



# Voice

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



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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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**Monday through Friday**

## Dates of Interest:

- Sep 30 - Ukraine Educational Seminar in the Fellowship Hall
- Oct 1 - World Communion Sunday
- Oct 1 - Begin Stewardship Campaign
- Oct 5 - BVM Supper at Paw Paw Patch
- Oct 7 - AAA trip to "The Wall" (Florence)
- Oct 8 - Guest Pastor Rick Malugani
- Oct 8 - Lunch and Congregational Meeting
- Oct 8 - Food Pantry Sunday (Yes I Can bags for Thanksgiving given out - then returned Oct 22)
- Oct 14 - Midge Hoke Memorial Service
- Oct 15 - Guest Pastor John Churchill
- Oct 15 - Quarterly Board Meeting
- Oct 22 - Yes I Can bags for Thanksgiving returned
- Oct 23 - Voice Deadline
- Oct 29 - Guest Pastor John Gregory
- Oct 31 - Halloween

**September 26, 2023**

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## A Word from Your Pastoral Search Committee

On Sunday, September 24, 2023, the search committee presented its candidate to the official board at a special called meeting, and the board voted unanimously to recommend to the congregation that a call be extended to Pastor Rick Malugani to serve as our next Senior Minister.

Therefore, a congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 8, 2023 to vote on this call.

The congregation will have an opportunity to meet and talk with Rick and his wife Ellen when they travel from their home in Fairhope, Alabama to visit us on October 8th. Rick will preach that day and assist with other parts of the worship service. Following worship, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a catered lunch and a time to hear more from and speak personally with Rick and Ellen. Members of the congregation will then vote on his call.

The search committee feels that God has worked to bring Rick and Valley together at this time. Rick's faith views, passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, personality and interest in partnering with us align very well with characteristics we hoped for in a minister which surfaced during Valley's self-assessment in 2022:

- Is an effective preacher
- Is compassionate and caring
- Is emotionally mature and secure
- Has the ability to deal effectively with disagreements
- Possesses strong pastoral care skills
- Is a person of strong faith
- Works regularly to bring new people into the congregation
- Builds a sense of fellowship/teamwork with the congregation and staff

This is an exciting time and we hope many members and friends of Valley will be present on October 8th for this special occasion for worship together and to meet Rick and Ellen. It's especially important for members to attend and vote on this call as we look to the next chapter of possibilities in our ministry as a church.

We encourage you to bring any questions you may have for Rick. If you prefer to submit written questions to me ahead of time, I will give them to Rick to address.

Lunch will be provided to everyone at no charge, but we need reservations by Wednesday, October 4th in order to plan accordingly. A sign-up sheet will be available on the table by the elevator or you may contact Peggi Zinser at 205-995-0492 or [peggi\\_z@yahoo.com](mailto:peggi_z@yahoo.com). Mack Carpenter has graciously agreed to help us by preparing and serving a menu of Greek chicken, rice, green beans, squash, salad, rolls and banana pudding. Additional dessert and drinks will be furnished by Valley.

We welcome all, members and friends of the church alike, and look forward to having you with us on October 8th! - Ginny Guindon - Pastoral Search Committee, Chairperson

## Valley and Macedonia Dinner

Valley Christian and Macedonia Christian will meet together on Thursday, October 5th at 6:00pm at the Paw Paw Patch Restaurant in Homewood on the Green Springs Highway. This will be an opportunity to begin our ministry again with BVM (Building Valley and Macedonia Ministries)

At the dinner we will make plans for a service together during Advent. Come for good food, fellowship and a moment of celebration between the two churches.

# Life in the Valley

## *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Our sympathy is expressed to James Hoke and family in the loss of Midge Hoke. A memorial service will be at Valley on Saturday, October 14th at 2:00pm. John Gregory will lead the service along with our elders reading scripture.
- Our sympathy is expressed to Mike and family in the loss of Bobinell Ricci.
- Beginning in October, Valley will have our Valley Voice Newsletter published once a month.
- Edd and Mary Pat will be visiting their daughter and family in Kentucky and attending a wedding in Tennessee in October. In their absence, John Churchill will be preaching on Sunday, October 15th and John Gregory on Sunday October 29th.
- Our gratitude is expressed to Carolyn Nunnely and Peggi Zinser in the preparation of our prayer room.
- Our Reconciliation Offering was \$450.00.
- The weeds have been removed on the slope along Highway 280. Now people can see our church sign more clearly.
- Joyce Updegraff has moved. Her new address is 3850 Galleria Woods Drive, Birmingham, Al 35244.
- Prayers are with Jan Watts who had surgery. Also, our prayers are with Mike Mee who had a heart procedure.
- Ted Stuckenschneider "Zoomed" into the worship service from the mountains where he celebrated his anniversary with Dana.
- Margaret Cox had a joy that her grandson Connor is in the Pep Band at school and is enjoying that immensely.
- Ed Howell, one of our visitors recently, asked for prayers for his brother, John Howell, 74 who had triple bypass surgery.
- Pat McDaniel has asked for prayers for her niece Doris Watkins in North Carolina who has cancer. She also got Covid and was put into ICU for that, then rehab.
- Food Pantry Sunday will be October 8 and the Thanksgiving bags will be handed out to be filled. We ask that you please return them filled by Sunday, October 22nd. However, you can bring your donations at any time during the month of October and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

