



The Methodist

Memo

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST
AND SHARING OUR FAITH WITH OUR NEIGHBORS



Yielding to God and Telling a New Story

Sometimes, we are stressed with so much to do, and we try too hard at life. And we desire and pray, sometimes desperately, for better lives—for ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors. Yet, often, we don't quite know *what* to do or *how* to live a better life.

This summer and fall, as we immerse ourselves in worship with the Word of God through the scriptures of Luke, we are taught to follow Jesus. Again and again, the writer of Luke tells us to go out together offering peace and mercy, to love God and neighbor, to give whatever God's people need, to be rich toward God, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

All these teachings can become our guiding way to better lives, as long as we yield ourselves and our ways to the better-living life witnessed through Jesus Christ—the way of our salvation.

As we faithfully discern the ways and will of the Lord for our lives, I offer this *Prayer of Relinquishment*, by Richard Foster, from his book, *Prayers of the Heart*.

"Today, O Lord, I yield myself to you. May your will be my delight. May your way have perfect sway in me. May your love be the pattern of my living. I surrender to you my hopes, my dreams, my ambitions. Do with them what you will, when you will, as you will. I place into your loving care my family, my friends, my future. Care for them with a care that I can never give. I release into your hands my need to control, my craving for status, my fear of obscurity. Eradicate the evil, purify the good, and establish your kingdom on earth. For Jesus' sake. Amen."



From the Pastor's Heart (continued)

As you let *your* life go, yielding to God's purposes and plan, may you be set free from all that binds you, and live together in faithful discipleship filled with the Lord's perfect peace and loving fellowship with your neighbors. And then, of course—tell a new story!

Peace,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark's Sermon Series

July 3

Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
"Two-Way Blessing"
Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



July 10

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
"Being Neighborly"
Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

July 17

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
"Distraction or Devotion?"
Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

July 24

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
"It All Begins with Prayer"
Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

July 31

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
"What's in Your Barn?"
Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

The Imperial Provinces

As part of the Roman Empire, the Imperial **Province of Judea** was one of the four provinces of what is today the Holy Land. Judea was located in the southern part of Palestine where Jerusalem was the main city.

The other three Imperial Provinces were:

Galilee: A region in the northern part of Palestine. It was about 50 miles long and 30 miles wide, with many mountains and hills. It was generally rural. Jesus, though born in the southern town of Bethlehem, spent almost his entire life up north in the region of Galilee. Most of the events in the Gospels take place in Galilee.

Samaria: The hill country north and west of Jerusalem.

Perea: An area east of Jordan River and the Dead Sea, less than 20 miles wide but nearly 60 miles long. This is the region where John the Baptist was beheaded—in a palace-fortress of Machaerus, built by King Herod the Great. It was a common route from Galilee to Jerusalem, avoiding Samaria.



Source: *The Little White Book: Six-Minute Reflections on the Parables of Jesus* (2021).



Announcements



Have a safe July 4th Holiday!



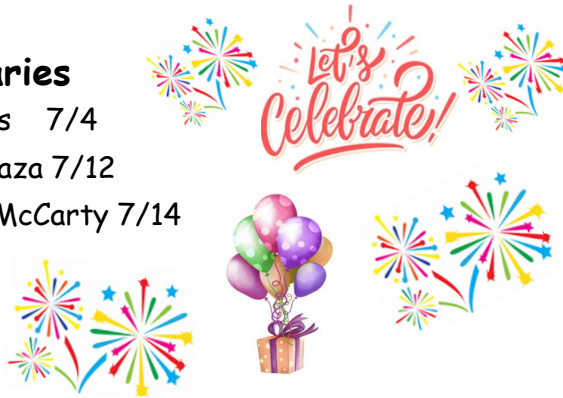
- ♦ Worship Service each Sunday is at 9:30 a.m. followed by coffee hour in the social hall.
- ♦ The Food Pantry is open each Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ♦ Line Dancing meets each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Cost: \$5

