

*Wednesday, November 15, 2023*



## **Embracing Opportunities**

The phone rang. Shad Rue, then the pastor of Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas was calling. I had met Pastor Shad a couple of months before. He was calling to invite me to join their next mission trip to Brazil. He told me that someone had committed to pay for the trip and all I needed to do was agree to go. I chose to seize what I thought was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. That opportunity blossomed to ministry in three different Brazilian states, over 30 trips, and along with Stan Hanes, founding Amazon Basin Ministries that facilitates mission trips on the Upper Amazon.

Another phone call. This one was to inform me of a church looking for a new senior pastor. That same clear prompting I knew years before with the invitation for ministry in Brazil was there. The rest, as they say, is history as I completed my 23rd year here as senior pastor of Valley Baptist Church the first Sunday of November.

For the follower of our Lord Jesus Christ events like this are more than opportunities. They are God's invitation to join Him in His work. These are opportunities in the sense that we can choose to engage or let the opportunity pass. Even after we seize the opportunity, we then must continue to faithfully fulfill all God reveals to us as His plan unfolds.

The Bible is littered with people who squandered opportunities. Adam and Eve, King Saul, the Israelites when they initially approached the Promised Land, Judas, the Jews who rejected Jesus, all had the opportunity to experience all God had for them and reach the potential for which God created them. Yet, the opportunity was crushed under the weight of self-centeredness.

The Bible also gives great examples of those who faithfully engaged in the opportunities God laid before them. These include Abraham, Joseph, Ruth, Esther, the Old Testament prophets, the Apostles, and yes, the ultimate

example, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through every challenge and hardship these faithfully, and in the case of Jesus, perfectly embraced the opportunities God the Father set before them.

Joining God in what He reveals to you may lead to huge life-altering decisions and put you on a path you never imagined. These opportunities may also come as a simple adjustment of your schedule during the day to join God in what He is doing. Whether large or small, God will place these opportunities before you. Faithfully engaging in these opportunities will have the result of preparing people to meet Jesus.

*Pastor Long*



Services are recorded and can be found at [valleyconnex.org/sermons](http://valleyconnex.org/sermons).

**Worship  
Attendance**

**Sunday  
11/12/23**

**8:00 am - 153  
10:45 am - 105**

*Celebrate*

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

16 Ivy Juedes  
18 John Wolf  
19 Audrey Meacham  
21 Rob Lavicka  
21 Anne Yamriska



## ConneXion Café

**11/22/23**

**5:15-5:45 p.m.**

Meatballs in Brown Gravy

Noodles

Vegetable

Dessert

Sign-up is required by noon the Monday before.

You may sign-up [HERE](#) or on the board by the kitchen.

### Prayer Team for the Pastor Search Committee

The pastor search committee is asking that everyone at Valley Baptist Church prayerfully consider joining the prayer team for the pastor search committee and the search process. Nate & Tiffany Wittington will be coordinating the prayer team. If you are interested in joining the prayer team, you can sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Center, sign up via the Google Form emailed to you earlier this week, or email Kim in the church's office at [valleysec@valleyconnex.org](mailto:valleysec@valleyconnex.org). Please sign up by November 30.

**DUE THIS SUNDAY!!!**  
**Money for Bibles & Advent Calendar Kits**

Due Dates  
for Angel Tree  
Items...

**11/19** Money for  
Bibles & Advent  
Calendar Kits Due

**11/26** Gifts, Soup,  
& Bread Due



**ANGEL TREE**

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*A Program of Prison Fellowship*

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## DUE THIS SUNDAY!!!

We are collecting donations to make care packages for our college students. A list of donations is available on the table in the Welcome Center.

Donations due Sunday, November 19th. Please contact [Pam Creamer](#) with any questions.



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Valley Baptist's  
Women of the Word ministry team  
invites you to join us for an evening of

## *Christmas Joy*

on Monday, December 4th from 6:30-8:00 to celebrate our  
Savior's birth and prepare our hearts for the Christmas  
season.

Light refreshments provided.

All women from middle school and up are welcome.

Bring a Bible and a friend.

For planning purposes, RSVP on the website encouraged.

[www.valleyconnex.org/womens-ministry](http://www.valleyconnex.org/womens-ministry)

**Click [HERE](#) to RSVP**

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Click [HERE](#) to get the details on the "Walking In Love" service that will be held at Spencer Lake Christian Center near Waupaca for the opportunity to show the attendees the love and support of a Christian community. If you have questions, please contact Carlene Griffith at [carlenegrif@gmail.com](mailto:carlenegrif@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Walking In Love Details**



# PRESCHOOL

NOVEMBER Newsletter



Click [HERE](#) for the  
**NOVEMBER**  
Children and Youth  
Newsletter



Sign up to receive all Women's Ministry updates [HERE](#)!

NOVEMBER Newsletter

If you or someone you know has prayer requests, any ministry needs, or if you have any questions, please contact the staff at 920-733-8823 or email [valleysec@valleyconnex.org](mailto:valleysec@valleyconnex.org).



**VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Preparing People to Meet Jesus*