## Ukraine

Remember our seminar about Ukraine on Saturday, September 30, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall, 9:00am - 11:30am, with leader Tom Cain from First Christian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The discussion will include the people, culture, history, and religion of Ukraine. Come and bring a friend!

## October AAA

The October AAA event will be a trip on Saturday, October 7, 2023 to "The Wall" in northwest Alabama near Florence. Tom Hendrix built this stone wall over a period of thirty years in memory of his great-great grandmother, Te-lah-nay, who walked to Oklahoma when the native Indian tribes were removed from the southeast.

For this event, Trace Hendrix, the son of Tom Hendrix, will give a brief talk about The Wall, after which we will place a memorial stone from Valley Christian in The Wall. Lunch will follow at 1:00pm at Stanfield's River Bottom Grill, a floating restaurant on the Tennessee River in Florence. Everyone is welcome! Reservations should be given to Marilyn or Peggi by Sunday, October 1, 2023. Join us for this unique experience!

## 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.

## Good Tidings!

It's time to prepare our Advent Devotional Booklet! This year the booklet will be entitled "The Words of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love". The four sections will each contain a description about these words with emphasis on the life of Jesus. The sign-up sheet on the bulletin board also has scripture references for each entry, and you can use additional references if you wish.

The devotionals should be approximately 250 words in length, give or take a few words, and should be turned in to Marilyn or Lola by November 1, 2023. Please give prayerful consideration to writing a devotional for our booklet. The booklets will be distributed in time for the first Sunday of Advent. Many thanks for your help.

## Yes! I CAN!

Each year in the fall we receive a 'Yes, I Can! bag'. It is to help replenish the pantry at GBM and help the women at St Anne's home.

This year we will give the bags out on Oct 8 and ask that you return them on Oct 22. - Outreach Dept.

## Senior Adult Retreat

The Senior Adult Retreat is for seniors who are members or guests of the Christian Church in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. The retreat is Thursday, November 2nd through Friday, November 3rd. It begins at 11:30am for lunch on Thursday and concludes after lunch on Friday at 1:30pm. The theme is "Reality Check: In Our Spiritual Life, Church Life, and Personal Life". Reverends Shane and Tabitha Isner of First Christian Church in Montgomery will be our keynote speakers. The retreat will be at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, Alabama. It is an outstanding facility with beautiful rooms, peaceful grounds along the Coosa River, and wonderful meals. Last year we had seven people attend from Valley. Maybe this year we could have twelve people attend. The cost options are available in the church office. For more information contact Edd Spencer or John Gregory.

## A Stewardship Thought

The Gospels are full of accounts of people who respond to God's love. People who were moved to action by their encounter with Jesus. A tax collector named Matthew left his tax office to become a disciple. A group of fishermen left their fishing business and responded with the invitation of Jesus to become fishers of men, women, youth and children. A poor widow gave everything she had to God, even though it was only two small coins. A healed blind man joined the crowd of Jesus' followers. Mary Magdalene went home for a jar of expensive ointment and came back to wash Jesus' feet. Martha cooked for Jesus and His disciples. Throughout the bible, the record is that when someone meets Jesus, that person is changed, is excited, is grateful, and does something about it.

On Commitment Sunday November 5th, we will have the opportunity to express our grateful response to God's love in our pledges for His work in 2024. Our pledges are special for they are living expressions of God's presence in the world.

Therefore may we in the month of October, pray about what our expression of love will be for the Lord. Our theme for our Stewardship Commitments is "From Bread and Wine to Faith and Giving". To receive God's love at the communion table and share it with the world.

Pledge cards will be in the bulletins on Sunday, October 1st. Jim Brooks will bring a stewardship message on this Sunday.

We are all asked to consider increasing our pledge for 2024 by 3%, as we will be calling a new full-time pastor.

May we all show our love for Christ by sharing our gifts with His church. Together, we can make a difference for Christ's ministry in the world. God Bless You, Edd