

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

December 2024

Rejoice always. (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

“Choose joy!”

“Don’t let anyone steal your joy!”

These and similar commands give us the idea that joy is a mindset. “This is a horrible day. I just have to choose to be joyful anyway!”

“Ugh, here comes (fill in name). They are always so negative and hateful. I’m not going to let them steal my joy.”

That sounds good on the surface, but is perhaps not easy to do in reality.

Many verses in the Proverbs speak of joy. Some of these passages make joy seem to depend upon circumstances. True justice carried out brings joy. Obedient children, good news, and the increase of righteousness in the land should make us joyful. Can we be joyful even if our children wander, and if we live in an unjust, wicked land?

Even in the worst circumstances, we can find something that anchors us in joy. That ‘something’ must be transcendent. Not able to be altered by worldly events. It must be good, righteous and true so that it can elicit feelings of gladness.

It must be powerful enough to overcome the darkness and evil that seek to destroy our joy. There is one who can bring that joy no matter what your situation is. Jesus is our constant source of joy!

In the Old Testament, joy is repeatedly shown to be the natural outcome of fellowship with God. We are told to leap for joy and shout for joy, all in the midst of our praise to God because of the blessings God has given us.

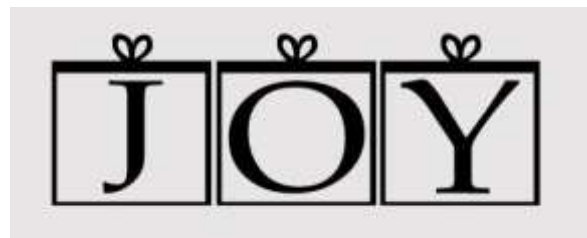
The New Testament shows us joy ultimately manifests itself in Christ. Only through the Son can we have true fellowship with the Father. Only in our relationship with Jesus can we have forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven.

The centuries the Jewish people spent anticipating the Messiah were fulfilled when ‘the child was born and the son was given.’ This is not just for the Jewish people, but for all who receive Jesus as their Savior. *Luke 2:10-11 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. To-*

day in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Best of all, when we are in Christ, enjoying his fellowship, and God’s will is done, God is joyful. I pray a joyful Christmas for all!

Mike



- Dec 1: 1 Chronicles 16:23-34
- Dec 2: Nehemiah 8:9-12
- Dec 3: Psalm 4
- Dec 4: Psalm 16
- Dec 5: Psalm 30
- Dec 6: Psalm 47
- Dec 7: Psalm 63
- Dec 8: Psalm 84
- Dec 9: Isaiah 61
- Dec 10: Habakkuk 3:17-19
- Dec 11: Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Dec 12: Zechariah 9:9-17
- Dec 13: Matthew 5:2-12
- Dec 14: Matthew 25:14-30
- Dec 15: Luke 10:17-20
- Dec 16: Luke 15:1-10
- Dec 17: John 15:1-17
- Dec 18: Romans 12:9-21
- Dec 19: Isaiah 9:2-7
- Dec 20: Luke 1:5-25
- Dec 21: Luke 1:26-38
- Dec 22: Luke 1:39-45
- Dec 23: Luke 1:46-56
- Dec 24: Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec 25: **Christmas:** Luke 2:1-20
- Dec 26: Matthew 2:1-12
- Dec 27: 1 Corinthians 13
- Dec 28: Galatians 5:22-26
- Dec 29: Philippians 4:4-9
- Dec 30: 1 Peter 1:3-9
- Dec 31: Nehemiah 8:9-12

NOVEMBER 30 - HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

We are hosting the 5K run and having a refreshment table afterwards at the end of the course. We need people along the way cheering everyone on with signs and noisemakers. There is a signup sheet in the foyer. Let Tiffany, Jenna or Jarret know if you would like more information.

WE HAVE ADOPTED A FAMILY through God's Storehouse again this year. The list and instructions are in the foyer. The deadline to have your wrapped gifts to the church is **Wednesday, December 11**. Please pray about being generous as we help a needy family in Jefferson County.

DEC. 1ST - Christmas decorating after church. Brian will be preaching.

