

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

February 2023

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22 this year) and goes through Easter. I have had people ask why our church doesn't celebrate Lent.

As an independent church, VFCC doesn't follow a lectionary or liturgical calendar. We don't exist under a religious hierarchy that we answer to regarding preaching topics or recognizing church seasons like Epiphany, Advent, or Lent.

We feel it is better for the pastor to be under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in determining preaching topics.

We also don't find the celebration of various church 'seasons' in the scriptures. In fact, Paul wrote in Colossians 2, "Let no one pass judgment on you... with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath." Lent wasn't really recognized until the council of Nicea in 325 A.D.

Even though we also don't see Christmas or Easter celebrations in the scriptures, we can choose to celebrate them as a church. That is the glory of the freedom we have in Christ.

So if any individual wants to recognize a season of Lent in their Christian walk, please exercise that freedom! However, it is good to know what Lent is and isn't.

Lent is not a self-improvement regimen designed to better your life. For instance, "I'll give up pop so maybe after Easter I won't keep drinking it."

Any focus on yourself should be repentance from your sin and what Christ's sacrifice does for you in bringing salvation. Lent is a time of penitence and looks ahead to the death of Christ.

The part of Lent most familiar is the question, "What are you going to give up for Lent?" As a child, I heard many kids talk about giving up things they didn't like or do anyway so it would be easy. "I think I'll give up broccoli for Lent!" That's not what Lent is for. It is a time of sacrifice and fasting.

Fasting in the Bible is usually giving up food or drink for a period of time. For Lent, people often give up a specific food or activity for the duration of the season.

Fasting was used with prayer to develop deeper focus for seeking God and His will.

People would fast when they had a big decision they were praying about.

This month I have included verses about fasting, sacrifice, taking up our cross and dying to self. Read, meditate on, and pray over the following verses. If you have extra time, read the context and look up related references. Be blessed!

When and how you fast is between you and the Lord. I believe God expects us to have times of fasting. Fasting, however, is not a activity we do to gain salvation. It is to draw closer to God and learn how to rely on his provision.

*Mike*

HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST

## SACRIFICE

- Feb 1: Colossians 2:16-23
- Feb 2: Exodus 34:27-29
- Feb 3: Deut 9:13-21
- Feb 4: Ezra 8:21-23
- Feb 5: Nehemiah 9:1-3
- Feb 6: Esther 4:1-3, 12-17
- Feb 7: Isaiah 58:1-10
- Feb 8: Daniel 9:1-19
- Feb 9: Joel 2:12-27
- Feb 10: Jonah 3:1-5
- Feb 11: Zechariah 7
- Feb 12: Matthew 4:1-11
- Feb 13: Matthew 6:16-18
- Feb 14: Matthew 9:14-17
- Feb 15: Luke 18:9-14
- Feb 16: Acts 13:1-3
- Feb 17: Acts 14:21-25
- Feb 18: Luke 9:23-27
- Feb 19: Matt 19:24-30
- Feb 20: Matt 5:2-12
- Feb 21: Mark 9:33-37
- Feb 22: Luke 14:25-33
- Feb 23: Titus 2:11-15
- Feb 24: Romans 12:1-2
- Feb 25: 1 John 2:15-17
- Feb 26: Mark 15
- Feb 27: Phil 2:1-11
- Feb 28: Phil 3:7-11

# Join us for IF:2023 MARCH 3-4

## IF: Valley Falls - A Ladies Conference

We are so excited, plan to join us!

Feel free to bring a drink/small snacks along with your bible and a pen. The event itself is FREE! However, if you so choose to have us order your lunch for Saturday there will be a cost of \$8 that can be paid when you arrive.

This year we are offering an option to keep the fellowship going by having an old fashion sleepover! Bring your air mattresses and pillows and join us Friday night. Can't guarantee much sleep, but fun and laughs are a sure bet!

REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://forms.gle/r9t7M8AraETrYVWR6>

Or pick up a paper registration in the church foyer.

Hosted by Aisha Mitchell 785-741-5205



Super Bowl Party:

Sunday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM

Jay and Carol Welborn's

Bring a snack and be ready to cheer for your favorite opponent.



Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

Carry in Dinner, after Church.

Bring a side dish or two

and join us for food and fellowship.

**Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast will be Saturday, February 11th at 8:00 AM. Mike Kirby is cooking.

**Pocket Change for Progress:** Please continue saving your pocket change for VFCC youth programs and School Supply Project. There is a bucket for your change anytime, not just the third Sunday.

**Past sermons are available online at [www.valleyfallsc.org](http://www.valleyfallsc.org).**

**On line sermon opportunity:** For those sheltering at home, church service will be available to live stream on YouTube (and Facebook). Also available on YouTube, previous services.

Don't forget to subscribe to Valley Falls Christian Church YouTube channel



### Sermon Series, Scripture

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Feb 5  | Matthew Carter, Guest Preacher<br>Matt 28: 16-20 |
| Feb 12 | Preparation For the King<br>Mark 1:9-13          |
| Feb 19 | The Beginning of the Kingdom<br>Mark 1:14-20     |
| Feb 26 | The Authority of Jesus<br>Mark 2:23-28           |

Feb	Greeters Communion Prep	Scripture	Devotion	Servers	Nursery
05	Spencer	Spencer Matt 28:16-20	Jarret Mitchell	Jay/Stan/ <b>Steve</b> / Jackson	Debbie/Kenzie
12	R Mitchell	R Mitchell Mark 1:9-13	Jarret Mitchell	Jay/Stan/ <b>Brian</b> /Aaron	Leane/Jodie
19	Farr	Farr Mark 1:14-20	Jarret Mitchell	Jay/Stan/ <b>Ray</b> /Chad	Brittany/Dakota
26	Gerstner	Gerstner Mark 2:23-28	Jarret Mitchell	Jay/Stan/ <b>Clinton</b> / Kyle	Tiffany/Abby

**February communion devotion and prayer: Jarret Mitchell**

**Prayer Requests:** Becky Arnold, Christy Arnold Emma Dockweiler,

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

**Church Offerings:**

Jan 01 \$ 1,723  
Jan 08 \$ 1,888  
Jan 15 \$ 1606

**February Birthdays and Anniversaries**

7 Natalie Barrett  
8 Aisha Mitchell  
12 Jay & Carol Welborn (1965)  
Cheyenne Cook  
15 Kari Mitchell  
Clinton Thomas  
19 Janelle Thayer  
20 Nancy Gatzemeyer  
Hazel Moffet  
Johnny Wistuba  
22 Dakota Boyce  
(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



Do you ever wonder what to do with all the color pages your children color in church? The Sunday School class, Sisters of Valor, will be placing a basket in the foyer to collect them. Our plan is to mail them to members that we don't see often due to their circumstances, but we still think of and miss.

So help us deliver beautiful "art" to those who may need a pick me up.



Scan the QR code to download the Gyve app.

# 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:** Bible Study-7:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday/Friday	Saturday
		1	2/3	4
		7:00 PM Bible Study		
5	6	8	9/10	11
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM Sunflower Crafters	7:00 PM Bible Study		8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
12	13	15	16/17	18
4 PM Super Bowl Party @ Welborn's 5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM Sunflower Crafters	7:00 PM Bible Study		
19	20	22	23/24	25
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM Sunflower Crafters	7:00 PM Bible Study		
26	27			
11:30 AM Carry in Dinner 5 PM Youth Group	1:30 PM Sunflower Crafters			