



stayCONNECTED

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF VALLEY CHAPEL

February 2022 Edition

PASTOR'S CORNER

Everyone likes to win. No one likes to lose. Whether it be your favorite sports team or a simple game of tic-tac-toe, this principle pretty much applies to all human beings. We want to be winners, not losers. I get it, trust me. Ask the students who play games with me at youth group, I like to win. We all do.

This competitive mindset is often the approach we take into our conversations with people of different opinions. Let's face it, the Church, which should be united in Christ, is divided on political and social issues. On any given day, you can be talking with a brother and sister in Christ, and they could have a different view-point than you on one of these current issues. Let me ask you a question. When this happens, what is more important: winning an argument or acting like Christ?

In his book entitled, *You and Me Forever*, Francis Chan writes: "Arguments escalate when we want to be right more than we want to be Christ. It is easy to get blinded in the heat of disagreements. Soon, all we want is to win, even if victory requires sin. The one who wins the argument is usually the one who acts less like Christ" (68). Winning an argument against man that results in sin against God is not much of a victory. James 4:6 states, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." If you have a "win-at-any-cost mentality" when it comes to arguments, that is probably a symptom of pride. And if you are proud, your opposition is not only other people, but God. James states clearly: "God opposes the proud." If God is your opposition, you are outmatched. Howev-

er, James also notes that God "shows favor to the humble." There is nothing better than the grace of God fighting for us. As Paul notes in Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" If you are humble and show grace, you are never a loser in the eyes of God.

Let me close with this: you don't need to win an argument because you already have victory in Christ. You are already a winner. Who cares if you "lose" an argument. Be humble and gracious. That's what Jesus did for us. And because He did, we have victory!

Pastor Matt Nordquist



Valley Chapel

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VISIT US ONLINE valleychapel.us

Save the Date!
Thursday, March 10 at 7 PM
Unspoken in concert! Here at
Valley Chapel!

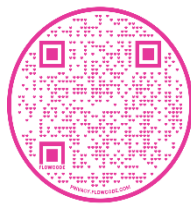
Tickets on sale at fuseconcerts.org



beloved

A WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT

It is so exciting to see how our church is growing! If you are new to our church, this is your very first visit or you have been coming for years, if you are 18 or 80, we invite you to come and build some eternal friendships. We aim to embrace the value of love and friendship as we encourage one another and grow in our unity as Women in Christ. We invite you to a lighthearted event, *beloved* on February 12 from 10 am -12 pm. Who knows you may walk away with a new friend or two! Register at the front desk or scan the code below, we hope to see you there!



WORCESTER SERVE CARE BAGS

Delivered to the homeless in Worcester every 2nd Sunday of the month. Sign up to bring 5 bags at <https://signup.com/go/ktrDMUr>

Edible

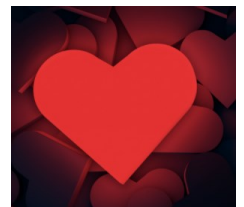
- Bottle of water
- Snack Packs of trail mix/ nuts
- Chips
- Rice Krispie Treats
- Orange/ Apple/ Banana
- Cookie Pack

Non-Edible

- Handy packs of tissues
- Soap bars wrapped in a wash cloth
- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Female Sanitary Products (label Care Bag "Women's")
- Brush/Comb
- Deodorant
- Dunkin Donuts gift card

We have socks in the donation center that you can add to your bags. Feel free to add anything you think would be beneficial.

THANK YOU!!



New Sunday Morning Thrive Classes Beginning February 27, 2022

A Guide to Sexuality: Understanding & Living Out God's Design Continues

Facilitators: Erin Tubo & Shelley Cullen Room 121

In a society that continues to blur the lines of what is good, true, and acceptable, it is getting harder and harder for us to raise our children to understand God's unchanging truth. Specifically, our children and teens are being fed damaging misinformation about sex, gender, identity, and biology.

