

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

May 2024

I began preaching at VFCC in September of 2003. At the end of a three-month trial period, the church voted to call me as their full-time pastor. It has now been over twenty years since my December 2003 anniversary as the minister of our church.

The elders have graciously granted me a sabbatical. So from June 3 to July 3, I will be resting. I will be away from all the duties of pastoring for a month.

The word sabbatical has its origin in the word Sabbath. God created in six days and rested on the Sabbath. God didn't need to rest. He didn't run out of energy. He stopped from his work as an example for us to take time to stop from our work.

God ordained that even the land should be rested every seventh year.

Today, Christians are not under the law, but are under grace. Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the New Testament. Remember the Sabbath day is the one commandment that is not explicitly repeated. Yet, the principle still remains that we need rest.

Not only is there a principle of rest, there is a promise of rest. Hebrews makes it clear that the Promised Land Joshua led the Hebrew children into was not the land of permanent rest. Our rest is Jesus Christ.

In Christ, we have the promise of eternal life. Life where there is no pain, or death, or sin or darkness. It is a life of peace. When we enter into glory, it will indeed be a time of true rest for our souls.

Until then, even though we aren't called to keep the Sabbath, we are called to rest. We can rest on the first day of the week, when we worship together. We aren't held to a specific time, but God knows us. He knows we would wear ourselves out. So he tells us to rest. Find a time of peace and rest. Even Jesus went away at times to rest.

The verses this month highlight God's Sabbath law. They teach us to rest from our work, our striving, from turmoil and stress. They will show us the blessings of rest as well as the discipline or consequences if we don't rest.

We cannot find true rest in the things of this world. Whether it is amassing riches to be seen by men or trying to amass righteousness to be accepted by God, we can't keep striving. It isn't physically, emotionally or spiritually healthy.

That is why Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).

I will miss you all in June, but I will be back in July, restored and ready to work for Christ together. Until then, read and meditate on these verses about rest and peace.

*Mike*

## REST

- May 1: Genesis 2:1-3
- May 2: Exodus 16:22-30
- May 3: Exodus 20:8-11
- May 4: Exodus 34:21; 35:1-3
- May 5: Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- May 6: Mark 2:23-28
- May 7: Colossians 2:16-17
- May 8: Exodus 33:12-14
- May 9: I Kings 19:9-18
- May 10: Psalm 4
- May 11: Psalm 23
- May 12: Psalm 55:1-8
- May 13: Psalm 94:12-15
- May 14: Psalm 116:1-9
- May 15: Isaiah 26:1-4
- May 16: Isaiah 28:11-13
- May 17: Isaiah 30:15-17
- May 18: Isaiah 63:10-14
- May 19: Jeremiah 6:16-17
- May 20: Ezekiel 34:11-16
- May 21: Mark 6:31-32
- May 22: Matthew 11:25-30
- May 23: John 14:1-6, 27
- May 24: Ephesians 2:11-22
- May 25: Philippians 4:4-9
- May 26: Colossians 3:12-17
- May 27: Revelation 6:9-11
- May 28: Revelation 14:9-13
- May 29: Deuteronomy 12:8-12
- May 30: Hebrews 3:7-19
- May 31: Hebrews 4:1-11

**KU Campus Christians** invite you to a celebration service for the completion of a successful school year. May 2, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Lawrence Heights Christian Church. 2321 Peterson Rd, Lawrence, KS.

### **Church Garage Sale/Bake Sale**

**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 AM - 6 PM**

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 AM - 3 PM**

Please have items marked with prices and initials. Okay to start bringing garage sale items to the fellowship hall beginning Monday, May 12th. Call Cecelia to make sure someone is there to receive items. All items not sold will need to be picked up by their owner.

If you have a favorite baked good you would like to bring to sell, they can be brought in Thursday the 17th or Friday the 18th. Contact Carol or Cecelia with questions and **to volunteer to help**. We Appreciate everyone's help and support.

