



StayCONNECTED

February 2023 Edition

Pastor's Corner

I am often asked, "What is your favorite verse in the Bible?" My answer is, "The one that is currently holding me together." Right now it's Zechariah 2:5 *And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the Lord, 'and I will be its glory within.*

After a long time of calamity and distress, God called his people to return and rebuild in Jerusalem. At the time, the city had no protection and people would be obviously leary of taking the opportunity to reside in a vulnerable place. The obvious conclusion is that whatever is built will be easily taken by enemies and families will be worse off than if they just stayed put. Yet, he promises his presence and protection for them in a special way. Fire. This blaze of his presence would be the city wall and an inferno within.

One problem. There was no actual, visible fire. No, the people did not walk up to Jerusalem and behold a literal wall of flames. Yet they were promised total protection and the fullness of his presence as they labored for him.

Putting our faith in the promises of God feels like a risk but it's not. There is no risk when we let go of our ego and fear and move under the protection of the Almighty. Obedience is the victory. Results are God's. This is a vital principle for all who venture to navigate this world with a view to the glory of God. Jesus showed us that the presence of God is available at all times in its fullness. Accessing it and walking in it is a matter of conviction and faith. Like Abraham, we are called to transcend our fears and go. We are commanded to attempt what appears to be impossible. We are also asked to not judge the results. We only have a glimpse of the billions of things that God is doing. He *is* glorifying himself and if we avail ourselves to him as empty vessels, much of that work will happen in our midst even when we can't see it unfold. This, also, is faith: Trusting that God is glorifying himself even if we didn't get to witness all that we had hoped for.

Fear is a longtime enemy of God's people. Most of the evil on earth, including that which resides in the hearts of believers, is rooted in some kind of fear. Safety is a natural and normal desire. Part of the work of the Christian is to identify and surrender our fears, knowing that God is the fire around his work and he is the glory within.

One thing I do is write prayer declarations where I clearly identify a fear and then proclaim the goodness and power of God despite the worldly realities. Writing it down and persistently petitioning with the prayer helps to continually stabilize my wavering faith.

So, Lord, as I journey into this new chapter of ministry, I set aside all the earthly realities in my own heart and those around me. They are real. Yet, my faith is in your protecting fire around me and the burning presence of Christ within me. Soli Deo gloria!

Pastor G (Matt Genese)

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VISIT US ONLINE valleychapel.us

● PLEASE JOIN US FOR A ●
BABY SHOWER
 FOR
 FIRST CONCERN PREGNANCY RESOURCE
 CENTER



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 12:00 PM
 CORNERSTONE CHURCH
 5 EAST HARTFORD AVE, UXBRIDGE

BABY ITEMS NEEDED

CLOTHES (NEWBORN -5T)
 ONESIES
 BUNTINGS
 JACKETS
 HATS
 BLANKETS
 CAR SEATS (INFANT/CONVERTABLE)
 BASSINETS / PAK-N-PLAYS
 THERMOMETERS
 GROOMING KITS
 DIAPER RASH CREAMS
 WIPES
 BABY BATHTUBS
 WASHCLOTHS
 BATH TOWELS

LOTIONS, SHAMPOOS, WASHES
 BABY/TODDLER CUTLERY
 SIPPY CUPS
 FEEDING BOWLS
 BABY SEAT WITH TRAY
 BIBS
 BURPING CLOTHS
 PACIFIERS
 TEETHERS
 CRIB SHEETS
 SLEEPERS / PAJAMAS
 CHANGING TABLE SHEETS
 CHILDREN'S BOOKS
 INFANT CAR SEAT COVERS
 MEDICINE DROPPERS / SPOONS



SouperBowl Sunday

February 12 in the Cafe

Enjoy a delicious lunch and make a donation to support our teens going to NYC (Nazarene Youth Conference) this summer.

Sign up to bring soup or bread via QR or at the Welcome Desk.



Souper Bowl Youth Fundraiser
 February 12 at 11:45am
 Sign up to bring a soup to share
 Everyone invited!

Donations will be taken to go towards student scholarships for Nazarene Youth Conference this summer in Tampa Bay, FL.

Young Adults



Hi, my name is Kayla Drew. I've been attending Valley Chapel now since I was 5 and it has truly changed my life. I've grown up going to all the different Sunday school classes but up until the young adult life group my relationship with God has been transformed. Not only has my spiritual relationship grown but I've become best friends with everyone in the group and we are

always excepting to new incoming people to study and hang out with!

Harvest Field

PRAYER WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 24-26

Corporate prayer Sunday February 26 at 4pm in the Cafe.

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you" (Luke 10:19).

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Please join us for our prayer weekend on **February 24-26** where our focus will be on coming against Satan-Con scheduled to take place in Boston on April 28-30. We feel God is leading us to pray against the schemes of the enemy but also saying that this is His harvest field and we are to pray for His lost and deceived children and for the workers to be called to the harvest fields (Matthew 9: 36-38). The corporate prayer and worship meeting will be Sunday, February 26 at 4pm.

