



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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NO. 10

COFFEE AND A STORY

After fourteen long months, we returned to in-person worship in our lovely sanctuary this past Sunday. I imagine at least some of the worship felt familiar to you, and some of it probably felt new or unfamiliar. As your new pastor, I fall very much into the latter camp! Valley's worship department and staff have worked very hard these past several weeks to create a worship experience that hopefully offers a balance of familiarity and newness as we strike out on this next chapter of Valley's life together.

While we continue to be cautious in relaxing guidelines for our big, all-congregation activities on Sunday mornings, I am happy to invite you to sit down with me for coffee sometime if you have been fully vaccinated against covid-19. I keep an espresso machine in my office and would be happy to serve you an espresso (or latte, if you prefer yours with milk) on Monday through Thursday mornings when I keep office hours.

I am also happy to share with you my worship plans for this summer. My first full summer with y'all will be spent going book-by-book through the so-called "minor" prophets of the Tanakh (or Old Testament). Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel represent the three "major" prophets owing to the lengths of the books bearing their names, but after them come a baker's dozen of shorter books, which in my experience are some of the most underrated in the entire Bible! These books may be obscure to many of us, and so you may have hesitated to spend much time with them, which then compounds their obscurity. If you've found yourself in such a cycle, this series can help break it, as each Sunday we'll introduce ourselves to a new prophet and hear an excerpt of what they had to say to the people back then. While some of what they had to say was specific to their audiences, I promise that you will find much of it applicable to us today, and I look forward to exploring the possibilities with you.

Below are the first several installments of the sermon series, through June. If this sermon series proves its worth, it is a format we can replicate in future summers with themes like Paul's letters (a different letter each Sunday), the twelve Apostles (a different Apostle each Sunday)...the possibilities are many!

May 30: "Daniel," Daniel 9:20-24
June 6: "Hosea," Hosea 11:1-9

June 13: "Joel," Joel 2:21-28
June 20: "Amos," Amos 8:4-8
June 27: "Obadiah," Obadiah 1-16
Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric



Turkey Creek's Endangered Species

The Vermillion Darter is considered an endangered fish about 3" in length and only found in the clean free flowing fresh water of Turkey Creek, Jefferson County, Alabama, where Valley is visiting on their June AAA Trip on June 9th.

TURKEY CREEK AAA JUNE TRIP

The June 9th AAA Turkey Creek trip may have a surprise for you so keep a lookout for it. There are four nationally recognized endangered species here, so keep a sharp eye out for the three fish: The Vermillion, the Watercress, the Rush Darters and one turtle, the flattened musk turtle. They all make their home here at Turkey Creek and nowhere else. Turkey Creek is a stop on the Highlands Appalachian Birding Trail along with mountain bike trails and several hiking trails. Turkey Creek is also on the Alabama Waterfall Road Trip Trail. This pre-historic area of Native Americans has also been a site for a grist mill and small iron forge in the very beginnings of Alabama's industry. Our speaker, Charles Yeager, will give a history of the area that I am sure we will enjoy. Ousler's will cater our box lunch so bring a (Continued on Page 2)

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chair and a table if you have one and sit back and relax in this lovely area of our state. Box lunches include sandwich, chips, a deviled egg and a brownie for \$6.00 including water. Reservations should be turned in to Marilyn in the office by Friday, June 4th. along with your choice of sandwich - Chicken Salad, Ham Salad, Egg Salad or Pimento Cheese. Also, please let us know if you can drive. We will meet at the church at 10:15am to get a map and carpool. Thank you, Peggi Zinser

PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciple new church development. Planting, nurturing, and sustaining new congregations is part of Disciples' vision. The offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided between this region in which it is received and the New Church Ministry. 50% of our offering will be for Alabama/Northwest Florida. We will receive your gifts on May 30 and June 6. Let us give generously to this cause.

"70 x 7" = 259

In order to celebrate Valley's 70th anniversary, you brought 259 pantry items to give to Greater Birmingham Ministries. That is 7 x 37. Many families in our area will benefit from your generosity. Thank you for your giving spirit.

SEPTEMBER AAA EVENT

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall, Reverend Edd Spencer will present a program about the Appalachian Trail and his experience as he walked it. He will make it "come alive" for us so that we may feel as if we were actually there. After the program we will enjoy a "trail lunch" with foods that might be eaten on the trail. Everyone is welcome! Come and enjoy! More details to follow.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Our Adult Sunday School Class, which meets on Tuesday at 6:30pm by Zoom, is beginning a study of the book entitled, "Sermon On the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven" by Amy Jill Levine, professor at Vanderbilt University. What did Jesus' words in this sermon mean to people who heard it; what do they mean to us today? The "Sermon on the Mount" is one of the most popular sermons ever delivered. Join us by computer, smart phone or telephone to learn more about this beloved sermon.

Zoom Instructions - Valley Meeting 1 (unrecorded) – (used by Bible Study Group)

ID **829 5294 8962**, Passcode **205879**

By computer, smart phone or tablet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952948962?pwd=SXFheDBOYWtINmE0WERKVzdnVmRZz09>

By Phone: 1 (312) 626 6799 ID **829 5294 8962**, Passcode **205879**



Turkey Creek

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Ruby Wilkes from Macedonia Christian Church is now at home recovering from surgery for a fractured wrist and elbow. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Sharon Hill's (of Macedonia) mother, Eloise Hatcher, is being treated in North Hill Rehab Center
- Please pray for our member Hal Clark who had a bad fall. He is now in physical therapy and they are working to get him back up to speed with his walker.
- Joan Noland had a bad fall at Brookdale and fractured her pelvis in two places. She is home from St. Vincent's Hospital and back at Brookdale where she will receive Home Health care.
- Please pray for our member Carol Speed who will be having her second heart-related surgery on June 15, 2021.
- Everybody enjoyed their visit with Midge Hoke during her visit to Birmingham and stay with Jean Thrasher.
- Peggi Zinser would like to recognize Linda Reeves for all her hard work cleaning up outside the church. It looks fabulous! And also for all her other tasks she does for the church.
- Terry and Carolyn Nunnally's grandson, Tyler Carlisle, graduated from high school in Huntsville this weekend. Good luck Tyler!
- Ed and Ginny's daughter, Rebecca, who is due June 18th was put back in the hospital for two weeks of bed rest. She is home now (still on bed rest) and the doctors say the baby can go ahead and come now at any time.
- Ted Stuckenschneider expressed a joy that a crew will be arriving to repair his home (damaged in a storm) after many long months.
- Marilyn Cutcliffe has sold her home and is now living with Matt, her son, until they find another house together. She is at 2340 Ridgemont Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35244 and her cell is 205-573-8120.
- Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary to Bill and Mary Ellen Caughran!
- Please call the church office for any news you want to add to "Life In The Valley".