



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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COFFEE AND A STORY

I can now share that at our regular meeting on June 21, Valley's cabinet came to a consensus to resume in-person post-worship fellowship time on Sunday, July 11, with an outdoor dedication ceremony of our new Little Free Library Box constructed by Ed Guindon. As with worship, fellowship time is apt to look a bit different than you remember due to COVID-19: that Sunday's servers will wear gloves, foods will be partitioned into single servings, and items that attract many hands (like chips and dips) will be avoided.

The highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19 is poised to become the dominant variant in Alabama quickly due to the state's relatively low rate of vaccination, but the good news is that scientists report that vaccines appear to be effective thus far against the delta variant. That so many people of Valley have chosen to get vaccinated is why we have been able to return first to in-person worship and now to in-person fellowship time, and with adult education groups set to resume on Sunday mornings in September! (Look for signups for your choice of groups later this summer.)

As with all our COVID-19 related changes, all of this remains subject to change as public health circumstances dictate. I prefer that we continue going slowly, lifting one restriction at a time, rather than get out over our proverbial skis and go too quickly and then reinstitute restrictions. The World Health Organization continues to recommend mask-wearing due to the delta variant, so I continue to be grateful for your patience in wearing masks and keeping social distancing to make our worship as safe as possible for all, including our church's children who are too young to be vaccinated yet.

I close out these words with a preview of the July section of our summer sermon series on the 'minor' prophets of the Bible. We will be hearing from the well-known story of Jonah and the well-known passage from Micah 6 before pivoting back into the lesser-known prophets with Nahum. Finally, I will be on vacation the final week of July as Carrie, Sadie, and I finish moving into the new home we just purchased in Hoover, and I am delighted that my colleague Rev. Tim Trussell-Smith, most recently of First Christian Church in Tuscaloosa, will fill the pulpit in my place. I have enjoyed unpacking this sermon series with you, and I look forward to continuing to do so on Sunday mornings at 10:30!

July 4: "Jonah," Jonah 3:10-4:11
July 11: "Micah," Micah 6:1-8
July 18: "Nahum," Nahum 1:12-15
July 25: Rev. Tim Trussell-Smith preaching

Christ's and yours,
Pastor Eric

KYMULGA GRIST MILL AND COVERED BRIDGE

Come with AAA to the Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge on Wednesday, July 28, 2021. We will need reservations by Friday, July 23rd before noon. Admission to the Park is \$3.00 per person. Please be at the church at 9:45am and let Marilyn know if you can drive. We have a speaker at 11:00am, Mr. Ron Smith, who will give us some information about the history of the mill. We will have lunch at the Italian Café in Childersburg.

In 1530 Hernando DeSoto, a Spanish Explorer, became very wealthy after helping to plunder Peru's gold and then conquer Peruvian Indians. He made his way up through Cuba, Florida, Georgia and in 1540, to Alabama. He brought six hundred of his men with him looking for gold in this area.

The Coosa Indian Nation was located in the Childersburg area and offered DeSoto and his men land to build a settlement but they declined and moved on, still looking for gold elsewhere. DeSoto is credited with discovering the Mississippi River where he died on the banks of the river from a fever.

Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge are listed on the National Register of Historic places. It is the only site in Alabama with a mill and bridge still in the original location. (continued on page 2)

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The five-acre property was purchased by George Fourney. He hired a German Builder to build the mill and it was built mostly by enslaved laborers. However, before the mill was completed the Civil War broke out and Fourney joined the Calhoun Light Infantry. Unfortunately, he never saw the completion of the building, as he was killed at the Battle of Wilderness in Virginia.

Most other grist mills and bridges were burned by the Union Raiders, but Kymulga survived and still grinds stone ground grits and corn meal, which is for sale at the mill.



*Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge
Childersburg, Alabama*



Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge



Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- We have great news on Carol Speed's surgery. She did very well, is recovering quickly and was released from Lakeshore Sunday to continue recovering at home. Thanks for your prayers!
- Andrea Clark's relative Lindsay Canady continues to recover well from her recent hospitalization.
- Terry and Carolyn Nunnally ask you to be in prayer for their daughter's (Paige Nunnally Deason) mother-in-law, Vickie Deason of

Memphis, Tennessee. She has congestive heart failure and must have dialysis three times per week.

- Jean Thrasher's friend, Deno is going through her final stages of life and is asking for your prayers for her and her family.
- Bill and Mary Ellen Caughran have been blessed with a beautiful grandbaby. Mya Rose Caughran was born 6-24-21 and weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. She was born to Mr. and Mrs. David Caughran. (Mary Ellen and Bill's older son)
- Peggi Zinser and her daughter Christy were in a car accident last week. Thankfully, there were no severe injuries, however her recovery from the fall she had is set back.
- Hal Clark is still recovering from his fall. Hal has improved physically, but always walks with a cane or walker now. A home health nurse and bath aide visit twice a week, and that's very helpful.
- Our treasured member Marilyn Cutcliffe had a bad fall this week and suffered a fracture. Please pray that she recovers quickly with no complications.
- Ted Stuckenschneider's friend John experienced a seizure and was then diagnosed with brain cancer. John's brain cancer is stage 3-4, Please pray for John.
- Andrea Clark and Katelyn Clark had a joy that the Disciples kids went to Disciples of Christ church camp at Hargis and they had a crowd. The kids enjoyed it so much and there were blessings all around. Everyone was so joyful to meet again after last year's cancellation.
- Melinda Robertson's son Rob is going to Iraq for his industrial construction job. Please pray all goes well for him.
- Joan Noland is still recovering from a bad fall at Brookdale where she fractured her pelvis in two places. She is home and feeling much better as she receives home health care.

DEDICATION OF VALLEY'S LITTLE LIBRARY BOX

Please join the Fellowship and Evangelism Departments on Sunday July 11th after church services when our coffee fellowship begins again. We will meet for refreshments under the magnolia tree by the playground and have the dedication for the community Library Box. This will be, not only for Valley, but for the community to take a book and share a book. You can bring a book from home or take one from the round table inside by the canopy door to place in the box. We hope this library box will enhance our community's enjoyment as much as they have enjoyed the playground.
Peggi Zinser, Evangelism and Judy Sellers, Fellowship