Young Adult Bible Study

Come face to face with Jesus

Sundays at 9:30a in Room 220

Led by Jon Robertson & Ed Wojciechowski

The Gospel According to MATTHEW

A-bi ud begot E-ti a-kim, and e-a-ri-kim begot A-zar. Za dok e-a-ri-kim begot A-zar.



Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE HERE FOR YOU...
CONTACT LINDA PROUT Stephen@valleychapel.us

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

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What is Alabaster?

"The Alabaster Offering provides funds for [church] property and buildings around the world"

(<https://legacynazarene.ca/pages/alabaster-offering>). New churches can use Alabaster funds to purchase a property or building, purchase or build a parsonage, or meet costs for a rental meeting space. Alabaster funds can also be used to provide housing for missionaries, to purchase or build missions facilities, or to provide spaces for Bible campuses. In short, Alabaster Offerings allow the Church of the Nazarene to put down roots all over the world, and to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28: 19, NIV).

Alabaster Offerings are collected by way of little blue boxes. Where can you find these boxes? During the month of February, the little blue boxes can be found on the Alabaster table in the lobby. Please take one box per family. Full boxes can be left in the clear container. Please return by Feb 28.

Your partnership with the Church of the Nazarene will make more of an impact than you could ever imagine—an eternal impact! Fill those boxes and lives will be changed forever! May God bless you!

Love,
Your Missions Council



Sight & Sound Movie for Women
Wed. Feb. 15 @ 12 pm
Bring your lunch
Sign up at the Welcome Desk

New 9:30am Thrive Classes Beginning Feb 26

Exploring the Biblical Covenants led by Phil LaFountain

This class will review the various covenants God established with creation and His people. The basic idea is that covenant describes the kind of relationship God wants to establish with us. We will explore variety covenants in Scripture, the nature and character of covenants, God's promises and expectations in covenant relationship, and how the New Covenant is modeled after the Old Testament covenant. The practical goal of the class is to understand what it means for us today to live in a covenant relationship with God. Join us in studying God's Word for life.

Climate Change God's Way led by Jed Ferris

Do you ever feel lost and overwhelmed with no future for you and your family to look forward too. Come help us tap the secret of God's word as we are instructed to feel and project ourselves in times of turbulence. We will discuss facts about Climate change from Temperature, CO2, Solar, Wind, Electric Vehicles and how it all relates to our changing world. What does the book of Revelation say on the subject of the world ending? Will it be Fact or Myth, come find out? We will certainly be discussing God's wish for peace for our future.



WORCESTER SERVE
HELP THE HOMELESS AT WORCESTER COMMON

Hand out hot sandwiches & Dunkin gift cards while offering the hope of Jesus.

Saturday, February 4
7:30am - 10am

Transportation in church van. Meet at 7:30am at the Valley Chapel parking lot. Returning to Valley Chapel at 10am.

Can't go? You can serve by donating DD gift cards. Leave at Welsome Desk.

Coming in March

Women - Make a Spring Wreath
March 4 @ 10am
7eventh Time Down Concert
March 24 @ 7pm
Marriage Seminar
March 25 8:30am-1pm
Sign up with QR code -->



SUNDAY

CLASSES FOR ALL: 9:30 AM

SERVICE TIME: 10:30 AM

ONLINE SERVICE

VALLEYCHAPEL.US

Watch LIVE during our service time.

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 or stop by and drop your offering in the connect 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.

If you would like something in the March edition of "Stay Connected" Please send your information to Alice by Feb. 17 @ alice@valleychapel.us

To receive the weekly VC Messenger email and prayer requests, give your email to Alice at alice@valleychapel.us and let her know you want to be added to the email list.




NIGHT to Shine
SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION™**

Celebrating people with special needs - February 10, 2023

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SCAN HERE

We are still in need of people to help with clean up on Saturday morning. Sign up if you can help.

CURRENT 9:30 THRIVE CLASSES

THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY

Room 121 -- Led by Pastor Josh and Jim Mercer

How to stay emotionally healthy & spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world.

FOUNDATIONS- KNOW THE BASICS AND LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH

Room 219 -- Led by Phil Rainbow

Explore the Christian faith and discover the basic beliefs that unite Christians around the world. The Christian Beliefs Series introduces the foundations of faith and builds to an understanding and then a living out of faith. Through this series, explore what it means to be a Christian, while navigating tough questions about God, Scripture and our beliefs.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Room 218 -- Led by Randy Fields & Paul Trout

During this quarter you will examine the supremacy of Christ in the book of Colossians, gain a deeper understanding of God's Word, and explore the lessons learned from the life of David.

Let's Thrive Together