



# Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Summer Worship Schedule

**Sunday Service**  
Jul 30 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Aug 6 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Aug 13 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Aug 20 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Aug 27 10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- Aug 2 - Brown Bag Lunch in the Parlor and Worship in the Sanctuary on "Fire"
- Aug 5 - Valley Work Day
- Aug 6 - Food Pantry Sunday (Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce)
- Aug 9 - Brown Bag Lunch in the Parlor and Worship in the Sanctuary on "Wind"
- Aug 13 - Church Picnic and Vespers at Valley
- Aug 19 - AAA trip to Bill and Jan Watts' Lakehouse

**July 25, 2023**

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## A Word from Your Search Committee

On July 29th through August 1st, members and friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from the United States and Canada will meet in Louisville, Kentucky for the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). There will be thousands of disciples at this gathering of our denomination. Many of these people will be ministers and some of them are considering a move to serve in a new church.

Our Regional Minister, Dale Braxton will have a table in the Exhibit Hall for the Region of Alabama/Northwest Florida. The following letter and a brochure of our church will be available at his Exhibit Booth. We are hoping that ministers seeking relocation will take a letter and brochure and consider the possibility of coming to Valley. The letter written by the Guindons and approved by the Search Committee is as follows:

Valley Christian is like the little engine that could! Although we are small in number, we continue to serve God in a multitude of meaningful ways. All members are active and dedicated, allowing us to offer, among other things:

- Monthly Active Ageless Adults outings – educational trips to points of interest around the state with great opportunities for fellowship that often include members of other regional churches
- An upgraded playground, a Little Free Library, and a ¼ mile walking trail around the church used extensively by our surrounding community
- Educational programs open to all (community and other district churches) about current topics (Ukraine, local river system, mental health, homelessness etc.).
- Periodic weekday special worship services and seasonal spiritual walks on our outdoor trail – Walk to Bethlehem and Walk to Calvary.
- Joint activities with a local African American Disciples congregation for over 25 years allowing us to develop respectful and meaningful relationships
- A strong Outreach program where 10% of all of our General Fund is earmarked for outreach purposes. Our church is regularly recognized as being among the top givers per capita in the Alabama/NW Florida Region.
- Pet Blessings, including one held at a local park which was gratefully received by over 20 dogs and owners

An additional part of our mission is making our building available for use by community groups. Currently, we have seven different groups, including an organic vegetable market, a community handbell group, a senior adult educational organization, several quilting groups, and most recently a CPR training company using our facilities throughout the week.

We are excited about partnering with a new minister as we continue to serve in our local community while spreading God's love to the world. If you are interested, please contact Ginny Guindon, Search Committee Chair at (205) 305-1169 or Ed Guindon, Moderator (205) 709-6626.

## Summer Brown Bag Lunch and Worship

Our two remaining Brown Bag Lunches and Worship are Wednesday, August 2nd and Wednesday, August 9th. Lunches begin at 11:15am in the parlor. Bring your own lunch and the church will provide drink and dessert. Worship for the two services begins at 12:00noon in the sanctuary. August 2nd 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. The worship service on Wednesday, August 9th will focus on the power and symbolism of Wind in the scriptures. Special thoughts will be focused on Jesus and Peter in the storm on the Sea of Galilee. The story can be found in Matthew 14:22-32.

## Life in the Valley

### *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Continue to pray for our Search Committee as they are seeking a new pastor for Valley Christian Church.
- Thank you so much to John Gregory and John Churchill for Guest Pastoring in July. It was wonderful.
- Margaret Cox was joyful about her wonderful visit and reunion with her three sisters recently.
- We give praise for the return of Carlee Russell to her home safely.
- Sarah Draper's nephew Randy Yeager is back in the hospital for surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Our prayers are with Mary Pat Spencer's college roommate who is in the hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia.
- Beth Gregory had a joy for John's and her anniversary and also for her birthday. She feels blessed.
- Please keep Jim Taylor in your prayers. He had another bleed while visiting family in Dothan. It was a severe one and he was brought back to Birmingham to the hospital and had surgery. John Gregory visited him in the last few days and he is responding now.
- Please pray to the Lord to intercede in the Russian Ukraine War and stop the fighting and misery of the people.
- Food Pantry Sunday is August 6th and the need is for Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce. You can bring your donations at any time the month of August and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

## Vital Signs

### **A Regional Transformation Event August 25th and 26th First Christian Church**

The transformation event will enable churches in our region to have the power to move from surviving to thriving.

The two worship leaders for the event are Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Director for the Center of Faith and Giving in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The other leader is Rev. Dr. Denise Bell, Regional Minister of the Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia.

