

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

January 2020

Dec. 17th: As I was preparing for the Bible study I have at Valley Mental Health Center (VMHC) each Tuesday, I realized early that morning that the following Tuesday would be Christmas Eve.

I began to wonder, should I go ahead and have the study on Christmas Eve, or use that day to finish up on some church prep for Christmas Eve church service and also get ready for company we were having at home?

There are about four or five people that regularly attend the study. It wouldn't disappoint that many people if I didn't have it, and got some personal things done instead. Yet I also know those few folks that do attend might be VERY disappointed because they don't get out very much at all, and may not get visitors over the holiday.

I needed to have this figured out before I went on the 17th so I could let them know the plan for 24th. I messaged Gina to get her thoughts, but before she had a chance to answer, I felt the Lord telling me I ought to go ahead and have it. Gina confirmed that when she replied, "It's only an hour, our kids won't be here until later and we can just tell the rest of the family not to arrive until after lunch."

So I told the folks at VMHC that I would be there next week on Christmas Eve. We would sing a bunch of Christmas Carols and I would give them a short Christmas Eve devotion.

Dec. 24th: I showed up at the regular time in the morning. A couple of people who were usually at study weren't there because they were out with family. However, there were two people who joined us that had never been in the study before!

We sang six or seven songs, and a young man (late 20s to early 30s) who had never been with us before joined our study part way through the singing.

He stayed as I gave a shortened version of the message I would give at our candlelight service. We closed with three more songs, prayed, and finished our time.

This very polite young man asked if he could have some of my time before I left. He wanted to ask me a question about a passage in Ecclesiastes that had been bothering him.

I explained the context of the book and how the passage fit in. It was neat to see the light in his eyes as he understood. He thanked me, we shook hands as I wished him a merry Christmas.

As we were speaking, one of the regular attendees quietly waited and listened to our conversation. After the young man left, the regular informed me that the young man I was speaking with was Muslim.

This young Muslim man sat through and sang carols praising the Savior's birth. He listened intently to a devotion that explained Jesus was born to die on the cross for our sins and is our Lord and Savior – very God in the flesh. He has been reading a Bible and asked a Christian pastor to explain a passage to him. What a blessing!!

God blessed me so much in that experience because I listened and obeyed.

It didn't fatten my bank account. It didn't make our church larger. Yet I was blessed on this Christmas Eve because I got to tell about the birth of Jesus to someone who doesn't even believe he is the son of God. And I didn't even know a Muslim was there until it was all over.

How might I have changed my attitude toward him or the presentation of the Christmas account had I known a Muslim was in the study? I truly felt like God orchestrated the entire event.

I don't know if this young man will come to another study. I don't know if he will ever become a Christian. I do know he has heard the gospel and I know how I can pray for him.

I didn't share this to tell folks how awesomely close to God I am! (That's sarcasm there!) I mess up a lot more than I'd like to admit. I realize there are a lot more areas I need to do a better job of listening to the Lord.

I just want to share this to encourage everyone to listen to the Holy Spirit in your life. Get into the word. Spend time in prayer. You never know how God will use you if you will simply listen and obey.

I don't want anyone to miss out on what God wants to do in your life and the blessings that come with obedience!

Here's to listening and obeying in 2020!

Mike

WOMAN'S WORLD

“Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” –Jeremiah 33:3

Woman's World is a non-denominational event that helps women understand their significance in God's eyes. The program includes practical seminars, a dynamic keynote speaker, buffet meals, times of worship, and lots of other surprises. This year's theme of "Adventure Awaits" will be a hopeful and confident look at how God is leading and guiding us through His word through the seasons and unknown territory of our lives. It will be a fun and inspirational break from the winter months for all ages. Woman's World has been a ministry of Manhattan Christian College since 1978.

Keynote Speaker



Ashley McNary, Author

Registration Prices

Prices include three keynote sessions, two buffet meals, five seminars, and keepsake surprises.

\$85 Registration (postmarked by Jan 31, 2020)
\$25 College Student Registration
\$90 Late Registration (postmarked in Feb 2020)

*Adventure
awaits*



Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be Saturday, January 11th at 8:00 AM. Stan Farr 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.

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

Blessings from 2019

What a great year 2019 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. Thanks are certainly in order for the hard work of the leaders and youth for the wonderful kids' Christmas play.

We also want to recognize once more those who joined our fellowship in 2019.

Baptisms: Mary Lou Clark.

Placed membership: Aubrie Mitchell, Christine Hile.

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.



Wednesday, January 15th
2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

501 Broadway, Delaware Township Hall
Make an appointment @ savealifenow.org
Group code: XP

Jan	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
5	Debbie/Myles	Starkey	Starkey	Starkey Matt 16:13-20	Stan/Jay/ Clinton /Jarret
12	Brittany/Ashley	Durand	Durand	Durand John 11:17-26	Jay/Stan/ Ray /Brian
19	Judy/Abby	Barret	Barret	Barrett Genesis 1:26-31	Stan/Jay/ Wayne A /Chad
26	Laura/Lauren	Spencer	Spencer	Spencer Matthew 8:23-27	Jay/Stan/ Wayne F /Jackson

January communion devotion and prayer: Stan Farr

Prayer Requests: Rick Dorr, Judy Flack, Emma Dockweiler, Becky Arnold, Clay Biester, Karen Rudolph, Grace Hale, Chris Saathoff,

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

Church Offerings:

Nov 17 - \$ 1,035
 Nov 24 - \$ 1,060
 Dec 01 - \$ 2,672
 Dec 08 - \$ 1,320
 Dec 15 - \$ 1,020

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)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift this year. It is such a blessing to serve together!

In Christ,
 Mike and Gina

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, visits, and especially prayers for me for my heart surgery and recovery. I will be forever grateful.

Stan Farr

Announcements: Some of you have noticed that we don't ask if there are any additional announcements during the welcome time of our worship services. This will be our policy going forward.

If you have an announcement, please get it into the church office before Wednesday so it can go in the bulletin. If that is not possible, tell Pastor Mike before church begins Sunday morning.

If you have an addition to the prayer request sheet, tell the person doing the communion prayer and they will announce it at that time.

Valley Falls
Christian Church
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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	3	4
		NO JAMS NO Worship prac NO Bible Study	1 PM Elders meeting	
5	6	8	9	11
2 PM – Midland 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 Board Meeting		8 AM Men’s Breakfast
12	13	15	16	18
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study	1 PM Elders meeting	
Sanctity of Life 19	20	22	23	25
10 AM – Pocket change 5 PM Youth Group 6 PM Soup Supper @Lutheran Church 7PM Service	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
26	27	29	30	
5 PM Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		