



The Barnesville Lantern

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Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

The Pastor's Spotlight

We are marking the 250th birthday of our nation this month. I remember when our nation celebrated its bicentennial in 1976. It's doubtful that I will be around to see the tricentennial celebration in 2076. Lord willing, my grandsons will witness it, and like me now, will wonder where the time went.

Much has happened in our country in the last 50 years. We are not as united as we once were. Our devotion to and worship of God is not like it used to be. Church attendance and baptism numbers are down. People are spending less time reading the Bible and praying. If we ever were a Christian nation, much like the Israelites in the Old Testament, we seem to have lost our way.

Although not every American claims to be a Christian, I believe God has continued to bless this nation because of the remnant that has remained faithful to Him. I believe He honors those who honor Him. Our forefathers fought for independence 250 years ago, and we are still an independent nation. We continue to have freedoms that attract so many people who want to take up residence here. Other nations have tried to take us down over the years, but we are still standing free. God has watched over us and blessed us through all that we have endured. *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage" (Psalm 33:12)!* I believe He continues to bless us because we do not take our liberties for granted. In all honesty, God owes us nothing, and yet He has given us so much.

If the Lord tarries, I pray that my grandsons will be celebrating this nation's 300th birthday 50 years from now. I pray that our nation will get back on track spiritually speaking. I pray that we will more than ever be a nation whose God is the Lord. I ask that you join me in that prayer.

Whether you visit the festivities in Washington, DC or locally, or just spend quiet time at home, I hope you have a wonderful and blessed 4th of July. Just keep in mind that freedom is not free. May God continue to bless you, your family, and the United States of America!

God Bless,

Pastor Kevin



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Upcoming Events

July 1 July Business Meeting
July 4 Independence Day
July 12 VBS Set-Up
July 13-17 Vacation Bible School, 6:30-8:30 pm
July 21 Seniors' Luncheon
July 25 Men's Breakfast
July 27 Deacons' Meeting



"...Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof..." (Leviticus 25:10).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

This July the 4th marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, when the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia in 1776, agreed “...That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States...”, thus birthing into existence our country, the United States of America.

There are many stories in the Bible about freedom and remembering important events in history. One of the first “historical markers” in the Scripture was the rainbow, when God told Noah that “...*I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth*” (Genesis 9:16). The story of the Exodus is an account of how the nation of Israel received its freedom from four centuries of Egyptian slavery. Even to this day, almost 35 centuries later, the Jewish people celebrate Passover each year to remember how God freed them from Pharaoh’s oppression. “*And Moses said to the people: ‘Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt...’*” (Exodus 13:3).

In the New Testament, Jesus’ institution of communion at the Last Supper helps Christians remember Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. “...*He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me’*” (1 Corinthians 11:24). Unlike annual holidays like Christmas, we can remember and celebrate Jesus’ love for us at any time when we partake of the Lord’s Supper. More than Moses, more than our American Founding Fathers, Jesus’ work on the cross has freed uncounted millions of people for eternity, delivering them from the power and penalty of sin here in this world, and in eternity, from sin’s presence forever and ever (Romans 8:2). Not only did Jesus free us from sin and have our ledgers wiped cleaned, His Father adopted as His children (Romans 8:17) so that we who would otherwise have nothing will receive everything in His Kingdom.

So as we come to the 250th anniversary of our country’s founding, the Bible gives us good justification for dividing history into 50-year segments. In *Leviticus 25*, the custom of the jubilee year was introduced. Every 50 years, the Jewish people were to set slaves free, cancel debts, and restore property. The land was to have a Sabbath rest. The word “jubilee” comes from the Hebrew for “ram’s horn”, as the 50-year celebration was to begin with the blowing of that instrument. “*Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound...*” (Leviticus 25:9). Merged with the similar-sounding but unrelated Latin word “iubilare” (to shout with joy), our modern English word jubilee gives us the idea of celebrating freedom with great joy, a fitting foundation for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding.

Inspired by the biblical practice of the jubilee and in honor of the 50-year anniversary of Pennsylvania’s 1701 Charter of Privileges—an early constitution granting the people of the

