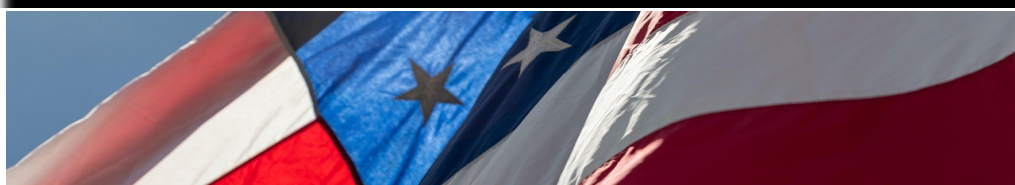


# The Lamp Lighter



## ***4 Ways July 4th Can Be Like Freedom in Christ***

July 4th reminds me of freedom in Christ. I promise, this isn't some smelly mixture of patriotism and Christianity. I just think there's some powerful imagery in Independence Day. Let me explain.

First, why does America celebrate the 4th of July? Something about apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames, right? No. On July 4, 1776, thirteen colonies in North America decided they were done paying their taxes and over their allegiance to the King of England. Colonial leaders got together to write the Declaration of Independence and then sign it into being. The Revolutionary War had already begun, but this was a statement of unity and determination to gain freedom from England's rule. You might recognize this portion:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

--The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

**So, here are 4 reasons July 4th reminds me of freedom In Christ.**

**1. It's a gift.** For all living Americans, July 4th is a gift. We didn't earn it—we received it from the people who lived, led, and died to fight for it. Everyone who gets a gift has two questions. First, "Who is it from?" Second, "What does it do?" My freedom in Christ is from Jesus. I didn't earn it. He died for it. That's who it's from, but what does it do? Galatians 5:1 reminds me, it's *for freedom* we've been set free. What does my freedom do? Give more freedom. It's freedom for me, my marriage, my kids, my friends, my co-workers, and my neighbors. I was given this gift to share. Cont. p. 3

*"It is  
for  
freedom  
that  
Christ  
has  
set  
us  
free."*

-Galatians 5:1

### **G r e e t e r   S c h e d u l e :**

**8:30 AM**

**11:00 AM**

July 06	Kevin G.	Dave B.
July 13	Glenn M.	Ken D.
July 20	Marion S.	Andy G.
July 27	Gary B.	Patrick H.

### **S u n d a y   M o r n i n g   S e c u r i t y   T e a m :**

**8:30 AM**

**11 AM**

July 06	Kevin G., VACANT	Al L., Brian M.
July 13	Marion S., VACANT	Jennifer M., Patrick H.
July 20	Courtney H., VACANT	Jerry P., Melvin K.
July 27	Norma S., VACANT	Jim M., Patrick H.

### **S u n d a y   M o r n i n g   N u r s e r y :**

**Infant**

**Toddler**

July 06	Norma S., Donna F.	Jill H., Ruth D.
July 13	Norma S., Karla M., Abby P.	Katie L., Kristen G., Erin H.
July 20	Norma S., Ruth D., Carlesh N.	Stephanie W., Ruth D., Adrielle L.
July 27	Norma S., Cecelia S.	Amanda N., Gracelynn N.

### **C h i l d r e n ' s   W o r s h i p :**

July 06	Stephanie W., Jonathan M., Kayla H.
July 13	Jennifer C., Chloe C.
July 20	Amanda N., Ashley M.
July 27	Katie L., Kristen G., Abby P.

### **J u l y   T e l l e r s :**

Courtney H. & Amanda N.

