

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

October 2026

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. 3 John 1:11

Halloween can be a divisive subject within the church and even within homes. Some say it is just fun and games and has no impact on faith issues. They have no problem with it. Others say that Halloween is of the devil. Then there is the wide area in between that a lot of people fall into.

History "experts" disagree about the origins of Halloween. Pagan religions often marked the onset of winter with celebrations focused on the final harvest and death. They thought the veil between the living and the dead was lifted during this time.

Some who feared this wore disguises (costumes) so the spirits wouldn't recognize them and left out food or wealth (treats) to usher the spirits into the afterlife. They would also carve scary faces into produce (like gourds or pumpkins) in order to frighten away the spirits.

Others tried using occult practices to contact the spirits, talk with long lost loved ones or cast spells or divine the future. Any way you look at it, Halloween has roots in darkness, superstition and paganism with emphasis on the demonic. What should Jesus followers do with this?

I appreciate the way Pastor John McArthur suggested Christians respond to Halloween.

- 1) We should not respond like superstitious pagans. We are not to be superstitious because we are enlightened by God's word. Evil spirits are no more active on Halloween than any other day of the year.
- 2) Be wise and watchful. Documented incidents involving Satanists or witches are quite rare. While it is possible, the greater risk is the social danger involved. Drunk drivers, poisoned candy, out of control hormones at teen or young adult parties, pranks and vandalism are far more likely to occur. Parents would do well to not let their children attend secular parties or do anything unsupervised.
- 3) Christians need to respond with gospel compassion. Ghosts and goblins are not terrifying; God's wrath is. A lost world is celebrating death that they don't understand will separate them from God forever.

Some Christians don't participate. Others participate by choosing popular, 'non-scary' costumes and focusing their decorations on fall instead of ghastly

images. Some will jump in with both feet and say it is all in fun.

I think it is best that we allow God's word to shape and mold our decisions. Just because the world has fun doing it doesn't make it proper for God's people.

God bless you as you search the scriptures for the heart of God and the Mind of Christ.

Mike

Good & Evil

- Oct 1: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
- Oct 2: Deuteronomy 18:9-14
- Oct 3: 1 Samuel 15:17-26
- Oct 4: Isaiah 1:15-20
- Oct 5: Isaiah 5:18-23
- Oct 6: Isaiah 8:19-22
- Oct 7: Hosea 4:1-6
- Oct 8: Matthew 6:19-24
- Oct 9: Matthew 18:5-9
- Oct 10: John 8:12; 12:35-36
- Oct 11: Romans 12:9; 13:11-14
- Oct 12: Romans 16:17-20
- Oct 13: 1 Corinthians 10:20-22, 31
- Oct 14: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- Oct 15: 2 Corinthians 11:12-15
- Oct 16: Galatians 5:16-23
- Oct 17: Ephesians 4:17-24
- Oct 18: Ephesians 5:3-12
- Oct 19: Ephesians 6:10-18
- Oct 20: Philippians 2:14-16; 4:8-9
- Oct 21: 1 Thessalonians 5:19-24
- Oct 22: 1 Timothy 4:1-2
- Oct 23: James 1:27; 4:4-8
- Oct 24: 1 Peter 5:5-11
- Oct 25: 1 John 1:5-9
- Oct 26: 1 John 2:15-17
- Oct 27: 1 John 4:1-6; 5:19
- Oct 28: Revelation 2:12-17
- Oct 29: John 3:16-21
- Oct 30: Romans 1:18-32
- Oct 31: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH - Be sure to let Mike and Gina know how much we appreciate them!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - Sponsored by Samaritans Purse. Time to pick up your boxes and get them filled. You are shopping for a boy or girl ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 years old. Suggestions might be a "wow" item, personal care items, school supplies, clothing and accessories, games/activities or toys. Remember, do not include soap, food, candy, gum, scary or war-related, camouflage, liquids, or breakables. Last year we filled 31 boxes so let's beat that this year! Donetta will have a donation box if you would like to help with the \$10 per box cost of shipping. National collection week is November 16th - 23rd. Please have the boxes to the church by Sunday, Nov. 15th so they can be delivered.

BABY SHOWER ALEyna & JORDAN & TWINS - Saturday, Oct. 10th at 2 pm. All are welcome to celebrate the coming of their twin. Scan here for gift registry:



FALL FELLOWSHIP & HAY RACK RIDE - Sunday Oct. 11th. Meet at the church at 5 p.m. Hot dogs and buns provided. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert. Come enjoy the time of fellowship at the church following the ride.

