



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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COFFEE AND A STORY

In the church, we focus on your relationship with God as revealed through Jesus Christ. That quest defines so much of who we are and what we try to accomplish. Just as Jesus teaches us that love of God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, is one of the most important commandments, He teaches us that a second commandment is like it—love of neighbor as ourselves. On these, He says, hangs everything else about the faith.

We can demonstrate our love of neighbor by recognizing how our neighbor’s dignity and worth is eternally connected to our dignity and worth. We can choose the interests of community and solidarity with one another, and not the interests of self alone. We can choose to not only build our own spiritual homes on rock instead of on sand, we can then work to build spiritual homes for others.

As we emerge from this election season, I think those lessons matter as much as ever, but they also matter for where we are as a congregation, emerging from a time of farewells and a time of new relationship.

Two formal steps remain to cement our own connection as minister and congregation: my installation as your minister, and my transfer of membership to Valley. With the current circumstances surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, and in conversation with congregational and regional leaders, we are splitting the difference, with my formal installation taking place soon, while the formal transfer of membership will occur when we return to in person worship.

I hope to see you on Zoom during our usual 10:30 am worship on Sunday, November 15, for my formal installation as your minister by our Regional Minister, Rev. John Mobley. This brief ceremony as part of our regular worship represents the culmination of eight-and-a-half months so far of building relationship and relying on the Holy Spirit’s guidance in taking this leap of faith together. I would love to see you there, as part of our beloved community.

Meanwhile, Carrie and I are choosing to wait to formally transfer membership to Valley until we are worshipping together in person again, as a way for all of us to celebrate in person this work we have done to build a future together. I want to emphasize that this wait in no way expresses hesitance on our part, but quite the opposite: it represents a hope to get to celebrate this new beginning with all of you in person.

I look forward to the day when we can safely worship together, and until then, I look forward to each new Sunday to share in worship with all of you.

Christ’s and yours, Pastor Eric

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

The Thanksgiving Special Offering that benefits the colleges and seminaries affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is scheduled to be collected on November 15th and 22nd. Please consider adding a donation for this Special Offering when you mail or drop off your November tithes and offerings. Thanks! Cindy Neville

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Valley Christian Church will be held immediately after the Worship Service on December 13, 2020 . Stewart Draper Moderator

HALLOWEEN PARKING LOT PARTY REMEMBERED

What a great BOOGANZA we had for the “Halloween Parking Lot Party” last Saturday. We could not have had better weather. It took a lot of hard work by Ginny Guindon’s Fellowship and Peggi Zinser’s Evangelism Departments with the help of a few other hard workers, Ed Guindon, Naaman Fatkins and Clarence Sellers, thrown in to pull it off, but it was great fun for everyone. Pastor Eric Atcheson had a hard task to pick a winner for the best decorated car; they were all so good and very colorful. We sent post cards about the event to the Cherokee neighborhood, and with the creativity of Lauren Simon Lambert, signs were made and posted at each entrance to Cherokee Road. Ginny Guindon painted the cute pink pig pumpkins and everybody enjoyed designing their own creations with all the other pumpkins we had. Carolyn Nunnelly’s team , Terry and Darrell Nunnelly, treated us to grilled hot dogs and all the fix’ins again. Sarah Draper, Judy Sellers and Jean Thrasher made their wonderful baked beans, and Jean also made her famous fudge for all of us. Carrie Atcheson made spooky goodie bags for all the kids to grab a bag of candy off the goodie bag tree. Linda Reeves got the walking trail ready for Beth Collier to lead the costume parade for kids, dressed up grownups and Carol Speed’s dog Chloe. What a great day! We had about 35 Valley Members and about 10 neighborhood families that joined us. Thanks to all that helped to make this Valley and Cherokee neighborhood Halloween party a great success. Peggi Zinser

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2600 CHEROKEE PLACE
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216**



NOVEMBER PARKING LOT PICNIC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 12:30PM

Let's gather outside again while we still have mild Alabama weather! Please plan to come at 12:30, bring your lawn chairs and join us for a sandwich lunch in the church parking lot. The Fellowship team will provide the food, but monetary donations will be accepted to help defray the cost (suggested \$3.00 per person). As always, we will social distance and wear masks to protect each other's health. Please call or email the church office (205-879-0419 or office@vccbhm.org) by Friday, November 20th to let us know you're coming.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult "Sunday School Class" is now meeting by Zoom on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. Our Advent study will start on Tuesday, December 1st using a book entitled "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" by Adam Hamilton, an excellent writer and one of our favorite authors.

