



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

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

Sep 17 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Sep 24 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Oct 1 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Oct 8 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Oct 15 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Sep 13 - AAA trip to Purdy Butterfly House in Huntsville
- Sep 17 - Reconciliation Sunday
- Sep 17 - Elders Meeting after worship
- Sep 25 - Voice Deadline
- Sep 30 - Ukraine Educational Seminar in the Fellowship Hall
- Oct 7 - AAA trip to "The Wall"
- Oct 8 - Food Pantry Sunday (Yes I Can bags for Thanksgiving given out - then returned Oct 22)

September 12, 2023

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A Word from Your Pastor

When you get down to it, all of us face the same choices in life. It is a choice between what is best and right, or what is wrong. Whether we will choose to accept responsibility, or choose to run from it. Whether we will choose to serve God, or some other God we have thought to be better. The bottom line is that somewhere in our decisions, we have to decide between right and wrong.

Often the success or failure of life for us depends on the answers we give. I want us to think about that with the help of two men who faced difficult choices.

The first one centers around Jesus. He was in the upper room around a table facing a cross. He knew death was coming and it was a frightful thing. His disciples did not recognize His concern about death and were arguing among themselves. "Who was the greatest disciple among them?" On the table lay a bowl and a towel because they usually washed each other's feet to get off the dirt when they came in to eat. On this night, nobody reached for it. Nobody was going to humble themselves enough to wash anybody else's feet. Suddenly Jesus made the choice and reached for the towel and the bowl, got down on His hands and knees and began to wash the dirty feet of His disciples.

The other man is Pilate. Pilate was faced with a choice - to set Jesus free or crucify Him. He turned Him over to be crucified. Then he brought a bowl and washed his hands in it, and said, "It is not my fault."

Two men facing difficult decisions. One humbled Himself and took the bowl to wash feet and later to humble Himself and wash away our sins. The other man thinking only of himself in order to keep his power over the Jewish people, washed his hands in a bowl.

Both of these men had difficult choices to make and we know the outcome. Jesus said "Yes" to others and climbed the cross and became savior so that everyone could find hope. Pilate said "Yes" to himself to save his own neck. But later he did lose his position and power. One said "Yes" and found life. One said "Yes" to himself and found death.

We must make our own decisions too. The choices may not seem as radical as these two men, but we will be facing choices where we will have to decide. Will we decide to serve ourselves, or will we serve God and serve others?

That is the way life is. No one can decide for us. We must make the decision. Do we have the courage of our convictions to stand up for what is right? Will we have the courage to do what is good for God and others more than what is good for ourselves?

In the long run, whether we will find life meaningful and joyful depends on the answers we give when the decisions face us. As Christ said over and over again, "If you give yourself away to me, you will live." Do we believe it? The decision is ours to make.

God Bless You, Edd

Stewardship Campaign for 2024

Our stewardship campaign for 2024 begins in worship on Sunday, October 1st. The theme this year is "From Bread and Wine to Faith and Giving".

Jim Brooks will share the morning sermon encouraging us toward new commitments in a new year of church life. At the service, commitment cards will be shared with all members and friends.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Valley had a special Day of Compassion for Maui, Hawaii on Sunday August 27th and \$1,430.00 was collected for Maui. You are truly a generous people. Thank you.
- Carol Speed's friend Vickie Shay needs your prayers right now. Her father, Jim Wheeler is on hospice.
- Thank you so much to John Gregory for preaching Sunday, September 3rd. It was wonderful.
- John Gregory's son's family joined us for church Sunday, September 3rd. So glad to see them.
- John Gregory has a joy that his wife Beth is going to be joining a ministry of service. For the next three months she will be serving as a deacon at St. Stephen's Church in Cahaba Heights. Once that is completed she will be assigned to another local church for two years of service.
- Jim Brooks will guest pastor for us on October 1st.
- Jean Thrasher said that Midge's son, J.D. Hoke, contacted her again and said that Midge is in a coma and has stopped eating and drinking. Midge is 105 years old and has been a blessing to us all with her courage. J.D. said he may have a memorial service up here because of all of her friends in the area.
- Ginny Guindon is asking for prayers for her brother-in-law who fell this weekend and had to have surgery on his hip that day. However he is doing ok now but needs prayers for his recovery.
- Mary Pat and Edd want to thank everyone for their prayers for Mary Pat's friend, Vickie Maphus, who passed away recently.
- Office Help Wanted: With Marilyn's new days at Valley, we will need people to be in the office on Thursday and Friday mornings for a while. Contact Marilyn if you can serve in this way.
- Sarah Draper reminded us that Reconciliation Sunday is September 17th and half of the amount we collect will go towards Valley's anti-racism efforts.
- Food Pantry Sunday was September 3rd and the need is for Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate. You can bring your donations at any time during the month of September and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

Reconciliation Offering 2023 September 17th

It is the vision of the Reconciliation Ministry to build just communities by breaking down the walls within our church which separate us. We envision a church in which all communities are accountable to one another and God.

Ukraine

Where is Ukraine? What is its history? Who are the people who live there and what is their culture? What is their religion? For lots of us, world history and geography courses in school pertained mostly to the United States and Western Europe. Figuratively speaking, the world has grown much larger since our school days and now includes many other countries, among them Ukraine.

If you didn't learn about Ukraine in school or have forgotten it, come to our Education Seminary on Saturday, September 30, 2023, 9:00am—11:30am to refresh your memory. The seminar will be in the Fellowship Hall and will be led by Tom Cain, a member of First Christian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Tom has traveled extensively in Ukraine and neighboring regions.

Everyone is invited!! Come and bring your friends! Learn about the country you hear about every day!

Manna Market

We have fresh organic fruits and vegetables available in our fellowship hall every other Tuesday, check the calendar for dates. Robyn Mitchell manages Manna Market and has been using our fellowship hall for many years selling, by pre-order, boxes of fresh produce. You can order off the web site at www.mannamarket.net, or show up on Co-Op Tuesdays from 2-4 to purchase off our extras table. Robyn also has local honey for sale. The price list is on the bulletin board.

The Secretary's New Schedule

Marilyn Ireland, Valley's secretary, has a new schedule in the office beginning on September 11. She will be working 3 days a week, Monday – Wednesday, 7:30 to 12:30. This change came as Marilyn needs more time for her family. She first offered her resignation; however, after some discussion with Pastor Edd, and the Personnel Committee (John Gregory, Peggi Zinser and Sarah Draper), the new schedule was adopted.

This gives Marilyn a greater block of time for her family and enables Valley to keep her as our secretary. She has been a valuable person in the office through our transitions in the past few years. She is an excellent secretary with her skills and commitment to Valley and will be very helpful when we welcome a new pastor.

She will be working 15 hours a week and receive the same salary and benefits she had with 20 hours. She will not accrue any Personal Time Off. The Personnel Committee feels she has earned this raise. We hope this schedule will work well with all of us.

Thank you, Marilyn, for working with us as our Secretary.

World Communion Day

Sunday, October 1st is World Communion Sunday. Every year on the first Sunday of October, faithful Christians from different denominations and churches in every country of the world gather at the Lord's table for holy communion.

The celebration began 90 years ago in the depression days of 1933 when the storm clouds of Hitler hovered over Europe. At the time, Christian people around the world decided to overcome geographical, political and theological barriers by gathering around the Lord's table.

On this special Sunday we will dedicate our new communion ware and chalice. The deacons will serve the communion with the new communion trays.

