

StayCONNECTED

June 2023

Pastor's Corner

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. Matthew 6:28-29

Walking through the church grounds the other day I noticed a broken eggshell on the pavement. It was a robin's egg. I remember how remarkable it was the first time I saw a blue robin's egg. It was a moment of brief but pointed awe as the color is unique and doesn't look natural. Now, when God puts one in my path, I still take a moment and marvel at the beauty of its color.



Scientists have postulated many theories as to why this egg is blue. It seems that the most likely reason is that the color provides some protection from ultraviolet light and protects the egg from potentially overheating. This of course is a theory and there are others. Well, I have a theory - God. Perhaps one of the reasons God did make it blue was for the resistance to light and heat. Perhaps not. Maybe the real answer is between God and the robin. Might there be a secondary purpose and might that purpose be for me to marvel and see something about God? I think so.

Well, on this particular day, I took up the subject in prayer on my walk and had a conversation with God about it. I thanked him for making it that striking color and I then realized in that moment it represented billions of things God has done through nature to reflect his glory. I had a few minutes where all worry was gone and it was just Matt and God enjoying a moment. In those moments of reflection, I saw God and he saw me. No one was healed or edified in my presence. No miracle was seen. No work was done. Yet, I fulfilled my purpose to God in the same way that Moses did watching God part the sea.

Let me explain. When the Bible says we are made in the image of God, it really speaks to our intention and purpose more than anything. In a spiritual sense, he makes us in a shape that is intended for his presence. Once His presence fills our shape, we are alive and animated. What we do from there is somewhat secondary. It's the presence and the filling that is the most crucial part. Though I did not do anything for the world in marveling at the blue egg, I was indeed taking part in my purpose - to live in and enjoy the presence of God. The simple back and forth from God and me concerning the wonder of his nature was the completion of my purpose on earth. Yes, the fullness - all of it. Wait what? What about planting churches and making disciples and all the Kingdom work? No. It's the egg brothers and sisters - the egg.

Here is how it works: The more we reflect on God's word and works, the more we see Him. The more we see God, the more we are filled. The clouds of worry tend to vanish when we allow God's presence to come in and remain. The natural state of one who sees God is peace and joy. The outflow of good works is natural from that place. In that place we can sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit and have the ease of His wind at our backs in completing the work.

Now, just like you, I'm tempted to be overwhelmed with worry. The cloud of worry for me holds endless pictures with broken frames of past, present and future. The clouds come and go and in them I experience varying visibility depending on how long I let myself linger. The longer I stay, the greater the chance of rain and storm overtaking me. My worry sometimes takes pictures of real things and casts them in frames of godless thinking. Sometimes my fear is rooted in things that are not even real and I am just speculating about potential disaster.

Now, back to the robin's egg. It was beautiful but alas, it was broken. I don't have answers for that. I don't know if a predator stole it and ate its contents. There is no shortage of tragedy in this fallen world. Possibly it was hatched in safety and the wind then blew the shell out of the nest. There are indeed mysteries. Yet, in all things, the presence of God is available to us for our enjoyment and peace if that's what we have set our hearts on. Jesus died for sin - yes. But, on the other side of that same coin, he also died for our continual enjoyment and peace in the presence of God. I don't want us to deprive ourselves of that life now.

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Pastor G

JUNE 2023 EVENTS

June 3

Iron Sharpens Iron
8AM-1 PM

June 17

Forefathers Monument
10AM in Plymouth

June 23-25

Prayer Weekend
Fri - Sun

June 11

Food Drive
9:30 AM

June 18

Child Dedication
During 10:30 service

June 25

Prayer & Worship
Café 5 PM

June 11

Stephen Ministry Info
Room 121 12:00 PM

June 21

Summer Kickoff
West End Creamery 6-8 PM



Iron Sharpens Iron
Men's conference right here at Valley Chapel
June 3 8:30 AM - 12:55 PM



Food Drive, Sunday, June 11
We're doing another food drive for the Uxbridge food pantry on Sunday, June 11. Bring your donations to the church car port between 9:30 - 10:30. Thanks for helping your neighbors in need.



