



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**

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A Word from Your Pastor

We just celebrated the day of Pentecost, a day of wonder, of mystery and of fire, the fire of the Holy Spirit. It harkens back to what John said as he was baptizing in the wilderness. "I have come to baptize with water but there is one coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire." This is exactly what the disciples experienced that Pentecost morning, and it was truly amazing, so amazing in fact that Peter took to the streets delivering a sermon that led over 3000 to accept Christ and be baptized. Talk about movement of the Spirit, talk about lighting a fire, what an overwhelming sight that must have been.

Wouldn't that be great if we could replicate that in today's world? Wouldn't it be great if we experienced this type of earth-shaking movement of the Spirit in our lives? Can you image a body of believers on fire like those first ones were?

I was struck by this through a devotional that was given to me recently. It is from Richard Rohr, and he laments the fact that in today's age we seem to have lost that fire, that conviction and that connection with the Spirit. He fears that many of us just go through the motions not really being open to the movement of the Spirit relegating it to an afterthought rather than an integral part of our faith journey.

What we need is an infusion of the Spirit, to feel the fire once again, to be reminded that even in the darkest of times, our God is still active, still working to bring about all that has been promised, still seeking to recover and reclaim lost souls offering redemption, salvation and life eternal to all who would come and believe.

Short of having fiery tongues descend on us which by the way would be totally awesome, how do we rekindle the fire, how do we fan the barely glowing embers into a roaring flame, how do we move from just going through the motions to being active participants in God's plan of recovery, reclamation and restoration?

We start by getting back into God's Word, not just reading it, but allowing it to read us, to speak to us and to motivate us to action. We engage in deliberate and intentional prayer seeking God's wisdom and will for our lives. We join with others in worship, in prayer and in fellowship caring for one another, loving one another and working with one another to be positive difference makers in our communities and world. In doing so, we rekindle the Spirit and before we know it, the little spark has grown into a fire as we become a people who even when faced with overwhelming odds lean into this Spirit to help us, to lead us and to guide us as we take what we have been given and share it with the world.

The good news is we don't need to wait for the Spirit, as Rohr reminds us; "The Holy Spirit has already come. We all are temples of the Holy Spirit, equally, objectively, and forever." It is already in us, we just need to ignite it once again, to fan the flame and let it burn brightly remembering that the Spirit is like a flowing river, like a roaring fire, like a mighty wind that is constantly moving, constantly working and constantly seeking ways to infuse our lives with meaning, purpose and joy.

Who knows, it may just be your fiery Spirit that draws another to the flame igniting their faith drawing them into a relationship with Christ that will not only be life changing, but life giving and in doing so build on that foundation that was laid on that amazing day so long ago. Come, Holy Spirit, Come, rekindle that fire in us today!

Rick Malugani

Senior Minister
Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Dates of Interest:

- May 27—Memorial Day—Office closed
-
- June 1—Valley Work Day
-
- June 2—Food Pantry
Snack foods for kids
-
- June 12—AAA trip to Natural Bridge
-
- June 13—Men's Luncheon
-
- June 16 Father's Day
-
- June 20 Disciples Women Meeting
-
- June 24 Voice Deadline

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 is recovering from a fall and needs our continued prayers.
- Please be in prayer for Marilyn Ireland as she now has a surgery scheduled.
- Terry Nunnelly's niece, Sonja Baker is doing better but she has a long road ahead of her.
- Margaret Cox's mother-in-law, Jean Cox is responding well to the cancer treatments, the cancer is shrinking and the mass in her abdomen is not growing and is not a danger so they will monitor.
- Food Pantry Sunday will be June 2nd and the need is for Snack food for kids in the summer. However, you can bring your donations at any time during the month of June and the Outreach chairperson will take them to GBM for you.
- Be in prayer for David Brasher. He is home recovering from endocarditis.
- Jan Watts needs your prayers for her continued recovery.
- Mike Mee's daughter, Sarah Mee has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis
- Please be in prayer for Eloise Hatcher, Sharon Hill's mother. Cards can be sent to: 1069 Sunhill Road NW, Birmingham, AL 35215
- ✦ Please pray for Ted Stuckenschneider's sister Nelia, who has been diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer. She will be having surgery before starting chemo treatments. Nelia is also dealing with a tree falling on her house from the storms.
- ✦ Prayers for Rick Simon and his family in the passing of his brother. Rick is Sara Simon's ex-husband.



