



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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LORD TEACH US TO PRAY

In Luke 11:1-4 Jesus was praying, and after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

What a treasure the Lord's Prayer is! This prayer has been prayed more often than any other prayer in the history of the world. Every day millions of people say it in hundreds of languages.

During the month of June and two Sundays in July, I will be preaching a series of sermons on this wonderful prayer. The schedule for the sermons is as follows:

- Sunday, June 7th "Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed Be Your Name"
- Sunday, June 14th "Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done, on Earth as it is in Heaven"
- Sunday, June 21st "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread"
- Sunday, June 28th "Forgive Us Our Sins as We Have Also Forgiven Those Who Sin Against Us."
- Sunday, July 5th "Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From the Evil One."
- Sunday, July 12th "For You Are the Kingdom, the Power And the Glory Forever."

I pray that these sermons will allow the life-giving power of God to flow into our lives. God Bless You, Edd

BLANKETS OF HOPE

Each year we remember those whose lives are upended by disasters with blankets of hope. Church World Services distributes these blankets to anyone whose life is affected by disasters of any kind. Because we are not sure when we will be able to gather in the sanctuary, we will do this a little differently this year.

If we are worshipping in the sanctuary by the first of June, we will be celebrating Mother's Day on June 14th and Father's Day on June 21st. On June 14th you will have the opportunity to purchase a blanket in honor or memory of your mother, grandmother, aunt, daughter, cousin, friends or any female in your life. On June 21st you may purchase one in honor or memory of your father, grandfather, uncle, son, cousin, friend or any male in your life.

The cost of each blankets is \$5.00. Our goal for this year is 100 blankets. Sarah Draper

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

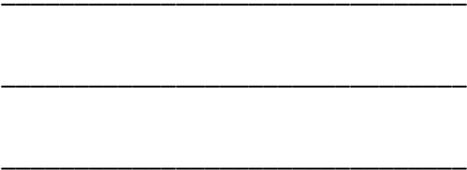
The Pentecost Special Offering is scheduled to be collected on May 31st and June 7th. This offering is designated to start and sustain new Christian Disciples Region/Area churches and to support the recruitment and training of new church leaders. Please prayerfully consider your donations. Thanks! Cindy Neville

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- ✓ Our heartfelt sympathies go to Whitney Devine and family on the death of her mother, Debra Pounds.
- ✓ Our prayers are with Dana Stuckenschneider who is recovering at home from knee surgery.
- ✓ The Executive Committee of the church will meet Wednesday, May 20th at 5:30pm to consider a possible date when we can safely return to church and new guidelines for worship.
- ✓ Gratitude is expressed to Ed Guindon who updated the lighting controls in the Narthex for the lights in the sanctuary.
- ✓ Pentecost Sunday is Sunday, May 31st. Wear something red as you worship in your home for red is the color of the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Congratulations to Valley, who rated in the highest categories of the region for 2019 in the following ministries: Disciples Mission Fund support, Disciples Outreach, Week of Compassion Offering, Reconciliation, Easter Offering, Thanksgiving Offering, and the highest per capita Disciples Outreach giving.
- ✓ Every week Edd is sharing a video of hope on Valley's web page www.vccbhm.org
- ✓ We celebrate that our neighbors are bringing their children to our playground and joggers are jogging on the walking trail and our driveway during this time of being sheltered at home.
- ✓ Thank you, John Gregory, for sanding and painting the front doors of the sanctuary.

(continued on page 2)

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- ✓ Thank you, Ginny Guindon and Peggi Zinser for painting the wall in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✓ Our prayers are with Betsy Nolen, recovering at home and with Darrell Nunnally as her caregiver.
- ✓ It is great to have members of Macedonia Christian Church with us in worship by teleconference on Sunday mornings. We look forward to the day when we can have a meal and fellowship with them at Niki's West.
- ✓ The Lenten Cross with the purple stole is still standing on the grass circle in front of the church. It symbolizes the suffering and isolation we share with the Lord, especially during this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic. On our first Sunday back for worship, the cross will come down symbolizing that we are together again as a church to worship our Lord.
- ✓ Please call the church office and share your news with us in the Valley.

