

Wednesday, January 24, 2024



Honest Questions

Years ago, I heard a teaching by Jill Briscoe. She mentioned that as she and her husband Stewart Briscoe had traveled around the world engaging people with the truths of the gospel, they had discovered that there are three questions on the minds of people across the diverse groups of people they encountered. “Is God there?” “Is God aware?” “Does God care?”

I would imagine as you read this you realize that there have been times in your life when these were honest and sincere questions. It is not wrong to ask questions. That is one of the best ways we can learn. Never be ashamed of the questions that come into your mind. As long as you are sincerely looking for an answer, questions are often a key to live-giving answers.

It is important that you go to the right place for the answers. The Bible beautifully and wonderfully answers the questions observed by the Briscoes. You don’t have to get past the first verse of the Bible to find the definitive answer to the first question. God’s existence is so certain it is simply stated as a matter of fact that *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1, ESV)

The Bible is a record of God’s involvement in the world that He created. His interactions with people throughout history punctuates that fact, that He is aware of the smallest detail of every life. This is the word of God to the prophet Jeremiah, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”* (Jeremiah 1:5, ESV) Jesus astounded Nathanael when He revealed that He was aware of Nathanael spending some quiet time in prayer under his fig tree. ([John 1:45-51](#)) Jesus revealed the awareness of God over the details of this world in these words, *“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.”* (Matthew 10:29, ESV)

The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into the world to teach us about God the Father and then to die on the cross is the answer to God's care. God has provided for the greatest need we have. That is the need for our sin to be forgiven so we may have fellowship with Him both now and in eternity. The ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ touched real people at their point of need. He encouraged the little children to come to Him. People in the throes of oppression and sin were drawn to him and found compassionate forgiveness and lasting transformation.

Preparing people to meet Jesus is all about helping people find the biblical answers to the questions, "Is God there?" "Is He aware?" "Does He care?" Don't be afraid to ask those questions. Embrace them when others ask and direct them toward the live-giving answers in God's Holy Word.

Pastor Long



Services are recorded and can be found at valleyconnex.org/sermons.

**Worship
Attendance**

**Sunday
1/21/24**

**8:00 am - 123
10:45 am - 112**

Celebrate

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

25 Jack Juedes
26 Karridi Kelly
27 Walter Janssen

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

25 Austin & Korrie Perkins

28 Josh Perkins
29 Frank Harper
31 Mike McNeill



The Angel Tree Team would like to thank each of you for your sacrificial giving to this ministry. We served 46 out of the 50 children that were assigned to Valley Baptist Church. Thanks be to God! You prayed, gave gifts, money, soup, and bread. You also gave of your time by aiding us with activities for the advent calendar kits, and by delivering the true meaning of Christmas to the families. We have never been more convinced that this is God's work, and that we GET TO participate with Him to serve these families.



Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

Volume 39 Number 1 - [January 2024](#)

