



Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Birmingham, Alabama
35216**

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Website: www.vccbhm.org

**Office Hours: 7:30am-
12:30pm Monday, Tuesday
and Wednesday**

Dates of Interest:

July 4 Independence Day—office closed

Week of Compassion—Month of July

- July 6—Valley Work Day
- July 7—Food Pantry Sugar, Flour & Cornmeal
- July 14—Board Meeting
- July 17—AAA trip to Holocaust Museum - Temple Emmanuel
- July 18—BVM Paw Paw Patch
- July 22 - Voice Deadline
- July 24 —Men’s Luncheon
- July 28—Rev Rick Malugani Installation Service
- July 29 Evangelism Meeting
- July 31 Disciples Women Meeting

July 2024

A Word From the Pastor

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Back in 2004 and again in 2006 I had the privilege of participating in two high adventure backpacking trips at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. We spent ten days in the back country walking alongside streams in flowery meadows, climbing up mountains one peaking out at 11,000 feet and camping in all sorts of terrain and weather. When we left base camp, everything we needed was in our backpacks, our food, cooking utensils, our tents, our sleeping gear, changes of clothes and plenty of water and snacks. Each boy carried between 40-50 pounds and each adult between 50 and 60 pounds. It was not for the faint of heart and not something we could just pick up and do, it took practice, it took getting in shape and it took time to get everything together.

We spent a full year leading up to the trip getting prepared, learning how to pitch our tents, how to cook in inclement weather, how to properly pack our backpacks and the seemingly endless practice hikes that helped build up stamina. It was during these practice hikes that we learned what we really needed and what we can leave behind and they also taught us how to work as a team each looking out for the other and helping each other along.

As rough and arduous as these training hikes were, the benefit was evident when we began our trek into the wilderness of Philmont Scout Ranch. Because we had spent time training and trying to prepare for any event, the trip was much more enjoyable. Sure, the climbs were still tough, the rain still made cooking difficult, and setting our tents up in difficult terrain was still a challenge but it was so much easier because of the time we spent preparing. Where other teams struggled to make it through, we found that because of our training we not only enjoyed it more, but still had energy to enjoy the various activities that were available during the trek such as black powder rifle shooting, archery contests, rock climbing and repelling among many others. While others participated, I truly believed we enjoyed them more because of our training and preparation.

Which brings me to our faith journey. Just as preparing for our backpacking adventure, we need to be in constant preparation as we navigate our faith journey as well. It is not enough to just hit the high spots, to get a bit here and there and believe it will get us through. Sure, it might help us while we are on level ground, but when it comes to climbing that mountain of pain and suffering, of trying to find a tent of refuge in the midst of a thunderstorm or attempting to navigate the various switchbacks on our trail we need more than just a bit here and there, we will need the strength that comes from daily investment in God’s Word, of an intentional and consistent prayer life and the support of others who can not only help but come alongside of us on our faith journey.

This does not mean our trek will be without perils, without pitfalls and without danger but just as our preparation helped us navigate the difficulties we experienced on our backpacking treks, leaning into resources we gained through study of God’s Word, our committed prayer life and the abundance of love and care we experience from our fellow travelers we will not only find our way through but we might actually find the journey more rewarding and fulfilling than we could have ever imagined.

Pastor Rick Malugani

Senior Minister

Valley Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- ✦ Prayer of joy for Phyllis Kirk (Embellishments Bell Choir leader and member of Grace Christian) who is feeling much better and cancer free.
- ✦ Ted Stuckenschneider needs our continued prayers.
- ✦ Please be in prayer for Marilyn Ireland as she is recovering from surgery.
- ✦ Terry Nunnelly's niece, Sonja Baker is doing better and is actually planning a trip to the mountains with her family in the near future. Her liver transplant was March 26th. Doctors say she is doing well at 3 months.
- ✦ 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 July 7th and the need is for sugar, flour and cornmeal. However, you can bring your donations at any time during the month of July and the Outreach chairperson will take them to GBM for you.
- ✦ Be in prayer for David Brasher. He is home recovering from endocarditis.
- ✦ 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 is having cardiac set-backs before her surgery.
- ✦ Holly Hancock, Ellen's aunt who is recovering from a fall.
- ✦ Rick Kirby, a friend of the Malugani's, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- ✦ Jean Thrasher's friend Martha Lattimore passed away. Please be in prayer for her family and friends.
- ✦ Margaret Cox's husband is on a trip to Wisconsin with "Builders for Christ" to work on a new church. Please pray for safe travels and God's blessing upon their work.