A YEAR WITHOUT EASTER??

It was the year 1816, and spring had arrived as usual around the world. In the United States farmers had planted beans, corn, cucumbers and other tender crops. Then a very strange and startling event occurred – winter-like weather returned to almost all of the world. Not just for a few days, but for all of what would normally have been summer. Farmers lost their crops; food shortages and famines occurred in the United States and Europe. Thousands of people died. Anxiety and fear enveloped the land. The westward migration of Americans increased as people decided to move away from the unproductive cold. It was the “Year Without a Summer”.

Years later scientists determined that the “Year Without a Summer” was caused by the volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora in what is now the country of Indonesia. The volcanic dust covered the earth, blocking sunlight and causing the unusually cold weather. This in turn led to the loss of crops and to widespread hunger and death throughout the world..

Fast forward to the year 2020 and spring. Valley was preparing for the Good News of Easter – Lenten services, brown bag luncheons, Palm Sunday, A Good Friday service, Maundy Thursday and Easter morning services with Macedonia Christian Church, our own celebration of the Resurrection in the worship service.

Then the COVID-19 virus burst upon the scene. Most of our plans had to be cancelled or changed. Our world was turned upside down with quarantines, social distancing, closed businesses, loss of jobs, hunger, illness and death. Fear and anxiety encompassed us just as in the “Year Without a Summer”.

But Easter still came, even though some people may refer to 2020 as the “Year Without an Easter”. We joined together by teleconference in a wonderful Easter worship service, heard each others’ voices, and celebrated once again the Resurrection of our Lord. “Yes, Valley, there is an Easter” this year and every year. There will always be an Easter, for Christ lives forever within our hearts.

Thanks be to God! Lola F. Kiser

PENTECOST SUNDAY – MAY 31, 2020

The second chapter of Acts provides all the information about the events of Pentecost which took place fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. On the day of Pentecost

the Disciples, along with the devout women (which included Mary, the mother of Jesus) and the brothers of Jesus, were gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem, waiting and praying together as Jesus had instructed them before his ascension. Pentecost was an ancient harvest festival of the first fruits. On this special day, a life-changing experience overtook the group of believers in that upper room. The Spirit appeared first as the sound of wind, then as tongues of fire, yet not consuming like the burning bush of Moses. They were all touched by the wind and fire and they came out of the room praising God in languages they had never known before. Those outside hearing their words of praise were from every corner of the known world and were amazed to hear the “mighty works of God” being proclaimed in their own native language. This moment became the birthday of the church.

We will celebrate this special day in worship in our homes on Sunday, May 31st. The scripture will be the Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-41. Edd will share a sermon for Pentecost titled, “When the Spirit Took Over.”

GOD’S POSITIVE ANSWERS

We need positive thoughts during these challenging days of the pandemic. For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: “It’s impossible.”

God says: “All things are possible” (Luke 18:27).

You say: “I’m too tired.”

God says: “I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:18-20).

You say: “Nobody really loves me.”

God says: “I love you” (John 3:16; John 13:34).

You say: “I can’t go on.”

God says: “My grace is sufficient” (2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 91:15).

You say: “I can’t figure things out”

God says: “I will direct your steps” (Proverbs 3:5,6).

You say: “I can’t do it!”

God says: “You can do all things” (Philippians 4:13).

You say: “I’m not able.”

God says: “I am able” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

You say: “It’s not worth it.”

God says: “It will be worth it” (Romans 8:28).

You say: “I can’t forgive myself.”

God says: “I forgive you” (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1).

You say: “I can’t manage.”

God says: “I will supply all your needs” (Philippians 4:19).

You say: “I’m afraid.”

God says: “I have not given you a spirit of fear” (2 Timothy 1:7).

You say: “I’m always worried and frustrated.”

God says: “Cast all your cares on me” (1 Peter 5:7).

You say: “I don’t have enough faith.”

God says: “I’ve given everyone a measure of faith” (Romans 12:3).

You say: “I’m not smart enough.”

God says: “I give you wisdom” (1 Corinthians 1:30).

You say: “I feel all alone.”

God says: “I will never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