Become a Stephen Minister Informational Meeting, June 11 following the service, room 121
Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care for, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times (such as divorce, grief, hospitalizations, unemployment, illness, or loneliness). If you have gifts for caring, listening, and encouraging others, please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry. Valley Chapel is training another class of Stephen Ministers starting August 21, 2023.



Monument to the Forefathers. Saturday, June 17
Meet other Valley Chapel families on Saturday, June 17, at 72 Allerton Street, Plymouth, MA, for a FREE tour of the Monument to the Forefathers. Be there by 9:50 AM. Must sign up by June 10 at Welcome Desk or online.



Child Dedication Sunday, June 18 during 10:30 service
Let us support these young families as they publicly declare their faith and commitment to raising their children in a way that honors God. It is also a time for the church community to come together to support and encourage the family as they embark on this important journey of parenting.



Summer Kickoff June 21
Come to West End Creamery, Wednesday, June 21 from 6-8 PM to celebrate the first day of summer! The jumping pillows are reserved for ValleyKids! Families are responsible for all other costs.



June Prayer Weekend June 23-25
Our June prayer weekend will take place on June 23-25 We will focus on praying for the issues surrounding LGBTQ. We will pray for ALL churches to preach the truth in love, for the raising up of truth-filled prayer warriors in the young generations, for deliverance for those trapped in this lifestyle, protection against the demonic agendas of transgender confusion and mutilation and breaking the counterfeit compassion of "love is love". Our time of corporate prayer and worship will take place on Sunday, June 25 at 5pm in the Café.



9:30 AM Sunday Morning

No Kids, teens and most adult classes
Faith Connections & the Young Adult class continue for summer.

ValleyKids 10:30 Service

Kindergarten – Grade 5 will sit with their families in the sanctuary and participate in corporate worship and family altar. After Family Altar, as people are returning to their seats, the Worship Leader will dismiss K-5 students. See ValleyKids Corner for details. (back page)

Summer Sermon Series 2023 “Misunderstood” Moving from Confusion to Clarity



Prov. 22:6	1 Cor. 10:13
Rom. 8:28	Matt. 7:1
Matt. 5:3-12	Matt. 19:24
Matt. 5:38	2 Chron. 7:14
James 2:24	Rev 3:20
Col. 1:15	

Valley Chapel’s Memorial Garden



Have you noticed the construction in the back of our property? Our long-awaited Memorial Garden is now being built. Designed by Giatas Landscaping, the Garden contains a 32-niche columbarium* with spaces for six additional columbaria. The garden will

come to life over the next few weeks with the addition of beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers. The center stone seating wall will surround a flower garden with a center 6’ granite cross inscribed: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

* Columbaria are granite structures that contain niches (small compartments for the respectful inurnment of cremated remains). Niches are inscribed with names and dates on the front polished granite covers. Each niche holds two cremains. Some niches are still available. Contact Lynne@valleychapel.us for more information.

What is NDI??

This is a question I am asked a lot! Even if you have attended a Nazarene Church your whole life, you may not know what NDI stands for! No worries!



Formally known as the Board of Christian Life and Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International, NDI is the new acronym and it stands for Nazarene Discipleship International. The mission of NDI in the Nazarene Church is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults, preparing them for a lifetime of Christian holiness. Discipleship is so much more than a class, it is a lifestyle of walking with people. The NDI board’s role at Valley Chapel is to work with our pastors and staff to provide opportunities to grow in Christlikeness. This includes classes, life groups, conferences, and fellowship for the church body.

The NDI board is made up of members of the local church who are elected for a 2 year term, as well as a director who serves on the church board. Your current NDI board is Ed Theroux, Mike Swanson, Krishna Swanson, Lori Gulinello, and Andrea McKeon. Please pray for us as we serve God and Valley Chapel. We are excited to see how God will continue to move among us.

In Christ’s service,
Cindy Nordquist, NDI Director

Women’s Ministry News

Thank you to all the women that participated in the Mystery Brunch. It was a beautiful morning that started with a little anticipation (and maybe some butterflies) of WHO we would be meeting and ended in great fellowship. A special thanks to the hostesses for opening their homes to us.



