



# Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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**Office Hours: 7:30am-  
12:30pm Monday, Tuesday  
and Wednesday**

## Dates of Interest:

- Oct 29 - Guest Pastor John Gregory
- Oct 31 - Halloween
- Nov 1 - All Saints Day
- Nov 1 - Advent Devotionals Due
- Nov 4 - Valley Work Day
- Nov 5 - Commitment and All Saints Sunday
- Nov 5 - Food Pantry Sunday - Cake mix, Cookie mix and/or Brownie mix
- Nov 11 - Veteran's Day
- Nov 11 - Holy Hike at Oak Mountain
- Nov 12 - Board Meeting
- Nov 12 and 19 - Thanksgiving Offering
- Nov 15 - AAA Orbix Hot Glass (Ft. Payne)
- Nov 19 - Church Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 20 - Voice Deadline
- Nov 26 - Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas

**October 24, 2023**

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## Rick Malugani Called as Valley's New Senior Minister

On behalf of the pastoral search committee, I am pleased to announce that Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted unanimously at its congregational meeting on October 8th to extend a call to Pastor Rick Malugani to serve as our next Senior Minister beginning in early January 2024. Pastor Rick and his wife Ellen attended worship at Valley on October 8th, with him preaching and offering the children's message and the pastoral prayer. Over lunch afterwards, members and friends were able to meet the Maluganis, hear more from Pastor Rick and ask him questions prior to the congregational meeting. Per Valley's constitution and by-laws, Ed Guindon, board moderator, is in the process of finalizing the official letter of call to Pastor Rick.

Pastor Rick has served as minister of Fairhope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fairhope, Alabama for the last 8 years. With a background in corporate business as well as small business ownership, he felt called into full-time ministry and pursued studies at Lexington Theological Seminary, graduating with a Master of Divinity degree in 2017. He currently serves on the Alabama-Northwest Florida Regional Board as Second Vice Moderator and also as a member of the Anti-Racism team. During his time in Fairhope, he has been involved in outreach with local ecumenical and community groups. He considers among his strengths are communication, cross-cultural and anti-racism experience, pastoral care and worship. The search committee feels he possesses the personal and professional qualifications that align with what the congregation expressed on the survey taken early in the search process. Pastor Rick and Ellen have a family of two sons, two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren, with a 6th grandchild expected very soon. The Maluganis will be relocating to Birmingham shortly after Pastor Rick concludes his ministry with the Fairhope Christian Church on December 24th.

We welcome Pastor Rick and Ellen and very much look forward to preparing for their arrival and beginning our next chapter of ministry.

## A Word from Your Pastor

In approaching Thanksgiving Day I began to list the reasons for giving thanks this year. Near the very top of my reasons for thanksgiving is Valley Christian Church. For one and a half years Valley has blessed my life. Let me lift up some reasons why I am especially thankful for Valley Christian Church.

- I am thankful for this church because it is a place where I once again come to know Jesus Christ personally. I have encountered Jesus in person through all of you at Valley. I have seen Him in our worship and fellowship together.
- I am thankful for this church because everybody is somebody. Where everyone is a child of God and not an object.
- I am thankful for this church as a place of forgiveness, freedom and acceptance. A church that is an environment where forgiveness happens and freedom in faith is experienced.
- I am thankful for this church where kindness is practiced. Here at Valley love and trust take the place of hate and selfishness. I celebrate the words of scripture that Valley carries out: "Be kind to one another".
- Finally, I am thankful for this church for it is an anchor for faith. These are stormy days in the world and our lives. Upheaval has become a way of life. Yet Valley is the teacher that gives us a rock on which to stand. As Jesus promised, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the powers of death shall not prevail against it".

So join me in giving thanks for Valley Christian Church. Let it continue to be a place of joy, praise and thanksgiving for your new pastor Rick and people yet to come.

God Bless You, Edd

## Life in the Valley

### *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Our prayers are with Effie King who is in UAB West Medical Hospital.
- Margaret Cox's family's old church is celebrating their 100th anniversary with several events.
- Please keep Billy McDaniel in your prayers as he was recently hospitalized.
- There was a joy and a thank you for Mac Carpenter catering our meal on October 8th. It was delicious.
- There was a joy that Macedonia Christian and Valley met for dinner at the Paw Paw Patch and are making plans for an event during Advent.
- Our neighbor, Jimmie Davis, Carol Adair's father, has recently celebrated his 106th birthday.
- Ted Stuckenschneider's neighbor, Turner Johnston, has been hospitalized and needs our prayers.
- Please continue to keep Bobinell Ricci and Midge Hoke's families in your prayers.
- Carolyn Nunnely had a joy that after their transformer blow out and the loss of some appliances they are back on the track again.
- Lola Kiser had a joy that the Ukraine seminar was a great success with a good speaker and attendance.
- John Gregory had a joy that he attended the Alabama Arise meeting by Zoom and got to participate in several votes on different issues. Valley is a member of their organization.
- Ginny Guindon had a joy that Cynthia Hernandez has been attending bible study and church with us. She is very welcome.
- Our guest pastor bringing the morning message on Sunday, November 12th will be Mary Pat Spencer.
- Food Pantry Sunday will be November 5th and the need is for Cake mix, Cookie mix and Brownie mix. However, you can bring your donations at any time during the month of November and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

