



# Voice

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



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**Monday through Friday**

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## A Word from Your Pastor

One day I went to visit some friends who moved into a new garden home off Highway 280. It is a lovely home with a backyard that is breathtaking. A peaceful place that is filled with the fragrance of gardenias, the beauty of magnolia trees, and the lovely sight of green plants everywhere.

The highlight of the garden is a wooden swing facing toward Oak Mountain in the distance. A swing where my friends can sit early in the day or late in the evening to celebrate God's creation.

From the swing one can be thankful for the beauty of nature. In the springtime one can see the beauty of the misty green on the slopes of the mountain and the splash of white in the dogwoods. In the beauty of the fall, the red and yellow of the maples, the brown of the oaks, and the green of the pine trees all mingle in a mixture of color that is magnificent.

These precious moments with God's creation are a time to cheer. A time to be thankful and to shout with joy with the Psalmist in Psalm 100. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyous songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; We are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; Give thanks to Him and praise His name, for the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

The lesson from the swing in my friend's yard gives us all something to be thankful for. It lifts up our spirits in celebration for God's creation and His abundant love for each one of us. I guess this is what the Psalmist was talking about when he said in Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". Happy Thanksgiving! God Bless You, Edd

## Walk to Bethlehem

Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 3:00pm we are all invited to "Walk to Bethlehem" at Valley Christian Church. We will walk on the walking trail to Bethlehem and experience the Christmas Story, a word from the innkeeper, and gather around the warmth of a campfire. Our walk will take us to the Manger in the sanctuary where we will see Mary, Joseph and the Baby. Along the trail we will be blessed by George and Judy Dudley leading us in Christmas Carols with George playing guitar. In the sanctuary Beth Gregory and George will sing some special Christmas solos. After our walk and worship there will be Christmas refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. If it is bad weather, our walk will be inside the church. Come and invite a friend for this special Christmas worship event that will happen rain or shine.

## Birthday Party for Jesus

We are having a birthday party for Jesus on Saturday, December 18, 2022 at 10:00am. Please invite children and grandchildren to the party. There will be a Christmas craft, games, a magic show, a pinata, Mrs. Claus and birthday cake.

## Fall Worship Schedule

### Sunday Service

Nov 27 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Dec 4 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Dec 11 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Dec 18 10:30 a.m.

### Christmas Eve

Dec 24 4:00 p.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- Nov 24 - Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
- Nov 25 - Black Friday - Office Closed
- Nov 26 - Valley Work Day (Walking Trail)
- Nov 27 - First Sunday of Advent
- Nov 30 - Advent Brown Bag Lunch and Program
- Dec 3 - Disciples Women Christmas Coffee
- Dec 5 - Voice Deadline
- Dec 7 - Advent Brown Bag Lunch

## Life in the Valley

### *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Thank you to Elizabeth Wix from the Society of St. Andrew for speaking to us on hunger November 13th.
- Sarah Draper is doing much better this week after several tests in the hospital last week. The doctors say she is doing well.
- The food and decorations at the Thanksgiving Dinner were amazing. The members and friends had an amazing meal and fellowship together.
- Mary Pat Spencer has been in Lynchburg, Virginia helping her college roommate move into assisted living.
- The sanctuary is decorated for the Advent and Christmas Season. Come worship in the beauty of the celebration in the birth of the Christ child.

## Staff Christmas Gift

Valley is blessed with a dedicated, hard-working staff. Let's show our appreciation with contributions to a Christmas gift for them. Please mark your check "Staff Christmas Gift". Thank you! - Andrea Clark, Moderator

## Congregational Meeting

A Congregational meeting will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 18, 2022. The purpose is to approve the nominating committee report and the 2023 budget. Also, any other business can be considered at the meeting.

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

The gospel tells us that when Jesus was born, a beautiful star shone over the stable where Mary and Joseph and the baby were. It was so bright it gave light and direction to those who came to worship Him. As we begin Advent on Sunday, November 27, we all come by the light of the Christmas Star to worship Him. To lift up the light over the manger, our Search Committee will light the Advent candles during worship. We appreciate the ministry of our Search Committee for a new pastor. May God bless our Search Committee of Ginny Guindon, Chair, Peggy Zinser, Ted Stuckenschneider, Sara Simon, Stewart Draper, Beth Collier, and Jim Taylor. We are grateful they will be bringing the light of the Christ Child into our worship.

## Brown Bag Lunch and Worship

We have two brown bag lunches and worship this year. They both focus on some of the animals that were at the manger. On Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 11:30am we will lift up the Birds at the Manger. Beth Gregory will share a wonderful song - "His Eye is on the Sparrow". On Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 11:30am we will look at the Donkey at the Manger. The donkey that carried Mary and later another donkey that will carry Jesus. Bring your lunch

and afterward we will be in a spirit of worship with the animals present at the birth of Jesus.

## Christmas Coffee

To get us in the holiday spirit, our Disciples Women always sponsor a Christmas Coffee on the first Saturday of Advent. This year the Coffee is on Saturday, December 3, 2022 in the parlor, 10:00am to 12:00noon. There will be lots of good food and fellowship, as well as a very special treat. Rev. Mary Pat Spencer, wife of Rev. Edd Spencer, will present our program! If you wish to do so, you may place a Christmas card to Valley on the tree in the parlor. Please leave the money you might otherwise have spent on individual cards in the box near the tree. Donations received will be sent to the Florida Christian Center for the Wishing Well Gift Shop. All women of the church, our guests and visitors, are invited to enjoy this special Christmas celebration.

## Toys for Greater Birmingham Ministry (GBM)

Just a Reminder— If you have not purchased your Walmart \$20 or \$25 please do so this week. We need to have them at GBM by the first week of December. Thank you for all you do to reach out to "the least of these".

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be Saturday, December 24th at 4:00pm. The service will be our traditional service with a Christmas meditation, singing of Christmas hymns, special Christmas solos by Beth Gregory and Jan Watts, coming forward for Holy Communion, and circling the sanctuary holding a candle singing "Silent Night". Circle your calendar for this special service. Invite your family, a friend or neighbor on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm in the sanctuary.

## Christmas with AAA

Our traditional AAA Christmas event is a luncheon with the members of the Anniston First Christian Church at our favorite restaurant - Classic on Noble in Anniston. This year our luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 11:30am. The van will leave the church at 9:30am for the trip to Anniston. Everyone is invited to join us, but we need reservations given to Marilyn in the office by Friday, December 9, 2022. The Classic on Noble has delicious food and lovely decorations. We always enjoy the fellowship with the Anniston Church and look forward to this special event each Christmas. We invite you to join us!

## Poinsettia Sign Up Form

The Poinsettia Sign Up Form will be in your bulletins and in the narthex. You may also order by calling Marilyn in the office. Please sign up for poinsettias by December 11, 2022 in honor or in memory of your loved ones and friends. The cost is \$11.00 per plant. Please note on the memo lines of your check - "For Poinsettias".