The schedule is a Regional Worship Service at 7:30pm at First Christian on Friday, August 25th. On Saturday, August 26th there will be workshops from 9:00am—11:45am and after lunch at 12:45pm with closing communion at 1:45pm.

The workshops will cover the eight factors that are consistent in all vital congregations—leadership, vision, discipleship, communication, expectation setting, gratitude, trust and innovation. These factors will enable the church to have a new vision for the future. They will help the church to live its vision and serve with the transforming power of the gospel.

May all of us at Valley consider attending the "Vital Signs" Transformation Event.

## The Promises of God

We come to worship for a faith lift. May the following promises of God give us a faith lift.

God promises to hear our prayers. "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." (Isaiah 65:24)

God promises to reward our faithfulness. "For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what He has done." (Matthew 16:27)

God promises His presence in our lives. "And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

God promises to turn our tears into triumphs. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

God promises to put an end to sin and death. "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

## 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, both AAA members and others, but we need reservations given to Marilyn or Peggi by Friday, August 11, 2023.

We will caravan by car to the Watts' lakehouse leaving the church at 9:00am. Please let Peggi know if you can drive your car. Maps and directions are available by email from Marilyn or you may pick them up at the church. Because it is a new house the GPS directions using the address are not correct right now. You will need Bill Watts' directions.

If you plan to go on the boat ride please wear a hat, light jacket and take sun screen with you.

Thank you, Jan and Bill, for this lovely invitation! We are all looking forward to this visit with you at your new home!

## Church Picnic and Vespers

On Sunday, August 13th, we will gather at Valley at 5:30pm for a church picnic and Vesper service. The Men's group and Membership/Fellowship Department are sponsoring the picnic. Clarence Sellers will be cooking the brisket and a Boston Butt. Membership/Fellowship will provide all the side dishes along with homemade ice cream. Following the meal a Vesper worship service will be held outside by the magnolia tree. We are inviting the members and friends of Macedonia Christian Church to join us.



## Blankets of Hope 2023

Margaret Cox	in Honor of	Noah Reiss
Margaret Cox	“	Conner Bruton
Margaret Cox	“	Sarah Draper
Sarah & Stewart Draper	“	Carol Speed
Sarah & Stewart Draper	“	Andrea Clark
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Jessica Guindon
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Rebecca McWhirter
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Scotty McWhirter
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Reese McWhirter
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Bill Gwaltney
Beverly & James Lakin	“	Joni Lakin
Beverly & James Lakin	“	Rebecca Lakin
Beverly & James Lakin	“	Jamie Tillman
Beverly & James Lakin	“	Mac Tillman
Beverly & James Lakin	“	Abby Tillman
Carolyn & Terry Nunnelly	“	Jill Carlisle
Sara Simon	“	Brett Simon
Sara Simon	“	Tiffany Simon
Sara Simon	“	Arcadia Simon
Sara Simon	“	Lauren Lambert
Sara Simon	“	David Lambert
Sara Simon	“	Ava Lambert
Sara Simon	“	Will Simon
Peggi Zinser	“	Taylor Ann Garvey

Sarah & Stewart Draper	in Memory of	Stephen Draper
Sarah & Stewart Draper	“	Elizabeth & John Oliver
Sarah & Stewart Draper	“	Frances & Leonard Draper
Sarah & Stewart Draper	“	Jerry Speed
John & Beth Gregory	“	Francis Cox
John & Beth Gregory	“	Agnes Gregory
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Bill & Grace Guindon
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Mitzi Gwaltney
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Cary & Florence Gwaltney
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Effie & Robert Oliver
Ginny & Ed Guindon	“	Chancey & Eva Free
Lola Kiser	“	B.T. & Grace Kiser
Lola Kiser	“	H.P. & Lola Wood
Lola Kiser	“	Ruby Wilkes
Beverly & James Lakin & Family	“	Dot Schneider
Beverly & James Lakin & Family	“	Mac Schneider
Beverly & James Lakin & Family	“	Ethel M. Schneider
Beverly & James Lakin & Family	“	Glenn & Dolly Cowhan
Beverly & James Lakin & Family	“	Jim & Betty Lakin
Carolyn & Terry Nunnelly	“	Ruby Wilkes
Judy & Clarence Sellers	“	Flora Lint
Judy & Clarence Sellers	“	Mary Sellers
Sara Simon	“	Grace Guindon
Sara Simon	“	Jean Bowers
Sara Bowers	“	Eva Free
Carol Speed	“	Frances & Leonard Draper
Carol Speed	“	Stephen Draper
Mary Pat & Edd Spencer	“	Monty Spencer
Mary Pat & Edd Spencer	“	Sarah K. Kennedy
Ted Stuckenschneider	“	Emma-Gene Stuckenschneider
Jean Thrasher	“	The Evans Family
Phillip Treadway	“	The Treadway Family