continued on page 3, column 2

Defenders of Freedom Scramble

Can you match these 20 Bible characters who helped win or defend Israel’s freedom with their description? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Aaron | A. Esther’s cousin who helped her stop Haman from killing the Jews |
| 2. Asa | B. prophet who helped Hezekiah trust God during Assyrian invasion |
| 3. Cyrus the Great | C. Persian queen who prevented Haman from killing all the Jews |
| 4. Daniel | D. defended Jerusalem from Assyrian invasion |
| 5. Deborah | E. helped Jews live through Babylonian Exile |
| 6. Esther | F. young king who restored true worship of God in Judah |
| 7. Ezra | G. prophet who encouraged Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple |
| 8. Haggai | H. high priest, overthrew wicked queen in Judah |
| 9. Hathach | I. inspired Barak’s army to defeat Canaanite general Sisera |
| 10. Hezekiah | J. Persian king who freed Jews from Babylon |
| 11. Isaiah | K. hid Joshua’s spies in Jericho |
| 12. Jehoiada | L. prophet, defended Israel from the Philistines |
| 13. Jethro | M. defended Israel from Mesopotamian king |
| 14. Josiah | N. rebuilt Jerusalem’s walls to defend city |
| 15. Mordecai | O. helped Moses lead Israelites after the Exodus |
| 16. Nehemiah | P. trusted courier between Esther and Mordecai |
| 17. Othniel | Q. priest and scribe who taught exiles to follow God’s Law |
| 18. Rahab | R. king of Judah who defeated invasion by Zerah the Cushite |
| 19. Samuel | S. spoke for Moses against Pharaoh |
| 20. Zerubbabel | T. led first Jewish exiles back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple |

Defenders of Freedom Word Search

Z J Z A N H T M R M B R T B G K
G E R M A M O L E I N H T O J D
M Z R I L R J Y G H K R Q Y L T
E H A U D Y P E C J A Y Y M G M
R S A E B D L A T H Z R M R N R
I H C I X B H T A H V M N P T Z
R A N A K T A B Y Y R X B Q N M
I R E R A E H B J E H O I A D A
H O H H E R Z A E D A N I E L N
A B E C A H O E G L E U M A S N
I E M Y Y S T N H G P J W M Y B
S D I Y Y R A S B N A Q L L K R
O T A K T N U K E R K I N J Z T
J M H M T J T S P J R J L N D D

Word Bank: Aaron, Asa, Cyrus, Daniel, Deborah, Esther, Ezra, Haggai, Hathach, Hezekiah, Isaiah, Jehoiada, Jethro, Josiah, Mordecai, Nehemiah, Othniel, Rahab, Samuel, Zerubbabel

July Birthdays

12 Maggie Leibrand
14 Penny Barton
23 Mary Yates
26 Joe Yates



Prayer Concerns

Members: Mary Yates, recovering from a broken shoulder; Tom Roff, recovering from cataract surgery; John & Joyce Dunn, staying in Idaho; Gary Cooley, health

Family and Friends: Jerry Neal, heart health; Jonathan Chandan's father Dennis, recovering from heart surgery, Allison Runkles, sister-in-law of Stephanie Runkles, dementia; Jody Reed, cousin of Janna Williams, for leg strength and walking capabilities; Morgan and Dade Pumphrey, Will Pumphrey's daughters; Joe Yates' niece Cyndi, for her eyesight; the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.

Seniors: Barbara Swank; Bob Runkles; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Kitty Cooley; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates
Cancer patients: Rev. Mike Trammell; Brenda Baker Windsor and Rhonda, friends of Mary Ann Luhn; Pat Luhn, breast cancer; Patti DeArcangelis, friend of Bill Williams

Missions: Dr. Ron Blankenship and MBA leaders; BCM/D Executive Director Tom Stolle and staff; NAMB and IMB missionaries; church planters in MD/DE; MBA-sponsored Nepalese church plant Christ Vision International Church in Rockville, MD



*"The LORD is righteous in
all His ways,
Gracious in all His works.
The LORD is near to all
who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him
in truth.
He will fulfill the desire of
those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry
and save them"
(Psalm 145:17-19).*

Defenders of Freedom Scramble Answers

1. **S** (Exodus 4:14-16); 2. **R** (II Chronicles 14:12); 3. **J** (Isaiah 45:1); 4. **E** (Daniel 6:28); 5. **I** (Judges 4:14); 6. **C** (Esther 8:4); 7. **Q** (Ezra 7:10); 8. **G** (Ezra 5:1); 9. **P** (Esther 4:5-6); 10. **D** (II Kings 18:7); 11. **B** (II Kings 19:6); 12. **H** (II Kings 11:12); 13. **O** (Exodus 18:17-19); 14. **F** (II Kings 23:25); 15. **A** (Esther 10:3); 16. **N** (Nehemiah 4:14); 17. **M** (Judges 3:9); 18. **K** (Joshua 2:4); 19. **L** (I Samuel 7:3); 20. **T** (Zechariah 4:9).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in June:

- No new motions were offered during the June 2026 Business Meeting.
- Luke Fedders submitted his resignation as a Deacon, effective Jun. 30, 2026.

