



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
Jul 16 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
Jul 23 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
Jul 30 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
Aug 6 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service
Aug 13 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- July 15 - Education Seminar "Rivers of Life" on the Cahaba River and the Jordan River
- July 16 - Quarterly Board Meeting
- July 19 - AAA Event trip to Alabama Safari Park and the Sunflower Garden (Montgomery)
- July 24 - Voice Deadline
- July 26 - Brown Bag Lunch in the Parlor and Worship in the Sanctuary on "Fire"

July 11, 2023

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A Word from Your Pastor

On Sunday, May 1, 2022 I began my journey with Valley Christian. It has been a fantastic journey of serving the Lord with you.

As we continue this journey together over the next several months, I am reminded that our journey together has a lot in common with Jesus. He loved and taught on the move. He was born on a journey to Bethlehem. He died on a journey to the cross. He rose again from the journey into death. And, in doing this, He shows us that God is with us in every step of our journey.

James Moore, a Methodist minister shares some helpful thoughts for our journey with Jesus. May his thoughts help us every step of the way with Jesus.

- Remember that it is best not to travel alone.
- Remember that a sense of humor is not excess baggage.
- Remember that the Bible is your best road map and your best instruction manual.
- Remember that prayers mean friendship with God and friendship works best when the friends keep in touch.
- Remember that no matter what obstacle may confront you, with the help of God, you can rise above it.
- Remember to stop and smell the roses.
- Remember that as you encounter the detours and hard knocks of life, you have a choice. You can get bitter, or you can get better!
- Remember as you travel to forgive always, to love unconditionally to serve unselfishly.
- Remember to keep your battery charged by staying plugged to the power source.
- Remember to be careful as you travel, because you are of great value - you must be - because Christ came and lived and died and rose again for you.

God bless you in your journey, Edd

"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 Summer Brown Bag Lunch and Worship

Our next Brown Bag Lunch and Worship is Wednesday, August 2. Lunch begins at 11:15am in the Parlor. Bring your own lunch and the church will provide drink and dessert.

Worship begins at 12:00noon in the Sanctuary. The worship service will focus on the power and symbolism of fire in the scriptures. Special thoughts will be focused on the story of Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego thrown into the blazing furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar. The story can be found in Daniel 3.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Edd has asked the Elders to transform a classroom across from the library into a prayer room. Carolyn Nunnelly will lead the group in this project as we provide a special place for prayer.
- The Evangelism mission is shared informational pamphlets about our church in the new apartments of Tributary across from the Summit on Friday, July 7th.
- The total for the Pentecost Offering was \$380.00. Thank you Valley!
- First Christian Church will host a Regional Transformation Event "Vital Signs" at their church on Valleydale on August 25th to 26th.
- Please pray for Rev. Dale Braxton, our Interim Regional Minister. His sister, Marion McDay, passed away last week.
- 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.
- Edd and Mary Pat will be out of town for a family reunion at Townsend, Tennessee in the Great Smoky Mountains. John Gregory will preach on Sunday, July 23rd.
- Continue to pray for our Search Committee as they are seeking a new pastor for Valley Christian Church.
- Our Elders will be sharing communion with our eight homebound members during July.
- Our sympathies are expressed to Margaret Shoemaker on the death of her daughter, Crysty on 06-16-23. Her address is 3574 Burlington Drive, Fulfordale, Alabama 35068.
- John Neville's niece, Caroline and her husband Rob had a baby two weeks ago. Teddy was in the hospital for all ten days of his life. His parents have set up a ministry in his memory to benefit single mothers. Please contact John if you would like the link to the GoFundMe page.
- Sarah Draper's nephew, Randy Yeager had surgery this weekend and also suffers from rheumatoid arthritis. Please pray for him.

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-through 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. A bucket of animal feed is \$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

A Day at the Lake

Jan and Bill Watts have graciously invited AAA and Valley to visit them at their new home on Smith Lake on Saturday, August 19, 2023. They are preparing a delicious lunch for us, and afterward those who wish can enjoy a special boat ride and tour around the lake. It will be a day of good fellowship, food and fun. Everyone is invited, but we need reservations given to Marilyn or Peggi by Friday, August 11, 2023. Thank you, Jan and Bill, for this lovely invitation! We are all looking forward to this visit with you at your new home!

A Celebration of Freedom

May the following prayers be helpful as we celebrate our freedom in the month of July.

For Our Troops

O God, we commend to your gracious care our troops who are serving our nation. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to endure the danger which they may face; and grant wherever they go, they may be assured of your abiding presence, through Christ our Savior, Amen.

For Our Veterans

Lord our God, look favorably on all those who have served this nation in our armed forces. We thank you for your presence with them in their service. Help them and us to remember the sacrifices of their fallen comrades. Let the light of liberty burn brightly in the heart of this nation. Amen.

For Our Nation

Eternal God, our Father, we come praising you for this land in which we live. Thank you for the people of this nation. We thank you for the different backgrounds - for peoples of every tradition, from many nations, of many colors, and of many creeds. We praise you for a land of abundance. For mountains and plains, for rivers and lakes, for rich soil and rare minerals, we thank you. But more than these, we thank you for things unseen. For those forefathers and foremothers who dreamed of a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men and women are created equal, we thank you. O God, increase in us the desire to pass on to all the world the freedom we hold dear, until people everywhere have a right to worship as they wish, to read what they choose, to select their own leaders, and to disagree with those who rule over them without fear of reprisal. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Lord of the Mountain

The Christian Life is a series of mountaintops and valleys and there are many switchbacks and challenges in the climb. But once you reach the top, you realize the climb was worth it. In July, Edd will share two sermons on climbing two mountains in the bible. The mountain sermons are:

Sunday, July 16 "Mount Sinai - The God Who is Holy"
Exodus 19:16- 20

Sunday, July 30 "Mount Tabor - The Transfiguration"
Matthew 17:1-9

From these two mountaintops let us shout it to all the world: Jesus is Lord!