Zoom Participation Information:

Valley Meeting 1 (unrecorded)

ID 829 5294 8962, Passcode 205879

By computer, smart phone or

tablet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952948962?pwd=SXFheDBoYWtINmE0WERKVzdnVmRPZz09>

By Phone: 1 (312) 626 6799 ID 829 5294 8962,

Passcode 205879

(If you need a live link to the bible study link, you can go to the homepage of our website at www.vccbhm.org - then click on "Links to Zoom" - then the Valley Meeting 1 link.)

COVID19 AND BEYOND SEMINAR

Join us on Saturday, November 14 from 9 to 12 on Zoom. Beth Gregory will be leading us in a seminar to reflect on COVID and Beyond. Email Beth at lizgreg@gmail.com to be included. RSVP is needed by November 11th at noon.

Zoom Participation Information:

Valley Meeting 1 ID 829 5294 8962, Passcode 205879

By computer, smart phone or

tablet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952948962?pwd=SXFheDBoYWtINmE0WERKVzdnVmRPZz09>

By Phone: 1 (312) 626 6799 ID 829 5294 8962,

Passcode 205879

(If you need a live link to the seminar link, you can go to the homepage of our website at www.vccbhm.org - then click on "Links to Zoom" - then Valley Meeting 1 link.)

STEWARDSHIP

Please prayerfully consider your 2021 pledges for Valley and return your commitment cards to the office as soon as possible. Thank you! Cindy Neville

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Mike Reese's wife had a bad fall and as they were treating her they discovered a previous cancer has returned. Mike has been Valley's piano tuner.
- Linda and Russell Reeve's daughter-in-law's sister has been caught in a war in Africa. Please pray.
- Sonja Baker, Terry Nunnally's niece is sick with COVID and she has underlying complications. Please pray for her.

- Ted Stuckenschneider expressed a joy for Margaret Cox's piano playing and how much Valley has been touched by it.
- Our prayers and get-well wishes are sent to Marilyn Cutcliffe, as she recovers from surgery for diverticulitis and is now going home from Aspire Rehab feeling much better.
- Hattie Belle Lester, one of our elders emeritae, would be happy to receive notes and cards. Her address is: Bay Ridge at Westminster Village, Room 528, Skilled Nursing, 500 Spanish Fort Boulevard, Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527
- Margaret Cox's good friends, Sherry and Tim need our prayers. Sherry was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer but her treatments are going very well and Sherry actually feels better right now. They are praying for a miracle.
- Bill and Mary Ellen Caughran's older son David got married in Gatlinburg last week and they are so joyful.
- Please pray for Eleanor Clark, Andrea Clark's mother-in-law, who has tested positive for COVID but is asymptomatic. Prayers for a quick recovery.
- Please pray for Carol Speed's young friend, Michelle Boyd, who has had surgery last week for lung cancer.
- Stewart and Sarah Draper's long-time friend (from First Birmingham) Bob Russell passed away. They still were attending a supper club with him each month. Prayers for his family and friends.
- Ted and Dana Stuckenschneider were affected by Hurricane Zeta last week. A 20,000 pound tree fell on their roof leaving a huge hole. The joy is that they are fine and the concern is that the house holds up and debris quits falling. Please pray for them as they go through the stress of rebuilding.
- Dana Stuckenschneider's brother has had COVID but is now negative. He is in a veteran's home and can now share activities again with the other residents.

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 20th**. Pastor Eric will deliver all of the gift cards to GBM on our behalf.

YES I CAN GROCERIES

Valley delivered 24 bags of food and household supplies to Greater Birmingham Ministries for our annual "Yes, I Can!" donation drive. Thanks to all who gave so generously! Cindy Neville