

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

August 2018

A Down Season

How many people can name the starting lineup for the Royals this year? Sigh... yes, the Kansas City Royals. The 31-69, last place Kansas City Royals.

Eric Hosmer is in San Diego. Lorenzo Cain plays for the Brewers. Mike Moustakas is in a contract year, so he could be traded before you get a chance to read this.

The Royals brought in John Jay for the 2018 season, who was one of our better batters this year, but traded him once it was obvious there would be no post-season appearance for the KC faithful. Fan favorite Kelvin Herrera was dealt to Washington. In baseball-ese, this is called a rebuilding year (or phase).

So if you haven't been paying attention during this down year, you might not recognize Lucas Duda or Hunter Dozier or Adalberto Mondesi.

Along with major lineup changes at the beginning of the year, now it seems the lineup changes almost daily as Ned Yost is trying to piece together a winning combination. Whit Merrifield seems to have played most of the positions this season. Even Salvador Perez played first base the other night. So good luck predicting the starting lineup for the next game.

People don't watch the Royals nearly as religiously as they did in say...2014 and 2015. If you catch the game on TV, you notice a lot of empty seats in the stadium. That's the difference between a cellar dweller and a World Series Championship season. Some folks who knew all the players' names in 2015 are less dedicated and have jumped off the bandwagon this year.

Sometimes if we are having a bad stretch in our lives, a 'down season' if you will, we might jump off of the God bandwagon.

Many bandwagon Christians have the 'what have you done for me lately' syndrome when it comes to their relationship with Christ.

They will stop going to church. Their Bibles will collect dust. Their prayer life shrivels up to nothing. Some (and likely they weren't saved to begin with) will suggest to themselves, "Well, I tried the Jesus thing and it didn't work. I'll try something else."

Perhaps you are struggling financially. Emotionally and relationally you feel wrung out. Maybe your marriage is going through a rough patch – or worse. Sometimes seasons in our lives just aren't very fun.

Folks, this is not the time to back away from God and it surely isn't the time to 'switch teams.'

First, you are not a fan of Christ, you are a follower of Christ. That should not change no matter what your circumstances are.

Second, God is faithful. He will not abandon you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. As the psalmist so famously wrote, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for You are with me."

Third, God uses the tests and trials of life to purify your faith and make you more like Jesus. He will redeem your pain and restore what the locusts have destroyed. All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28). This is God's rebuilding season!

Finally, it will get better. If not in this life, then surely in the next, where the glory of heaven far outweighs any suffering this life can bring (Rom 8:18).

So use the down seasons of life to examine your walk with the Lord, invest in your church, and commit yourself to prayer and Bible study. Remember, *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you... (James 4:8)*. What better place to be in the middle of a 'down season' than next to your God who loves you with an everlasting love!

Mike

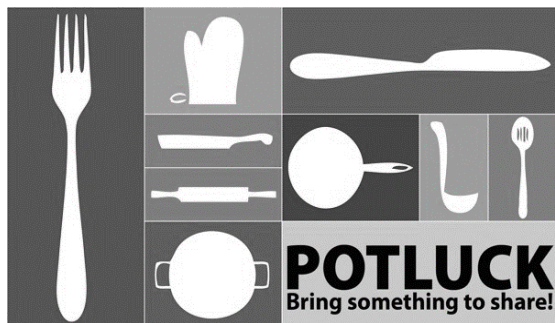
Thank you



To all who helped in any way with the School Supply Give Away.



"LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP." NIV GALATIANS 6:9



Quarterly Carry in Dinner: Sunday, August 26th, after church. Don't miss it, it's a great time to fellowship and enjoy some awesome food. Plan to bring your favorite dish or two!

Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be Saturday, August 11th at 8:00 AM. Kevin G. is cooking.

Pocket Change for Progress: We take a special offering of the pocket change you have been saving every 3rd Sunday during church. The money is divided between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund.

Copies of the sermons are available on cd by request:

If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at www.valleyfallsc.org.

Welcome Back!

ICE CREAM Meet & Mingle SOCIAL!



Sunday, August 19th, 6 p.m.

at the Delaware Township Hall

Sponsored by the

Community Christian Council

Needed: 2 Freezers homemade ice cream

2 dozen homemade cookies

Contact person: Linda Durand

Youth Group meet to set up at 5 p.m.

August	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
5	Glee/Ashley	Farr	Farr	Farr John 1:14-17	Jay/Stan/ Aaron /Jarret
12	Tiffany/Aleyna	Thomas	Thomas	Thomas	Stan/Jay/ Ray /Jackson
19	Cheyenne/Ashley	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer 1 Corinthians 12:4-11	Jay/Stan/ David /Jackson
26	Judy/Allison T	Grove	Grove	Grove 2 Peter 3:8-13	Stan/Jay/ Clint /Chad

August communion devotion and prayer: Jay Welborn

Prayer Requests: Becky Arnold, Grace (Arnold) Farwell and Rachel (Arnold) Detring are both seeking new jobs, Emma Dockweiler,
Prayer of thanks: Wayne Arnold is doing better, continue prayer

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


Church Offerings

June 17 - \$ 1,892
June 24 - \$ 1,321
July 1 - \$ 1,679
July 8 - \$ 2,476


Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Birthdays and Anniversaries


2 Landon Mitchell
4 JENNA WATKINS
6 Becky Arnold
10 Brian Barrett
12 Clinton & Erin Thomas (2000)
15 CYNTHIA MCAFEE
17 RALPH & CINDY SHEAD (1974)
18 Rhonda Mitchell
20 Melody Hosler
21 Carolyn Starkey
22 Caleb Gatzemeyer
24 Trichia Gatzemeyer
25 Hunter Dean McGuire
26 SARAH SHEAD
28 PHIL MCAFEE
31 Kevin Olson
(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



VFCC



August 31st-Sep 1st
Jr. & Sr. High School
6 p.m. Friday thru 7:30 a.m.
Saturday
Signed Consent forms required,
ask Jarret or Mike and take
extras for your friends!



For donations, food, make
breakfast and help.

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

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
		1	2	4
		6:15 PM – Worship prac.	1 PM - Elders	
5	6	8	9	11
2 PM – Midland 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac		8 AM – Men's Breakfast
12	13	15	16	18
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac.	1 PM - Elders	
19	20	22	23	25
10 AM – Pocket change for progress 5 PM – Youth Group 6 PM Ice Cream Social, Township Hall	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	5:30 - Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac	Newsletter items due	
26	27	29	30	
QUARTERLY CARRY IN DINNER 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	5:30 - Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac.		