

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

June 2019

Today (May 22), I look outside my office door and see one baseball field completely under water, as the rising flood has also begun to creep into the outfield of the girl's field. The forecast holds very good chances of rain through Memorial Day. Like we need more rain!

This brings to memory the lyrics from an old-school Christian band (one of my favorites – check it out on Spotify or Youtube), Caedmon's Call: "Water water everywhere/ And I complain about my thirst/ The prescription's in my hand/ While the pain I curse." Additional lyrics, "Stumbled upon the truth/ Wished it'd get out of my way/ When I see the light/I pull down the shade¹."

The theme of the song is that God will often provide through ways we don't like. Sometimes his ways are difficult or painful. He has provided a solution, but we'd rather complain. He's given illumination on his word, but we don't like what it says, so we avoid it.

The Bible is full of the imagery of water. In 1 Kings, Elijah prayed that it would not rain for three and a half years. After that time, due to the drought, there was famine in the land. There was also a famine of righteousness because of the King's leadership. After 3 ½ years, God told Elijah to show himself to the wicked King Ahab.

This is the same account where the 400 priests of Baal were destroyed, after which **1 Kings 18:45 (ESV)** *And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.*

It appears that here, as well as in Noah's day, rain is symbolic of cleansing. Be thankful that God said he would never judge the earth with a flood again!

Throughout most of the New Testament, water is symbolic for blessing. The blessing of the Holy Spirit. The blessing of life. The blessing of cleansing in the waters of baptism.

In John 3, we learn that Jesus said we must be born of 'water and spirit' to be born again.

In John 4, we learn about the living water that Jesus promises for all who believe in him.

Jesus confirms this in **John 7:37-39 (ESV)**. *...Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive...*

Living water. Not stagnant, stale and stinking water. Living water is running, pure, clean, and refreshing. It is the effect of the Holy Spirit when it fills you and overflows in your life.

When you yield to the Holy Spirit in your life, it is a life that overflows! We overflow with hope (Rom 15:13), with thanksgiving (2 Cor 4:15), with joy (Php 1:26) and with love (1 Thes 3:12 – all NIV).

The effects of living water in this world are a taste of what we will experience in the world to come! Heaven promises us **Revelation 7:16-17 (ESV)** *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." **Revelation 22:1 (ESV)** *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb**

We might look around and wonder when it will stop raining. We are fed up with mud, wet basements and overflowing gutters stuffed with leaves. I am ready for a bit of dry weather, too!

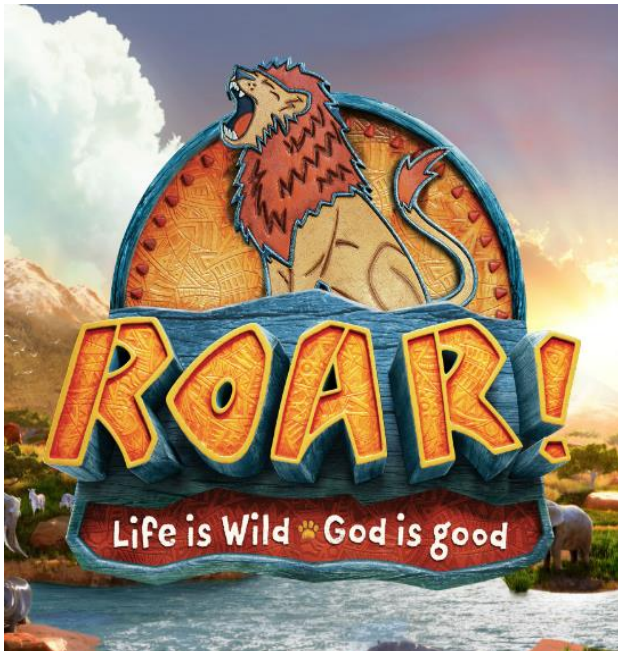
Let us pray, however, that we never become spiritually dry. May the springs of living water continually overflow from us because the Spirit of God works so powerfully in our lives. May we listen and obey when the Holy Spirit leads, and never complain about our thirst when the living water is at hand!

Mike

¹ © 1994 Caedmon's Call. Song "Too Tender" from the album My Calm//Your Storm.



Thank you for the donations and support during the Garage and Bake Sale. It was a huge success for our School Supply fund!



VBS
July 15th-19th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

JAMS: Is on summer break, but continued prayers for next year's attendance and volunteers is always welcome.

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 VFCC Youth programs 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.valleyfallscc.org.

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

FLAMING SPIRIT CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP

ROMANS 8:11

Rise +
ALIVE AGAIN

JUNE 2-7 HIGH SCHOOL	JUNE 9-14 JR HIGH	JUNE 16-20 JUNIOR	JUNE 22 DAY CAMP	JUNE 23-25 MIDDLER	JUNE 25-26 FIRST CHANCE
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REGISTER AT FLAMINGSPIRIT.COM

June	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
2	Laura/Allison	J & A Mitchell	J & A Mitchell	A Mitchell Matt 19:16-22	Jay/ Stan/ David / Jarret
9	Cheyenne/Ashley	R & R Mitchell	R Mitchell	R Mitchell Matt 16:13-20	Stan/ Jay/ Clinton / Chad
16	Glee/Myles	Welborn	Welborn	C Brown John 8:54-59	Jay/ Stan/ Ray / Aaron
23	Nancy/Aleyna	Cook	Cook	C Thomas John 11: 21-27	Stan/Jay/ David /Wayne F
30	Tiffany/Allison	Farr	Farr	Farr John 18:36-38	Jay/Stan/ Wayne A/Curtis M

June communion devotion and prayer: Clinton Thomas

Prayer Requests: Emma Dockweiler, Becky Arnold, Jill Boyce, Clay Biester, Flaming Spirit campers and staff, Vacation Bible School

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

Church Offerings

April 21 - \$ 1,685

April 28 - \$ 1,067

May 05 - \$ 3,351

May 12 - \$ 754

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 TABITA MCAFEE
- 5 Donna Slavens
- 6 Carol Welborn
Brian & Lori Barrett (1992)
- 17 Janet Strang
- 23 MATTHEW SHEAD
- 25 Curtis Mitchell
- 27 CHARLES & JODI WATKINS (1992)
- 29 Stan & Donetta Farr (1974)
- 30 Kelly Heinen

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



Worship Practice will be at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday's through June.

Bible Study will not meet during the summer break.



OUTREACH-H.O.P.E.
16th ANNUAL
“SUPPLYING OUR FUTURE IN THE
PRESENT”
SATURDAY, August 3, 2019,

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
2	3	5	6	1/8
2 PM – Midland 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	5:30 - Zumba	1 PM – Elders	1st 8 th 8 AM Men's Breakfast
9	10	12	13	15
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	5:30 - Zumba		
16	17	19	20	22
10 AM – Pocket change for progress 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	5:30 - Zumba	1 PM – Elders	
23	24	26	27	29
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	5:30 - Zumba		
30				
5 PM – Youth Group				