown Bag Lunch and Lenten Worship is Wednesday, March 29 at 11:30am in the parlor for lunch and then at 12:00noon for worship. The worship will focus on the nails placed in the body of Jesus on the cross.
- Anyone who would like to reaffirm their baptism or be baptized for the first time should contact Edd Spencer.
- Stewart Draper, Ed Guindon, John Gregory and Edd Spencer attended the Men's Retreat. They learned that it is important to have faith in Jesus, But is even better have the faith of Jesus.
- The Holy Week Devotional Booklets will be available on Sunday, March 26, 2023.
- The 2023 Yearbook/Directory will be shared with members and friends on Easter Sunday.
- Gratitude is expressed by Edd and Mary Pat for your prayers and gifts for their granddaughter Ty, who ran in the New Balance Nationals in Boston, Massachusetts. She finished fourth in the 1600 meter race and that made her the fourth fastest freshman high school girl in the United States.
- Food Pantry Sunday is April 2nd and the need is for canned fruit.
- Our appreciation to the Evangelism Committee under the leadership of Carolyn Nunnally for the sign on the fence by the walking trail inviting people to worship also for the sign on Cherokee Road inviting people to the Brown Bag Lunch and Worship.

## March AAA Event

AAA has a very interesting trip lined up for March. Mark your calendars for March 22, 2023. We will be going to Calera to NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a meeting with the director, John de Block for a tour of the facilities. NOAA was founded by Richard Nixon and is under the Commerce Department and is a uniformed and saluted agency. NOAA is a federal agency that is focused on the conditions of and exploring of the oceans and conditions of the atmosphere. Not only do they track hurricanes, but also map Sea Turtles following their ancient migration routes and how they survive. We will leave the church at 10:00am for a tour at 11:00am then we will have lunch at Beto-lone's, an old world Italian Restaurant at 12:30. Please call Marilyn and let her know if you are going and if you are driving or want to ride the van. The van is first-come availability. Peggi Zinser

## Easter Offering

We will be receiving the Easter Offering on April 9th and 15th. This offering supports the General Units of our church. Overseas Ministries, Home Missions, Men and Women Ministries, and many more. Thank you, Outreach Department

## Church Sign

We have a new sign facing toward Highway 280. A sign in the form of a banner listing up four important words, "Worship Sunday 10:30 am". Words to invite people to Valley. Below are some signs or words that might invite more of God into our lives. Signs or thoughts of inspiration that might invite others to Valley.

- ⇒ God, I need faith. Not to move a mountain, but to move me.
- ⇒ God mends broken hearts, but He must have all the pieces.
- ⇒ Gospel begins with GO.
- ⇒ Write your plans in pencil and give God the eraser.
- ⇒ To hear God's voice turn down the world's volume.
- ⇒ Anger hardens the heart; forgiveness melts it.
- ⇒ If you have Jesus in your heart, notify your face.
- ⇒ He who is wrapped up in himself is overdressed.
- ⇒ Gossip - one language you don't want to learn.
- ⇒ Only God can turn a lion's den into a petting zoo.

## Board Votes to Reduce Number of Meetings

At its meeting on Sunday, March 19, the Board voted to reduce the number of Board meetings held each year from six to four. It was felt that meeting once a quarter would be sufficient to conduct the church's business. If any time-sensitive business comes up in between the scheduled meetings, it can be handled either by the Executive Committee (which is made up of the seven elected officers) or by holding a called Board meeting. A similar decision was made regarding the Cabinet meetings. These will also occur once per quarter rather than every other month. These meetings are generally to coordinate schedules among the various departments. The new schedules for these meetings are the third Sundays of:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Cabinet</u>
January	March
April	June
July	September
October	December

This schedule for the Board meetings will also allow us to hold our Congregational meeting in early/mid-November as called for in the By-Laws.

## Board Approves Contract Extension for Edd Spencer

The original contract with our interim minister, Edd Spencer, expires at the end of April. It is clear that we will not have a new minister by then, so Edd has graciously consented to continue serving, but with a few modifications to our agreement. Edd and Mary Pat wish to be freer to travel and spend time with family as Edd moves toward full retirement, so he will be working in the office two weekdays (Monday and Thursday) rather than the three he works currently. In addition, they will be on vacation a couple of weeks in May and again in July. Edd will continue to be available as needed for hospital visits and other needs as well as participating in special events that fall on other days of the week or weekend (e.g. AAA, Brown Bag programs). The new contract runs through the end of August 2023, with the option to extend it one more time through Christmas 2023, if needed.