Expected at the July Business Meeting:

- A motion will be made to call for the Standing Committees to authorize Church officer and committee positions for the 2026-2028 term.

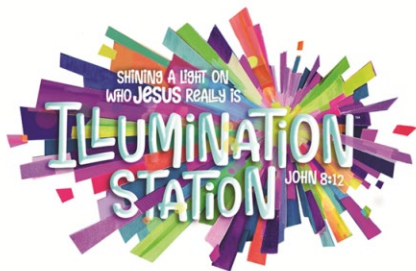
The Pew Perspective, continued

colony self-government and religious freedom--a bell was ordered by the Pennsylvania Assembly with words from *Leviticus 25:10*. The inscription read: "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof Lev. XXV X". Today, we know that chime as the Liberty Bell. By 1753, the Liberty Bell was in place atop the tower of the Pennsylvania State House, which we now call Independence Hall. The Liberty Bell was present for the approval of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in the 1700s. It is quite possible, but not certain, that the Liberty Bell was rung along with other bells in Philadelphia to announce the approval of the Declaration of Independence in July 1776. By 1835, anti-slavery abolitionists, inspired by the biblical call for freedom, began to use it as a symbol and started calling it the Liberty Bell. Movements for women's suffrage and civil rights in following centuries also used the imagery of the Liberty Bell in their efforts to give women and blacks greater political freedom and equality.

The Liberty Bell is also famous for its crack. It was originally cast in London in 1751. Upon arrival in Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell cracked upon its first ring. It was melted down and recast by local metalworkers. After 90 years of service, the Liberty Bell began to crack again in the 1840s, with its last use in 1846 to honor George Washington's birthday. Unrung ever since, the Liberty Bell reminds us as Americans that liberty is fragile and must be protected. The prophet Jeremiah warned the Jews that their failure to observe the Jubilee would be judged, which came about in the 70-year Babylonian Exile, allowing the land to finally receive the Sabbath rest it should have been given (*Jeremiah 34:13-17; II Chronicles 36:21*). Liberty is ultimately a gift from God, so if we reject Him, how long can we expect to enjoy His blessings? Let us instead take the perspective of the Psalmist, who wrote, "...I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts" (*Psalm 119:45*). Let us jubilate for our God-given freedoms on this 250th anniversary of our American independence!

News You Can Use

VBS 2026 almost here! Set-up and decorating of classrooms and the sanctuary for Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held on Sunday, Jul. 12 in the Fellowship Hall after worship, with lunch provided for VBS teachers and workers.



This year's theme for our Jul. 13-17 Vacation Bible School is "Illumination Station", based on *John 8:12*. While many people claim to know about Jesus, many are in the dark about who He really is. During VBS, kids will explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals.

This year's VBS mission offering will benefit Skycroft Conference Center, the BCM/D's summer camp for kids, in western Maryland. Many people encounter Jesus as their Savior while attending camp or a retreat at Skycroft.

Invite your friends, family, and neighborhood kids to join us for VBS from 6:30 to 8:30 pm each weeknight. Classes are available from Pre-K to 6th Grade and Adults. Register online at barnesvillebaptist.org/vbs. VBS is arguably our church's most important annual outreach activity; please join us in serving the Lord and building His Kingdom.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as teachers and helpers in the areas of crafts, recreation, and snack. If you would like to make cookies for snack time, donations are welcome. Please continue to praying for this most important outreach event of the year.

Church picnic. Due to a loss of electricity and tent damage caused by a Jun. 6 thunderstorm, the annual church picnic that was scheduled for Sunday, Jun. 7 will now be held on Sunday, Aug. 30 after the worship service. BBC is providing the main meal



A still image from the church security camera showing the tent blowing away and breaking the church van's back window during the Jun. 6 thunderstorm.

(Mission BBQ) and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. In the event of poor weather, we will use the Fellowship Hall. RSVP your attendance on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

School supply give-away. For the second year in a row, an evangelistic outreach giving out school supplies to local children is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9:00 am at BBC. More details about how you can participate will be shared after VBS!

Prayer requests. The worship bulletin is updated weekly with prayer requests for BBC members, family and friends, and other needs. Please



contact the Church Office by Wednesdays at 6:00 pm to have

The Bell Choir, composed of Sheryl Roff, Nita Roff, Ann Bennett, Karen Hazzard, and David Bennett, performed "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" during the Jun. 14 service.

your request included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Prayer requests can also be sent out on the BBC email list for more timely needs.

Seniors' lunch. Those aged 55 and over are invited to a noontime meal and time of fellowship on Tuesday, Jul. 21. Please RSVP to Stephanie Runkles by Sunday, Jul. 12.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