## Advent Devotional Booklet

Please remember that Advent Devotionals should be turned in to the office by November 1, 2023 so that we can prepare the booklets for distribution by the beginning of Advent on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Thank you very much! - Lola Kiser

## A Holy Hike

Edd will be taking a group walking in the woods of Oak Mountain State Park on Saturday, November 11th. On this hike the group will celebrate the beauty of the late fall colors. Also on top of the mountain the hikers will share in holy communion. We will meet at the church at 9:00am. Please bring a daypack containing a water bottle and lunch.

## AAA Event for November

AAA will visit ORBIX HOT GLASS in Fort Payne on Wednesday, November 15th. They will be blowing glass; however, they will not be able to blow individual ornaments or let visitors blow their own that day, but we will be able to watch as they blow other ornamental pieces. They also have a gift shop where you will be able to purchase any of their items. They are having a

film crew in filming them earlier in the day so we cannot go in until 12:45pm. So we will eat first and then go to the glass blowing exhibition. There is no fee to watch the glass blowing.

We will be on a time constraint for this trip due to the time change as it gets dark earlier and there are several of us that cannot drive after dark and must be back by 4:00pm. Our schedule is as follows: We will leave the church at 8:45 sharp, and be at Decks and Docks Restaurant at 11:00am for lunch. They have Pizza, Burgers, Shrimp Baskets, Sandwiches and Salads, we must leave there by 12:30 to go to Orbix by 1:00pm. Hope we can get there a little earlier and then leave there by 2:00pm in order to get back before dark. There is an \$8.00 gas fee. Please contact Marilyn or Peggi if you plan on riding the van- first come first served. If you are driving please contact us so we can include you in the restaurant reservations. Thank you. Peggi Zinser

## Commitment Sunday

Sunday, November 5th, is our congregation's Commitment Sunday. A Sunday when we will walk to the table in morning worship and place our commitment cards for 2024 in the offering tray. Everyone is urged to be in church on this Sunday as this service will enrich our understanding of Christian stewardship.



## Church Thanksgiving Dinner

The Thanksgiving dinner will be after worship on Sunday, November 19th. The church will provide the meat and drinks. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for members and friends to bring side dishes, salads and desserts. May we all look forward to this dinner together as we celebrate the blessings from God.

## Church Board Meeting Sunday, November 12, 2023

A very important Board meeting is scheduled after worship on Sunday, November 12th. At this meeting we will approve the 2024 budget and the report from the Nominating Committee of church officers, elders, deacons and trustees.

## Thanksgiving Offering

We will be receiving the Thanksgiving Offering on Nov 12th and 19th. Our gift for the Thanksgiving Offering is to help students in higher education and seminary's.

## All Saints Sunday

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 5th during morning worship. We will remember those members and friends of our congregation who have passed on to their eternal reward since last year. We will remember Jim Taylor, Midge Hoke and Bobbinell Ricci.

## Poinsettia Sign Up Form

The poinsettia sign up form will be in our bulletins on Sunday, November 26th and in the narthex. You may also order by calling Marilyn. Please sign up for poinsettias in memory and in honor of your loved ones and friends by December 10th. The cost is \$11.00 per plant. Please note on the memo line of your check—"For Poinsettias"

## Toys for GBM

Again, this year we will be receiving Walmart gift cards in the amount of \$20 and \$25 to be given to GBM for families that need help with their toy purchases. You may give them to Marilyn in the Office or Sarah Draper. The cards will need to be turned in the week of November 26th. The deadline to have them at GBM is December 4th.

## Decorate for Christmas

We will decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, November 26th after worship. Everyone is invited to participate as we add beauty to our sanctuary for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

## Looking Ahead to Worship in December

- Brown Bag Lunch/Worship on Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th at 11:15am. The worship will focus on Chrismons.
- Morning worship on Sunday mornings will include sermons on Christmas carols and active visitors of Valley lighting the Advent candles.
- Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, December 24th with candlelight communion and beautiful poinsettias.



**Giving Amounts in the body of the table are monthly figures**