**Graduation Recognition** - We will briefly recognize all graduates during worship on May 19th.

**Promotion Sunday** - June 2. All will gather in the fellowship at the beginning of the Sunday School hour to recognize the students moving up to the next level.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for Monday through Friday, August 5-9, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ages preschool - 5th grade. Watch for more info as it becomes available. See Tannah Baker to volunteer to help and with any questions you may have.

**Jr. - Sr. High Youth Group** meet 5-7 p.m. and will now include all students from the 6th to the 12th grade.

**Board Meeting** - Sunday May 5th, following church. Board Members, please plan to stay and attend.

**Men's Breakfast:** Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m. Stan is cooking.

**Pocket Change for Progress:** We take a special offering every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the pocket change you have been saving. The money is divided between VFCC Youth programs and the School Supply Giveaway Fund.

**Online sermon opportunity:** For those who need to watch at home, church service will be available to live stream on YouTube (and Facebook). Also available on YouTube, previous services.

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

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



### **Sermons**

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|--------|---|
| May 5  | Freedom in Christ<br>Colossians 2:16-19                       |
| May 12 | <b>Mother's Day</b><br>The Mind of Christ<br>Colossians 3:1-4 |
| May 19 | Clothed in Christ<br>Colossians 3:12-17                       |
| May 26 | Families for Christ<br>Colossians 3:18-4:1                    |

May	Greeters Communion prep	Scripture	Communion Devotion	Servers	Nursery
5	Gerstner	Debbie	Jay	Jay/Stan/ <b>Brian</b> /Clinton	Debbie / Malia
12	Boyce	R Mitchel	Jay	Jay/Stan/ <b>Ray</b> /Chad	Tiffany / Dakota
19	Gatzmeyer	Nancy	Jay	Jay/Stan/ <b>Steve</b> /Jackson	Rhonda / Aisha
26	Welborns	Carol	Jay	Jay/Stan/ <b>Clinton</b> /Kyle	Brittany / Dakota

**May communion devotion and prayer: Jay**

Camera Monitor	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	
Sunday School	Donetta	Steve	Jay	Charles	
Worship	Lori	Nancy	Carol	Ray	

**Prayer Requests:** Leah Brown, Cecelia Ragan, Larry Thomas, Freda Roberson, Elaine Worner, Matt Cook, Nevaeh Rivera, Connie Lillich, Christy Arnold. Students, Teachers and support staff in our schools. Israel, Ukraine and Afghanistan.

**Praise for Mike and Gina** for their care and devotion for others.

**OUR SOLDIERS:** Curtis Mitchell, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam, Noe Garza, All of our troops and leaders. Our President, our nation and our government. (1 Tim 2: 1-2) Decisions being made in our nation's leadership.

**Church Offerings:**

Mar 24      \$ 599  
 Mar 31      \$2041  
 Apr 7        \$1945  
 Apr 14      \$1389



**Gyve on line:** Scan the QR code to download the Gyve app.

**May Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 4 Charles Moffet
- 5 Gina Kirby
- 8 Lauren Thomas
- 10 Dan Strang
- 11 Chelsea Pruitt
- 14 Jase Baker
- 19 Glee Hosler
- 22 Aaron Cook  
Myles Reich
- 24 Jodee Thayer  
Gary Smith
- 27 Wayne & Christy Arnold (1978)
- 28 Malia Boyce

**Bible Study -** Wednesday 7PM. Last night for this series is May 15th. We are studying the Minor Prophets.

**New email address -** to get items included in the newsletter: [news@valleyfallssc.org](mailto:news@valleyfallssc.org)  
 Or call Cecelia Ragan - (785)-762-2195.



**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 6 -12) 5-7 PM

**Wednesday:** Bible Study - 7:00 PM

**May**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur/Fri	Sat
			1	2/3	4
5 Board Meeting 5 p.m. Youth group	6 Crafters	7	8 7 p.m. Bible Study	9/10	11 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast
12 HS Graduation 5 p.m. Youth group	13 Crafters	14	15 7 p.m. Bible Study	16/17 Garage Sale 7-6pm	18 Garage Sale 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
19 Graduation Recognition 5 p.m. Youth group	20 Crafters	21	22	23/24	25
26 5 p.m. Youth group	27 Crafters	28	29	30/31	