



DRAWING CLOSER

SEASONAL

WINTER EDITION
JAN-APR 2022



Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

- Isaiah 43:19

God is doing a new thing at Valley Chapel, but perhaps not what we anticipated. During our online-only worship service on Dec 26th, I said that if I had to pick one word to define life in our community for 2021 it would be “grief.” We had hoped it would be a year of recovery from the difficulty that was 2020, yet it was a year marked by tragic loss and almost constant suffering. Yet, the reality is that my first statement still stands loudly...

God is doing a new thing at Valley Chapel

You see, in our suffering, we pursued God all the more intensely, we clung onto him in our dark valleys and we have been transformed. We are not the same congregation we were when we restarted our in-person gatherings last March and certainly not the same congregation that we were when COVID-19 struck in March 2020. We are something new. We’ve not only mourned the loss of our friends and family, but we have mourned the loss of our old identity. The Valley Chapel that existed in 2019 was a great church that I was proud to be a part of, but God seems to be doing a new thing here.

- 255 people attended worship this fall

-Only 53% of us were here in 2019.

Half of the people worshipping in our community each Sunday are new this year. God has transformed our community into a new thing; incubated in the wilderness of grief. We have witnessed firsthand that God forms our salvation in our suffering. Out of all that pain in 2021, God has drawn our community closer together and closer to himself.

So what comes next? When God heals people he doesn’t just leave them there, he puts them to work. It’s like Lauren MacConnell reminded us back in September,

“He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.”

- Isaiah 49:2

God will not waste what he has created in us, he will use us for furthering his kingdom in this world. You have a part in that work. Through your regular attendance, giving, and participation as you draw closer to God yourself. Thank you for being a part of this community and I am excited to see what important work God has for us in 2022.

May God draw you closer every day,

- Pastor Ryan



LET'S SET ASIDE SOME TIME

Is it a difficult season for you? Do you have hard questions about faith? Would you like a visit for prayer or communion? Or perhaps it's something else. I would love to walk with you on your spiritual journey. Scheduling is easy and only takes a few seconds!

WWW.VALLEYCHAPEL.ORG/MEET

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WINTER SEASON



1/2

Starting with Sabbath
God started existence with rest, so let's receive that gift and allow our work to flow out of it.



COMMUNION

1/2; 2/6;
3/6; 4/3

Communion Sunday
No kidz programming so they can participate in communion with their families.



MILESTONES
MOMENTS THAT DEFINE THE TRAJECTORY OF YOUR LIFE

1/9 - 2/20

A 7-week sermon series reflecting on the milestones that defined Jesus' life and how they help us reflect on ours



MEMBERSHIP CLASS

1/9; 4/3

Learn about what it means to officially partner with our community as a member.



POP-UP PANTRY

1/10; 2/7;
3/7; 4/4

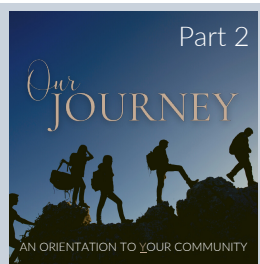
Free food distribution. Let's make sure that neither shame nor poverty leave our neighbors hungry. Help and/or collect.



MOM'S MORNING OUT

1/15; 2/19;
3/19; 4/16

A morning of fellowship with other moms of children 0-18.



Part 2
Our JOURNEY
AN ORIENTATION TO YOUR COMMUNITY

1/16; 3/20

Learn about all the ways you can draw closer to God and others here at Valley Chapel



Valley CHAPEL
Kidz SUNDAY

1/31

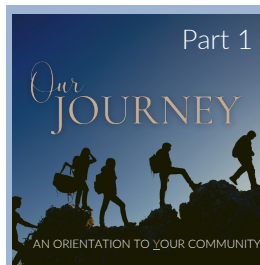
The 5th Sundays are dedicated to the kidz. They serve along side adults.