- ✦ Joy-The night at Rojo raised \$510 for GBM and the check has been received. That was a good result for this type of event. Thanks to everybody at Valley who helped make the night a success.
- ✦ For God's revelation of Valley's vision moving forward
- ✦ Those affected by the tornados in the Midwest



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN
ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA

REGIONAL CONVOCATION

One Day Workshop

Saturday, June 22, 2024, 9:30am-3pm

Chisholm Community Center
3031 County Road 69, Tuskegee, AL 36803

Host: Mt. Calvary Christian Church
Rev. Dan Stewart Pastor

Theme: The Importance of Mental Health for Faith Communities

Rev. LaRue Smith Jr., Convocation President

Rev. Kerry Kesity, Regional Minister

Pentecost Sunday

Valley Christian Church was all decorated and welcoming for Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, with red, orange, and yellow balloons, symbolizing fire, and pinwheels to symbolize the rushing of the wind, as we celebrated the first Birthday of the church.



Free Books!!

There is a table set up outside of the library with free books to a good home. Please help yourself.

Disciples Women Meeting

The Disciples Women will continue a new study of the Gospel of Luke on Thursday, June 20th at 10:00am at the church. We will use the book Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton. All women are invited to join us for fellowship. If you are interested, please contact Ginny Guindon at 205-305-1169 (cell) so we can provide you with a book.

Young Adult

The Young Adult Sunday morning study will be on a book, *A Woman Jesus can Teach*. So come join us for a cup of coffee and discussion at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings .



JUNE - AAA

The Valley Seniors will again be on the road on June 12th to see another Natural Wonder in Alabama. We will head to Natural Bridge, Alabama to see the 200 million year old Sand Stone Arch 60' above the winding pathway, about 100 yards to walk to bridge. For those interested in ferns, wildflowers and hemlock they are in abundance throughout the park dating back to the Ice Age. The Creek Indians lived in this area and used the bridge and cave for shelter. Look for an Indian Face etched by nature into a large rock there. This Natural Bridge is the largest East of the Rockies and was forged by an underground river. We will leave the church at 9:00 am, arriving at the Park about 10:30, we will spend an hour or so and then head to lunch at Victoria's down-home country cooking in Jasper. The fee for the Park is \$9.00, the gas fee is \$8.00. Let Peggi or Donnette know if you want to ride the van. If you plan on driving please let me know so I can get the driving instructions and map to you.
Peggi Zinser



Ladies Spring Tea

Everyone enjoyed "The First Annual Ladies Spring Tea" here in Valley's parlor earlier this month. The ladies had lots of hats to choose from, thanks to Ellen, lots of perfect "English Tea Time" food, and lots of stories. We had English Scones with Clotted Cream, tea sandwiches, tea cookies, lemon and, banana squares to name just a few of the treats. We used the church's white crocheted lace tablecloth over a pink tablecloth for a beautiful Tea Time effect. Several ladies brought their favorite tea cups, some brought antique plates and they each told the stories and memories of their families. Each table was an individually decorated tablescape, using decorations ranging from a large pink flamingo to a couple of tiny skunks. However, the star of the show, was our Minister, "Tuxedo Rick" who wore a Panamanian Straw hat to complete the 1930's look, serving the tea in style to everyone. We had about 20 donated door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners. As we parted at the end of the tea and said goodbye to all, both new and old friends we all said: "Let's do this again next year".



What a wonderful time all seemed to have at the first annual Ladies Spring Tea. Thank you to everyone who helped by bringing food to share or gifts for the door prizes and to Pastor Rick for willing to dress up in a tux and be a server. The stories shared and the fellowship overall made for a wonderful afternoon. A special thanks to Peggi Zinser and Ginny Guindon for helping get my idea off the ground and to the success I believe it was. Thank you, again, to everyone for an incredible afternoon.

Blessings,

Ellen Malugani