

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

September 2019

A recent message left on the church answering machine: *Hi, this is Megan, I'm reaching out to you today because Amazon currently has customers looking for your services in your area.*

If you are interested in receiving customers from the Amazon/Alexa network, please give me a call at 888-xxx-xxxx

We are only taking a select few in your area so be sure to contact us quickly. There is no charge to see if you qualify, so please give us a call at 888-xxx-xxxx

You can start receiving these inquiries immediately. Thank you.

Really? Does Amazon know this is a church? If there are people who are really looking for a church in this area, it wouldn't be that hard to find one.

The message made me think. Do we (the church) see potential members as customers? Do church members see themselves as consumers? In fact, people casually throw out the line, "We're church shopping," when looking for somewhere to worship.

If church members see themselves as consumers, that poses a problem. Consumers usually are focused on what they can GET. They normally want to GET the most value for the least amount of output.

You will hear church consumers say things like, "I didn't get anything out of the sermon today." "I don't like the worship there." "Well, the parking isn't very convenient." "They don't have enough kids." "I'm just not being fed."

That makes it sound like the music is more like a radio. If you don't like it, find another station. The sermon is a commodity. If I don't like the flavor of what they are feeding me, find another restaurant.

The problem with consumer Christians is they almost always GET but they rarely GIVE. Instead of complaining about what you don't

GET at church, pray about how you can GIVE at church. Not simply offerings, no! How can you help to make sure someone else is fed? Perhaps you can use your gifts to help out with the song service. Do you have ideas that will help make the building more welcoming? If your children are at church, then perhaps that will encourage another family to bring their children.

There are many reasons someone will feel like they aren't being fed. Maybe you have been on a solid diet of spiritual junk food and the real meat of the gospel 'tastes funny' to you. Maybe someone else needs to hear the message that doesn't meet your need, but your presence is still necessary for their encouragement. Perhaps you just don't like the truth about your sin.

Another problem with church consumers is that what the Lord, and by association, his church offers isn't something that can be purchased.

You can't buy the friendships that are built when you selflessly immerse yourself into the body of Christ. You can't buy peace or joy or salvation.

Those things have already been purchased once and for all by the precious blood of Christ.

On the flip side, what if the church started acting like everyone else was a customer? What if we went overboard to make sure everyone felt welcomed? What if we tried to fix the things that might keep a 'customer' from returning? [Without, of course, watering down the truth of God's word.]

I don't think Amazon can sell what the Christ has to offer. But it wouldn't hurt the church to reach out and find those who need it. Megan from Amazon says there are people in our area who have need of what we have to offer. Of that, I am sure she is right!

Mike



ICOM – November 14-17.
 Location: Kansas City Convention
 Center, 301 West 13th Street
 Kansas City, MO 64104
 Church registration code: **kc19**
 You can visit their website,
theicom.org, to find a lot more
 information.

Mission Lake  *Christian Camp*

Women's Retreat Minute by Minute, Day by Day, by Grace...

**Speakers: Nicole Vannicola
 & Melanie True**

Dean: Marj Spence

785.691.9638

September 19 – 21, 2019

Thursday 5 PM-Saturday 11 AM

Register online

**@missionlakeecc.com/womens-
 retreat-registration-and-
 payment**

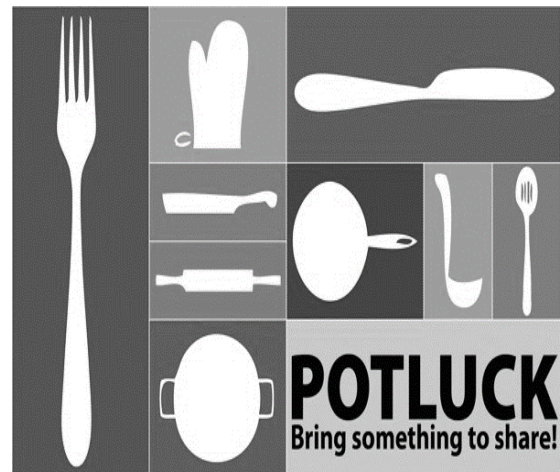
Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be Saturday, September 14th at 8:00 AM. Mike Kirby is cooking.

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.

JAMS: Prayers appreciated, for this outreach program, the students and staff. Our first session back will be Wednesday, September 4 after school. Have you been looking for a program to plug into? Ask Erin or Tiffany how you can help!

Past sermons are available online at
www.valleyfallscc.org. If you cannot access them this way, you may ask Pastor Mike for a cd copy.

Service opportunity: The church is looking for someone willing to oversee the ordering and distribution of Sunday school curriculum on a quarterly basis. If interested, please see Pastor Mike.



**Carry in Dinner for Show Me Christian
 Youth Home: Sunday, September 15th,
 after church. Don't miss it, it's a great
 time to fellowship and enjoy some
 awesome food. Plan to bring your
 favorite dish or two!**

Sep	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
1	Cheyenne/Abby	J & A Mitchell	J & A Mitchell	A Mitchell Galatians 1: 6-10	Stan/Jay/Clinton/Wayne F
8	Brittany/Lauren	R & R Mitchell	R & R Mitchell	Mitchell Galatians 1: 11-17	Jay/Stan/Wayne A/ Kyle
15	Judy/Allison	Welbon	Welborn	C Brown Guest Preacher	Stan/Jay/Clinton/ Brian
22	Laura/Aleyna	Cook	Cook	C Thomas Galatians 2: 1-5	Jay/Stan/Jarret/Jackson
29	Glee/Myles	Spencer	Spencer	Spencer Galatians 2: 17-21	Stan/Jay/ Wayne A/Clinton

September communion devotion and prayer: Ray Mitchell

Prayer Requests: Emma Dockweiler, Becky Arnold, Students and teachers,

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

Church Offerings:

July 28 - \$ 1,832

Aug 04 - \$ 1,793

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Jay Farr
- 7 Ray Mitchell
Elaine Worner
- 12 Brody Olson
- 19 Chad and Tiffany Spencer (2014)
Todd Spencer
- 25 Kyle Reich
- 27 Kevin Gatzemeyer
- 28 TREY WATKINS

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



Jr. & Sr. High School

Watch for ways you can help!

Back to Church Sunday

Sep 15th

**Invite your friends and
neighbors**



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: 7:00-8:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
1	2	4	5	7
2 PM – Midland	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study	1 PM – Elders	
8	9	11	12	14
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		8 AM Men's Breakfast
15	16	18	19	21
Back to Church Sunday 11:30 AM Carry in Dinner Show Me Youth Home 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 Women's Retreat GetAway @ MLCC 5 PM	11 AM
22	23	25	26	28
10 AM – Pocket change 5 PM – Youth Group 29 5 PM Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters 30 6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 5:30 Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		