

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

October 2018

Halloween can be a divisive subject within the church and even at home. Some say it is just fun and games and has no impact on faith issues. They have no problem with it. Others, well, say that Halloween is of the devil. Then there is the wide area in between that a lot of people fall into.

History “experts” disagree about the origins of Halloween. Pagan religions marked the onset of winter with celebrations focused on the final harvest and death. During this time the veil between the living and the dead was lifted to allow the spirits of the dead to roam the earth.

Some who feared this wore disguises (costumes) so the spirits wouldn’t recognize them and left out food or wealth (treats) to usher the spirits into the afterlife. They would also carve scary faces into produce (like gourds or pumpkins) in order to frighten away the spirits.

Others tried using occult practices to contact the spirits, talk with long lost loved ones or cast spells or divine the future.

Any way you look at it, Halloween certainly has roots in darkness, superstition and paganism with emphasis on the demonic.

I appreciate the way Pastor John McArthur suggests Christians respond to Halloween.

1) We should not respond like superstitious pagans. We are not to be superstitious because we are enlightened by God’s word. Evil spirits are no more active on Halloween than any other day of the year.

2) We should respond with caution and wisdom. Actual documented incidents involving Satanists or witches are quite rare. While one should not ignore that possibility, the greater risk is the social danger involved. Drunk drivers, poisoned candy, out of control hormones at teen or young adult parties, pranks and vandalism are far more likely to occur. Parents would do well to not let their children attend secular parties or do anything unsupervised.

3) Christians need to respond with gospel compassion. Ghosts and goblins are not terrifying; God’s wrath is.

A lost world is celebrating death and they don’t understand it will separate them from God forever.

Some Christians just won’t participate. That is what our family did. Others will participate by choosing popular, ‘non-scary’ costumes and focusing their decorations on fall instead of ghastly images. Some will jump in with both feet and say it is all in fun.

I think it is best that we allow God’s word to shape and mold our decisions. Our minds should be centered on what is pure, noble and praiseworthy. I will close with several scriptures. I will also publish a more complete list of scriptures and set them out in the foyer for anyone who is interested.

- 1Thes 5:21-22 **Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.**
- James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to...**keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**
- 3 Jn 1:11 Dear friend, **do not imitate what is evil but what is good.** ... Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.
- Rom 12:9 Love must be sincere. **Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.**
- Eph 5:11-12 **Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness,** but rather expose them...
- 1 Tim 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and **follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.**
- 1 Cor 10:21 **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too;** you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.
- 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**

God bless you as you search the scriptures for the heart of God and the Mind of Christ.

Mike

Come Along For The Ride



**Fall Fellowship and Hayride**  
**Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**4 P.M.**

**Kyle and Laura Reich's**  
**Hot dogs, buns and drinks**  
**provided**

**Bring: a side dish and your lawn**  
**chair**



**STUDENTS**  
**OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> IS...**



**BRING YOUR BIBLE**  
**TO SCHOOL DAY**

**Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast will be Saturday, October 13th at 8:00 AM. Jay Welborn 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.

**New Wednesday evening Bible study**  
**begins in October! Target is Oct. 24.**



October	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
7	Cheyenne/Aleyna	Starkey	Starkey	Starkey Esther 1:10-12	Ray/Jay/Stan/ <b>Wayne A</b> /Jackson
14	Brittany/Ashley	Durand	Durand	Durand Esther 2: 15-18	Ray/Stan/Jay/ <b>David</b> /Chad
21	Laura/Allison	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett Esther 3: 2-6	Ray/Jay/Stan/ <b>Clint</b> /Brian
28	Glee/Ashley	Spencer	Spencer	Spencer Esther 4: 13-17	Ray/Stan/Jay/ <b>Jarret</b> / Wayne F

### September communion devotion and prayer: Ray Mitchell

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

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

#### Church Offerings

Aug 19 - \$ 1,014  
 Aug 26 - \$ 2,012  
 Sep 02 - \$ 2,242  
 Sep 09 - \$ 936

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

#### October Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 Kevin & Nancy Gatzemeyer (1970)  
 13 Kyle & Laura Reich (2001)  
 15 Helen Grove  
 19 Randee Jo Gatzemeyer  
 20 Jay Welborn  
 21 Lori Barrett

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



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

A little note from Rhonda Mitchell: I am trying to update the Birthday/Anniversary list for the newsletter. I hope to include regular attendees that consider VFCC their home church. If that includes you and your name has not been in the newsletter, please see me.  
 Thank you!

# 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
	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study	1 PM – Elders  BRING YOUR BIBLE TO SCHOOL DAY	
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>
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
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>
4 PM –FALL FELLOWSHIP HAYRIDE @ Reich’s	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study	1 PM - Elders	
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>
10 AM – Pocket change for progress  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 Board Meeting		
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>		
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		