L.I.F.T.
Ladies in Fellowship Together

1/31; 2/28;
3/28; 4/25

Ladies in Fellowship Together meets once a month to learn a craft & enjoy each other's company.



Part 1
Our JOURNEY
AN ORIENTATION TO YOUR COMMUNITY

2/20

Learn about what Free Methodists are and how things work here at Valley Chapel.



7 HABITS
THAT DRAW US CLOSER TO GOD

2/27-4/10

A 7-week sermon series on habits that help us draw closer to God and one another at Valley Chapel.



Ash WEDNESDAY

3 / 2

Reflecting on our mortality in preparation for Lent. Drive-thru and "come-to-you" options will be available

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WINTER SEASON



3/10

We're partnering with The Parish Community of St. Michael in Warsaw to offer a free lunch to have and to share.



4/10

Kidz Easter Pageant during our "Palm Sunday" 10:00 am worship service.



4/17

Let's celebrate our risen savior together! He is Risen Indeed!

SPECIAL EASTER DATES



Ash Wednesday - 3/2
Lent - 3/2-4/9
Palm Sunday - 4/10
Maunday Thursday - 4/14
Good Friday - 4/15

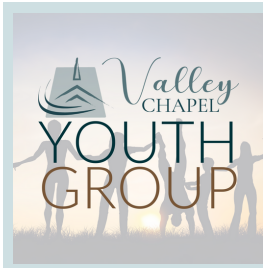
ONGOING GROUPS: VALLEYCHAPEL.ORG/GROUPS



SUNDAYS

(2nd, 3rd & 4th each month)

Toddlers through 5th grade have fun learning about Jesus.



SUNDAYS

(2nd & 4th each month)

A place for teens for come together for fun and fellowship. The meet in the Ministry Center.



MONDAYS

All women are invited to join Marsha Kersch and a group of ladies to enjoy time together studying the scriptures.



WEDNESDAYS

(starting 1/12)

All are welcome to come walk with no committments. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



THURSDAYS

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.



FRIDAYS

We learn and practice the art of quilting as well as other handwork skills, believing that our creator God has given everyone the ability to create.



FAITH CHECK-UP

Our vision is to be transforming into a community through whom God's love flows. The Apostle Paul once said, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Being in a constant state of transformation takes effort and, just like having regular check-ups with our doctors helps us stay healthy, having a regular check-up with our church helps us stay focused and healthy in our faith. The following checklist is a helpful tool to see if there are opportunities for you to connect through the remainder of 2021. Some will apply to you and some will not, so prayerfully consider each to see if God may be inviting you to draw closer in one of these ways.

- WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**
Worship gatherings are something we all have an important role in, so I attend most weeks
- REGULAR GIVING**
Everything I have is God's and so I give consistently to God's work through the church
- COMMUNION**
I have tried to regularly participate in the sacrament of communion each month
- MEMBERSHIP**
I have formally committed to partner with Valley Chapel through voting, attending, serving, and giving
- BAPTISM**
I have affirmed my faith in the triune God in the presence of a community of believers
- PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL GROUP**
Faith is best developed in close community, so I have participated in a small group this year
- LEAD A SMALL GROUP**
Jesus has called me to be a disciple-maker, so I led, started or hosted a small group this year
- BIBLE STUDY**
God reveals his plan for the world through the scriptures. I have spent time reading the bible this year
- LEADERSHIP**
I have committed to carry the responsibility to lead others in my church community
- PRAYER**
I cultivate trust in God through regular prayers of praise, confession, thanks, and request
- VOLUNTEER**
I gave my time toward the work of the church consistently as an event volunteer or as a part of a team
- TRY SOMETHING NEW**
I have tried to connect with God and/or others in a way I had not tried before this year

If you would like to draw closer, then let us help by sending an email to valleychapelmc@gmail.com

For more information: www.valleychapel.org



Valley Chapel

Available in App Stores



Roku



Fuel the mission



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