

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

March 2026

Perhaps you noticed last month that someone came to work or school with a cross of ashes marked on their foreheads. You probably realized they had observed Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and goes to Easter, actually ending on Holy Thursday.

The ashes represent the fact that we are mortal, as in ashes to ashes, dust to dust. They also represent repentance. Lent is that season leading up to Easter in which we recognize our sinful human nature and the need for an atoning sacrifice.

It is during this period that those who observe Lent will fast from something as a self-sacrifice. Perhaps at one time you 'gave up something' for Lent, or you know those who have.

You might wonder why our church doesn't observe Lent. As an independent church, VFCC doesn't follow a lectionary or liturgical calendar. We don't exist under a religious hierarchy that we answer to regarding preaching topics or recognizing church seasons like Epiphany, Advent, or Lent. We feel it is better for the pastor to be under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in determining the direction of the sermons.

We also don't find the celebration of various church 'seasons' in the scriptures. In fact, Paul wrote in Colossians 2, "Let no one pass judgment on you... with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath." Lent wasn't officially affirmed until the council of Nicea in 325 A.D.

For those who are less than sincere, Lent can be performative (look how holy I am!) or works-based (if I don't do this, I am less in the eyes of God). Jesus made sure to teach us when we fast, don't act glum. It's not for others to see, but for God. We also don't want people doing it out of a legalistic requirement.

So if any individual wants to recognize a season of Lent in their Christian walk, please exercise that freedom! However, it is good to know what Lent is and isn't.

Lent is not a self-improvement regimen designed to better your life. It is not to show others your religious fervor. It is not a time of denial to obtain special favor from God.

Lent should draw you closer to God. Any focus on yourself should be repentance from your sin and what Christ's sacrifice does for you in bringing salva-

tion. Use Lent as a time of self-reflection and to focus on Jesus' death and resurrection.

This month I have included verses about fasting, sacrifice, taking up our cross and dying to self. Read, meditate on, and pray over the following verses. If you have extra time, read the context and look up related references. Be blessed!

When and how you fast is between you and the Lord. I believe God expects us to have times of fasting. Fasting, however, is not an activity we do to gain salvation. It is to draw closer to God and learn how to rely on his provision.

Mike

Sacrifice

- Mar 1: Colossians 2:16-23
- Mar 2: Isaiah 58:1-10
- Mar 3: Isaiah 53
- Mar 4: Joel 2:12-14
- Mar 5: Zechariah 7
- Mar 6: Matthew 4:1-11
- Mar 7: Matthew 5:2-12
- Mar 8: Matthew 6:16-18
- Mar 9: Matt 19:24-30
- Mar 10: Mark 9:33-37
- Mar 11: Mark 15
- Mar 12: Luke 9:23-27
- Mar 13: Luke 14:25-33
- Mar 14: Luke 18:9-14
- Mar 15: John 10:7-10
- Mar 16: John 15:12-17
- Mar 17: Romans 6:1-11
- Mar 18: Romans 12:1-2
- Mar 19: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- Mar 20: Galatians 2:17-21
- Mar 21: Ephesian 5:22-33
- Mar 22: Philippians 2:1-11
- Mar 23: Philippians 3:7-11
- Mar 24: Titus 2:11-15
- Mar 25: Hebrews 10:1-14
- Mar 26: Hebrews 13:12-16
- Mar 27: 1 Peter 2:4-12
- Mar 28: 1 Peter 4:12-19
- Mar 29: 1 John 2:1-6
- Mar 30: 1 John 2:15-17
- Mar 31: 1 John 3:16-24

Board Meeting - Sunday March 1st, following church. Board Members, please plan to stay and attend.

Daylight Savings begins March 8th. Be sure and set your clocks ahead. Spring forward and be on time for worship.

Time to Start Thinking Garage Sale - This year City Wide garage sale is May 8th and 9th. So start purging and marking and getting ready for the Church's garage sale. More details coming.

VBS! VBS! VBS! VBS! - Save the date! Rainforest Falls VBS! August 3-7, 6-8 p.m. Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their Creator, a safe place in life's storms.

VBS: August 3-7, 6-8 p.m. dinner before.
Workdays: 9 a.m.—1 p.m. (6/23, 6/25, 7/14, 7/16)

Needing Volunteers - we are needing additional people to assist with security cameras both for Sunday School and Worship. Please let Jarret know if you can help out so we can get you added to the schedule.

We have a need for someone to teach the 5-8 grade Sunday School class. If you feel you may be called to minister to others in this way, please see Mike.

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.

Men's Breakfast - March 14th, 8 a.m. Tim is cooking.

Pocket Change for Progress - Every 3rd Sunday, we take a special offering of the 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

Mar 1 Gethsemane
 Luke 22:39-46

Mar 8 Betrayal
 Luke 22:47-53

Mar 15 The Trial
 Luke 23:1-5

Mar 22 The Crucifixion
 Luke 23:32-38

Mar 29 Jesus' Death
 Luke 23:44-49

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 - (785)-762-2195

Mar	Greeters	Scripture	Communion Devotion	Servers	Nursery
1	R Mitchell	Rhonda	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Brian /Nick	Debbie/Malia
8	Barrett	Brian	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Aaron /Johnny	Tiffany/Dakota
15	Gatzemeyer	Nancy	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Ray /Chad	Tanya/Junior
22	Boyce	Brittany	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Clinton /Kyle	Aisha/Isaac
29	Wistuba	Leane	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Jarret /Charles	Leane/Sawyer

February Communion Devotion and Prayer: Jarret

Camera Monitor	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 15	Mar 22	Feb 29
Sunday School	Kevin	Donetta	Stan	Jay	Charles
Worship	Tiffany	Lori	Brian	Nancy	Ray

Prayer Requests: Tim and Donna Ganger, Louie Mitchell, Callan Dempewolf - healing, Jill Boyce, Leah Brown, Elaine Worner, Christy & Becky Arnold, Dodie Bolz

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.

Church Offerings:

Feb 1 \$14,481
Feb 8 \$ 1778
Feb 15 \$ 817



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

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Callie Ketcherside
- 2 Emery Mitchell
- 4 Donetta Farr
- 8 Caitlyn Thomas
- 11 Kaylie Mitchell
Levi Baker
- 14 Gary & Betty Smith (1983)
Madelyn Gerety
- 19 Peyton Barrett
- 21 Hallie Baker
- 23 Jonathan Kunkle
- 28 Jeff & Carolyn Starkey (1981)
- 29 Isaac Reich
Jodie Cook



**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

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur/Fri	Sat
1 Board Meeting 5 p.m. Youth group	2 1:30 p.m. Crafters	3	4 7 p.m. Bible Study	5/6	7
8 5 p.m. Youth group	9 1:30 p.m. Crafters	10	11 7 p.m. Bible Study	12/13	14 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast
15 8:30 Biscuits/Gravy 5 p.m. Youth group	16 1:30 p.m. Crafters	17	18 7 p.m. Bible Study	19/20	21
22 5 p.m. Youth group	23 1:30 p.m. Crafters	24	25 Newsletter Items Due 7 p.m. Bible Study	26/27	28
29 Palm Sunday 5 p.m. Youth group	30 1:30 p.m. Crafters	31			