



Voice

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



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Email: office@vccbhm.org
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Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Spring Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

Jun 11 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jun 18 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jun 25 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jul 2 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jul 9 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- June 11 Pentecost Offering
- June 14 - AAA trip to the Purdy Butterfly House in Huntsville
- June 16 - Elder/Deacon Supper
- June 18 - Father's Day
- June 19 - Voice Deadline
- June 21 - Brown Bag Lunch and Worship "Water"
- June 25 - Cabinet Meeting
- July 4 - Independence Day - Office Closed

June 6, 2023

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 11

A Word from Your Pastor

I celebrate that every Sunday we have an opportunity to partake of the holy communion together. In this sacrament we claim the scripture in John 6:35 when Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." A few verses later, our Lord repeated the same theme. He said in John 6:51, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven, if any one eats of this bread he shall live forever".

Jesus is saying, "I am the bread of life". He did not say, "I am the cake of life". Cake is a luxury in life. Bread is an essential in life. Jesus was saying, "As bread is necessary to sustain the body, so I am essential to sustain the soul. I am the bread of life". Jesus is not a luxury in life. He is the essential of life. He is necessary for our spiritual growth. Jesus is not the cake of life.

He also is not the turkey of life. Turkey is something that many families have only twice a year. They have turkey for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Now some people think that Christ is like this. They feed on Him once or twice a year. They come to church on Christmas and Easter. But Christ says we need to feed upon Him, not twice a year or once a week, but daily. As bread is food which keeps the body going each day, so Jesus is the spiritual food that keeps the soul alive.

Jesus is not the cake of life. He is not the turkey of life. And finally He is not the medicine of life. Medicine is a food for the body. It often does not taste good. Unlike cake and turkey, we do not take medicine because we enjoy it. But medicine is necessary. It can save our lives. It can make health possible. Some people seem to believe that Christ is the "medicine of the world". They come to Him only when they are sick or in need. They come to Jesus when all else has failed. They seek His presence only when they are in difficulty.

So, may we remember that the bread that comes down from heaven is not cake, turkey or medicine. The bread that comes down from heaven to satisfy our spiritual hunger is the Son of God. He is the bread for the soul. He lived and worked, laughed and cried, suffered and died and rose again. He is our savior. May we allow Him to feed our souls. To Christ be the glory. God Bless You, Edd

An Elder/Deacon Gathering

Elders, deacons and their spouses are invited to the Spencer's on Friday, June 16th at 5:30pm for supper. This will be a celebration of the elders and deacons ministry at Valley Christian Church. Together we will enjoy a meal, play a few silly games and close with a short vesper service.

A Prayer for Father's Day

Thank you God, for never letting us go. Like the parent of a toddler, you never let us flee from your presence. Like the parent of an elementary school student, you stand at the door, waiting for us to get off the bus. Like the parent of a teenager, you wait up until you finally hear us put the key into the lock of the door. Thank you for being our heavenly Father.

We give you thanks for our fathers. We praise you for the men who nurtured us, cared for us and taught us. We also thank you for the men who have been like fathers to us—loving us and treating us like we are their own. Be present with fathers who are sick and in need of your healing touch. Draw near to those who are hurting because of the actions of their fathers. Surround with loving care individuals who long to be fathers but who have not yet been granted this blessing. Amen.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- We would like to thank Dale Braxton and Jan Watts for being Guest Pastors in May. You were great!
- The Elders will meet for prayer at 10:00am on this Sunday, June 11th. If you have any prayer requests contact Stewart Draper. Also, the Elders will meet after worship for their quarterly meeting.
- Please pray for Mary Pat Spencer's college roommate, Vickie Maphis, who is in the hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia.
- Bobinell Ricci is having some health concerns. Please pray for her.
- We collected \$640.00 for the Blankets of Hope. Thank you for your generosity to those in need and for recognizing your loved ones.
- The Sunday of May 28th we had visitors. Welcome to Libby and Barbara Carpenter and Bud and Georgia Flora.
- Jan Watts had a joy that they have finally moved into their house on the lake and all her family got together again this past weekend.
- Best wishes to Barbara Carpenter with her new house.
- Food Pantry Sunday was June 4th and the need is for summer snacks for kids. You can bring your donations at any time this month and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

Sermon Series for June

Edd will continue his sermons in June on the questions Jesus asked.

Sunday, June 11th - "Judging Others" Matthew 7:1-5
Question of Jesus - "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" Matthew 7:3

Sunday, June 18th Father's Day "Ask, Seek, Knock"
Matthew 7:7-11
Question of Jesus - "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?" Matthew 7:9

Sunday, June 25th "Love for Enemies" Luke 6:27-36
Question of Jesus - "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" Luke 6:32

June AAA Trip - The Purdy Butterfly House

One of the best ways to see a whole lot of different fluttering winged butterflies is to go to the Butterfly House at Huntsville's Botanical Gardens with the Senior AAA group on Wednesday, June 14th. If you like butterflies this the place for you. The church van leaves at 8:30am. We will have lunch at the Ole' Heidelberg Café. Gas fee is \$8.00 and the Butterfly House is \$16.50 which includes tax. Reservations must be in to Marilyn by Friday, June 9th at 12:00pm.

Pentecost Offering

We will receive the Pentecost Offering on June 11th. The Pentecost Offering helps us to ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vi-

sion: to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Half of our gift supports local church movement through our region's ministry. The other half supports New Church Ministry efforts across the US and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders. So, thank you for participating in the new thing God is still doing-just as in the beginning.

Covered with Prayer

Our successful Blanket Sundays bring to memory a prayer written by Linda Vogel. The following is some of her prayer for her grandchild.

My precious one, in celebration of your arrival I have made you a special gift, called a prayer blanket. When you are covered with it, know you are covered in prayer. Each tiny stitch represents a prayer prayed for you. Here are some of my prayers for you.

Like a ball of yarn that turns into a beautiful blanket, God has a beautiful plan for your life.

This blanket is made with human hands. But you are made by divine hands.

The border of this blanket keeps the blanket in the right shape. God wants to put a border around your life to keep it safe from harm.

When you are covered by this blanket, know you are covered in love and prayer. God wants to also cover you with the love of His Son.

Although you will outgrow this blanket, I pray you will never want to outgrow your need for God.

A Summer Brown Bag Lunch and Worship

During Advent and Lent we enjoyed our Brown Bag Lunches together and worship in the sanctuary after lunch. Therefore, we want to have three Brown Bag Lunches in the summer. A lunch in June, July and August.

Our lunch in June will be at 11:15am on Wednesday, June 21. The worship theme will be focused around water. In the summer we celebrate water in special moments around streams, lakes and the beach. Water plays a key part in the story of God in the Bible. In Genesis, all life arose from water. The book of Exodus has the story of the Hebrew people passing through the waters of the Red Sea. And in the New Testament, one of the last things Jesus said as He was being crucified was, "I thirst".

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 21 as we have fellowship around the lunch table and celebrate God's gift of water in worship.

Education Seminar - "Rivers of Life"

Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 9:00am

Leaders - David Butler, "The Cahaba River" and
Rev. Edd Spencer, "The Jordan River"

Everyone is invited to attend this special seminar!