

THE LEAVEN

First Presbyterian Church
Leavenworth, Kansas

May 2018



Soule Searching

"I'm sorry."

No two words roll off the tongue so easily when one has committed some kind of **faux pas** as the words "I'm sorry," and no two words have been so emptied of meaning. To say "I'm sorry" has become a mantra reflexively uttered whenever the situation moves in a direction we do not anticipate, or when we get caught with our hand in the cookie jar. Think of all the apologies we have heard just this year.

"I'm sorry" is not a **meaningless** expression because it's an important social interaction that acts like oil on machinery. It keeps relationships and connections alive and functioning. It's a device that keeps a **minor situation from being more than it is**. The failure to say "I'm sorry" when a slight infraction has been committed has led to countless hurt feelings and many deep misunderstanding.

But "I'm sorry alone is not an apology. It's an important social convention, but not more than that. To say it in such circumstances shows that you have **some** social skills, however limited and that you understand that "I'm sorry" is something you sometimes need to say.

However, sometimes we can't even say "I'm sorry," but simply say "Sorry." This seems to suggest that we've removed or absolved ourselves of responsibility. We have not committed the offense. It's not "I'm sorry." Now, it's simply "Sorry." Thus, "Sorry" -- when more is required -- is self-righteousness dressed up as an apology or as a middle school teacher once told me it is a way of saying, "Leave me alone and mind your own business." "This is no big deal." "Get out of my face!" "I said I was sorry."

Here are three things that must be present in an apology for it to help you get up and really move ahead: **confession, closure and change**.

A confession says you did it. You were wrong. Period.

Closure asks for forgiveness. You can, and should, ask. You cannot demand forgiveness. You ask. Then it is out of your hands.

A good apology seeks change. A negative experience can be shapeshifted to become a positive one. An apology with a confession and request for forgiveness can reshape the experience and turn a possible failure into a redemptive moment.

The late Angeles Arrien, writer and cultural anthropologist, once described a reshaping experience. She was at a bus stop sitting next to a woman who was reading a newspaper.

While waiting for the bus, she became engrossed in the performance of a 14-year-old boy on a skateboard. He had his baseball cap on backward, and he was skating beautifully and very fast. A couple of times he came by where the women were sitting and buzzed them, very nearly hitting them.

On a third pass, he accidentally knocked the newspaper out of the woman's hands. She said, "Oh, why don't you grow up?"

Arrien writes: "I watched him glide down to the corner of the block, where he stood talking with his buddy. The two of them kept looking back over their shoulders at the woman. She hesitated for a moment, then rolled up her paper, tucked it under her arm and walked into the street motioning to him. 'Why don't you come here?' she called. 'I want to talk to you.'

"Very reluctantly, he skated over to her, turned his cap around with the bill in front, and said, 'Yeah?'

"She said, 'What I meant to say was that I was afraid that I might get hurt. I apologize for what I did say.'

"His face lit up and he said, 'How cool!'

"In that moment, I witnessed what is called in Spanish a *milagro pequeño* -- a small miracle. This small miracle was a holy healing moment between generations, between two human beings who had just become important strangers to each other. The woman chose to shift the shape of her experience by moving out of reactivity to creativity."

Do you recall a meaningful apology you have received? One you have given?

A good apology is, indeed, a *milagro pequeño* and often times a *milagro grande*!

HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY OVERTURES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The three overtures that I distributed to the congregation in early April were discussed by our session and approved by Heartland Presbytery at its meeting on April 14th. These overtures will now go to the General Assembly meeting in St Louis from June 16-23rd. If they are approved they will be the Assembly's word to the church and world of where the most inclusive governing body of our denomination stands on these issues.

Our session had an hour long discussion of the overtures. We received a letter from one member of the congregation on this matter. Other elders reported the conversations they had with church members. Several elders expressed gratitude that these overtures were coming to the presbytery for action, believing it is time to recognize and affirm and all those who feel called to be part of our church. There was a concern that we had three overtures basically addressing one issue that could be united as one. There was a concern that the military was unduly named in the overture concerning employment and public service due to the excessive health care costs that arise with gender transitioning counseling, drugs, surgeries, and follow up and the time lost when a soldier going through this treatment would not be deployable. Another concern was just how long will the

list of special groups become if we are to list every group or subgroup that is to be included in the church. Anxiety was expressed as to the rapidness of all the changes with which we are being asked to study, evaluate, address and act upon. The amount of change is seemingly endless. The beliefs of the church for centuries, that any sexual expression other than heterosexual marriage is sin, makes these changes difficult for many in our congregation and community. Nevertheless, it was the consensus of the session, though no official action was voted upon, that we believe we are to welcome all persons into our fellowship who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to include them fully in all that we do. With such a spirit, we hope to grow into fullness of the people God wants us to be. God will be the judge of the life of the church and individuals in it.

