



# The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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### COFFEE AND A STORY

My first October here in the Birmingham area has been a revelation to me. Having spent my entire adult life in either the Pacific Northwest or the similarly oft-gray environs of the San Francisco Bay Area, I had simply assumed that October brought with it months of continuous off-and-on drizzle and cloudiness.

Here, though, amid the sunshine and days that alternate from crisp to warm and back, I am seeing what autumn can really be (when we aren't worrying about hurricane warnings, that is!), and I hope you and yours have been able to enjoy this spate of ridiculously incredible weather in some way as well.

I know that all of us want to be enjoying it together, in person. I continue to be grateful for this congregation's patience as we wait out a terrible pandemic together, and in the meanwhile we have been working on building on the parking lot tailgate to thank Pastor Edd and welcome me. I hope you'll mark your calendars for lunch on Halloween—Halloween falls on a Saturday this year, and we are taking advantage with another parking lot party! Costumes that already make use of a mask, like an old-timey stagecoach bandit, are welcome, but bring your costume and mask regardless as we get together from 11 am to 1:30 pm on Halloween. There will be lunch, an extremely low-stakes car-decorating contest, and some more family-friendly Halloween fun, weather permitting. Invite your friends to come enjoy some socially-distanced fellowship with us!

Two weeks later, on Saturday, November 14, Beth Gregory will be graciously leading us in an educational webinar over Zoom entitled "Covid and Beyond," which will explore the mental health challenges we, and individuals and communities across the country, have faced during this year's pandemic. The holidays are always an important time for caring for oneself and focusing on your mental health so that they can be a source of joy, and Beth will help give us some of those tools through this webinar.

Stay tuned as our departments work hard to bring you more opportunities for fellowship. I am very grateful for the work that is being put into these events, just as I am for the generosity that is being shown during our October stewardship campaign—the unselfish giving of both our labor and our finances make these events possible, and it is my prayer that such events will continue to serve as a source of happiness and fulfillment for you as we navigate these days and weeks together. Please continue to be safe and well out there!

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric



### HALLOWEEN PARKING LOT PARTY

Saturday, October 31st from 11:00am – 1:30pm, for the Valley church family, you are encouraged to invite your family and friends, both adults and children. We are also extending invitations to the Cherokee Road neighborhood. This is a chance for us to gather outside, fellowship with each other and meet our back-yard neighbors. For the safety of everyone, we will wear masks and social distance.

11:00am: There will be a car-decorating contest, bring your own Halloween decorations or we will have some for you. Everyone participating will decorate their cars at the same time. Be creative!

11:30am: All ages are invited to line up by the playground for a costume parade around the parking lot and walking trail; dress up and join in on the fun.

12:00pm: Lunch will be served in the upper parking lot; please bring your lawn chairs. There will be free treats, hot dogs, baked beans, chips and drinks provided for everyone.

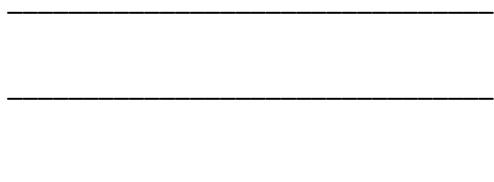
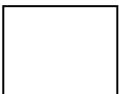
Ongoing: Come and enjoy games and crafts for everyone of all skill levels.

Stay for the door prize drawing of a \$25.00 gift card from Chick-fil-A.

If you would like to help with this fun event, please call or text Ginny at (205) 305-1169.

Sponsored by the Fellowship and Evangelism Departments.

