



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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COFFEE AND A STORY

I write these words to y'all just as I am emerging from a few days of isolation due to exposure to covid-19 that was later revealed to be a false positive. I went into isolation after discussing it with Carrie as well as many of our congregational leaders, and I have to say that I was overwhelmed by the caring response I received, with folks going so far as to volunteer to bring meals since I could not go grocery shopping.

But even more than that, what meant the most to me was how understanding each of you were of the situation, and affirming of my desire to not put anyone at the church at any unnecessary risk of exposure from being around me. It speaks to the premium y'all put on the health and safety of others, and that is a genuine gift in the middle of a pandemic.

I wish that did not have to be so—just as we all do. I had no idea when I began search and call a little over a year ago that I would do my can didating process completely long-distance, and move to my next call (y'all) sight unseen. But your willingness to do that process entirely online and over the phone was a genuinely good sign to me, because you were communicating to me that you did not want me to risk my health, and the health of my family, unnecessarily. By keeping myself isolated from you this past week, I have endeavored to return the favor.

2020 has been a heck of a year so far—as I saw someone write on Twitter, 2020 must've been invented by historians to sell more history!—and it's still not over. Whatever it has taken from you, and from us, know that we have also been given so much this year as well with the chance to build this new relationship together as minister and congregation. And while I do not know what 2020 will hold in store next for us as a nation or as a world, I am confident that we will see this year through in as fine a fashion as our circumstances permit, because we are surrounded by a culture of mutual care, respect, and support that y'all have fostered long before I arrived, and have continued to cultivate as I have dug in as your new minister.

Thank you for the kindness, welcome, and understanding you have shown my family and me—not only on our arrival, but this past week as well. It is a blessing to be here in Birmingham as your minister. Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

AAA OCTOBER EVENT

The October event for AAA has been changed because of COVID19. Wednesday, October 21, 2020 we will meet at the Church at 9:15am and caravan to Petals from the Past in Jemison, Al. Please let Marilyn know by 10:00am Friday, October 16, 2020 if you are planning on going, if you can drive and what sandwich order you want to order (Chicken Salad, Ham Salad, Egg Salad or Pimento Cheese). Each box lunch contains a sandwich, deviled egg, chips and a brownie – water is included with your lunch, the cost is \$6.00. If you cancel your sandwich order after the deadline of Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 you will be responsible for payment. We will be eating inside their education building or on the patio at preset social distance tables. Peggi Zinser will collect the money that morning.

Our tour guide is Jason Powell, who has a master's degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M and shares ownership of Petals from the Past with his wife, Shelley, who has a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M. The gardening site will be decorated for Christmas and have items for sale in the gift shop along with fall plants, spring bulbs and jams and jellies for purchase. This will be a very informative gardening and landscape idea tour and an enjoyable AAA time together.

STEWARDSHIP

Please prayerfully consider your 2021 pledges for Valley and return your commitment cards to the office by Sunday, October 25th. Thank you! Cindy Neville

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YES, I CAN!

Just a reminder that Valley will collect nonperishable food, cleaning supplies, and paper products for the annual "Yes, I Can" initiative. Drop off your donations during Valley's office hours of 8 AM to noon Monday through Friday and they will be delivered to Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM) on Monday, November 2nd. Your contributions will be much appreciated by our neighbors in need. Thanks! Cindy Neville

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Our prayers and get-well wishes are sent to our sister, Marilyn Cutcliffe, as she recovers from surgery for diverticulitis at Grandview Medical Center. We were so pleased to hear that her diagnosis of COVID19 was a false-positive and she does NOT have the virus.
- Please pray for Rev. Roberto Rodriguez-Sierra, The pastor of our sister church Primera Iglesia, has been in and out of the emergency room with blood pressure problems this weekend.
- Please pray for Eleanor Clark, Andrea Clark's 108 year old mother-in-law, who has been in the hospital this week receiving blood. This will be a recurring visit every few months.
- Please pray for Marilyn Ireland's mother, Judy McMillan. She had a bad fall while getting a block for her hip and leg pain. However, she had x-rays and there were no broken bones. Please pray that her hip and leg get better and she can resume her normal activities.
- Please pray for Sarah Draper's friends: Joan, who is doing well after a fall and Barbara, who had a brain bleed. Barbara is going to St. Martin's in the Pines for 14 days and then on to rehab, possible Lakeshore for 21 days.
- Please pray for Carol Speed's young friend, Michelle Boyd, who is having a biopsy because of a mass found in her lung.
- Please continue to pray for Jean Thrasher's brother-in-law (and Jane Williams' husband) Frank Williams.
- Please add our sister, Ginny Guindon, to your prayers as she undergoes healthcare tests.
- John Gregory would like to thank everyone for their prayers during the passing of his brother-in-law, Dr. Fred Cox. Your support means so much.
- Please continue to pray for the residents of the Gulf coast as they recover from Hurricane Sally.
- We have a joy from John and Cindy Neville that their son Daniel came home from Nashville, where he is working, to be with them this past weekend.
- We have a joy from Jean Thrasher that Midge Hoke is coming to Birmingham to stay for a month. God Bless Midge.
- Please share what is happening in your life, for all of us to read in "Life in the Valley".



SEPTEMBER AAA TRIP REMEMBERED

On Wednesday, September 23, AAA members met at Orr Park in Montevallo. Orr Park is 40 acres of beautiful land bordering Shoal Creek. It was donated to the City of Montevallo by Dr. Milton Orr and it is filled with trees, walking trails, pavilions with picnic tables, a gazebo, and restrooms. In 1993 after a storm severely damaged many of the trees Tim Tingle, a retired coal miner, decided to revamp the injured trees by carving images into them. Only carving on dead wood Mr. Tingle has created over 40 stunning works of art including images of dragons, gnomes, fish, snakes, and people. Many of the carvings are incredibly detailed and intricate. He only used chisels and other hand carving tools to make the designs. Mr. Tingle met us at the park and gave us a brief history before leading a tour of the carvings. After the tour we socially distanced in the pavilion and ate lunches in pink boxes from Ouslers. We were joined by Valya Mobley, Molly Palmer and her sister Dottie McKissac. In addition, three members of the First Christian Church in Anniston met us there - Judy Engelhart, Anne Phillips and Gerald Roberts.

It was a beautiful sunny day with a nice breeze; not too hot - not too cold. Everyone seemed delighted to have the opportunity to fellowship with each other and a good time was had by all.



RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING

The Reconciliation Special Offering was scheduled to be collected on September 27th and October 4th, but we are continuing to receive these gifts. 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!

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