It's up to us to train our children to know God's design in a world that has rejected it. Join us at 9:30 am starting January 2, 2022



Road to Freedom

Facilitator: Amy Levins Volunteer Break Room—next to East side coat room

Open to men and women

Whether you are dealing with substance abuse, relational struggles, or eating challenges, or you simply want to let go of what is holding you back in life, you will find answers in *The Road to Freedom*. *The Road to Freedom* will help you move from coping with hurts, hang-ups, and habits to the hope and health that only Jesus can bring.

Where Two or More Are Gathered

Facilitators: Suzie McCabe & Lynne Fortin in Prayer Room

"Who can say what power a church could develop and exercise if it would assume the work of praying day and night for the coming of the kingdom, for God's power, or for the salvation of souls". (Andrew Murray).

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for a time of United prayer. We will be praying in agreement on a different relevant topic each week using scripture and a prayer guide.

Topics will include revival, salvation for loved ones, prayer for the nation, and for our church and pastors to name a few. Come and see what God will do when His people pray with one heart and mind!

Is God to Blame? Moving Beyond Pat Answers to the Problem of Suffering

Facilitator: Michael Swanson Room 219

Is God to blame? This is often the question that comes to mind when we confront real suffering in our own lives or in the lives of those we love. Pastor Gregory A. Boyd helps us deal with this question honestly and biblically, while avoiding glib answers. Writing for ordinary Christians, Boyd wrestles with a variety of answers that have been offered by theologians and pastors in the past. He finds that a fully Christian approach must keep the person and work of Jesus Christ at the very center of what we say about human suffering and God's place in it. Yet this is often just what is missing and what makes so much talk about the subject seem inadequate and at times even misleading. What comes through in *Is God to Blame?* is a hopeful picture of a sovereign God who is relentlessly opposed to evil, who knows our sufferings and who can be trusted to bring us through them to renewed life.

Faith Connections Bible Study

Facilitator: Paul Cnossen—in person meeting starting up again soon. Watch VC Messenger for update.

Studying the Gospel of Mark - Who is Jesus?

Autumn Glow ... Aging in the Grace of God

Facilitator: Pauline Hayward - postponed until further notice

if any are interested to please contact Pauline at 508-246-6915 or email to pauline.hayward@gmail.com.

This discussion group/Bible study is for women in the autumn season of life. That season when winter is away on the horizon while she still glows with the colors of maturity, stillness and wisdom. She looks forward with expectation to the "best wine at the end of the feast". (John 2...the wedding at Cana). Around God's Word we will share insights, ask questions, laugh and seriously ponder the many facets of aging in the grace of God. We will discover that perhaps it's not so bad to be "full of days", and that He actually does save the best for last!

Our own Kayla Drew has released a new album!

Blessed



1. Overthrow
2. You Are the One
3. Blessed
4. My Everything
5. Hold On To Me
6. Dear Lord
7. I Turn To you
8. I Know Who You Are
9. Forever Love
10. Today

The album can be found on youtube, Spotify, Apple Music and iTunes.

SUNDAY

CLASSES FOR ALL: 9:30 AM

SERVICE TIME: 10:30 AM

● ONLINE SERVICE

VALLEYCHAPEL.US

Watch LIVE during our service time above.

● GIVING

We appreciate your giving. Did you know that you can also give online? Go to our website and click on the giving tab on our homepage. You can also use our APP and the giving tab on the our APP.

You can also stop by and drop your offering in the offering box in the sanctuary, lobby, outside at our west entrance.

● SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook.com/VCUxbridge



Instagram.com/VCUxbridge

NEED TO CATCH UP?

Watch all messages on our website at any time. All messages are archived for viewing.



March 10
Unspoken Concert
7 PM

Daylight Savings!
March 13

Annual Elections
March 27



Youth Group Nerf Night
February 11 @ 7-9 pm
See Pastor Matt for details