July Anniversaries

Greg & Dawn Shires 7/4

Robb & Jenny Pedraza 7/12

Chereline & Jerry McCarty 7/14



July Birthdays

Joanne Yepsen 9

Ruth Vasquez 15

Jay Crandall 19

Yvette Walker 21

William Bonow 21

Norma Brandau 23

Grant Steeve 30

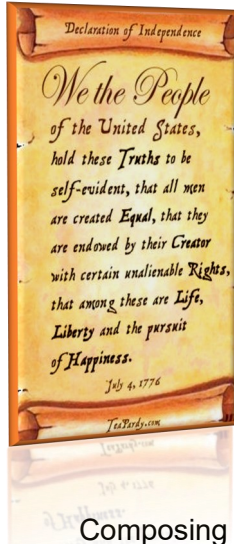
Spaghetti by Shel Silverstein

Spaghetti, spaghetti, all over the place,
Up to my elbows—up to my face,
Over the carpet and under the chairs,
Into the hammock and wound round the stairs
Filling the bathtub and covering the desk,
Making the sofa a mad mushy mess,
The party is ruined. I'm terribly worried,
The guests have all left (unless they're all buried),
I told them, "Bring presents." I said, "Throw confetti."
I guess they heard wrong
Cause they all threw spaghetti!



www.poemhunter.com

History 101 — The Declaration of Independence



The United States of America began with thirteen colonies, and those who settled on this land endured many hardships and challenges beginning with the Boston Tea Party of 1773, and followed by the American Revolution, the Civil War, and a number of other wars and conflicts — all fought to pursue and maintain liberty. America is not a perfect nation composed of perfect political leaders and citizens; we have made grievous mistakes; nonetheless, we are a nation founded on the principle of individual liberty that insures us the freedom to worship and freedom of speech. People continue to flood into the United States in search of these freedoms.

As the Fourth of July approaches, let's take a moment to look back to a few events that created this great nation.

Composing the Declaration of Independence was a crucial step toward declaring our freedom from Britain. Those brave patriots who first took up arms against British authority were little more than mobs with guns. They needed physical and moral support from the mostly willing but disorganized people of the colonies. Moreover, in order to declare independence, our Founding Fathers needed to take a crucial step forward. Congress soon authorized John Adams to create a Model Treaty, which essentially was a list of conditions to guide negotiations for independence from Great Britain; however, Congress had to seek an alliance with Britain's great rival, Louis XVI of France before proceeding. In order to do this, Benjamin Franklin was sent to Paris, and Adams, John Jay and Henry Laurens soon joined him. This delegation achieved one of the "greatest diplomatic coups in history". . . "an alliance with Louis XVI recognized the former colonies as independent states" (Gould). With a quill pen in hand, the nascent republic gained the support of one of Europe's leading monarchies who recognized the former colonies as independent states. This was a beginning.

The Preamble of the Declaration includes the famous passage:

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed" (Thomas Jefferson Writes the Declaration of Independence. www.History.com).

The body of the document then outlined a list of grievances against the British crown. Delegates from all thirteen colonies signed the Declaration of Independence—all delegates were white male landowners. Two of them would move on to become President of the United States.

The Declaration of Independence became a significant landmark in the history of democracy. In addition to its importance in the fate of the novice American nation, it also exerted a tremendous influence outside the United States, most memorably in France during the French Revolution, and together with the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Declaration can be considered one of the most essential documents of the United States of America.

The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are known collectively as “Charters of Freedom” and have “*secured the rights of the American people for more than two and a quarter centuries and are considered instrumental to the founding and philosophy of the United States*” (*National Archives: America’s Founding Documents*).

Sources:

American Revolution. History.com editors. <https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/boston-tea-party#boston-massacre-enrages-colonists>. Retrieved June 10, 2022.

“Declaration of Independence.” Editors of History.com. Retrieved June 10, 2022. <https://history.com>.

Gould, Eliga. *Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture*. “When did America Really Become Independent?” July 4, 2017. <https://blog.oieahc.wm.edu>. Retrieved June 9, 2022.

“Two Treatises of Government.” Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Two-Treatises-of-Government>. Retrieved June 10, 2022.



Miscellany

The following quotations have been attributed to various people—from Episcopal Bishop John Beckwaith, to writer and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, to Chinese Philosopher Lau Tzu (creator of Taoism, to political activist Mahatma Gandhi, and Frank Outlaw, the creator of a famous supermarket chain, Bi-Lo. The author may be in question, but the sentiment presented transcends time. Note the vocabulary of each quotation: *thought, word, action, habit, character, and destiny*.

“Plant a thought and reap a word;
plant a word and reap an action;
plant an action and reap a habit;
plant a habit and reap a character;
plant a character and reap a destiny.”



