The Vine

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

"I'm sorry for _____. Will you forgive me?" That was the formula we tried to use when one child did something against the other. The proper response was, "Yes, I forgive you." It was not always easy, but we were doing the best we could to teach them the biblical concept of forgiveness.

We must be willing to forgive because God in Christ forgives us. In fact, Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, that if we won't forgive others for their offenses against us, God won't forgive our offenses against him (Matthew 6:15).

So now I am going to ask you to forgive me! "I'm sorry for using AI to write this article. Will you forgive me? I asked the AI (artificial intelligence) model, Grok, to summarize the biblical teaching on forgiveness. It gave a pretty long list of bullet points and cited several scriptures.

While I may not perfectly agree with everything in its answer, the summary was pretty good. Here it is: *"Biblical forgiveness flows from God's gracious forgiveness of humanity through Christ. Believers are commanded to forgive others generously, reflecting God's mercy, to foster reconciliation, personal healing, and alignment with God's will. Forgiveness doesn't negate justice or always require reconciliation but frees the forgiver and honors God. Key verses like Matthew 6:14-15 and Ephesians 4:32 encapsulate this dual dynamic of receiving and extending forgiveness."* (That little section in italics is the only part I used AI for!)

The danger of AI? There's a person(s) behind it somewhere. People are biased. But AI learns, which could be good or bad. One part of the answer that was wrong said forgiveness is "often tied to repentance and faith." I responded that it is always tied to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Grok changed its answer in agreement with me!

I want to assure you I do NOT use AI to write sermons. I wouldn't consider it ethical, for instance, to present to the church a sermon that was developed through AI as my own. While I see its usefulness in some areas of research, it is the responsibility of the preacher to prayerfully wrestle with God's word and "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

This month's verses will show what the Bible teaches on forgiveness. Please read the passages in context and pray a prayer of thanksgiving that God is forgiving, and a prayer that we will have a heart to forgive others.

Mike

Forgiveness

□ July 1: Exodus 34:6-7
□ July 2: 2 Chronicles 7:13-18
□ July 3: Nehemiah 9:16-17
□ July 4: Psalm 32:1-7
□ July 5: Psalm 103:1-14
□ July 6: Psalm 130
□ July 7: Isaiah 1:16-20
□ July 8: Isaiah 55:6-9
□ July 9: Jeremiah 31:33-34
□ July 10: Ezekiel 18:21-23
□ July 11: Micah 7:18-20
□ July 12: Matthew 6:9-15
□ July 13: Matthew 18:21-35
□ July 14: Matthew 26:26-29
□ July 15: Mark 1:1-5
□ July 16: Luke 1:76-79
□ July 17: Luke 6:37-38
□ July 18: Luke 17:1-4
□ July 19: Luke 23:32-34
□ July 20: Acts 2:36-39
□ July 21: Acts 3:17-20
□ July 22: Acts 7:54-60
□ July 23: Romans 4:5-8
□ July 24: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
□ July 25: Ephesians 1:7-10
□ July 26: Ephesians 4:25-32
□ July 27: Colossians 2:12-15
□ July 28: Colossians 3:12-17
□ July 29: Hebrews 8:10-13
□ July 30: Hebrews 10:16-18
□ July 31: 1 John 1:5-9

VBS Work Days - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Thursday 7/17, Tuesday 7/22, and Friday 8/1. Sunday 8/3 we will set up after church. This is for anyone who is interested in helping!

VFCC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUG 4-8. Mark your calendars for an unforgettable week of adventure and faith! This year's VBS, 'True North', will take place August 4th - 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and it's open to all kids, Pre-K through 5th grade.

Through games, music, Bible stories, crafts, and more, kids will discover how to follow Jesus as their one True North -no matter where life takes them. It's a week filled with fun, friendships, and life-changing truth.

Register today using the QR code, and be sure to invite friends and neighbors to join in! If you have any questions, please reach out to Tannah Baker. Let's help our kids build a foundation of faith that will guide them for a lifetime!

Third Sunday Biscuits and Gravy - July 20th, 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Come join us!

Rescheduled - Guy's Campout - (Men, sons, grandsons) July 25th - 26th, Friday evening to Saturday at Prairie Lake in Holton, KS. Restroom facility on grounds. Bring kayaks, fishing gear, swimming gear as there is a swim beach, snacks and drinks. Water will be provided. Supper will be provided and maybe breakfast, too, depending on the number of attendees. Supper will be ready at 6:30 p.m. with a devotional time following. Leave when you need to leave on Saturday. RSVP to Aaron Cook ASAP so we know how much food to get.

Board Meeting - Sunday July 6th following church. Board Members, please plan to stay and attend.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, July 12th, 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.

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.valleyfallscc.org.

<u>Sermons</u>

July 6	The Greatness of Christ
	Luke 11:29-32
July 13	Unmarked Graves
	Luke 11:37-44
July 20	Overcoming Fear
	Luke 12:4-7
July 27	Get Ready
	Luke 12:35-40

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.

July	Greeters	Scripture	Communion Devotion	Servers	Nursery
6	Boyce	R Mitchell	Stan	Jay/Stan/ **Steve**/Jackson	Debbie/Malia
13	Gatzemeyer	Nancy	Stan	Jay/Stan/**Brian**/Nick	Brittany/Dakota
20	Ganger	Ganger	Stan	Jay/Stan/**Ray**/Aaron	Leane/Rowdy
27	Barret	Brian	Stan	Jay/Stan/**Jarret**/Clinton	Tiffany/Sawyer

July Communion Devotion and Prayer: Stan

Camera Monitor	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	
Sunday School	Jarret	Kevin	Donetta	Stephen	
Worship	Chad	Lori	Stephen	Kevin	

Prayer Requests: Conner and Julie Traxon and family for prayers and support for their baby in NICU due to early birth and trouble breathing. 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.

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

Church Offerings:
May 18 $1474
May 25 $ 436
June 1 $1630
June 8 $5625
June 15 $ 849

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

July Birthdays
and
Anniversaries

5   Laura Reich
10   Tiffany Spencer
19   Abby GrandPre
20   Aleyna GrandPre
22   Mike Kirby
      Jacob Mitchell
24   Christy Arnold
25   Wade Boyce
28   Jade Thayer

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

Valley Falls Christian Church

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On the web: www.valleyfallscc.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

July

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