



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
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Spring Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

Jun 25 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jul 2 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jul 9 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jul 16 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jul 23 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- June 21 - Brown Bag Lunch and Worship "Water"
- June 25 - Cabinet Meeting
- July 1 - Valley Work Day
- July 2 - Food Pantry Sunday
- July 4 - Independence Day - Office Closed
- July 10 - Voice Deadline
- July 15 - Education Seminar "Rivers of Life"
- July 16 - Quarterly Board Meeting

June 20, 2023

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A Word from Your Pastor

We serve a Lord who introduced new ideas that have changed the world. Ideas that we have embraced at Valley Christian Church. Let's consider some of these original ideas of Jesus.

First, Jesus introduced to the world the idea of forgiveness. He taught God's unconditional love for His children. Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 is the supreme example of His teaching of forgiveness. He forgave the woman of adultery with His, "Go and sin no more" (John 8:3). When the disciples asked, "Shall we forgive seven times?" He answered, "Seventy times seven", which means not 490 times, but forever, a total spirit of forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-23). He even forgave those who crucified Him (Luke 23:34).

Another original idea of Jesus is aggressive help. He expresses it clearly in His Good Samaritan parable (Luke 10:25-37). A parable where a man is attacked, beaten and left half dead in the blazing desert sun. The Samaritan gave the man medical help, took him to the inn, took care of him through the night and the next morning left money for his recovery.

Throughout His ministry He shared in parables the words of aggressive help. Words like go into all the world, heal the sick, help people, love your neighbor, and be kind to one another. Nothing like this had been heard before.

Another new idea from Jesus is the supreme importance of each individual. Jesus gave His undivided attention to individuals like Zacchaeus, the cheating tax collector (Luke 9:1-10), to individuals with leprosy (Luke 9:13-34), to the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) and to the Roman soldiers who crucified Him (Luke 22:33-34).

At Valley Christian we also focus on the individual. We are a church where everyone knows your name. A Church where you are affirmed and lifted up as someone special. A church where every individual is a gift from God.

A final idea that Jesus shared with the world is that a person's religious life can grow and deepen only in Christian fellowship and worship with other people. For it is in Christian life that we break bread and share the cup together, sing together, study together, serve together, and celebrate life together. Jesus expressed this idea of fellowship together in Matthew 18:19-20, "for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

These are a few of some of the original ideas of Jesus that have changed the world. May we at Valley Christian celebrate these ideas together and bring these wonderful ideas of Jesus to the world. God Bless You, Edd

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 and worship on June 21st, July 26th and August 23rd.

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.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Our prayers are with Jim Taylor who is back in UAB hospital.
- Our prayers are with Effie King who had a fall. She has moved to The Oaks for Rehab. Her address is: The Oaks on Parkwood, The Highlands Room 9, 2651 Laurel Oaks Drive, Bessemer, Al 35022.
- Our prayers are with Bobinell Ricci who has moved to Self Skilled Nursing Rehab Lodges, Room 18, 131 East Crest Road, Hueytown, Al 35023, Phone 205-491-2411.
- A group of 21 people consisting of Elders, Deacons and Spouses had a wonderful time at the Spencer's for a celebration gathering on Friday, June 16th.
- Our gratitude is expressed to the Evangelism Mission for the updated pictures of activities at Valley on the wall in the narthex.
- A quarterly Cabinet Meeting will be Sunday, June 25 as the different mission groups of the church plan programs for July through September.
- Edd and Mary Pat will be out of town for their grandson's baseball tournament and a family reunion at Townsend, Tennessee in the Great Smoky Mountains. John Churchill will preach on Sunday, July 9th and John Gregory will preach on Sunday, July 23rd.
- The AAA Trip to the Purdy Butterfly House in Huntsville was cancelled because of rain. The group will see these marvelous winged creatures later in the year.
- The church welcomes a new group to meet in our building. We greet a CPR Class that will begin meeting weekly in our Choir Room.
- The road to Highway 280 from our parking lot will be permanently closed. Because of a sinkhole, the County will construct a drainage ditch across the road.
- Continue to pray for our Search Committee as they are seeking a new pastor for Valley Christian Church.
- We are grateful for the visitors who have been worshipping with us on Sunday mornings.
- Food Pantry Sunday is July 2nd and the need is for Sugar, Flour and Cornmeal. You can bring your donations at any time the month of July and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

“Rivers of Life”

An Educational Seminar

In the rivers of the world flows a life-giving substance—water. Without water, life as we know it could not exist on earth. Rivers form an important part of the earth's circulatory system, supporting the earth much as does our own personal circulatory system, i.e., our bloodstream.

On Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall, the Education Department is presenting a seminar entitled “Rivers of Life” featuring a discussion of the Cahaba River led by David Butler of the Cahaba Riverkeepers, and a discussion of the Jordan River led by Valley's own Rev. Edd Spencer.

Everyone is invited to come and learn about these two rivers so important to our lives and to the world. Visitors are always welcome!

A Prayer for Healing

In our prayers lately we have been praying for healing of members in our families, our church and our friends. May the following prayer be helpful as we pray for the healing of others.

Gracious God, you shared your care for the sick and suffering through the healing hands of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us as we seek relief for people we know who are sick or injured.

I pray for those who suffer with conditions that resist treatment or for which there is no treatment. Let your spirit surround them that they experience refreshment and relief in body and soul.

I pray for those constantly in pain. For Jesus' sake bear their agony. Through the healing of medicine and prayer, free them from their bondage of pain.

I pray for those who fight life-ending illness. Grant them courage for the battle and prepare them for their entrance to eternal life.

I pray for those who struggle with mental illness. Work with their therapists and medications to bring balance, clarity and joy to their lives.

Be with those who spend each day, each week, each year, trying to cope with an illness with a loved one.

Be near to all who hurt, that through this time of trial they may come to know you and love you more deeply than ever before. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

July AAA Event

AAA is going on an Animal Safari on Wednesday, July 19th. The Alabama Animal Safari is located in Hope Hull, Alabama, a few short miles below Montgomery. It is a 350 acre drive thru park. We will be taking our own cars for this trip. This is a fantastic way to see wild animals roam free. The Park supports wild life conservation in 135 countries around the world. You will see Camels, Llamas, Ostrich, Water Buffalo, Zebras and even a Sloth to name a few. We will then have lunch at Fat Man's BBQ and then head to the Sun Flower garden in Autaugaville on the way back to Valley.

We will meet and caravan from the church at 9:00am and arrive at the Park at 11:00am. The ride through the Park takes about 1 ½ hours. Park tickets for seniors are \$22.95. Bucket of food \$5.00. The Sunflowers can be cut \$1.00 per stem – bring your own clippers and gloves.

Please let me know if you are planning on going and if you can drive your car. I will put people in cars that are going.
- Peggi Zinser

Vital Signs

First Christian Church will host a Regional Transformation Event at their church on Valleydale on August 25th to 26th.