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216**





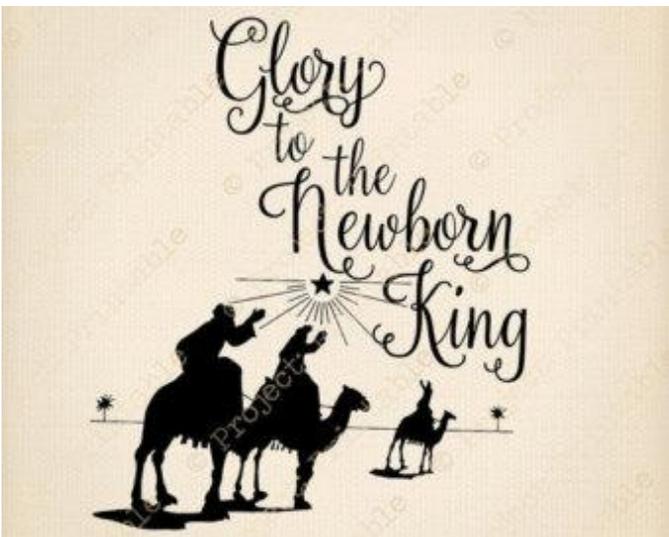
### YES, I CAN!

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

### COVID19 AND BEYOND SEMINAR

Join us on Saturday, November 14 from 9 to 12 on Zoom. Beth Gregory will be leading us in a morning to reflect on COVID and Beyond. We will look at events of 2020 with medical and emotional effects, move into an understanding of COVID fatigue and compassion fatigue, then move forward to faith and hope as we look toward Advent.

Email Beth at [lizgreg@gmail.com](mailto:lizgreg@gmail.com) to be included. RSVP is needed by November 11th at noon.



### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

If you are writing a devotional for our Advent Devotional Booklet, we would appreciate receiving it by Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Just imagine you are the one you are writing about and tell us, in the first person, how you felt, what you saw, etc., when the Christ Child was born. We will need to mail the booklets early to everyone so that people will receive them by the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020.

Please email your devotional to Marilyn in the church office or mail it to Lola Kiser. Many thanks for your help. The booklet is looking good! Lola Kiser

### 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

### LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Our prayers and get-well wishes are sent to Marilyn Cutcliffe, as she recovers from surgery for diverticulitis at Grandview Medical Center. Marilyn had a stay in ICU with complications but is doing much better now. She will leave the hospital soon and start rehab.
- Brandon Ligon, Jamie Ligon's nephew is in the hospital and needs our prayers.
- Please pray for Hal and Jan Clark as Jan recovers from surgery. She is doing much better.
- Please pray for Eleanor Clark, Andrea Clark's mother-in-law, who is back in the hospital and needs our prayers.
- Please pray for Marilyn Ireland's mother, Judy McMillan. She is still in pain when she walks and is going to physical therapy now.
- Please pray for Carol Speed's young friend, Michelle Boyd, who has gotten a lung cancer diagnosis and will be having surgery soon. God Bless Michelle.
- Please continue to pray for Jean Thrasher's brother-in-law (and Jane Williams' husband) Frank Williams.
- Ginny Guindon's test results were normal and she wants to thank everyone for their prayers.
- Welcome Home Midge Hoke! Midge is visiting Jean Thrasher for about a month.
- Please continue to pray for the residents of the Gulf coast as they recover from the hurricanes and to west coast residents as they recover from wildfires.
- Carrie Atcheson's colleague needs our prayers.
- Pastor Eric's father's colleague in Kansas City is facing stage 4 cancer. Please send her your prayers.
- Eloise Hatcher, Sharon Hill's mother (Macedonia) is home from the hospital. Please pray for her as she recovers.
- Please share what is happening in your life, for all of us to read in "Life in the Valley".

### GREATER BIRMINGHAM MINISTRIES 2020 CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Valley and the Disciples Women group have a longstanding tradition of supporting Greater Birmingham Ministries' (GBM) efforts to assist approximately 200 families with Christmas gifts for children. This Christmas season, due to restrictions with COVID-19, GBM is requesting donations of \$25 Walmart gift cards instead of toys and clothing.

You can help this important project in two ways:

1. Purchase and deliver \$25 Walmart gift cards to the church office (open Monday-Friday mornings 8:00-12:00).
2. Mail or deliver a check (made out to Valley Christian Church and designated for this project) to the church office for whatever amount you wish to contribute and the Outreach Department will purchase Walmart gift cards with all money donated.

Gift cards and monetary donations need to be in the church office on or before **Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Pastor Eric will deliver all of the gift cards to GBM on our behalf.

### PLEASE NOTE THAT

The November Valley Workday has been changed to Saturday, November 7, 2020 9am-12noon.