

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

November 2018

Thanksgiving Day. The Bears are at the Lions. The Redskins visit the Cowboys. And why are the Saints and Falcons playing?

For those who love a parade, giant likenesses of Charlie Brown, Elmo or maybe a Minion will grace the skyline of New York City. Folks will get to see it all on their televisions. 50", 65", perhaps 70", 4K, 2160P, Ultra-HD, flat screen with Dolby® digital surround sound...thank God for TV!! Right??

People will get together with family and friends. The tables will be covered with turkey, cranberry sauce (yuck), potatoes, vegetables, oh, yes, don't forget the pumpkin pies! Eat until you can't put another bite in your mouth, then sit and nap in front of the TV (yes, TV has another use-a cure for insomnia). Thank God for pumpkin pie!

Some in the area will jump into their SUV or luxury car and take a trip to the Plaza in KC to see the lights come on, enjoying an evening of fun and festivity. Others would rather go to bed early so they can rise at 4 A.M. and be the first in line to buy...things.

That's right, Thanksgiving is the official beginning of the Christmas shopping season, and the day after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day of the year. Thank God for shopping!! Right?? (And how dare some of these stores close on Thanksgiving Day and allow their employees to enjoy the holiday!!)

That is a good look at the secular world. Celebrating things. The secular Thanksgiving prayer might go something like this: God is great; please give us stuff, even when we have enough. For the less than faithful, Thanksgiving is about TV, shopping, eating and a few days off of work or school. For many families, this is the only time of the year they say grace before a meal. Many won't even say grace on this day.

Why the bleak look? Why such a bummer about Thanksgiving? Because the people inside the church are beginning to look more and more like those outside the church. The lines of demarcation are fading and it is getting harder and harder to tell the two apart, and it is not

because the secularists are 'getting religion.'

Paul tells us ... "do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom 12:2) Peter warned the first believers at Pentecost to... "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." (Acts 2:40) John says ... "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 Jn 2:15)

Jesus proclaimed that our treasure is not on the earth where moth and rust destroy, but it is in heaven. To paraphrase - don't put your hope and your trust in things.

This year at Thanksgiving, I encourage you to focus less on the things we have and concentrate on thanking God for the things we often take for granted. Things we can't see or touch. Thank God for friendship. Thank God for the love of a wife or husband, children, parents, aunts and uncles - you get the picture.

Thank God for freedom. Thank God for God. Thank Him for His grace and mercy and perfect love. Thank Him for His justice and power and holiness. Thank God for the trials He allows that shape our character. Trials?

Chuck Colson wrote in his book *Dare to Be Different*, "After 10 years in a Soviet gulag, Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote 'Bless you, prison, for having been in my life.' For it was there he learned 'the meaning of earthly existence lies, not as we have grown used to thinking, in prospering, but in the development of the soul.' I too can say, 'Bless you, prison' for it was there that I learned to see justice in the way that Amos and Micah and Jeremiah and Isaiah saw it."

Whoa! Thanking God for prison? Yes, if it refines us into the likeness of Christ, then yes, thank you even for prison. May God bless every one of you this Thanksgiving. While you are thanking God for all the things He has given us, thank Him for the things that we can't touch.

Thank Him for the things that shape our lives and mold us into the likeness of His wonderful Son. And thank Him most of all for His wonderful Son. Thank you God for Jesus.

*Mike*

November 4th

*Don't Forget!*



*Clocks*

*F A L L*  
*back this weekend*  
@4TheLoveOfFall

Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>  
After church service



**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE:**

The community service will be Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lutheran church at 7:00 PM. We need to furnish 2 pies. If you can furnish pies let Mike know



The Church directory is being updated! Please check your information listed, the directory is on the table in the foyer for your approval or changes. See Linda Durand if you have questions.

**Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast will be Saturday, November 10th at 8:00 AM. Stan Farr is cooking.

**Pocket Change for Progress:** We take a special offering of the pocket change you have been saving every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.valleyfallsc.org).

## Mission Lake Camp News

Due to recent circumstances beyond the control of VFCC, the church board voted to withdraw from being a supporting church at Mission Lake Camp effective January 1, 2019.

One of the church leaders can discuss the reasons more thoroughly with anyone who desires more information as to why we needed to come to this decision.

Please pray for the future of Mission Lake Camp and that God would revitalize the camp. Pray for us also as we look for alternative opportunities for our students in the coming year.



VFCC has the opportunity to serve college students!

KU Campus Ministries

Providing a meal

Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>

1320 Ohio, Lawrence

Needed: Food and Servers

See Carol Welborn to volunteer

November	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
4	Debbie/Allison	Arnold	Arnold	Arnold Esther 5:6-9	Wayne A/Stan/Jay/ <b>Clint</b> /Kyle
11	Cheyenne/Ashley	Thomas	Thomas	Thomas Esther 6: 6-10	Wayne A/ Jay/ Stan/ <b>Ray</b> /Jackson
18	Judy/Allison	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer Esther 7: 1-6	WayneA/Stan/Jay/ <b>David</b> /Chad
25	Nancy/Aleyna	Grove	Grove	Grove Esther 8:10-12	Wayne A/ Jay/ Stan / <b>Aaron</b> /Brian

### November communion devotion and prayer: Wayne A

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

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

#### Church Offerings:

Sep 16 - \$ 994  
 Sep 23 - \$ 2,414  
 Sep 30 - \$ 1,313  
 Oct 07 - \$ 2,231

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

#### November Birthdays & Anniversaries

4 Nolan Reich  
 7 Matthew & Brittany Boyce  
 15 Joan Hosler  
 16 Brittany Boyce  
 25 Dodie Bolz

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



**CHRISTMAS BOXES:** We need to bring all shoeboxes, preferably wrapped but if not wrapped, the sooner the better. Also if anyone has extra wrapping paper that would be very much appreciated also. Please leave it in the foyer.



**CHRISTMAS FAMILY ADOPTION:** The church will be adopting a family or two again this Christmas. Be watching for more details.



A group of members from the church are participating in Operation Christmas Child. If you feel lead to give, fill a box or participate in any way, please contact Donetta for more information.

# 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
			1	3
4	5	7	8	10
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		8 AM – Men’s Breakfast
11	12	14	15	17
<b>VETERAN’S DAY</b>  5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Mtg	1 PM - Elders	
18	19	21	THANKSGIVING 22	24
10 AM – Pocket change for progress 11:30 Church Thanksgiving Dinner 7 PM Community Thanksgiving Service 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	<b>NO ACTIVITIES</b>		
25	26	28	29	
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		