



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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COFFEE AND A STORY

The last time I moved to a new region of the country for the first time (in 2008 to begin seminary) I spent my first Thanksgiving there writing a blog post called “Bite-Sized Pancakes,” inspired by the literal bite-sized pancakes I would occasionally get served up at breakfast by the chef at the stove of my seminary’s small cafeteria. I used that image to share some of the things about my new hometown that I was grateful for that Thanksgiving. In that spirit, these are some bite-sized pancakes that I am grateful for this Thanksgiving:

- ✓ Being Carrie’s husband and Sadie’s dad.
- ✓ Creating new traditions with Carrie and Sadie, like our Saturday morning family outings to one of Birmingham’s many parks, hiking trails, or other beautiful outdoor spots.
- ✓ The natural beauty here, just in general. Because of the pandemic, we moved here sight unseen, and we certainly had been spoiled by the lush greenery and landscape of the Pacific Northwest. But the wooded rolling hills of Birmingham easily compare, and they add joy for me every day.
- ✓ Being where barbeque means exactly that—barbeque—and slapping meat on a grill is called something else entirely.
- ✓ Speaking of barbeque, discovering all the amazing things done and produced locally—not just the barbeque, but the coffee, the produce, the flowers, and much more.
- ✓ Sunshine and warmth all the way into late November. The constant hurricane warnings have given me heartburn, but I now see why autumn is some peoples’ favorite season.
- ✓ The thirty people we had at our outdoors, masked, socially-distanced Thanksgiving lunch on Sunday, especially the fellowship department people who worked hard to put the lunch on!
- ✓ And simply being here in Birmingham, to be your minister.

So, if you ask me what I am thankful for this year, I will tell you that it’s these bite-sized pancakes. May you feel joy and gratitude at whatever the bite-sized pancakes may be in your life right now. Thanksgiving blessings to you and yours this holiday weekend. Be safe and be well.

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) was scheduled to be collected on November 15th and 22nd. You may still contribute by 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

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Your Advent Booklets are in the mail! If you need extra booklets they can be picked up at the office.
- The December “Secret Place” Devotional booklets are available in the entryway.
- Many thanks to Beth Gregory for the excellent COVID and BEYOND Seminar she led for us on Zoom last week. There were 20 people who participated including several from other churches. Thanks also to Ed Guindon for his help and technical expertise.
- John and Cindy Neville have a joy and a concern. The joy is that their son Daniel is playing music again for the first time in nine months and they went to Huntsville to hear him. The concern is for their niece Caroline, who is an Episcopalian Minister. She is 30 weeks pregnant and went into premature labor. However, she and the baby have recovered and we pray she will carry the baby to term.
- Linda Reeves’ Aunt Mildred Lee went back in the hospital with her subdural hematoma and had some complications but she is home again and feels fine.
- Linda and Russell Reeve’s daughter-in-law’s sister is still caught in a war in Ethiopia, Africa and it has worsened.
- Linda Reeves’ friend Annie Bell, who is 81, is in the hospital with COVID but is improving.
- Greetings and thanks to Valley from Jim and Janice Clifford for our gift to South Baldwin church for hurricane damage. Jim is Interim Minister there.
- Terry and Helen Pinkard, Carolyn Nunnelly’s, brother and sister-in-law and Sonja Baker, Terry Nunnelly’s niece, are much better as they recover from COVID.
- Eleanor Clark, Andrea Clark’s mother-in-law, has gone home from the hospital today. She will be 109 years old Tuesday. Praise the Lord.
- Please pray for Lindsey and Nathan Lyons and their family. Lindsey is a former student of Margaret Cox and Nathan is a Minister at First Baptist Lakeshore. Lindsey is pregnant with conjoined twins who share a heart and liver and doctors don’t think they can survive outside the womb. May God be with them.
- Carrie Atcheson’s uncle lost his Dad, Jack McMahon, from a stroke. Please pray for the family.
- The Atcheson’s also have a joy that Cindy Deitrich, Eric’s uncle’s partner, wrote down the stories of Eric’s grandfather, George. It is a blessing for the family.