

The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

December 2017

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Sunday Dec. 3: Ladies Christmas Party. 2:00 pm at Nancy Gatzemeyer's house. All the ladies are invited. Please bring a snack to share. We also ask that you bring a pair of warm socks to donate to a nursing home or hospital.

Saturday Dec. 9: Church Christmas Party. It starts at 5:00 pm and goes to 8:00 pm. Come when you can and bring a snack and games to play. The whole church is invited.

Sunday Dec. 10: Food Boxes and Caroling. We will be filling the food boxes directly after church. Please be bringing items for it. Home made goodies, individually wrapped, pudding or jello cups, tea bags, cocoa mix packets, fruit etc. Also bring shoe boxes, wrapped if you can. If you have any questions see Debbie Gerstner. Caroling will be that night starting at 5:00 pm. Please bring a snack to share afterward.

Sunday Dec. 17: Christmas Program. 10:00 am. Brittany Boyce is in charge of it, so if you would like to volunteer to help, please see her.

Sunday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service. It will be at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. This is a very special time.

On Wednesday Dec. 6th the High School Culinary Essentials class will be doing a senior citizen meal at the school at 11:30 am. For more information see the bulletin board.

Sunflower & Meadowlark Crafters of Ks.

Wish List: fleece.

We need fleece for children's blankets and fleece for adult scarves. We've been working on lap quilts for the cancer center. Hoping to deliver several gift bags to the nursery at the hospital with baby hats and booties. Also have a few pillowcases to go to pediatrics. We will begin crocheting snowflakes Monday, Nov. 27 if anyone would like to join us.

Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers. See the bulletin board if you are interested.

JAMS: Please continue taking the prayer slips from the pail each week and praying for the kids and their families. There is an ongoing snack list if you would like to help out also.

ADOPT A FAMILY: The church is adopting several families for Christmas. The sign up list is in the foyer. The gifts need to be here by noon on the 13th. The last Sunday to bring them is Dec. 10th.

Keep Christ in Every Day

“Jesus is the reason for the season.”

“I don’t say happy holidays, I say Merry Christmas!” [with an angry face!]

“Keep Christ in Christmas.”

Many Christians feel like they are in a war. The war on faith in public. The war against biblical morality. The war on Christmas. Well, we are at war, but it isn’t new. We are in a spiritual battle and have been since creation.

This war of the ages is about Jesus. It has always been about Jesus. From the beginning, it has been about Jesus. I don’t simply speak of Christmas; I mean everything.

Peter spoke about trials and persecutions we might face as faithful Christians. **1 Peter 4:12 (ESV)** *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. There is a war against Jesus – just read the gospels! There is also a war against his followers.*

As I said, everything has been about Jesus since creation. In Genesis 1, God said, “Let us make man after our image.” Jesus is part of the ‘us.’

After the fall of Adam, God cursed Satan. God told Satan, “He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” This was about Satan trying to destroy Jesus and Jesus’ ultimate victory over sin and death through the cross and resurrection.

God told Abraham, “In your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” That is Jesus.

Moses said, “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.” Jesus.

Job said, “I know my redeemer lives.” Jesus.

Jesus is the ‘stump of Jesse’ spoken of in Isaiah. He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace predicted in Isaiah 9.

Malachi, the last Old Testament prophet calls him “the Sun of Righteousness” with healing in his wings.

The New Testament prophet John the Baptist calls him the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Paul said of Jesus in Acts 17, “It is in Him we live and move and have our being.” He wrote to the Colossians, “he (Jesus) is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:17)

*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. **Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)***

In the book of Revelation, Jesus is the coming King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the Alpha and the Omega who will finally destroy Satan and usher in a new heaven and a new earth. He will be our God and we will be his people and we will be able to see him face to face. There will be no more tears, or pain or sin. We will be with Jesus forever.

In Revelation 22, Jesus says, “Behold, I am coming soon.”

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (Revelation 22:17 ESV)

Remember, Jesus is the reason for the season. But his power and love go so far beyond that. He is the reason for everything.

You may not be able to stem the tide of our culture, but you can determine within yourself and your family to make every day about Jesus.

Sing daily in your hearts the thoughts of Christmas; “Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace.” “Joy to the world! The Lord is come.” “Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.”

May God bless you this Christmas as you exalt the King of kings and Lord of lords!

Mike

Recipe Swap

PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE ROLL

Cake:

- 1 c. sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 3 eggs
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. pumpkin puree

Filling:

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 T. butter, melted
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. powdered sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350*. Line a 15x10 sheet pan with parchment and grease with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine all cake ingredients until just combined. Spread into prepared baking sheet and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean, 15 minutes. Meanwhile, lay out a large kitchen towel on your counter (try to use one with little to no texture) and dust with powdered sugar. When cake is done baking, flip onto kitchen towel and gently peel off parchment paper. Starting at a short end, gently but tightly roll cake into a log. Let cool completely. Meanwhile, make filling; In a large bowl, combine filling ingredients. Mix with a mixer until smooth. When cake is cooled, gently unroll (it's ok if it remains slightly curled) and spread with cream cheese mixture. Roll back up and dust with more powdered sugar. Slice and serve.

COPIES OF THE SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD UPON REQUEST: If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at www.valleyfallscc.org.

POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS: This will be a special offering every 3rd Sunday during church. The money will be split between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Matthew Boyce
- 4 Allison Thomas
- 5 Elijah Phillips
- 8 Rachel (Arnold) Detring
- 11 Kacie Welborn
- 13 Misty Eaton
- 15 Mike & Gina Kirby (1984)
- 18 Janese (Farr) Temm
Jeff Starkey
Ray & Rhonda Mitchell (1982)
- 20 Sarah Haybarker
- 21 Dan & Janet Strang
- 24 Marty Gatzmeyer
Ty Gatzmeyer
- 26 CHARLES WATKINS
- 28 Sean & Jennifer Guffey
Chad Spencer
Alucard Heinen
- 29 Morgan Diane Jean Turner
- 30 Jacob & Kari Mitchell (2005)
- 31 Grayson Haag

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Noe Garza, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam

Carolyn Starkey- healing at home from a fall

Becky Arnold- continued healing from her strokes and blood clot.

Families traveling this week.

Jams kids and families

Our church, the elders, Mike & Gina and family

Serving in DECEMBER

Congregational Prayer:

Stan Farr

Scripture Readers:

3-Shelly Gatzemeyer-

10-Rhonda Mitchell-Rom. 15:14-21

17-Carol Welborn-Rom. 16:1-7

24-Caitlyn Thomas- Isaiah 9:6-7

31-Donetta Farr-Rom. 16:25-27

Nursery:

3- Debbie /Allison

10- Nancy /Aleyna

17- Cheyenne/Jackson

24-Glee /Aleyna

31-Brittany/Allison

Greeters/Ushers:

3-C&S Gatzemeyer

10-Mitchell

17-Welborn

24-Cook

31-Farr

Lord's Supper Preparation:

3-C&S Gatzemeyer

10- Mitchell

17-Welborn

24-Cook

31-Farr

Communion Table:

3-Stan, Jay

Wayne , Andy

10- Jay, Stan

Ray, Curt

17- Stan, Jay

David, Kyle

24- Jay, Stan

Clint, Jackson

31-Stan, Jay

Wayne, Chad

Church Offerings

Oct.29-\$1393.00

Nov.5-\$1678.00

Nov.12-\$2544.00

Nov.19-\$

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: There will be no men's breakfast in December.

CALENDARS: There are free calendars in the foyer for anyone who would like one.




THANK YOU: The church received thank you's from Stormont Vail Birthplace.

Carolyn Starkey sent the church a thank you card for all the food, cards and prayers during her recovery from her accident.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: there will be no youth group on Dec. 3. Dec. 10th we will be joining the caroling. Dec. 17 we will have youth group. Dec. 24 there will be no youth group. Dec. 31st –to be decided.

BIBLE STUDY: There will be no Bible Study on Dec. 13, 20 or 27.

Mike will be off Dec. 3rd. Jay Welborn will be preaching.

26	27	28	29	30	01	02
No Youth Group Ladies Christmas Party 2:00 pm	 27					
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
No Youth Group Ladies Christmas Party 2:00 pm	6-8 PM - Sunflower Crafters		3:30 PM - JAMs 6:15 PM - Worship practice 7 PM Bible study			5 PM - All church party/game night
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Christmas Boxes 5 PM - Youth Group 5 pm christmas caroling 2pm midland	6-8 PM - Sunflower Crafters		3:30 PM - JAMs 6:15 PM - Worship practice No Bible study			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am pocket change for progress 10am christmas program	6-8 PM - Sunflower Crafters		3:30 pm JAMS 6:15 pm worship practice No Bible Study			
24		26	27	28	29	30
No youth group 7pm Christmas Eve Service			6:15 PM - Worship practice No Bible Study			
31	01	02	03	04	05	

Valley Falls
Christian Church
511 Oak Street
Valley Falls, KS 66088

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: 785-945-6757
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

Sunday Service times:

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM
Worship – 10:00 AM
Youth Group (grades 6-12) – 5:00 PM

Midweek:

JAMs (grades K-6): Wed. 3:30-5:00
Bible Study: Wednesday 7:00 PM

Christmas, 1776:

During the night of December 25, Washington led his troops across the ice-swollen Delaware about 9 miles north of Trenton. The weather was horrendous and the river treacherous. Raging winds combined with snow, sleet and rain to produce almost impossible conditions. To add to the difficulties, a significant number of Washington's force marched through the snow without shoes.

The next morning they attacked to the south, taking the Hessian garrison by surprise and over-running the town. After fierce fighting, and the loss of their commander, the Hessians surrendered. Washington's victory was complete but his situation precarious. The violent weather continued - making a strike towards Princeton problematic. Washington and his commanding officers decided to retrace their steps across the Delaware taking their Hessian prisoners with them.

The news of the American victory spread rapidly through the colonies reinvigorating the failing spirit of the Revolution. The battle's outcome also gave Washington and his officers the confidence to mount another campaign. On December 30 they again crossed the Delaware, attacked and won another victory at Trenton on January 2, and then pushed on to Princeton defeating the British there on January 3.

Although not apparent at the time, these battles were a decisive turning point in the Revolution. The victories pulled the languishing Revolution out of the depths of despair, galvanized colonial support, shocked the British and convinced potential allies such as France, Holland and Spain, that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with.

From eyewitnessstohistory.com