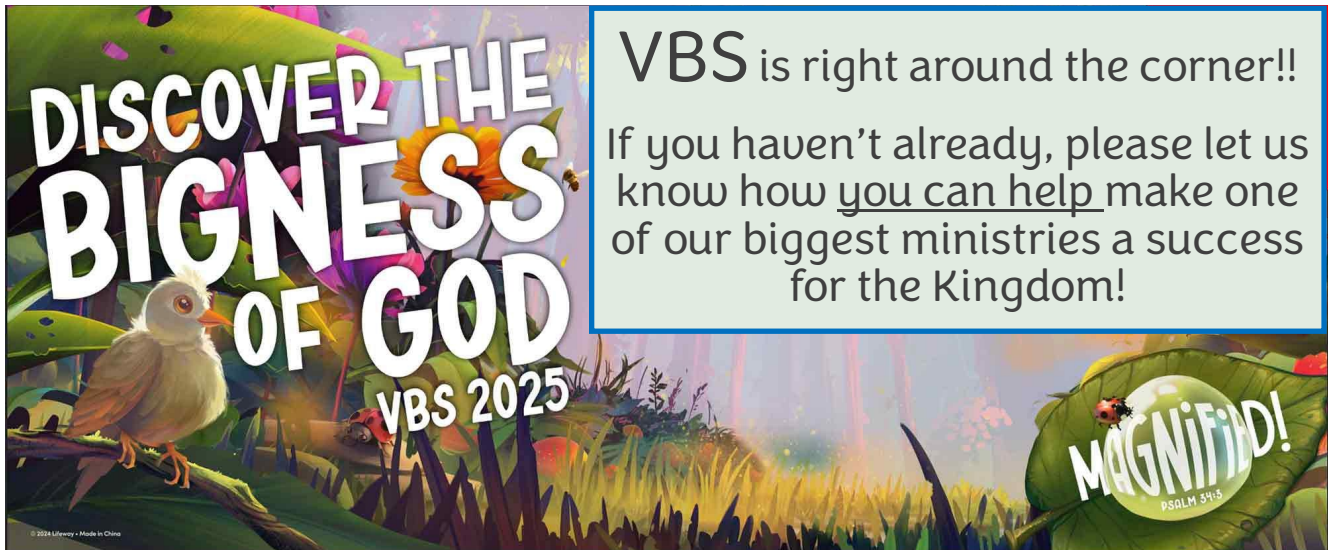
Cont. from pg. 1

**1. It's a mid-war declaration.** July 4, 1776 came only about a year after the revolutionary war began and about six years before it would finally end. Yet, it's the single most revered day of American history. This reminds me of battles we face. You may be fighting for your marriage, struggling financially, or just trying to raise godly kids. Either way, it may be time to make a mid-war declaration of your freedom in Christ.

**2. It's a celebration of restoration.** Remember apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames? All to celebrate liberty once lost—but now found. Humans love to celebrate finding lost things because we were made in God's image, and God parties big for restoration. Jesus told a story about this called the Prodigal Son. When the son came home, the Father killed his best cow and threw a party (Luke 15:11-24). Jesus even suggests angels celebrate in heaven when someone discovers freedom in Christ (Luke 15:10). And what happens when we all meet Jesus? A glorious supper (Revelation 19:16-17).

**3. It's united.** The Declaration of Independence was written by thirteen different colonies, but within the document, they are called "we." "We hold these truths to be self-evident ..." Jesus set you and me free as individuals, but *we* live out this freedom as His Church. One body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12:1-27). When your "I" becomes "we," it's amazing what *we* can accomplish.

Inman, J. *4 Ways July 4th Can Be Like Freedom in Christ*. finds.life.church. <https://finds.life.church/4-reasons-july-4th-like-freedom-christ/>

A colorful illustration for VBS 2025. On the left, a small white bird with a yellow beak sits on a branch. The text "DISCOVER THE BIGNESS OF GOD" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below it, "VBS 2025" is written in a smaller, white, stylized font. On the right, a green leaf with a ladybug on it has the word "MAGNIFI!D!" written on it in a white, stylized font. The background is a vibrant, colorful landscape with flowers and foliage.

**VBS** is right around the corner!!

If you haven't already, please let us know how you can help make one of our biggest ministries a success for the Kingdom!

**The Nominating Committee needs you!** We are looking for members to serve on the Children's Social Committee, Youth Council, Adult Social Committee, Safety & Security Committee AND Sunday School Teachers. Please see Kristen Gibson or Heather Guiffre.

\*There is a list of committees and their role in the church available on the Welcome Center for you to review.\*





## Baptism

Dylan Bridgewater  
& Tyler Ferriter  
were baptized on  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## Deacon Ordination

Andrew Conant was  
ordained as one of  
FBC's deacons on  
6/22. He will join the  
deacon rotation this fall.



"First the good news...the youth raised the  
money to go to camp this year, now the bad...  
they did it by selling the church van."

The FBC teens enjoyed  
another week at Camp  
Carmel with their  
fearless leaders, Pastor  
Gary & Andy.



## Camp Carmel 2025





**K**evin Guiffre is our Sunday School Director. He oversees the SS program, insures that we have current curriculum and addresses any issues that may arise.



**S**haron Bruce is our chair for the tellers. Tellers are responsible for counting offerings, record keeping, and bank deposits all while maintaining confidentiality.



**B**ob Mathews is chair of the trustees committee. They oversee the church's physical assets, finances and legal compliance.



