

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

January 2019

## Christianity for Dummies?

In 1995, I bought my first computer. It was a Gateway 2000 model that, at the time, was one of the top of the line consumer PCs. I think it had a whopping 2.5 GB hard drive! It is embarrassing how much we paid for computers back then!

Since I hadn't really messed with computers since college, I had fallen behind in my understanding of the technology, so I bought the handy-dandy Windows 95 for Dummies book. It helped me navigate my way through the Microsoft operating system by showing shortcuts and how-to tips so I could feel confident using this beast of a machine! Yes, I actually read the book from cover to cover!

Four or five years later, that computer was waaaay outdated and slow. It was time to upgrade. Computer prices had come down while the technology had advanced. The new PC had a 40 GB hard drive! It also had Windows 98. Ugh! Bill Gates and company had made enough changes to the new operating system that I found it necessary to get another book: Windows 98 for Dummies.

Today, the 'Dummies' type books are everywhere. A quick Google search will turn up hundreds of options, including Banjo, CIA, Stock Investing and Quantum Physics for Dummies.

What a racket! Especially when it comes to technology. Every year you might have to buy a new 'Dummies' book because the technology changes. Windows 7 upgrades to Windows 8 or new innovations in web design will cause someone who doesn't want to be a 'dummy' to go out and get the latest version.

As we begin 2019, I am going to preach through the book of James. James is kind of like Christianity for Dummies. I'm not going to

call it that, but it really is a back to basics book for Christian living. The series is called Practical Living for Christians.

James helps us to take our faith and put it into action in our day to day life. It has been referred to as the Proverbs of the New Testament.

If we heed the words that the Holy Spirit prompted James to write in this letter, we will find instruction concerning our patience in the midst of trials, humility and pride, faith and works, and true religion versus hypocrisy.

We can find help for living in this world while we live for Christ. We can learn to tame our tongues while making our prayers fruitful. If we will take the wisdom we find in this little book and apply it to our lives, we truly will live better for Christ while we are on this earth!

The wonderful thing about this book is it is never out of date. It doesn't expire. We don't need a new edition to keep up with the changing world. Even though the world changes, the wisdom of God is timeless and will always be relevant no matter where our technological advances take us.

The Bible doesn't really call us 'Dummies', but it does speak of foolishness. A fool says in his heart there is no God. The message of the cross is foolishness to the Gentiles. The wisdom of the world is foolishness in God's sight.

So this new year, let's make a resolution to not be fools, but to live wisely for our Lord. Please make it a point to join us on Sunday mornings as we journey through the book of James and learn to live a practical Christian faith.

*Mike*

thank  
YOU

**THANK YOU:** We are so thankful for the gift we received for Christmas! It is always an honor to be able to teach about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, crucified and risen! We pray that God will continue to bless this church as we grow to be more like Jesus!

*Mike and Gina*

**THANK YOU:** To all who brought gifts for the adopted family for Christmas or gave throughout the year so the missions committee could help fill out the list, thank you. You helped give a needy family a better Christmas.

**THANK YOU:** To all who helped with the children's Christmas Program. I truly could not have done it without you! It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes the church to put on a children's program.

You're support has encouraged and blessed me.

Rhonda Mitchell

**Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast will be on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. Charlie Brown will be 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 VFCC JAMS 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).



### **Blessings from 2018**

What a great year 2018 has been. We thank God for all God has done at VFCC this year. The school supply project again helped scores of students obtain school supplies they couldn't afford. Our VBS ministered to dozens of kids this summer and the Wednesday after school JAMS program continues to minister to the elementary age each week.

We also want to recognize once more those who joined our fellowship in 2018.

**Baptisms:** Dakota Boyce, Taryn Lee, and Christina Aranda.

We don't want to leave anyone out. If you began worshiping with us this year, thank you! We look forward to each person becoming more involved in Christ's church as we grow in Valley Falls and Jefferson County.

January	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
6	Judy/Aleyana	Starkey	Starkey	Starkey Esther 9:20-22	Jay/Jay/Stan/ <b>Clinton</b> /Andy
13	Laura/Allison	Durand	Durand	Durand James 1:1-12	Jay/Stan/Jay/ <b>Ray</b> /Kyle
20	Brittany/Ashley	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett Jeremiah 1:4-8	Jay/Jay/Stan/Jay/ <b>David</b> /Brian
27	Nancy/Myles	Spencer	Spencer	Spencer	Jay/Stan/Jay/ <b>WayneA</b> /Jackson

**January communion devotion and prayer: Jay Welborn**

**Prayer Requests:** Becky 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:**

Nov 18 - \$ 1,391  
Nov 25 - \$ 822  
Dec 2 - \$ 2,279

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

**January Birthdays & Anniversaries**

4 Emilee Mitchell  
10 Matthew Branam  
12 Leah Brown  
13 Jackson Reich  
19 Jarret Mitchell  
27 Ashley GrandPre  
30 Wayne Arnold  
31 Linda Durand

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



VFCC has the opportunity to serve college students!

KU Campus Ministries

Providing a meal

Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

1320 Ohio, Lawrence

Needed: Food and Servers

See Carol Welborn to volunteer

**SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY** is January 20. There will be a special message teaching that we are all created in the image of God! Please pray for the unborn and that the heartbreak of abortion can be eliminated.

**GUEST PREACHER:** Matt Myer from Campus Christians at KU will be here to speak during Sunday School and to preach on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMUNITY SOUP SUPPER AND SERVICE:**

The Unity Service and soup supper is Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at Valley Falls United Methodist Church. The soup supper is at 6:00 PM and the service is at 7:00 PM. The offering will go to the Community Christian Council and will mostly be used to help people with financial hardships in Valley Falls.

# 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

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
		6:15 PM – Worship prac	1 PM - Elders	
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</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		
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>
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	
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</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		
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
5 PM – Youth Group	Serving KU Campus Ministry Supper  6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		