

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

February 2018

Social media. It can be a blessing...and a curse.

The likes of YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat (and I am sure I missed some) have millions of users on a global scale each day. How should a Christian use social media? Should a Christian use social media?

Here are some negatives about using social media:

- It can steal your time.
- Fake news.
- People post without thinking.
- Those posts can be used against you later.
- It often values things that God doesn't value.
- Often, very large and biased corporations control these companies. (Jesus might even have his account suspended today based on some things he said to the Pharisees!)
- People fight and get nasty with friends and with people they have never met before in their life.
- It can take the place of real, in person friendships.
- It can ruin a Christian witness when you post or follow things that are morally questionable or objectionable.

Here are some positives:

- You have the ability to keep up with friends and family you otherwise wouldn't.
- Pictures of family and friends can be shared instantly.
- It can be a platform for positive change.
- Real news. (Good luck figuring this out)
- You can potentially reach millions of people.
- Businesses and organizations can use it as a tool to advertise or keep people informed.

What does the Bible tell us about how to act on social media? Social media isn't evil, just like money isn't evil.

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. So don't fall in love with being on social media, but use it wisely as a tool.

James 1:19 tells us we should be slow to speak and slow to become angry. Therefore, don't be so quick to put out a snarky or even nasty comment.

Matthew 5 tells us to let our light shine before all men. So don't be ashamed to talk about Jesus on social media. That is one of the best uses it could have.

But please don't ask me to forward something to twenty people or like or share a Jesus post – and tell me if I don't then I just don't love Jesus enough. I don't do that and I won't be guilt-tripped into doing that.

How does our church use social media? We use it to announce changes or cancellations. We may post scripture verses or post pictures from church activities. We might share a link to a helpful article. Hopefully it can be used as reminders and help to keep people involved. Bottom line is it is a tool we can use to help spread the gospel! **You can find us at Valley Falls Christian Church on Facebook and the church website is valleyfallsc.org.**

Here is my suggestion. If you don't like social media, don't do it. You have that freedom. If you don't like it very much but want to stay connected to what is going on at church, you can still join and use it simply to follow the church page and a few friends and family members. You don't have to accept every request or follow every page!

If you enjoy it, use it wisely. Don't spend too much time on it. Stop and think before posting. Especially if it could be controversial. You don't have to shy away from the truth, but expect negative comments and be tough enough and gracious enough to suffer through them. Please check out strange claims before sharing them.

Above all, whether you are talking to the neighbor across the street or to someone half way across the world on Facebook, look for opportunities to let your light shine for Jesus.

Mike

CHURCH ACTIVITY FOLDERS

Activity folders contain information on a particular event that the church participates in each year (or has participated in past).

They can be added to or subtracted from as far as what activities we do. Some we've done in the past include live nativity, float in 4 H parade, coat and hat drive, etc.

Some of these could be done again if someone would like to be in charge.

Sometimes our goals change and we find certain activities are not necessary.

The folders are in the foyer on the table. We need someone to chair each activity but then we also need several people available to help. Please take a look at them and see if there is a perfect activity for you to either chair or at least help with. Picking up a folder means you direct that activity this year.

You may see a board member or a past activity leader for any questions you may have. Activities include: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduate Banquet, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Church Celebration, Vacation Bible School, Food Boxes, and a few others.

Please be in prayer for God's direction for you. It is important that each person feels invested in the activity they choose to lead. If you think the activity is a good outreach for our church, please consider leading it. A folder which does not get picked up means there is a chance that activity will not get done this year. Perhaps if a folder does not get picked up, that is God's direction to no longer do that activity.

Some activity folders, like VBS or the Christmas Program, will require more time than others and now is the time to get going on both of these. These activities cannot be accomplished without you!

Revival committee: If you are interested in being on a committee to plan and schedule a revival at VFCC in 2018, please contact Pastor Mike.

FUNDRAISING FOR ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Beginning in February and into March we are joining several churches across Jefferson County to collect canned goods for Alpha Christian Children's Home in Perry, KS. It was established in 1972 to care for children in need and to teach them the love of Christ. For more info about Alpha you can visit their website at alphachristianchildrenshome.com or search for Alpha Christian Children's Home on Facebook. UPC labels from Campbell's, General Mills, and Best Choice can be used as well. Here's more of a list of needs:

Canned vegetables, canned fruits, Campbell's soup, Velveeta, breakfast cereal, easy mac packs, ramen noodles, snack crackers, pudding cups, fruit juices, pancake mix, stuffing mix, canned chicken gravy, nacho cheese dip, cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, salsa, taco kits, spaghetti sauce, salt and pepper, onion powder, parmesan cheese, Splenda, coffee, disposable cups and plates, HE free and clear laundry detergent (no Tide due to allergy to it) HE Gain laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Clorox wipes, water softener salt, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels.

