



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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SCRIPTURES TO CALM US DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at mid-day. Psalm 91:5-6

The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear?
Psalm 27:1

Be strong and brave, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, because the Lord God, my God, is with you.
I Chronicles 28:20

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid". John 14:27

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world". John 16:33

"Take courage, I am here". Matthew 14:27

I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing.
2 Corinthians 4:17

Think about the things that are good and worthy of praise.
Philippians 4:8

A PRAYER FOR FEAR

Dear Lord, You tell me in your word that I am not to fear because You are with me. You tell me that I should not be afraid because You will strengthen me, help me and hold me. Show me how to write those words in my heart. Replace my fear with faith as I remember who You are and that I belong to You. Amen.

THE HOPE OF GLORY

I am Christ in you, the hope of glory. The Messiah – the Savior of the world – lives in you! This promise is for all who have faith in Me: *I dwell in your hearts through faith.* This amazing blessing is a work of My Spirit in your inner being. The more you trust Me, the more you can enjoy My indwelling Presence and the more effectively I can live through you.

In a world that may seem increasingly hopeless, remember that I am *the hope of Glory.* This hope is ultimately about heaven, where you will live with Me forever. But the Light of heaven's Glory is so brilliant that some of its rays can reach you even in the present – no matter how dark your circumstances may appear. I am the Light *that shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it.* As you follow Me along your life-path, clothed in My righteousness, this Light *shines brighter and brighter until full day.* – Jesus Calling for Easter by Sarah Young

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

The Easter Special Offering is scheduled for April 5th and April 12th. Funds from these donations support the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) including Disciples Home Missions, Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, Disciples Women and many more. Your contributions will be collected at church if we have returned by these dates or can be mailed to Valley with the designation, "Easter Special Offering." Thank you for your generosity! Cindy Neville

LAUREN SIMON AND DAVID LAMBERT WEDDING

As official word from us, we have no choice but to postpone Lauren and David's festivities. Our venue at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens will be closed, and we would not want to endanger anyone's health by asking them to be out at a large gathering. We hope to be able to reschedule for later in the year. Thanks so much! Sara Simon

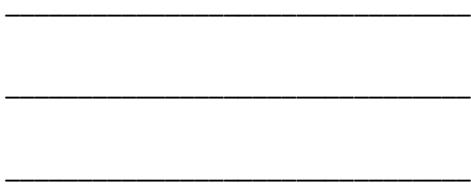
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st – Rick Simon 17th - Stephanie Robertson
3rd – Donna Noland 18th - George Robertson IV
9th – Gracie Johnsey 20th - John Mobley
12th - Rebecca McWhirter 21st - Eve Harman
12th - Bobinell Ricci 22nd - Terry Nunnelly
13th – Christy Zinser 23rd - Clarence Sellers

BABY AND TODDLER FOOD UPDATE

Just an update about our collection of non-perishable baby and toddler food for Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM). Thanks to all who have donated already. We will extend this food drive through a week or two after we begin attending church again, so those who did not have a chance to contribute might do so at that later date. Each month Valley normally delivers donated food to GBM and we will resume that schedule when it appears prudent to do so. The bottom line for now is - stay home and stay safe. Thanks!
Cindy Neville

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THE YEARBOOK

The 2020 Yearbook will be arriving in your home this week. This updated church directory will help us reach out to one another.

Consider the following ways that we can use our directories to touch the lives of others.

- Call or send cards to our members and friends.
- Send a card to our sister churches in District II.
- Send a card to the hospitals thanking the doctors, nurses and medical teams for their service.
- Send a card to the outreach missions in Birmingham that we support with a word of encouragement.
- Send a card to our shut-ins.

May God bless our church family, our country and the world.

MEMORIES

Several people from Valley have asked me recently, probably because I am one of our older members, if I can remember any event similar to the present Coronavirus emergency. There are two which I recall as similar in many ways.

The first is World War II. I was in the sixth grade when Pearl Harbor happened and too young to really experience the fear I felt and saw in adults around me – fear for the future and the outcome of the war. Almost everything was rationed – sugar, coffee, meat, canned goods, gasoline, tires, etc. Everyone had a ration book but, even as today, the store shelves were often empty and we could not get what we wanted and were accustomed to. The answer was that we substituted and did without many things. There were blackouts in cities and towns and the inevitable loss of many lives, but we survived.

The other similar event I remember is the polio epidemic when I was in high school – before the first vaccine and the “sugar cube”. All of us young people and children were at risk. Parents told us to stay away from others, especially at swimming pools, ball parks, etc.. And don’t get too hot! Every minor sore throat gripped us in fear. One of my classmates who contracted polio had to be put in an iron lung, one of our worst fears. Eventually vaccines became available, but we lived with fear for a long time. We hope and pray for a similar outcome today.

What do these events have to do with our present situation? I see three common features. The first is the widespread fear and anxiety which affected all of us then and is present everywhere today. The second is that, in both examples, we put our trust in God that He would lead us through the dangers which we faced. The third is that we helped and supported each other in the crises we all encountered.

I think Valley members have been very supportive of each other, as they always are, but especially in this COVID 19 event. I know that people have kept in touch with each other by phone, email, text, cards and notes, offers of help with food, transportation, groceries, etc.. I know this because I have experienced it, as have many others. Just a phone call may be all that is, needed to say, “You are not alone”. In the words of one of my

favorite hymns, “Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love”, today and always. Lola F. Kiser

UPDATES ON ILL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Betsy Nolen, girlfriend of Darell Nunnelly, (son of Terry and Carolyn Nunnelly and brother of Beth Collier) has had another stroke and is still in the hospital at Grandview.

Joan Noland (mother of Ann Johnsey) is being moved out of intensive care and into a regular room. Her sodium is still low and her thyroid is not functioning. St. Vincent’s is locked down and no visitors are allowed. Don’t call please because with her Alzheimer’s health issue, she cannot answer it.

Debra Pounds (Whiney Devine’s mother) is now conscious and is being weened off the ventilator. She does NOT have COVID19 and is improving. We pray that this COVID19 will end for the whole world.

WORSHIP SERVICES

We are living in the times of uncertainty. There is the strong possibility that our services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Twenty-Four Hour Prayer Vigil and Easter Sunday worship will be cancelled. The church office will keep you informed about these services for holy week and all future activities of Valley Christian Church. Until we are together keep your social distance and your spiritual nearness!

DID YOU “CHURCH” ON SUNDAY?

In Matthew 18:20 Jesus is quoted as telling his disciples that “where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”. My mother used to say that she could “church” anywhere. Now I know what she meant by that.

This past week we received a copy of the bulletin Pastor Edd Spencer prepared for our use at home as a guide for worship. On Sunday, Eve and I (and a couple of four-legged congregants) gathered around the piano at our usual time, 10:30. We called Lola Kiser as planned. She was in the company of her furry friend, Maddie. I lit a candle, Eve played a prelude (“It is Well with My Soul”) and we read together the Call to Worship with Lola and Maddie on speakerphone.

We proceeded through the bulletin with Eve reading the Meditation that Edd had prepared. It was a very good message for where we are now with all the fear and uncertainty surrounding us. We sang the hymn, “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” which is an anthem I will try to keep playing over in my head during the days ahead.

When it was time for communion, we used what we had on hand...apple juice at my house; tomato for Lola. I don’t think the Good Lord would object too much to either choice. After all, the point was to remember Him and the sacrifice he made for us. And isn’t that what “church” is all about? Jamie and Eve

