

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

January 2021

Who ministers to the minister? It's a good question, and one too few ministers are willing to ask except in conversations with other ministers.

The numbers vary and some statistics are quite old and need to be updated, but there are a lot ministers that leave the ministry for good. Churches are planted every year, but more churches close every year.

There is not room to go into all the issues on this page, but there are a ton of statistics on [www.pastoralcareinc.com](http://www.pastoralcareinc.com) about the negative aspects that ministry has on a pastor's health, emotions, finances and family.

Since 2020 was one of the hardest years in recent memory on churches and pastors, the stress is magnified as we try to navigate this uncertain future.

There have been some improvements. A study shows that 73% of churches are treating their pastors better. This statistic has improved due to better education on the role of the pastor, denominational awareness to better supporting their pastors, and to the advent of clergy appreciation. However, pastor appreciation is one month of the year – usually one Sunday if it is recognized at all.

Other positives: 77% of pastors, especially millennials (younger pastors, usually born around 1978-1990), are spending 20 or more hours with their families each week. Also, 90% of pastors feel they are called and in the place where God has called them (as I do).

This is not a complaint. It is an opportunity. It is a chance to introduce you to Dan and Irene Jenson.

Dan and Irene sold their home in order to make a down payment on different house they turned into a retreat facility called The Drawbridge, outside of Omaha, Nebraska. They used the proceeds from the sale to furnish, decorate and upgrade the property.

This ministry, which began in 2017, provides retreats to pastors and their spouses **at no cost**. All meals and lodging are included to allow pastors time to plan, relax, recharge and spend time with their wife or husband without the financial burden of a getaway.

luxurious – but not over the top. The meals were fantastic. It was truly a retreat for us.

Their website, [drawbridgeministry.org](http://drawbridgeministry.org), states: **The Drawbridge** is a ministry with a specific focus on caring for those in Christian leadership who care for others. We exist to encourage Pastors, as they seek to fulfill the call of God on their lives.

At **The Drawbridge Retreat Center**, Pastors and their spouses can disengage from ministry duties to rest and relax in a luxurious setting. **The Drawbridge** provides 2 and 3-night retreat opportunities in a setting located just 30 minutes from Omaha. Here guests find a place to rest and relax as they wind their way through the forest and arrive at our peaceful five & a half-acre estate nestled in the wooded foothills near the Platte River. Deer, wild turkey, and many varieties of wildlife frequent our grounds daily. Enjoy the trails throughout nearly 250 acres in the development. Nature awaits as guests experience the ministry of The Drawbridge.

**The Drawbridge** is a non-denominational Christian ministry — Bible-based and believing it to be the infallible and inspired Word of God. Jesus is Lord — period.

**No agenda - no program - no charge - just come and relax.**

Dan and Irene do not receive salaries from this ministry. Instead, they work in a feeding program called Kids Against Hunger to help bring in financial resources for The Drawbridge.

Due to COVID restrictions this meal packing program has been severely hampered resulting in drastically reduced support for The Drawbridge. So the board of directors have sent out a request.

They are asking for people to share this ministry and its needs with others, which I am doing here. They are also asking for prayers and provision.

I have made copies of their request available in the church foyer. Please pray for this ministry. If you are considering giving to a Christian ministry, whether for a onetime gift or as ongoing support, please consider The Drawbridge.

They have blessed your pastor and his wife. If you are able, please bless them.

*Mike*

thank  
YOU

**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:** From the Gilleece Family for the Christmas Box.

**THANK YOU:** From Evelyn Glissman for the Christmas Box.

**THANK YOU:** From Carolyn Edwards for the Christmas Box

**THANK YOU:** From Dodie Bolz for the Christmas Box.

**THANK YOU:** From Mary Jane Burns for the Christmas Box.

**ADDRESS CHANGE:**

David and Helen Grove  
4896 N Prestwick Ave  
Bel Aire, KS 67226-7655

Count  
YOUR  
blessings

**Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast will be Saturday, January 9th at 8:00 AM. Wayne Flack 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.valleyfallscc.org](http://www.valleyfallscc.org).** If you cannot access them this way, you may ask Pastor Mike for a cd copy.

**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, Scriptures:**

**Mercy for a Messy Church**

Jan 3 God Turns Chaos into Comfort  
2 Cor 1: 3-7

Jan 10 The Faithfulness of Christ  
2 Cor 1:19-22

Jan 17 **Life Sunday**  
Enemies of the Cross  
Php 3:17-21

Jan 24 Follow God to Victory  
2 Cor 2:14-17

Jan	Greeters	Scripture reader	Communion Devotion
3	Flack	Flack 2 Cor 1: 3-7	Jay Welborn
10	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer 2 Cor 1:19-22	Jay Welborn
17	Welborn	Welborn Php 3:17-21	Jay Welborn
24	Durand	Durand 2 Cor 2:14-17	Jay Welborn
31	Barret	Barret 2 Cor 3:1-6	Jay Welborn

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

**Prayer Requests:** Becky Arnold, Clay Beister, Emma Dockweiler, The Family of Tom Farr, Dee Carter

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

**Church Offerings:**

Nov 22 - \$ 480

Nov 29 - \$ 707

Dec 06 - \$ 1608

Dec 13 - \$ 1382

Gyve totals not included in totals.

Give to VFCC online through our partnership with Gyve at: <https://gyve.io/give/valleyfallssc>

**January Birthdays & Anniversaries**

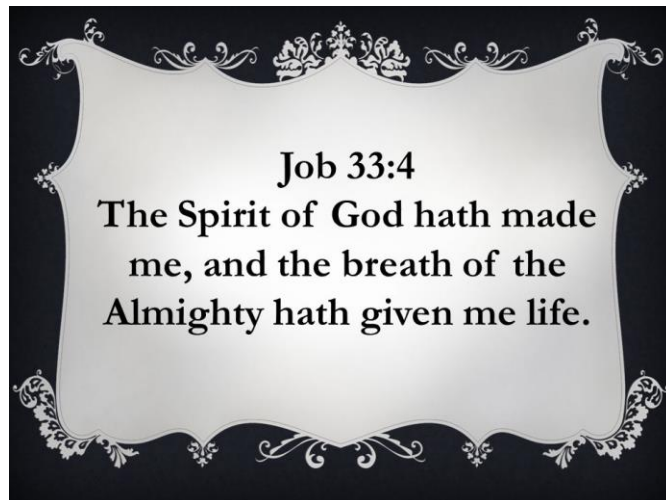
- 4 Emilee Mitchell
- 10 Matthew Branam
- 12 Leah Brown
- 13 Jackson Reich
- 14 Joe & Janelle Thayer (2003)
- 19 Jarret Mitchell
- 27 Ashley Grand Pre
- 30 Wayne Arnold
- 31 Linda Durand

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



The Unity Supper for January has been cancelled for this year.

**SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY** is January 17. 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.



# 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	Saturday
				2
3	4	6	7	9
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast
10	11	13	14	16
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
17	18	20	21	23
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
24/31	25	27	28	30
5 PM Youth Group  5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		