This summary of the discussion does not do it justice. The session will have other thoughts about what we covered. I came away from the meeting feeling good about our interaction and the spirit of listening and speaking with one another. The commissioners to the presbytery meeting had a sense of the session's understanding and feelings that are present in our church.

The Church Order and Listening Committee of Heartland Presbytery reviewed the overtures and brought them to the floor for a vote. The committee recommended all three overtures and each passed on a voice vote. Discussion was brief.

The overtures will now go to General Assembly where they will be assigned to the appropriate committee and will be discussed there along with other proposed overtures and business for the assembly. It is in committee that there may be changes or consolidation with/ or to overtures, recommendations made and taken to the full assembly for final action. All overtures/business that are properly brought to the assembly must be addressed through this process.

I will work to keep information that I get about the General Assembly distributed to the congregation in a timely manner so you may see the process of our denomination at work.

Tim

PENTECOST MAY 20 WEAR RED

The worship committee would like to encourage everyone to wear red on Sunday, May 20th in celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. Red is the liturgical color of Pentecost, so put some on and join in the Spirit of the day!

PWC

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, for all the work you did to make the Spring Gathering such a success! The PWHP Coordinating Team was quite impressed--We had 63 for lunch and a few more attendees who didn't stay for lunch. Four ladies came from St Joe and 5 from Parkville plus our 18. The Parkville and St Joe ladies never go to a Gathering at the churches below I-70 and we don't take the opportunity to go either. We should plan to support the church that hosts next time!! We enjoyed Danelle McKinney and her presentation. I hope you did too. It was great to have her be our Guest Preacher last Sunday!



Thank you Men's Group for moving tables and chairs around for us! And thanks to Dwaine Wagner and John Strand for their muscle support! Tim was there on his day off to offer a warm welcome the women to our church, Arlene and Doris were there as always to support us and Jim G ran the audio system for us--thank you all.

Thanks to Circle 2 for providing the breakfast table--it looked lovely and what a bounty of food. The leftovers went quickly at Fellowship time on Sunday. Circle 3's Fruit salad was pretty, tasty, and bountiful. Yes, we had plenty for Fellowship time and that too went quickly! Thanks!

Circle 4 the quiches were well received and leftovers were enjoyed by the workers. Thanks!



Thanks to Circle 5's for the healthy and colorful salad and the rolls. Leftover salad greens and rolls were used for the Community Meal and the leftover dressed salad was enjoyed by many for dinner!

Thanks for the cake bakers, Marti, Merna, and Maria. And thank you to all who set tables, brought flowers, helped serve and clean up. The worker bees seldom get the recognition they deserve! Thank you.

We received \$264.00 from our portion of the offering for Backpack Buddies and \$11.18 for 2 Cents a meal for the Presbyterian Hunger program. Yea! Presbyterian Women always helping others!

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More PW News

The 2018-12019 Horizon Bible Study *God's Promise* by Amy Poling Sutherlun has been sent to Horizon Magazine Subscribers. If you need a Bible Study, Ginnie will be happy to order them in bulk and PW will pay postage. Just let me know ASAP the # needed.

The Bible Study Workshop will be held on Saturday, July 21, 2018 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$19.00 per person, includes continental breakfast and light lunch buffet; (does not include study book) Village Presbyterian Church, Friendship Hall 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS It will be led by the author.

May is the month we collect the Birthday Offering. It is collected thru the PW only.

Carolyn Anderson and Shirley Rockwell will be attending the Churchwide Gathering on August 2-6 in Louisville KY. Keep them in your prayers and wish them well!

CONTRIBUTION FROM DILLONS

The Dillon Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities. We do this through a variety of activities, including charitable giving, sponsorships and the unique Community Rewards Program of Dillons. We are also committed to carefully protecting our customers' personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards

participation as well. As your neighborhood food retailer, we deeply value our ability to support local organizations like yours.

Your supporters (14 households) who shopped at **Dillons** between **12-31-2017** and **3-30-2018** (Cycle 2018, Qtr 1) have contributed to your **\$50.71** total donation. Thank you for your continued support of your local Dillons store.