FOOD BOX DAY - Dec 8th, following church we will be filling and delivering food boxes for shut-ins. Goodies needed are teas, fresh fruit, little fruit containers, hot chocolate, fresh baked cookies, bread, and snacks, all items should be individually wrapped. We fill about 30 boxes. If you know someone who would enjoy a box, let Debbie Gerstner know.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - Dec 8th @ 5 p.m. Jay Welborn is bringing his tractor and hay wagon for a ride around town. Bring a snack and meet in the fellowship hall. Wagon pulls out at 5 p.m. Upon returning to the church we will have a Christmas Party, bring snacks. Dress warm and come help us spread Christmas Joy!

LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY is Dec. 15th, @ 2 p.m. Nancy Gatzemeyer is hosting at her house. We plan to do a mug gift exchange so bring a wrapped mug and a snack for some fun fellowship!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Dec 22nd. Expect some announcements. Tannah and Aisha will be directing.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - December 24, at 7 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, Dec 14th, 8 a.m. Stan is cooking.

Pocket Change for Progress: We take a special offering every 3rd Sunday of the pocket change you have been saving. The money is divided between VFCC outreach and youth.

Online sermon opportunity: For those who need to watch at home, church service is live streamed on YouTube (and Facebook). Previous services are also available on YouTube. Subscribe to Valley Falls Christian Church YouTube Channel.

Past sermons are available online at www.valleyfallsc.org.



Sermons

Luke

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|---------------|--|
| Dec 1 | Mike off. Brian preaching |
| Dec 8 | Foretelling
Luke 1:26-38 |
| Dec 15 | Our coming Salvation
Luke 1:46-55 |
| Dec 22 | Birth
Luke 2:1-7 |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Service
Glory
Luke 2:8-20 |
| Dec 29 | Affirmation
Luke 2:25-32 |

Dec	Greeters	Scripture	Communion Devotion	Servers	Nursery
1	Wistuba	Leane	Brian	Jay/Stan/ Clinton /Kyle	Debbie/Malia
8	Boyce	R Mitchell	Brian	Jay/Stan/ Steve /Jackson	Tiffany/Dakota
15	Gatzemeyer	Nancy	Brian	Jay/Stan/ Brian /Nick	Leane/Malia
22	Ganger	Donna	Brian	Jay/Stan/ Clinton /Kyle	Connie/Dakota
29	Farr	Donetta	Brian	Jay/Stan/ Jarret /Charles	Aisha/Rhonda

Dec communion devotion and prayer: Brian

Camera Monitor	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29
Sunday School	Donetta	Stephen	Jay	Charles	Jarret
Worship	Stephen	Nancy	Cecelia	Ray	Tiffany

Prayer Requests: Lorraine Gentry, Bonita Rolins, Brandi Leake, Amber, Connie's Lillich's daughter, Penny SunBear, Leah Brown, Larry Thomas, Freda Roberson, Elaine Worner, Matt Cook, Nevaeh Rivera, Christy Arnold.

OUR SOLDIERS: Allison Thomas, 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.

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

Church Offerings:

Oct 20 \$ 950
 Oct 27 \$1222
 Nov 3 \$1814
 Nov 10 \$1596
 Nov 17 \$1008



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

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Matthew Boyce
- 4 Allison Thomas
- 15 Mike & Gina Kirby (1984)
- 18 Ray & Rhonda Mitchell (1982)
Jeff Starkey
- 23 Connie Lillich
- 21 Dan & Janet Strang
- 28 Chad Spencer
Alucard Heinen
- 30 Jacob & Kari Mitchell (2005)
- 31 Jarret & Aisha Mitchell (2014)

Jr. - Sr. High Youth Group - We want to invite all students from 6th - 12th grades to join us Sunday evenings, 5-7 p.m. in the church basement.

New email address - to get items included in the newsletter: news@valleyfallsc.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

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur/Fri	Sat
1 Decorate for Christmas after church. 5 p.m. Youth group	2 Crafters	3	4 7 p.m. Bible Study	5/6	7
8 Fill Christmas Boxes 5 p.m. Caroling	9 Crafters	10	11 7 p.m. Bible Study	12/13	14 8a.m. Men's Break- fast
15 2 p.m. Ladies' Christmas party 5 p.m. Youth group	16 Crafters	17	18 7 p.m. Bible Study	19/20	21
22 5 p.m. Youth group	23 Crafters	24 7 p.m. Candlelight Service	25	26/27	28
29 5 p.m. Youth group	30 Crafters	31			