

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

March 2021

We lost our dog Molly in January. As in she passed on to wherever dogs go when they die.

Many of you had seen Molly before. I used her for a children's sermon in church a few years ago. I often took her to the office with me during the week and even brought her to youth group on a couple of occasions. So some of you remember our kind and gentle boxer.

Molly was the best dog I have ever had. She lived longer than most boxers make it, and was healthy and energetic up until the last six months of her life. Those last few months for her were hard on her. She couldn't go on walks anymore. She had a hard time with steps. The heat of last summer really hit her hard. She couldn't jump up into the truck on her own like she was used to for all her years.

During this hard time, as well as in her younger days, it seemed her happiest times were with me. She looked for me. She waited for me. She was content in my presence. She came when I called (until she became hard of hearing)! She was faithful.

Molly was rescued from a bad situation when she was two years old. She was suffering badly from mange - badly enough that it left scars. At a fairly hefty expense, we treated her, got her healed and brought her into our family. It seemed she really understood what we did for her and was wholly devoted.

Of course, Molly wasn't perfect. She did some things that she got scolded for. There was the time she carried a coffee can of nails and dumped them into her dog house. The time she ate into a bag of Quikrete. She completely demolished the black plastic water diverter coming off our downspout on the house. Those were the times, as few as they were, that we just had to ask, "Why?"

After she passed, I reflected upon how good of a dog she was and how we were blessed by God to be able to have had her. I also thought about how much Molly could teach me about Christ.

Molly's story can be an example for what

Christ did for us. Jesus rescued us. He healed us. He adopted us into his family and provides everything we need. He is our healer.

Sometimes we get stuck with scars, but that is good to show us where we came from and how much God has done for us.

And, like Molly, I know I do stupid things and God is probably in heaven asking, "Why? Why would you do that?"

I think how Christ did so much more for me than I could ever do for a dog, yet I wonder if I am as devoted to him as Molly was to me.

Do I fully understand what Christ did for me? Do I comprehend the expense at which he paid for my sins and brought healing into my life? Do I spend my days looking to Jesus? Waiting for him? Longing to hear his voice? Am I content to simply be in his presence?

Am I as faithful as I should be when Jesus calls me to a task? Are any of us?

I know Molly couldn't reason and understand on a human level. But I wonder if I would be a better Christian if I was as faithful as Molly. If I was as content as Molly. If I could be as happy with a simple table scrap as Molly was.

A gentile woman approached Jesus with a request to heal her daughter from demon oppression. Jesus was not trying to insult her, but simply tested her faith.

Jesus told her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15:24-28)

Lord, let us have the faith of this woman who was content to simply get the table scraps from the Master's table. For the Master's crumbs are more than this entire world can offer us.

Mike

30 Days of Peace

At the last Men's Breakfast, our conversation turned to pursuing the lasting, minute by minute peace that only comes from knowing God. I haven't been able to stop thinking about it since!

Therefore, our Resurrection Sunday message is entitled 'Peace.' In preparation, I am inviting you to join me in 30 Days of Peace. Beginning March 6, read the scripture passages for the day. Focus on where peace is mentioned. Meditate on it and pray about it. If it leads you to look up other Bible verses, great!!

By April 4th, we should all be excited to hear what God's word says about finding peace for our souls.

- March 6: Judges 6:19-24
- March 7: 1 Thes 5:23-24; 2 Thes 3:16
- March 8: Heb 13:20-21; Rom 16:20
- March 9: Psalm 4:8; 29:11; 37:10-11
- March 10: Psalm 85:8-13
- March 11: Isaiah 54:10;13-14; 55:12
- March 12: Ezek 37:24-28
- March 13: Romans 1:7; 15:13
- March 14: 1 Cor 14:33
- March 15: Isaiah 9:6-7
- March 16: Isaiah 53:5
- March 17: Luke 2:12-14
- March 18: Ephesians 2:14-19
- March 19: Col 1:19-23
- March 20: Col 3:12-15
- March 21: Gal 5:22-24
- March 22: Eph 6:14-18
- March 23 Rom 14:17-19
- March 24: Psalm 34:11-14;119:165
- March 25: Psalm 122:6-9; Prov 3:1-2
- March 26: Isaiah 26:3-4; 32:17-18
- March 27: Isaiah 48:17-18; 48:22; 52:7
- March 28: Rom 8:5-8; 2 Cor 13:11
- March 29: Phil 4:4-9; 2 Tim 2:22
- March 30: 1 Tim 2:1-2; Titus 3:1-2
- March 31: Heb 12:11; James 3:17-18
- April 1:1 Peter 3:10-12
- April 2: John 14:27; 16:33
- April 3: Luke 24:36-39
- April 4: John 20:24-30; Rom 5:1

Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be Saturday, March 13th at 8:00 AM. Brian Barrett 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. 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:

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| March 7 | Sorrow to Joy
2 Cor 7:8-12 |
| March 14 | Grace for the Cheerful Giver
2 Cor 9:6-12 |
| March 21 | The Church Is Worth Fighting For
2 Cor 10:3-6 |
| March 28 | Palm Sunday
What if You Had One Week to Live?
John 13:1-5 |

Mar	Greeters	Scripture reader	Communion Devotion
7	Flack	Flack 2 Cor 7:8-12	Jarret Mitchell
14	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer 2 Cor 9:6-12	Jarret Mitchell
21	Welborn	Welborn 2 Cor 10:3-6	Jarret Mitchell
28	Durand	Durand John 13:1-5	Jarret Mitchell

March communion devotion and prayer: Jarret Mitchell

Prayer Requests: Becky Arnold, Dee Carter, Emma Dockweiler, Rick Johnson,

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

Church Offerings:

Jan 31 - \$ 719
Feb 07 - \$ 1830
Feb 14 - \$ 200

Gyve totals not included in totals.

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

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Emery Mitchell
4 Donetta Farr
Mary Breitsprecher
8 Caitlyn Thomas
11 Kaylie Mitchell
13 Neil Parker
14 Gary & Betty Smith (1983)
15 RALPH SHEAD
19 Peyton Barrett
20 Grace Thompson
28 Jeff & Carolyn Starkey (1981)
29 Isaac Reich
Jodie Cook

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Community Christian Council news:

Restraints due to COVID have curtailed CCC sponsored events for 2020-21. The CCC only had one Lenten service in 2020 before restrictions went into place and the remainder of the schedule was canceled. The CCC did not host the Teachers' Back to School Ice Cream Social nor did they have a community Thanksgiving service. In 2021, there was no January soup supper/unity service and there will not be any Lenten services either.

Offerings from the community services are the main source of income for the CCC. So while there has been no income for a year now, the CCC continues to help people in the community meet needs. As such, the CCC bank account has been diminishing while nothing is going into it. If you would care to donate to the work of the Valley Falls Community Christian Council, you may simply mail a check c/o Community Christian Council, 511 Oak St. Valley Falls KS 66088. (Full disclosure, Mike is the CCC treasurer. If you are at church, you can hand him a check!)

Flaming Spirit Christian Camp

Dates have been set for the summer. They don't have any registration information up yet. Their website is www.flamingspirit.com. They also have a Facebook page.

June 6-11 High school
June 13-18 Jr. High
June 20-24 5-6 grade
June 26 Pre K-K day camp
June 27-29 3-4 grade
June 29-30 1-2 grade

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
	1	3	4	6
	1:30 PM – Sunflower	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
7	8	10	11	13
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
14	15	17	18	20
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
21	22	24	25	27
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
Palm Sunday 28	29	31		
5 PM Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		