Scholé Sisters present - VIRTUES OF THE HOMESCHOOL MOM - "Prudence", the 2026 local retreat on Oct. 17th, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the VFCC. A \$20 registration fee will be collected at the door. Please contact Courtney with any questions at 913-683-4144.

FAMILY BOOK CLUB - Thursday, Oct 29th, 10 a.m. Designed for homeschool families to have an opportunity to engage in clean/wholesome literature as a family. See Aisha Mitchell for all the information.

Men's Breakfast - Oct. 10th, 8 a.m. Aaron is cooking.

Pocket Change for Progress - Every 3rd Sunday, we take a special offering of pocket change you have been saving. The money is divided between VFCC outreach and youth.

Church live stream is on the Valley Falls Christian Church YouTube Channel. Past sermons are available online at www.valleyfallsc.org.

Sermons

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| Oct 4 | Mike off [Sept 28-Oct 4] – Stan preaches |
| Oct 11 | Chosen to Serve
Acts 6:1-7 |
| Oct 18 | Heroes of the Faith:
The Patriarchs
Acts 7:9-16 |
| Oct 25 | Heroes of the Faith: Moses
Acts 7:30-34 |

BAPTISMS - Let's give a warm welcome to Henry Moffet, Nora-Jane Mitchell, Ruth and Evie Nilges into the Family of God!

If you would like to be included on the text prayer chain, notify Donetta by text at 785-224-3497.

Church Email Address - to get items included in the newsletter: news@valleyfallsc.org. Or call or text Cecelia Ragan at (785)762-2195

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 6:30 p.m. We are studying Isaiah. Everyone is welcome to join us and dive into God's Word.

Oct	Greeters	Scripture	Communion Devotion	Servers	Nursery
4	Barret	Brian	Jarret	Jay/Stam/ Jarret /Charles	Debbie/Isaac
11	Spencer	Tiffany	Jarret	Jay/Stam/ Brian /Nick	Brittany/Malia
18	R Mitchell	Rhonda	Jarret	Jay/Stam/ Stephen /Levi	Tannah/Sawyer
25	Farr	Donetta	Jarret	Jay/Stam/ Aaron /Johnny	Leigh Ann/Becky

October Communion Devotion and Prayer: Jarret

Camera Monitor	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	
Sunday School	Donetta	Stephen	Jay	Charles	
Worship	Lori	Cecelia	Nancy	Levi	

Prayer Requests: Ann Consor recovering from knee replacement, Jordan and Aleya and twins; Kyle and Lori Brewster for their house in Hoyt to sell; Dee Carder; Susan Feldkamp healing; Jill Boyce; Leah Brown; Elaine Worner; Christy & Becky Arnold; Dodie Bolz.

Pray for Our Soldiers: Lauren Thomas, Allison Thomas, Curtis Mitchell, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam, Noe Garza, All of our troops and leaders. Also, our President, nation and government. (1 Tim 2:1-2) Decisions being made in our nation's leadership.

Church Offerings:

Aug 23 \$1732
Aug 30 \$1329
Sept 6 \$ 955
Sept 13 \$1245



Gyve online: Scan the QR code to download the Gyve app.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Blake & Hayley Lafon (2021)
- 3 Kevin & Nancy Gatzemeyer (1970)
- 5 Levi and Tannah Baker
- 6 Hayes Ketcherside
- 8 Chloe Woodgate-Caballero
- 12 Jocelin Thomas
Jera Kunkle
- 13 Kyle & Laura Reich (2001)
- 15 Maebry Moore
- 16 Emma Branam
- 20 Jay Welborn
- 21 Lori Barrett
- 27 Courtney Nilges
Clayton Mitchell



**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 - 6:30 PM

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur/Fri	Sat
				1/2	3
4 5 p.m. Youth Group	5 1:30 p.m. Crafters	6	7 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	8/9	10 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 2 p.m. Baby Shower Aleyna & Jordan & Twins
11 5 p.m. Hayrack ride	12 1:30 p.m. Crafters	13	14 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	15/16	17 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Virtues of Home-school Retreat
18 8:30 a.m. Biscuits & Gravy 5 p.m. Youth Group	19 1:30 p.m. Crafters	20	21 6:30 p.m. Bible Study Newsletter Items Due	22/23	24
25 5 p.m. Youth Group	26 1:30 p.m. Crafters	27	28 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	29 10 a.m. Family Book Club 30	31