2018 Relay for Life

Our "walkers" this year were Lorna and Jim Matheson, Linda and Carl Johnson, Judy and Claude Wiedower, Debbie Anderson, Rick Nichols, Thomas Koch, Chris Aus, Joyce and Howard Kirk. The Relay for Life participation has been declining for a few years, but took a turn for the better with this year by raising over \$64,000 with a goal of \$55,000! Our own Katherine de la Cruz, who served as a co-chair, was very instrumental in the reversal of the trend (some of you had the toilet bowl fundraiser suddenly appear in your yard). Gustavo also demonstrated that he can drive a golf cart better than Claude as he hustled around the field doing chores for Katherine. Once again, First Presbyterian Church was the only church with a team. Out of 31 teams entered we came in Number 11. We walked 66 laps with most laps having more than one person. We all had a wonderful time of fellowship -- and great treats!

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to be able to select the following scholarship recipients:

- The two recipients who will each receive a \$675 Boatright Scholarship are: Alexa Allen who is attending Nebraska Wesleyan University, majoring in Communication and Michaela LeBar who is attending Pittsburg State, majoring in Therapeutic Recreation.
- The recipient of the \$850 FPC Community Scholarship is Kaylynd Brown who will be graduating from Leavenworth High, plans to attend University of Central Florida and major in journalism/political science. Kaylynd was active in DECA, KAY Club, JROTC, National Honor Society, Yearbook, Cheerleading and Leavenworth Broadcasting.
- The \$1,000 Carol Ann Low Scholarship is being presented to Mary Beth Winton in memory of Lorelei Litewski. Lorelei, the daughter of Dennis and Keri Litewski and granddaughter of Jim and Merna Roe, died in 2001. Had she lived she would have graduated from high school this spring and the family chose Mary Beth, a 2018 graduate of Lansing High School, as the scholarship recipient to honor Lorelei's memory.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Immediate: Ed and Lois Chapman

Ongoing: Marilyn Ferbert (Judy Jahn's daughter), Joe Hudson, Judy Jahn, Jack Thomas, Dorothy Streiner (Cindy Scircle's relative), Aunt JB (Kristen Michaels), Gail Garrett, Breanna Hoffman (Cindy Scircle's relative), Roger Frazer, Gladys Griffin (Maria Traynham's mother)

MAY FELLOWSHIP TREATS

Here is the schedule for providing treats for May:

May 6-Circle 2 & 4 **May 13**-Circle 5 **May 20**-Session **May 27**-Deacons

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2-Le Thomas **3**-Carolyn Tillotson **5**-Tom Thompson **6**-Arlene Stovall **12**-Norma Graham
16-Al Pursell **21**-Cindy Scircle **24**-Becky Stovall **24**-Jack Thomas **28**-John Graham **28**-Roger Frazer

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

23-Gary and Marti Auchard **27**-Claude and Judy Wiedower **30**-Jerry and Maria Traynham

COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal in April served 306 meals (the most of the 37 monthly meals served in over 3 years). Yes, we have been serving this meal that long - in fact we have fed 8,734 meals!! This month we had over 30 volunteers helping or delivering meals (to our shut-ins) - including a great crew from Saint Mary's Campus Ministry. All these volunteers have been incredible. You should see them hustling around, either setting up or serving or taking down and cleaning up. Rev. Soule always leads us in an opening prayer - and is his usual welcoming and helpful self. Special thanks go to the Monday morning men's group for setting up, to a Price Chopper for day-old bread and desserts, and to Daylight Donuts for those lovely assorted doughnuts!!

MUSIC NOTES SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Bell Choir will not rehearse throughout the summer, but the Chancel Choir will continue to sing on Sundays. We will not practice on Wednesday evenings, but instead, will get together Sunday mornings at 9:30. This is a great opportunity for anyone who'd like to sing in the choir, but couldn't make rehearsals to join in for the summer. We are always happy to welcome new singers. We will not wear robes and will sit in the congregation.

The final Chancel Choir Wednesday rehearsal will be May 23, and the first Sunday 9:30 practice will be June 3.



*Remember your sacrifice today & every day
on this memorial day.....*

THANK YOU!

MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Fellowship Treats-Circle 3 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	30 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Cody Choraliars</i>	1	2 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 Fellowship Treats Circle 2 & 4 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	7 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Cody Choraliars</i>	8 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Circle 3 6:30 PM Circle 5	9 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	10 6:00 PM <i>Session Meeting</i>	11 Church Office Closed	12
13  Fellowship Treats Circle 5 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	14 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Cody Choraliars</i>	15	16 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	17	18 Church Office Closed 1:00 PM Circle 2 PWC-Kathie's Home	19
20 Fellowship Treats Session 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	21 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 10:00 AM Circle 4 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <i>Cody Choraliars</i>	22 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Community Meal	23 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir Practice	24	25 Church Office Closed 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Amateur Radio Testing	26
27 Fellowship Treats Deacons 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	28  Church Office Closed Tim departs for Thwake Village, Kenya Africa	29	30 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship	31	1 Church Office Closed	2