- ✦ For God's revelation of Valley's vision moving forward.
- ✦ Those affected by the tornados in the Midwest.
- ✦ Prayers for Mary Charles Capp as she is feeling under the weather.
- ✦ Robby Myrick is having surgery in July.



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

Installation Service for Pastor Rick Malugani

Sunday, July 28, 2024

10:30 A.M.

Please plan to attend worship on this special Sunday when Regional Minister Kerry Kesey will officially install Pastor Rick as Valley's senior minister. This installation represents the significant commitment between God, Pastor Rick and the congregation as we stand before God seeking His plans for and blessings on our work together.

In April Rev. Kesey began her work as minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama North-west-Florida/Meridian, Mississippi and this will be her first visit to Valley. We look forward to meeting her and having her preach on this special day. A time of fellowship and food is being planned for after the service.

BUILDING VALLEY MACEDONIA



We have reserved the private dining room at the Paw Paw Patch restaurant in Homewood for the third Thursday night each month at 6:00 pm for our Valley Macedonia fellowship dinner. Our next dinner will be there on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 6:00pm

Everyone is invited to enjoy this event with us. Just get your food in the cafeteria line and take it to the private dining room. Come ready to enjoy the food, fellowship and fun. Remember to invite a friend!

Disciples Women

The Disciples Women group met on Thursday, June 20th and continued our study of the Gospel of Luke. We have been using the book Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton.

For service, we voted to send \$100 to Greater Birmingham Ministries to assist low-income clients with their electric bills during this hot summer. We also allocated \$200 to help needy students with uniforms and other supplies as they return to school in August.

All women are invited to join us when we meet again for study, fellowship and service on Wednesday, July 31st at 10:00 at the church.

Free Books!!

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

Week of Compassion Emergency

We will be receiving donations for tornado victims in the Midwest during the month of July. Two Disciples of Christ churches have sustained damages, one in Sulphur, OK and the other in Morris, OK. If you would like to give to this cause please, mark your check WOC and place it in the offering plate anytime during the month of July.

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 .



Request for Pictures/Posters

Hello Valley Church Family,

I am looking to brighten up the walls in the Coffee Shop Classroom with posters and pictures (preferably unframed as the walls are cinder block). If you have ever been in a coffee shop, the walls are usually covered with fun items. The pictures/posters do not have to be "religious" but would like them to be inspirational and uplifting, i.e. a beach or mountain scene or even something funny that brings a smile, and I am asking for donations or even a loan of such items.

Thank you all in advance for your support.
Blessings, Ellen Malugani

JULY - AAA

The Valley Seniors will take a trip to the **Holocaust Museum at the Temple Emmanuel** located at 2100 Highland Ave. on Wednesday, July 17th. The van will leave the church at 9:30am to arrive at the Temple at 10:00 am for about a 30 – 45 minute tour, at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm we have a speaker, a child of a survivor of the Holocaust. The tour is free, but they do take donations. Gas fee is \$5.00. We will eat lunch at Niki's West at 12:30 pm. If you want to ride the van please call Peggi Zinser

MANNA MARKET

Manna Market sells Fresh Organic Fruits and Vegetables, plus local honey and teas from our fellowship hall every other Tuesday. If you have not



tried their products, call the office to get in touch with Robyn Mitchell and place an order. The price list is on the bulletin board outside of the office. Several of our members order from her for their families and they enjoy everything they have gotten from her. Give it a try!!! Peggi Zinser



SARA ELIZABETH COX GREGORY (BETH)

will enter a new decade of her life journey and you are invited to share in a celebration on her birthday,

Sunday, July 21

Come and Go from 3-5 pm

We will gather in
the Fellowship Hall of the

**Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
1334 Montevallo Rd SW
Leeds, Alabama 35094**

It's a surprise- please don't tell!

Cards are welcome, but at her age (70),

Who needs presents?

Your presence will be a great gift to her

Please RSVP BY JULY 15

Becca Riess, her daughter

Phone or text 828-577-5781

Email mrsriess@gmail.com

OR

John Gregory, her husband

Phone or text 205-396-8009

Email jwgregory68@gmail.com