



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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COFFEE AND A STORY

A few weeks ago, our Alabama-Northwest Florida region released a three-part YouTube series entitled Voices from the Community, on racial reconciliation and justice. The series features entirely people from around our region. In it, white and Black Disciples of Christ alike from across our region share movingly their testimonies and experiences concerning racism in their lives.

Resources like these are inspired by the commitment by the Disciples of Christ to be a pro-reconciling, anti-racism denomination. And I personally felt called to be here at Valley in no part because while all Disciples churches are expected to be reconciling, Valley represented one of a handful of churches I met in search and call that had already demonstrably invested itself in improving race relations, through our relationships with Macedonia Christian Church and Primera Iglesia. And I am already seeing and benefiting from the fruits of the work that you have spent years putting into those relationships, in building my own connections of my own and getting to worship this past week with Primera Iglesia and their pastor, Rev. Roberto Rodriguez Sierra.

We are entering an important time of stewardship for the church—for our congregation and our denomination. The next two Sundays, September 27 and October 4, are when the special offering for our denomination’s Reconciliation Ministry takes place. This special offering gives us a chance to commit our treasure to the work of building enriching relationships that are based on faith and mutual trust. Amid the divisiveness we experience presently as a country, I can scarcely think of holier work than the building of right relationship with one another like this.

And beginning on October 4, our annual stewardship campaign takes place, when we humbly ask you to make a pledge of giving to the congregation for 2021. This is a vital spiritual practice for us as a family of faith. Much as a family at home would make a household budget, so too do we as a family of faith make a household budget for the coming year. Our ability to do so is based on your pledges of generosity to Christ and to His church.

I know the ups and downs this year has taken something from all of us, and I will not ever ask you to give in such a way that you would be denying yourself necessities for living. God calls us to be sacrificial in our giving, but not punitive. I invite you to give to our special reconciliation offering, and to pledge to our 2021 church budget, as you are able and feel led to do so. Thank you for your generosity.

Christ’s and yours, Pastor Eric

RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING

The Reconciliation Special Offering is scheduled to be collected on September 27th and October 4th. These funds will support the Church's mission to become pro-reconciling and anti-racist through education, inclusive worship, and leadership development. Please prayerfully consider your donations!

YES, I CAN!

We will collect nonperishable food, household cleaning supplies, and paper products for Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM) again this year, but we will give you the entire month of October to drop off your donations to the area in and around the basket in Valley's parlor. Some empty bags will be found there if needed, but feel free to bring your own plastic or paper bags filled for GBM. Valley is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to Noon to accept your donations. Donations will be delivered to GBM on Monday, November 2nd. Please no clothing since the GBM Clothing Bank is closed as a COVID-19 precaution. Thanks! Cindy Neville

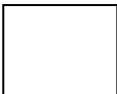
VALLEY IS GENEROUS!

This is a summary of your donations for the 2020 Special Offerings so far:

Week of Compassion:	\$1,070
Easter:	\$ 525
Pentecost:	\$ 270

In 2019, a total of \$385 was collected for the Reconciliation Special Offering and we are setting a goal of \$400 for 2020. Thank you! Cindy Neville

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE
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WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

Valley is collecting additional Week of Compassion donations that you can earmark for "Hurricane Response." Please prayerfully consider your donation and thank you! Cindy Neville

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Our prayers and Christian sympathy to Beth Gregory and her family on the death of her brother Fred Cox.
- Frank Williams, Jean Thrasher’s brother-in-law (Jean’s twin sister Jane’s husband) is having surgery at St. Vincent’s today. He needs your prayers.
- Peggy Hiller’s son-in-law, Danny Bentley, is recovering from knee surgery at home in Oneonta. We pray for his continued recovery.
- Please pray for the residents of the Gulf coast as they recover from Hurricane Sally.
- Please pray for the Prude Family in the community. There was a severe car accident where two of their children (8 and 11) were killed.
- Please pray for Whitney Devine’s sister-in-law, Summer and sister, Deshara. They are in Columbia, South America where Summer has had serious dental work done.
- Please pray for John Mobley, our Regional Minister, as he recovers from a recent illness.
- Please pray for Hattie Belle Lester.
- Please pray for Cindy Neville’s brother, Scott McDermott.
- Please pray for Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s family, friends and the country.
- Four members of Anniston First Christian Church and two visitors from Birmingham joined AAA for our trip to Orr Park in Montevallo. We always welcome guests on our trips.
- Marilyn Cutcliffe’s son Matthew is engaged to his beautiful fiancée Ashlyn.
- Please share what is happening in your life, for all of us to read in “Life in the Valley”.

AAA OCTOBER EVENT

AAA get ready for a *SPOOKY* October event. On Wednesday, October 21, 2020 (**3rd Wednesday in October**) we will go downtown to Birmingham’s oldest cemetery, Oak Hill. We will meet at the church at 9:15 am and caravan to Oak Hill for a 10:00 am **minimal** walking tour with the director, Stuart Oats. Mr. Oats will explain about some of Birmingham’s Founding Fathers and some of the interesting people buried there. The fee is \$7.00. Please make your reservations to Marilyn Ireland by October 16, 2020. You can pay Peggi on that day. At this point lunch plans have not been made. Stay tuned.

WERE YOU THERE?

Our Advent/Christmas Devotional booklet this year will be entitled “We Were There”. The writers of the devotions will imagine that they were there and tell us what they saw, how they felt, what they learned, etc. Each devotional will be written in first person as if the writer were actually the person, animal or thing he or she depicts. The booklet will be available on

November 29, the first day of Advent, and will continue through December 25, Christmas Day. Many thanks to the twenty-six people who are writing devotionals. This booklet will be different from those we have had in the past. I think you will enjoy it and will find it very helpful in your Advent and Christmas devotionals. The schedule of dates and writers is below. Lola Kiser

Nov. 29	John the Baptist	John Churchill
Nov. 30	Gabriel	Marilyn Ireland
Dec. 1	Zechariah	Bill Caughran
Dec. 2	Elisabeth	GINNY GUINDON
Dec. 3	Mary	Peggy Hiller
Dec. 4	Joseph	Jim Taylor
Dec. 5	A Donkey (carried Mary and Joseph)	Jamie Ligon
Dec. 6	Innkeeper	Stewart Draper
Dec. 7	Innkeeper’s wife	Carolyn Nunnelly
Dec. 8	Shepherd (Remains with sheep)	Lola Kiser
Dec. 9	Shepherd (Goes to manger)	Carol Speed
Dec. 10	A Lamb (Remains with sheep)	Beth Collier
Dec. 11	Angel (Choir director)	Mary Ellen Caughran
Dec. 12	Angel (Littlest singer)	Sarah Draper
Dec. 13	A sheep	Margaret Cox and Conner
Dec. 14	A cow	Eve Harman
Dec. 15	The star	Lola Kiser
Dec. 16	Resident of Bethlehem	Ted Stuckenschneider
Dec. 17	A dove	Katelyn Clark
Dec. 18	Herod	Terry Nunnelly
Dec. 19	Herod’s wife	Andrea Clark
Dec. 20	Wiseman (Gold)	Peggi Zinser
Dec. 21	Wiseman (Frankincense)	Linda Reeves
Dec. 22	Wiseman (Myrrh)	Ed Guindon
Dec. 23	Anna	Sharon and Kenneth Hill
Dec. 24	Simeon	John Gregory
Dec. 25	The Christ Child	Eric Atcheson

