



Voice

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



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A Word From the Pastor

Here we are entering November, a month away from our Advent season. And while it is important to start preparing for Advent, we must not forget to take time and remember that in the month of November we have this holiday called Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is so much more than just a holiday where we eat too much, watch football and/or start our Christmas shopping in earnest. Thanksgiving is a time to do just what it says, to give thanks. We give thanks for families, for friends, for jobs or retirement, for health or for healing, for guidance and direction and for a slew of other blessings that have come our way.

It is here I am reminded of the song by Brandon Lake titled "Counting My Blessings." In it he states that he has tried to count all his blessings, but he can't count that high. It is the same with you and me if we really took the time to try and count all the blessings that our loving God has provided for us, the most important being in the gift of Jesus Christ.

Through Jesus, God decided to come alongside us in a most profound and life changing way, as one of us. In Jesus, God demonstrated a love that is beyond comprehension, a commitment that is without bounds and a plan that was and still is so revolutionary, so transformative, so utterly impossible that many still can't believe it is true and yet this is exactly what God did. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God turned the world upside down by offering redemption, salvation, and the promise of life everlasting for all of you who would believe. No amount of money could buy this, it isn't something we can barter for, and it can't be stolen for it is the free gift of a God who wants nothing more than to have a vibrant and eternal relationship with each and every one of us no matter our situation, our circumstance, where we are from, who we are or what we have done.

Not only did Jesus walk the same roads, eat the same foods, sleep in the same places as we have, but He experienced the same joys and sorrows, the same feelings of kinship and loneliness, the same love and rejection that has been part of our lives as well. Yes, Jesus was divine, but He was also one of us and through that experience draws us closer to Him as we see in Him not only the hope for our future but the keys to navigating the challenges of the life we are living now. Through Jesus we find strength to overcome obstacles, courage to step out of our comfort zones and a peace that fills our hearts even when we are in the depths of despair.

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday, whether it be filled with large banquets, small gatherings or just a simple meal by ourselves, let us take a moment and count the many blessings we have been afforded for I am sure once we start counting, we too will find that we can't count that high, and this is something in which we can be truly thankful.

Pastor Rick Malugani
Senior Minister
Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dates of Interest:

- Nov 2 - Valley Work Day
- Nov 3 - Advent Devotionals Due
Food Pantry Sunday (Cake, Cookie, Brownie Mix)
Elders' Prayer Time
- Nov 5 - Election Day
- Nov 6 - AAA Fort Toulouse
- Nov 8 - 9 Senior Adult Retreat
- Nov 10 - Elders' Meeting
- Nov 11 - Veterans' Day
- Nov 17 - Thanksgiving Offering
- Nov 20 - Disciples Women
Men's Luncheon
- Nov 21 - BVM Dinner
- Nov 24 - Thanksgiving Offering
"Hanging the Greens" and Lunch
- Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed
- Nov 29 - Office Closed



Only One-Day Thrift Sale Successful

The ONLY ONE-DAY THRIFT SALE was an outstanding success. Thanks to all who cleaned out their closets for Grace Klein Missions. The items were delivered, and the staff was very excited and appreciated everything that was given. Thanks so much to all the Valley folk for helping those who need a helping hand.
Peggi Zinser



Young Adult

On Sunday mornings, during the Young Adult study group, we discuss real-world issues and relationships in a relaxed and comfortable setting. Please join us for a cup of coffee and discussion at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings.



AAA TRIP TO FORT TOULOUSE

A war, a fort, French soldiers, British soldiers and Indians, what more of an exciting day could the Valley AAA seniors have in one day, on Wednesday, November 6th? We will travel South to Fort Toulouse in Wetumpka, AL for a re-enactment of the 1754 French and Indian War. We will see volunteer actors in period costumes act out the history of this war. But before the War, back in 1717, the French built this Fort on the Easternmost outpost of the French Colony. The French soldiers' intention was to secure a friendship with the Alibamu Indians, a part of the Creek Nation, and by doing so, keep the British out of the region. The fur trade was big business, and the French wanted to keep it all for themselves. More information on the re-enactment, departure time from the Church, and where we will have lunch will be forthcoming. Please let me know if you would like to ride the van, or if you are planning on driving. Thank you, Peggi Zinser

BUILDING VALLEY MACEDONIA



Our next BVM meeting and supper will be at the Paw Paw Patch in Homewood on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 6:00 PM. We will have a special guest for that meeting and program – Mrs. Caudell, the Recreation Director at North Hill Rehab and Nursing Home. She has been very supportive of our activities with North Hill and we thank her very much. Everyone is invited to our next meeting and to all our activities. Come and bring a friend!



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Devotions for the Advent Devotional Booklet should be turned in to Elaine in the Church office or to Lola Kiser by **Sunday, November 3, 2024**. Our aim is to distribute the booklet on the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024. Many thanks to everyone for helping us meet this goal!
Lola Kiser



AAA CHRISTMAS EVENT

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, AAA will travel to Anniston, AL for a Christmas luncheon at the Classic on Noble Restaurant with members and friends of the Anniston First Christian Church. The Christmas decorations at the restaurant are always beautiful and the food is excellent. This event has become a Christmas tradition for the two Churches, and through it we have made many friends in the Anniston Church. The van will leave Valley at 10:00 AM for lunch at 11:30AM or you may drive if you wish. Reservations for transportation and lunch should be made with Peggi Zinser by Monday, December 2, 2024. Visitors are always welcome!



THANKSGIVING OFFERING

We will receive the 2024 Thanksgiving Offering on November 17th and 24th. For 130 years the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have made a commitment to nurture and support students in higher education through HELM. The income goes straight to the institution and enables them to offer scholarships to students in 15 Colleges & Universities and 7 Seminaries.



TOYS FOR GBM

Again, this year we will collect toys for the families that come to GBM. We have two choices. You may bring toys of your choice or you may bring a \$25 gift card from Walmart. These items must be brought the week of November 24th thru December 7th. Place the unwrapped toys under the tree in the parlor and give the gift cards to Elaine Lawrence or Sarah Draper. They will be delivered to GBM on December 8th.

A BVM CHRISTMAS

Valley and Macedonia will again fill Christmas stockings for the residents of North Hill Rehab and Nursing Home, especially for those who need a bit of Christmas cheer. We will gather at the Rehab Center at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 14, 2024, to deliver the Christmas stockings and sing Christmas carols with the residents. Afterwards we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. If you want to ride the van or carpool, please meet at Valley at 10:15 AM. We hope to have a large group of carolers, but if you can't make it that day, please consider stuffing a stocking or two and leaving them in the box near the office door. Please see the list of stocking items below.

**Many thanks for your help
in this joyful Christmas project!**



Items for Christmas Stockings:

Socks, knit caps, t-shirts, deodorant, lotion, perfume/ cologne, body wash, soap, games, puzzles, small stuffed animals, Kleenex, lip balm, scarves, magnifying glasses, shaving lotion, handkerchiefs, Vaseline, books, battery operated candles, small flashlights, gum, bow ties, eyeglass wipes, and wrapped candy. (No sanitizer nor anything with alcohol in it will be accepted.)