We will have a drop-off spot in the foyer for you to leave your donated items. On behalf of Alpha, thank you in advance.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

Church: We WILL have church as long as Mike can get there. *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20.*

Assume Mike can get to the church, in the extreme case that he can't, we will post the cancellation on the media listed below.

Bible Study/other activities: If the Valley Falls schools are closed that day, we will cancel activities.

Also, check postings on the church Facebook page and the church website, valleyfallsc.org, for cancellations.

We will also pass cancellations down the texting prayer chain. If all else fails and you aren't sure, call Mike at 785-817-6920

Serving in February

Congregational Prayer:

Clinton Thomas

Scripture Readers

4 – Arnold – Matthew 5:17-26
11 – Thomas – Matthew 5:27-37
18 – K&N Gatzemeyer – Matthew 5:38-48
25 – Grove – Matthew 6:1-4

Nursery

4 – Debbie/Ashley
11 – Glee/Caitlin
18 – Tiffany/Jackson
25 – Cheyenne/Aleyna

Greeters/Ushers

4 – Arnold
11 – Thomas
18 – K&N Gatzemeyer
25 – Grove

Lord's Supper Preparation

4 – Arnold
11 – Thomas
18 – K&N Gatzemeyer
25 – Grove

Communion Table

4- Jay, Stan
Ray Mitchell, Jackson Reich
11- Jay, Stan
David Grove, Wayne Flack
18- Jay, Stan
Wayne Arnold, Chad Spencer
25- Jay, Stan
Ray Mitchell, Kyle Reich

Prayer Requests

Emma Dockweiler
Clare Brown
OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam, Noe Garza

Church Offerings

Dec. 24 - \$1371

Dec 31 - \$1043

Jan 7 - \$1043

Jan 14 - \$2742

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be on Feb. 10th at 8:00 AM. Kevin Gatzemeyer is cooking.

Quarterly Carry-in Dinner: We will be having our quarterly church carry in dinner on Sunday Feb. 25th. Bring a dish or two and enjoy the fellowship.

Super Bowl Parties – Feb 4th.

Adult/family – at Farr's. Begins at 6:00 PM. Bring a snack and a game if you don't want to watch the game. The whole church is invited.

Youth group – at church. 5 pm.

Pocket Change for Progress: We take a special offering of the pocket change you have been saving every 3rd Sunday during church. The money is divided between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund.

JAMs: Please sign up to provide snacks for JAMs at the table in the foyer. Don't forget to take prayer slips weekly to pray for the children's needs.

Copies of the sermons are available on cd by request:

If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at www.valleyfallsc.org.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 JODI WATKINS
7 Natalie Barrett
8 Aisha (Dively) Mitchell
12 Jay & Carol Welborn (1965)
Cheyenne Cook
13 David Grove
14 Charlie Brown
15 Kari (Haybarker) Mitchell
Clinton Thomas
16 Alison Olson
20 Nancy Gatzemeyer
22 Dakota Boyce
26 Evie Gatzemeyer

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

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 6-12) – 5:00 PM

Midweek:

JAMs (grades K-6): Wed. 3:30-5:00

Bible Study: Wednesday 7:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
			1	3
			1 PM - Elders	
4	5	7	8	10
4 PM – Super Bowl party at Farr’s 5 PM – Youth Group Super Bowl - at church. 5:30 - Zumba	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 PM – JAMs 5:30 - Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac. 7 PM – Bible Study		8 AM – Men’s Breakfast
11	12	Valentine’s Day 14	15	17
2 PM – Midland 5 PM – Youth Group 5:30 - Zumba	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 PM – JAMs 5:30 - Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac. 7 PM – Bible Study	1 PM - Elders	
18	19	21	22	24
10 AM – Pocket change for progress 5 PM – Youth Group 5:30 - Zumba	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 PM – JAMs 5:30 - Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac. 7 PM – Bible Study		
25	26	28		
5 PM – Youth Group 5:30 - Zumba	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 PM – JAMs 5:30 - Zumba 6:15 PM – Worship prac. 7 PM – Bible Study		