

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

May 2021

Recovering from an illness or injury is different for everyone. Our immune systems vary. Mitigating circumstances and outlying health issues also determine recovery rates. Age is a factor. Also, some people are very good at following doctors' orders and rehabilitation regimens, while others aren't as focused on making themselves do everything they can to get well.

In some cases, the recovery may never be full; there will always be continuing health issues. Other people will have relapses. Unfortunately, some never recover.

The COVID crisis has done more than hurt people's health. It has damaged mental health – some out of fear of the virus itself and others due to the mandates to try to stop the virus. It has damaged businesses and our economy. Even relationships have been weakened over disagreements about how we should respond to COVID as individuals and as communities.

Churches have also been hurt by this virus. It seems as if the COVID virus has also unleashed a spiritual virus. How will the church recover from COVID? Just as some people recover fully and quickly while others slowly or partially, so shall churches. Likewise, some churches will not survive this virus. Perhaps they were already declining churches and COVID was the final straw. The question we need to answer is how will OUR church recover from the COVID virus?

To be sure, the church at large will never die. Jesus built his church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Churches over the last two millennia have overcome situations much worse than our most recent pandemic. [Side note: we are also in the midst of a deadly virus of postmodern and critical theory philosophies that seeks to destroy the church.]

So what must WE do to recover? There isn't enough space here for a complete diagnosis and treatment regimen, but here are a few things to get us started.

1. We must return. Jesus told the church in Ephesus they had lost their first love. They needed to remember, repent and return.

Likewise, we need to realize the love Jesus has for his bride the church and return and be fully committed to what Jesus died for (Eph. 5:25-27). It's time for everyone to get back to church. Without the members, there is no body.

2. We must be active. The last year has caused a big cutback in church activity. Jesus warned the church in Sardis that they had the reputation for being alive, but they were dead – we don't want that to be us! Now we don't want to do things just for the sake of doing things. Our service needs to come from a place of love and faith in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit has given us all supernatural gifts for the purpose of building up his church. If we are dead, we won't use them. If we are alive, we will try to put our talents, strengths and spiritual gifts to work in the church.

Yes, we are all in different seasons of life. We all have certain limitations – health, age, jobs, etc. that prevent us from doing some things – but they don't prevent us from doing something. Pray, ask the Holy Spirit to lead, and find a place to serve.

3. This is the most important thing we can do! We must commit to Jesus and the word. The word is where we find the commands to keep meeting together. It is where we find commands to serve one another in the church.

It is also where we see we are called to share the gospel. You cannot grow a healthy church without adding believers! The Bible is the word of truth and we are called to be true to that word. Jesus chastised the church in Pergamum because they allowed false teaching to seep in. That danger lurks more and more as our culture seeks to marginalize the church.

What I am asking and what I believe the Lord is commanding is to commit. Most importantly, we commit to Jesus Christ and God's word. From that we commit to the church, the body of Christ. Not lukewarm commitment like the church in Laodicea, but a full commitment to return and serve Jesus as his church on earth.

That is the medicine and rehab we need to recover from the spiritual virus that threatens the world.

Mike



ALL ABOARD! The VBS train is
Scheduled to come to our church soon!

May 24th-28th from 3-6 p.m.
Volunteers needed, children wanted,
Fun to be had by ALL!

To register a student, volunteer or donate
on line go to
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/9e3a25>

Or contact Aisha Mitchell 785-741-5205

Needed donations:
Christmas Tree/Garland
Cardboard
Granola Bars
Twizzlers Pull n peel
Graham Crackers
Mini marshmallows
Bananas
Star Crunch Cookies-must be prepackaged
Mini Donuts
Trail Mix
Beads-for making bracelets
Bracelet String

Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be
Saturday, May 8th, 8:00 AM. Kevin Gatzemeyer 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. 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, Scripture

May 2	Danger! 2 Corinthians 13:5-10
May 9	Jesus Meets the Canaanite Woman Matthew 15:21-28
May 16	Jesus Meets the Blind Man John 9:1-7
May 23	Jesus Meets Nicodemus John 3:1-8
May 30	Jesus Meets the Rich Young Man Mark 10:17-22

May	Greeters	Scripture reader	Communion Devotion
2	Flack	Flack 2 Cor 13:5-10	Wayne F
9	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer Matthew 15:21-28	Wayne F
16	Welborn	Welborn John 9:1-7	Wayne F
23	Durand	Durand John 3:1-8	Wayne F
30	R Mitchell	R Mitchell Mark 10:17-22	Wayne F

May communion devotion and prayer: Wayne Flack

Prayer Requests: Becky Arnold, Emma Dockweiler, Susan Klawuhn, Bill Coons Family, Jay Welborn, Jim Welborn, Dorothy Crays Family

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

Church Offerings:

March 21 - \$ 1897
 March 28 - \$ 1122
 April 04 - \$ 3467
 April 11 - \$ 569

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

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Sarah Toy
 4 ERIN SHEAD
 5 Gina Kirby
 8 Lauren Thomas
 24 Jodee Thayer
 Gary Smith
 27 Wayne & Christy Arnold (1978)
 28 Malia Boyce

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

The church would like to get the nursery started back up again. If enough people will sign up, they'd only have to do it every six weeks or so. If enough people! If we don't get enough to sign up, we will continue as we have been for a while longer. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer for adults and teen helpers. Some initial guidelines on there as well.



Flaming Spirit Camp: There are registration deadlines for camp this year. The deadline for the first camp (high school) is May 19th. Please go to flamingspirit.com to check out the calendar, register your child, and to see their COVID protocols. The church will pay half of the camp fees for our church kids. We encourage parents to get together for ride-sharing to drop off and pick up kids.

Flaming Spirit Christian Camp Dates:

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
2	3	5	6	1/8
Sheads Visit 5 PM – Youth Group		6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		1 8 8 am Men's Breakfast
9	10	12	13	15
MOTHER'S DAY	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
16	17	19	21	22
GRAD SUNDAY 5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
23	24	26	27	29
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters VBS 3-6 pm	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study VBS 3-6 pm	VBS 3-6 pm 28 VBS 3-6 pm	
30	31			
5 PM Youth Group	Memorial Day			