



First Baptist Church

"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

July 2020

Pastor's Paragraph

God & Country

(While Pastor is away on vacation, he has borrowed a Pastor's Paragraph from 2016. Don't worry, though, it is not plagiarism if you borrow from your own work! It is also a reminder that things haven't really changed that much in the past four years, except we are continuing to accelerate down the slippery slope! In light of recent events, this paragraph from 2016 has aged well.)

The relationship between an American Christian and his country is a little more complicated than it used to be. At one time, we were proud of our Judeo-Christian heritage which made our great country exceptional in so many ways. Now, our country is casting off any last vestige of that Judeo-Christian heritage and is clearly going in the wrong direction. The things that made our nation great (the constitution and bill of rights, Biblical values, absolute moral standards, protestant work ethic, etc.) are now mocked, ridiculed, and attacked as being evil. So what is a good Christian to think?

There are two extremes to avoid. One extreme views America as special in God's eyes. According to this extreme view, Americans are God's chosen people much like Israel was in the Old Testament. In this view, the constitution is seen as inspired by God in much the same way as the Bible. I reject this view. Certainly, our nation had a unique founding and a peculiar opportunity. God's blessing has been upon us in so many ways! But, Americans are not some lost tribe of Israel. The Constitution is a wonderful document that has so far preserved our freedoms, but it is not the same as God's inspired Word.

Then, there is the opposite extreme. This extreme sees the obvious moral decline of our nation, and pronounces God's judgment. Perhaps the Westboro Baptists would fall into this group. According to this view, America is uniquely evil because it has squandered such a wonderful opportunity. According to this view, God is reserving His harshest punishment to unleash against the U.S.A. Again, this view also has some truth in it. Certainly, there is a lot of wickedness and sin in our nation, and God always judges sin. However, compared to all nations of recorded history, our nation is definitely not the worst. In fact, you would be hard pressed to name a nation that is more righteous than ours. It would be difficult to name another country that has such a population of true believers (even though they are a minority!). God told Abraham that ten righteous souls could have saved Sodom and Gomorrah from destruction. How many righteous souls would it take to save America? So far, we must have enough! Considering all of these things, if you were lining up nations today to face God's judgment, there would be quite a few (if not all!) of the nations ahead of us in that line.

So, I guess the truth is somewhere in-between those two extremes. Our nation is not the promised land! But, our nation is also not Sodom & Gomorrah! However, we are now living in the midst of a moral decline into wickedness and rebellion against God. Our only hope is for a return to God's truth. A stronger economy would sure be nice, but it won't save us. Ending wars would be wonderful (especially if we win!), but that won't save us. We are desperately in need of a spiritual revival. God has not given up on us yet. His grace is so much greater than the world's greatest wickedness. While there is yet time, God's people can pray for our nation and bear witness to the glorious gospel of salvation. ~Pastor

JULY



2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Please bring your own Communion supplies again for July 5th. The Deaconesses will make a few available on the back table as well.

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3

4



5 Communion



6 7 PM Prayer
Pastor's Day-off



WCBC Junior Camp (4th-6th Grades) [Mon-Sat]

7 Joint Deacon
Trustee 7 PM

8 VBS Mtg
6:30 PM



9

10

11

12



13



VBS: BIG FISH BAY! Hooked on God's Mercy!! [Mon-Fri] 9 am-Noon

WCBC High School Camp (9th-12th Grades) [Mon-Sat]

14

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17



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19 Quarterly
Meeting 6 PM

Camp Cookies are due

20 7 PM Prayer
Pastor's Day-off



WCBC Junior High Camp (7th-9th grades) [Mon-Sat]

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22

23

24

25

26 Speaker
Mark Meals

27 7 PM Prayer

28

29

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31

Sports Challenge
Set-Up/after
Church on Sun.,
August 2nd

Pastor on Vacation (July 26th-August 1st)

Hello

Ushers: Richard Gygi & Ryan Baltensperger

Flowers: Lauren Meyer

WCBC

Please pray for a great summer at Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp! There is an Olympic theme and the key verse is: "let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1

Jr. Camp Speaker: Dan Gonnerman
Jr. & Sr. High Speaker: Carl Kerby



Cookies for Camp!

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those interested in making cookies to send out to the Jr. High Campers the week of July 19th. They always greatly appreciate your cookie donations!



Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, July 19th
6:00 PM

Happy Birthday!

4-Joseph Heather
5-Justin McCord
6-Julie Hawk*(TX)
7-Lauren Meyer
10-Brandon Adkins
10-Wendelin Miller
12-Chris Baczynski
12-Benson Meyer
12-Mandi Hanson*(OH)
15-Ryan Baltensperger
17-Pam Rademacher
18-Cole Lenhart
18-Josiah Webster
20-Jeff Harms
26-Evy Facemire
29-Jim Webster

Happy Anniversary!

8-Gerald & Julie Hawk* (TX)
16-Clinton & Teresa King
28-Jim & Anna Webster
29-Brian & Mandi Hanson* (OH)

Missionaries*

May Finances

Balance Forward 5/1/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$3,946.46
Designated Fund	\$4,417.26
General Fund	\$47,543.66
Checking Account	\$55,907.38
May Income	\$17,501.54
May Expenses	\$18,409.42
Net Decrease	(\$907.88)

Balance 4/30/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$3,746.46
Designated Fund	\$4,569.78
General Fund	\$46,683.26
Checking Account	\$54,999.50