“Watch your thoughts, they become words;
watch your words, they become actions;
watch your actions, they become habits;
watch your habits, they become character;
watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”

<https://quoteinvestigator.com/>



Exercise Your Mind Word Search



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

August

barbecue

beach

biking

bonfires

books

camping

canoeing

cottage

family

friends

games

hammock

hiking

holidays

ice cream

July

lake

lemonade

memories

picnics

pool

popsicles

puzzles

reading

relax

road trips

sports

sprinkler

strawberries

summer camp

swimming

traveling

vacation

watermelon



Founder of Chicago

The City of Chicago, Illinois, was founded by Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the son of a French mariner and an African-born woman. Born in present-day Haiti in about 1745, DuSable was educated in France and immigrated to New Orleans, Louisiana, sometime in 1765.

In 1778, DuSable established himself in the area called Eschecagou, which later became Chicago, and in that same year, he married Kitiawa, a Potawatomi woman also known as Catherine. The couple had two children, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, Jr., and Suzanne.

During the American Revolution, his loyalty to the French and the Americans led to his arrest in 1779 by the British, who suspected him of being a spy. DuSable was taken to Fort Mackinac. The allegations were never substantiated. In the early 1780s, DuSable and his family moved to the north bank of the Chicago River where he established a trading post. A permanent settlement grew up around the business and the area eventually became Chicago. By 1790, DuSable's establishment there had become an important link in the region's fur and grain trade.

DuSable was the first non-Native person to remain in the area and establish a permanent trading post. An explorer and entrepreneur, Du Sable was a well-known and highly respected businessman in the Northwest territory of the early United States. He spoke fluent French, Spanish, English and several Native American languages. He traded heavily with neighboring tribes and established the main supply station for westward bound white men who were moving from the English colonies. On May 14, 1800, records show that Du Sable sold his Chicago holdings to a European trader for \$1,200 and left the region that would become a great metropolis known as Chicago. He moved to live with his son on property they owned in Saint Charles, Missouri, where he died on August 28, 1818.



*Jean-Baptiste
Pointe DuSable*

Sources Used:

Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, <http://www.blackhistoryheroes.com>

Jean-Baptist-Point Du Sable: American Pioneer

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Baptist-Point-Du-Sable>

Russell, Bridgette. *Who was Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable?* 3 Feb. 2022. www.fieldmuseum.org.

"Certain things catch your eye, but pursue only those that capture your heart."

~ Native American Saying



The smallest gesture of kindness
can mean the world to someone.

Flag Day was June 14, but in honor of Independence Day, I thought the following article would be appropriate.

“In Celebration of Flag Day” by Fred Schwengel

Former Congressman Schwengel presented this speech on numerous occasions and over the years added slight variations. Here is the text of the version he delivered in February 1988.



I AM THE FLAG



I am the Flag of a nation born July 4, 1776: the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights assured my future. The bloodlines of all the people of the world are in my stars and stripes. From its birth, my nation offered freedom to the oppressed and to those who yearn for Freedom. There are five freedoms that we especially cherish, defend and promote. They are freedom from fear and want, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of movement of men and goods. I am surrounded and supported by the flags of the states and territories. I am many things to many people. I represent the nation called **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**. Over 240 million living souls—and the ghosts of millions who have died for me are now a part of me.

In my history are Nathan Hale, Deborah Sampson and Paul Revere. My heritage is at Lexington where the shot heard around the world was fired. Among others in my heritage are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abigail Adams, and Patrick Henry; Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Clara Barton, and Abraham Lincoln; Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington and Mary McLeod Bethune. Once when my ideals were seriously challenged, a civil war resulted. After much valor and sacrifice, I survived and freedom was preserved and extended. Gettysburg and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address reset my goal.

Remember the Alamo, the Maine, Pearl Harbor, and Iwo Jima? I was there. Two times when Freedom was in trouble in the world, I answered; and stayed until it was over, *Over There*. I'm testifying for Freedom among the flags at the United Nations. I was with my heroic dead in Flanders fields, on the rock of Corregidor, on the bleak slopes of Korea, and in the steaming jungles of Vietnam.