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The pantry is getting low on some items. If you are able, please bring in:

canned: soups, tuna, chicken, ravioli, fruit, baked beans

Also, pastas and pasta sauce, cereal/oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, mac n cheese, boxed milk

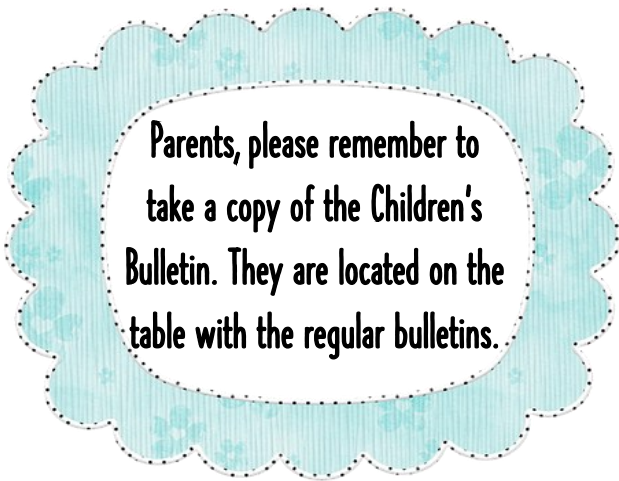
**PLEASE leave items on office counter since the pantry is full of VBS decorations!**



### FIRST WEEK OF JULY:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Tues. 1 <sup>st</sup> | *Ladies of the Light 10 AM<br>& Men in the Word 10 AM   |
| Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> | *NO Women on Mission<br>(moved to July 10 <sup>th</sup> )   |
| Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>   | *NO Merry Widows<br>(moved to July 11 <sup>th</sup> )<br>*July 4th Outreach @ Ch. Co. Fairgrounds |
| Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>   | *NO Brotherhood Fellowship<br>(moved to July 12th on the boat)                                    |





Parents, please remember to take a copy of the Children's Bulletin. They are located on the table with the regular bulletins.

There will be a boat outing for ladies later this summer. Stay tuned!



The Israel trip planned for this November has been canceled due to current events.



**ATTENTION MEMBERS:**

On the Welcome Center there is a survey that we would like everyone to fill out (no matter how long you have been a member). They are to assist the nominating committee and can be turned into Pastor Gary or the office. Thank you.

**WOMEN ON MISSION** WILL MEET  
ON JULY 10TH @9:45 AM.

JAN SAAL WILL GIVE THE MISSIONS  
PRESENTATION & WE WILL GO TO LEDO'S FOR  
LUNCH AFTER OUR MEETING.



**UPDATED VBS Volunteer Needs:**

Nursery Helper

Kindergarten2 Helper/Leader

Elementary Recreation Helper

Grade 1 Helper

Grade 2 Co-Leader

Grade 4 Co-Leader

Grade 5 Helper

Please see Donna or Shannon or  
sign up on our board.



WHOEVER LOOKS INTENTLY  
INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT  
**GIVES FREEDOM...**  
WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT THEY DO.  
JAMES 1:25, NIV



If you are in ANY FBC ministry that involves children (and are 18+) we must have a current background check on file for you. Please check the Welcome Center to see if your name is on the list. If it is, please grab a packet and return the top 2 sheets to the office. Thank you.

If you would like to support Jake Burgess and his ministry with OneU, you may scan this QR code with your phone:



Or, you can go directly to his website:  
<https://www.oneumd.org/invest>

## Caring Meals Ministry

If you can help out with an occasional meal or side dish, please contact Elaine Anderson @ 301-659-0058.



Join us to see *Noah* at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. on Tuesday, 11/11. Price will be approx. \$90. Sign up sheet on WC. See Jennifer Miller.



Looking for a place in the church where you can serve? We need:

- Choir members
- Instrument players
- UPWARD director



# Operation Christmas Child

## The Power of a Simple Gift

### Monthly Shopping Ideas: JULY: clothing

*Samaritan's Purse recently delivered Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in Ethiopia whose families work at a dumpsite to survive.*

Koshe dumpsite in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, contains mountains of trash. Some families who live near it are left to scale its slopes daily in search of salvageable items to provide for their sons and daughters. What toys these precious ones have were once on the trash heap.

Samaritan's Purse recently delivered Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes bursting with fun items to children whose families work in Koshe. For many of these boys and girls, it was the first gift they'd ever received, and the new toys the box contained ministered almost as much to the parents as the children.

*"He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap ... for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's" (1 Samuel 2:8, ESV).*



**Watch the video here:** <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/treasures-in-the-trash/> to see how the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being delivered to Koshe residents through shoebox gifts.

**Please bring in the following craft items all year long:**

old t-shirts, fabric, yarn, buttons, washers, pipe cleaners, beads, pill bottles (take labels off)  
old glasses cases, sewing needs, ribbon, wrapping paper, scotch tape