Save the dates for Summer Fun!

Ice Cream Social: Come meet some ladies from church for a sweet treat and conversation at West End Creamery on Thursday, July 20th at 6:30pm. This is a BYOT (buy your own treat) event.

Hike at Purgatory Chasm: All fitness levels welcome! Meet us at Purgatory Chasm on Saturday 7/29 at 9am for a hike at the chasm.

Coming in August - Guess Who's Coming to a Cook Out - more details to follow in the July newsletter.

Please email Women's Ministry (women@valleychapel.us) with any questions.

Its not too late to join us on a trip!



Valley Chapel has scheduled a tour with an excellent guide of the National Monument to the Forefathers and a visit to the Interpretive Centre. FREE! Meet us Saturday, June 17 at 72 Allerton Street, Plymouth 9:50 am Must sign up by June 10.

Museum of the Bible Tour - Washington DC

September 14-17
4 days-3 nights

More information at the Welcome Desk
Sign up with Sharon
sharon@valleychapel.us



THIS SUMMER (June 18-Sept 3) elementary students (Kindergarten – Grade 5) will begin **IN THE SANCTUARY** to participate in worship and Family Altar time!

Here's how it will work:

1. When you arrive in the morning, check in at the KidCheck desk as usual to get your child(ren)'s sticker.
2. Toddlers and preschoolers can go right into their classrooms.
3. Kindergarten – Grade 5 will sit with their families in the sanctuary and participate in corporate worship and family altar.
4. After Family Altar, as people are returning to their seats, the Worship Leader will dismiss K-5 students.
5. K-2 students will WALK to line up at the stairway on the east side of the stage where a ValleyKids Director will be waiting. Grades 3-5 will WALK to line up at the stairway on the west side where a ValleyKids Director will be waiting.
6. The children will be led up the back stairways to their classrooms. Their teachers will be waiting for them in the classrooms.
7. Parents will pick up all children from their classrooms after service is over.



** Those volunteering in elementary classes this summer are welcome to participate in worship on the days they are serving. During Family Altar time they will leave the sanctuary and head to the classrooms, so they are in place when the children arrive.



Valleykids Swim Days

Wednesdays 11am-4pm
Josh & Kerrie's Pool
150 Douglas St, Uxbridge

JUNE: 21, 28
JULY: 5, 12, 19, 26
AUG: 16, 23, 30

Weather Permitting
No Lifeguard on duty

VBS 2023

**Keepers of the Kingdom
Volunteer Sign-Up**



Amazon Registry
Donations are sent directly to the church
Thank you for supporting VBS!



Children's Registration



On June 4 during our 10:30 service, we will have a focused family altar prayer time over our high school graduates. If you are graduating high school this spring, please email Pastor Matt your name, the school your are graduating from, and a senior/graduation picture to go on the screen. Your church family looks forward to celebrating your accomplishments and praying over you.

Coming up...

- June 4 - 5th grade Move Up Day 9:30 AM
- June 14 - First Summer Hangtime 6-8:30 PM
- June 25-28 - Portsmouth Mini-Missions

For more info, pick up a Youth Calendar in the lobby.

Young Adults will continue to meet through the summer, Sunday's at 9:30 AM. There will be a couple fellowship events, watch for details. Talk to Pastor Matt for more info.



Coming in July

Fireworks & Fellowship

July 8

Women's Ice Cream Social

July 20

VBS

July 24-28

Women's Purgatory Hike

July 29

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.

SUNDAY

CLASSES FOR ALL: 9:30 AM

SERVICE TIME: 10:30 AM

ONLINE SERVICE

VALLEYCHAPEL.US Watch LIVE.

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, 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](https://www.facebook.com/VCUxbridge)

[Instagram.com/VCUxbridge](https://www.instagram.com/VCUxbridge)

If you would like something in the July edition of "Stay Connected" Please send your information to Alice by June 16 alice@valleychapel.us