I was there when they built the Brooklyn Bridge, dug the Panama Canal, cultivated the wheat lands of Kansas, plowed the corn fields of Iowa, and quarried the granite from the hills of Vermont. I am the coal fields of the Virginias and Pennsylvania, the fertile lands of the West, the Golden Gate and the Grand Canyon. I am Independence Hall, the Monitor, and the Merrimac.

U.S. Capitol I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific . . . my arms reach out to embrace Alaska and Hawaii . . . three million square miles throbbing with industry. I am more than three million farms. I represent forest, field, mountain and desert. I am quiet villages—and cities that never sleep.

You can look at me and imagine young Ben Franklin walking down the streets of Philadelphia with a bread loaf under each arm, or old Ben Franklin flying a kite. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas, and hear the strains of “Auld Lange Syne” as the calendar turns.

"In Celebration of Flag Day" continued

I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am 130,000 schools and colleges, and 350,000 churches where my people may worship God as they think best. I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a stadium, and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a Congressman.

I am the Congress, the Supreme Court, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the President. I am Eli Whitney, George Washington Carver, and Thomas Edison. I am Albert Einstein, the Wright Brothers, Margaret Mead, and Jonas Salk. I am Billy Sunday, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and His Eminence James Cardinal Gibbons. I am Stephen Foster, Emily Dickinson, Carl Sandburg, and Will Rogers. I am Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Walt Whitman.

I am these and countless numbers of other coalminers, farmers, clerks, soldiers, sailors, writers, poets, singers, composers, and ordinary citizens who have loved and honored the principles which I represent. Yes, I represent the Nation, and these are the things that I am. I was conceived in Freedom and, God willing, in Freedom I will spend the rest of my days with the support of the flags and mottoes of each state and territory.

May we possess always the integrity, the courage and the strength to keep ourselves unshackled, to remain a citadel of freedom and a beacon of hope to the world. This is my wish, my goal, my prayer in this year of 1988–212 years after I was born. By an Act of Congress, I fly constantly over the Temple of Liberty, the Capitol—I will fly in perpetuity if we are worthy successors to those who fought and gave us Freedom. *Source: United States Capitol Historical Society. <http://usch.org/explore/historial-articles>.*



A Nation's Strength by William Ralph Emerson

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones to rust,
Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at his feet.



Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly...
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

William Ralph Emerson, born 1833, was the second cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was also an architect who worked to design several of the first buildings for the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. "A Nation's Strength" first appeared in *Our Little Kings and Queens at Home and at School* (Louis Benham & Co., 1891). (www.poets.org).

Light of Creation

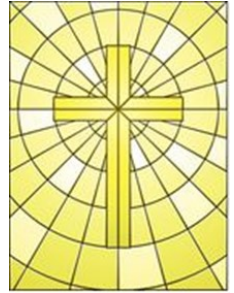
By Dave Branon

Taken from 90 Devotions on Nature from Our Daily

“[God] does great things, and unsearchable, marvelous things without number.”

~ Job 5:9

Among the wonders of Jamaica is a body of water called Luminous Lagoon. By day it is a nondescript bay on the country's northern coast. By night it is a marvel of nature. If you visit there after dark, you will notice that the water is filled with millions of phosphorescent organisms. Whenever there is movement, the water and the creatures in the bay glow. When fish swim past a boat, for example, they light up like waterborne fireflies. As the boat glides through the water, the lake shines brightly.



The wonder of God's creation leaves us speechless, and this is just a small part of the total mystery package of God's awesome handiwork as spelled out in Job 37 and 38. Listen to the Lord explain His role in nature's majesty: "Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes His lightening flash? (37:15 NIV); "What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside?" (38:29 NIV).

God's majestic creations—whether dazzling lightening or glowing fish—are mysterious to us. But as God reminded Job, all of the wonders of our world are His creative handiwork. When we observe God's amazing creation, our only response can be that of Job:

"These are *"things too wonderful for me"* (42:3).

God Hath not Promised

This was the last hymn written by Annie Johnson Flint. Her hands were so gnarled by arthritis that she was unable to hold a pen, so a crayon or stick of chalk was wedged between her fingers, so she could write on a surface suspended over her bed. She had hoped to become a concert pianist, but in her late twenties she was diagnosed with arthritis. By the end of her life she was just four feet tall.

God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.



But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.



God hath not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.



God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;
Never a mountain, rocky and steep,
Never a river, turbid and deep.