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ConneXion Café

1/31/24

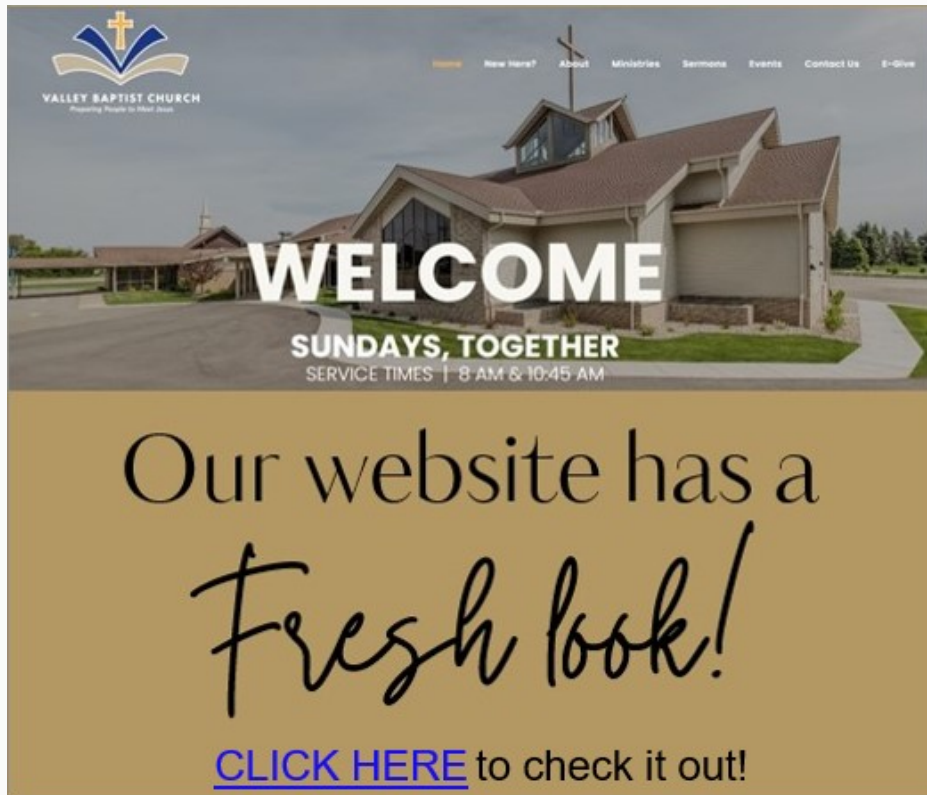
5:15-5:45 p.m.

*Meatball Subs
Pasta Salad
Vegetable
Dessert*

Sign-up is required by **noon the Monday before.**



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



— END OF YEAR —

GIVING STATEMENTS

The 2023 contribution statements will be distributed by **Sunday, January 28.**

If you have any questions about how to receive your statement (emailed, paper copy in church mailbox or paper copy mailed), please contact **Angela NeSmith**, *Financial Secretary*, at 920-380-0334 or kanesmith@new.rr.com.



Kids In Christ's Kingdom Serving

Last Wednesdays of the month, **NEXT WEEK - January 31, 6:15-7:30pm**. 1-5th graders can join us for our first KICKS, "Kids in Christ's Kingdom Serving". We will have a time for missions, crafts, cooking, and serving activities. If you have any questions please contact [Pam Creamer](#), [Patty Clark](#) or [Hope Smock](#).



Teacher: Kurt Kielisch

Join us for our famous White Gull Inn cherry stuffed French toast breakfast with bacon, steaming hot oatmeal, hard boiled eggs, yogurt, and fruit.

for all men age 14+

Saturday - **Feb 3rd**, 8:00 - 9:30am



Sunday,
February 4, 2024

Gluten Free options are available. Please see a greeter or check for the basket outside the Worship Center.



Would you like to be a part of our kitchen ministry and event team? Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve, & clean up for various Valley Church Kitchen events. If you have signed up before please do so again so we can update.

Examples are:

Quarterly Business Meetings (potluck lunch) - January, April, July, & October - Contact Lisa Sizemore
Easter Brunch - Contact Lisa Sizemore
Church Picnic - (June) - Contact Lisa Sizemore
Harvest Dinner - (November) - Contact Lisa Sizemore
Class 101 Membership class lunch - Contact Pam Creamer
Wednesday Meals - Contact Pam Creamer
Wednesday Meal Clean-Up - (5:45 pm) - Contact Pam Creamer
Funeral Meals - Contact Pam Creamer
Other events that arise - Contact Pam Creamer
Bakers for special events - Contact Pam Creamer

Lisa: 701-238-1071, lsizemore70@gmail.com

Pam: 920-277-2900, ptcreamer@gmail.com

FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE WELCOME CENTER (Return to mailbox #1)

Preschool

JANUARY Newsletter



Children & Youth **JANUARY** Newsletter

Click [HERE](#)



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

JANUARY 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.



VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Preparing People to Meet Jesus



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