

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

December 2018

What Jesus Wants for Christmas

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. **Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)***

*And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **Luke 1:30-35 (ESV)***

What an awesome responsibility! Mary had to carry her Lord and Savior in her womb for nine months. After that she carried Him around on her hip when she went places, cradled Him in her arms as He fell asleep, and comforted Him when He was sick. She put all that love into this child just so she could give him away when he was a man. Oh, not to a woman; the bride she gave Him to is us, His church. The bride price was His lifeblood spent on the cross. **1 Peter 1:18-19 (ESV)** *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

Mary was a ponderer. After the Jesus' birth the bible tells us she treasured that whole experience. It is like she stored it in her heart where she could retrieve it at any time and think about it. I am sure she did this often as the time for Jesus' crucifixion approached. As Jesus alluded to His imminent death and the opposition grew stronger and angrier, Mary must have

realized that she was going to have to let go. While she probably did not understand all the details, she had no choice but to share her Jesus - the infant she nursed, the toddler she taught to walk, the boy she bandaged when he scraped a knee - with the whole world.

Here is something for us to ponder. You and I also have the awesome responsibility of carrying around our Lord and Savior. We carry Him in our hearts. The Bible tells us we are to be the very aroma of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to share Him with a world in need.

We are called to be His hands and feet and help people in need. The opportunities to share Christ are more abundant during the Christmas season than any other. The church is adopting a needy family again this year and I encourage you to participate. That is a good thing to do, but compassion needs a face. Make it a point to personally find someone to bless this season. When someone has physical needs met, they are more likely to be open to you sharing Jesus with them. This may force us to get out of our comfort zone. Mary and Joseph were forced out of their comfort zones, so why not us?

Let's rephrase a part of Luke for our own personal consumption: *Don't be frightened! The Lord has decided to bless **YOU!** The Spirit of God will come upon you and live within you. He will be very great and should sit on the throne of your heart. Allow Him to reign over your life forever. Allow Him to give you strength and courage to help other people and tell them of God's love. You may ask, "How can this be? I am merely a human, and a sinful one at that!"*

Don't worry! God will be with you. He will cleanse you from your sin and you will be called a child of God. Now go and tell people about your Savior. Show them love and mercy in His name.

That is what Jesus wants for Christmas!

May God's blessings rest upon each of you and your families this Christmas season.

Mike



If there is enough interest the church will have a live nativity, Sat, Dec 1st or 8th, in front of the Christmas tree on Main Street.
See Donetta if you're interested!

Ladies Christmas Party

WHO: The Ladies of VFCC
WHAT: Christmas Party
WHEN: Sunday, Dec 16th, 2:00 PM
WHERE: Nancy Gatzemeyer's home

BRING: Toothbrushes and toothpaste for Jan's Kids-helping local children have a blessed Christmas

AND a favorite snack to share.

Men's Breakfast: NO MEN'S BREAKFAST IN DECEMBER

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.



CHRISTMAS FAMILY ADOPTION: The church is adopting two families this Christmas. Instructions and sign up are in the foyer. Gifts are due by noon, December 11th.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES: We will fill the food boxes after church on Dec. 9th. We need wrapped shoe boxes, and food items to put in them. Suggested items: fruit, homebaked goodies, individually wrapped, pudding, jello, teas, crackers, applesauce, cocoa etc. We will need some help delivering boxes. These boxes go to shut-ins. We will deliver some when we go caroling.

December	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
2	Debbie/Ashley	Flack	Flack	Flack Esther 8:10-12	Stan/Stan/Jay/ Wayne F /Andy
9	Brittany/Allison	J & A Mitchell	J & A Mitchell	J & A Mitchell Matt 1:18-25	Stan/Jay/Stan/ Ray /Jarret
16	Judy/Aleyna	Welborn	Welborn	Charlile B Luke 1:1-5,14	Stan/Stan/Jay/ David /Kyle
23	Glee/Ashley	Cook	Cook	Caitlyn John 1: 1-5, 14	Stan/Jay/Stan/ Clint /Jackson
30	Tiffany/Aleyna	Farr	Farr	Farr Rev 19:11-16	Stan/Stan/Jay/ Wayne A /Chad

December communion devotion and prayer: Stan

Prayer Requests: Becky, Wayne & Christy Arnold, Clay Beister, Emma Dockweiler, Joan Hosler

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

Church Offerings:

Oct 14 - \$ 847
 Oct 21 - \$ 1,963
 Oct 28 - \$ 974
 Nov 4 - \$ 2,644
 Nov 11- \$1,391

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 Matthew Boyce
 4 Allison Thomas
 15 Mike & Gina Kirby (1984)
 18 Ray & Rhonda Mitchell (1982)
 20 Charlie & Clare Brown (1970)
 21 Dan & Janet Strang
 23 Judy Flack
 26 CHARLES WATKINS
 28 Sean & Jennifer Guffey
 Chad Spencer
 Alucard Heinen
 30 Jacob & Kari Mitchell (2005)
 31 Jarret & Aisha Mitchell (2014)

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Thank you: We are so thankful for the gift we received for Pastor Appreciation Month. We are more thankful that God has allowed us to serve in this wonderful body of believers! We pray that God will continue to bless this church as we grow together!

Mike and Gina



**VOLUNTEER
 BELL RINGERS
 NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

You can help us make a difference by volunteering to RING BELLS this Christmas season.....

For information on line
www.regisertoring.com
 Or call 785-233-9648

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 7-12) – 5:00 PM

Midweek:

JAMs (grades K-6): Wed. 3:30-5:00

Bible Study: Wednesday 7:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
2	3	5	6	8
2 PM – Midland 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study	1 PM - Elders	1 8
9	10	12	13	15
11:30 AM-Food Boxes 5 PM – Youth Group 5 PM All Church Caroling	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
16	17	19	20	22
10 AM – Pocket change for progress & Show Me Christmas Program 2 PM -Ladies Christmas Party 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac	1 PM - Elders	
23	24	26	27	29
10 AM VFCC Children’s Christmas Program 5 PM – Youth Group	7 PM-Christmas Eve Service	5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac		
30	31			
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters			