THE CHALLENGE Volume 57, Number 7

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- 1 JAM 5:30 pm, Bible Study 6 pm,
- 5 Deacon Meeting 5pm
- 8 JAM 5:30 pm, Bible Study 6 pm,
- 15 JAM 5:30 pm, Bible Study 6 pm,
- 19 Graduate Recognition 11 am
- 22 JAM 5:30 pm
- 22 Bible Study 6 pm, Business Meeting (February-June)
- 23 JOY Gardeners-Maple Grove
- 26 S S Teachers meeting 4:45 pm
- 31 JFK teacher's luncheon 12 noon

"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14



Here is our Vision in a Nutshell! Our PASSION.

"Growing God's Garden Together"

- Glorify Jesus Christ through worship
- Grow in a relationship with Jesus and other people
- Give of one's time and resources by serving Jesus and His Church
- Go and reach out to others who need to experience the love of Jesus

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:



I cannot begin to tell you what a joy it was to resume worship services in June with many of you in attendance. While I'm thankful for the ability we have to livestream our services, there's nothing like being in God's house in person worshipping with God's people.

We're getting ready to celebrate another July 4th holiday. I know it's not a religious holiday, like Easter or Christmas, but I think it is a good time to reflect on how good God has been to us as a nation.

The fourth of July is a day we celebrate our independence as a nation. The freedom we have been blessed with as a nation allows us to express our faith and boldly share it with others. It is important to recognize that in many other parts of the world, this is not the case. The cost of following Christ is much greater for our brothers and sisters across the globe.

As you look at the history of our country and at the statements of our Founding Fathers, though they may not have all been Christians, they, at the very least, had a respect for the Word of God and believed it to be an authoritative source. Patrick Henry wrote, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here."

Our nation today has lost its way. Why? Because we've lost our moral compass. God's Word speaks to this in Proverbs 16:25 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." People are trying to give human answers to spiritual problems to solve the emptiness of the soul, but it cannot be done. The answer may sound right, look right, and even be politically correct, but apart from Jesus Christ there is no answer that will give life and hope. The longer we go as a nation, ignoring the commands and life principles found in God's Word, the worse things will get. God cannot and will not bless a nation that has no regard for Him.

I truly believe God can bring healing to our land. I do not believe the answer is found in politics, education, finances, or anything else of this world, but rather is found in the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Only Jesus Christ can save a nation that is, I believe, under God's judgment right now. I have not given up on America. I believe prayer is the most important thing you and I can be doing right now for America. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14).

May God bless you and your family. Have a great week and let your light shine for Jesus this week.

Pastor Rick



<u>Sundays</u>

Sunday School 11 am Morning Worship 11 am Children's/Preschool Worship 11:15 am Rootz (Grades 6th – 12th) 5:30 pm

<u>Wednesdays</u>

JAM Activities (K-12th) Dinner 5:30 pm Worship 6 pm Bibles Studies 6:30 pm



Thursday July 23, 2020 @ 11:30 **MAPLE GROVE RESTAURANT** 1207 Gouge Rd. Unicoi, TN 37692 423 735-3003

Van will leave at 11:00



OUTREACH MINISTRIES:

CARE HOUSE NEEDS: Our Community Outreach continues as we collect food for the neighborhood food bank. The current needs are toiletries, food items or monetary donations. They can purchase the food at a cheaper cost. Please place them in the collection area behind the choir loft.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES:

Will begin back on July 1st

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES:

Will begin back on August 2nd

A MESSAGE FROM ANDY:



"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Zach Williams and Dolly Parton recently collaborated on a song titled, "There Was Jesus." I'm sure when they recorded this song they had no idea the times we would be facing

today in 2020. In Romans 8:38-39, Paul writes that nothing on this earth can separate us from Jesus. I've needed to be reminded of this fact as we've gone through the COVID-19 pandemic, and this song is one Jesus has used to remind me, whether coming on the radio or playing on my Apple playlist at just the right time. As we continue in these uncertain times, read these lyrics and be reminded that, no matter what we face, Jesus is always with us!

"In the waiting, in the searching In the healing and the hurting Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces Every minute, every moment Where I've been and where I'm going Even when I didn't know it or couldn't see it There was Jesus"

Growing God's Garden Together Andy

Message from Kevin Odom



Independence Day. On July 4, 1776 a group of patriots signed one of the most important documents ever penned. 244 years later and this great nation is still hanging on. Do we have issues in America? Absolutely. Will this nation go under because of its numerous issues? I don't know. No one has that answer except God. But as Pastor Rick emphasized in his sermon titled "If My People" on June 28, we as Christians are responsible for the future of America. God has truly blessed America and its

citizens and I believe that's because of one reason, "One Nation, Under God." Psalm 33:12 says that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance." It's by His people that he considers His children that has made this nation great. So, where do we go from here? What if it continues to worsen? As much as I love America, let's not place all of our hope in it. Many Americans will fail and will continue to disappoint us.

"Proud to be an American...and a Christian."

So, let's put our hope in something much larger, a community of greater proportion, a nation that will always stand no matter the circumstances. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20) Let's enjoy America's independence this July 4th, but also remember the great freedom that God has graced all of us with through the hope and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

KevO

JAMES' CORNER

A few years back I noticed an old wooden desk in a shed. It looked awful, but I knew the wood was oak with a little work it could look good again. The desk was waiting to be taken to the dump. I knew I could restore it to be useable and look good, so I asked for it and was given the desk. It took time and lots of work but it became useable again.

We still use it in our home.... a desk that had become useless was restored because someone took an interest in it. That reminds me of people who made wrong choices and are drifting through life feeling useless like the old desk. They need someone to show an interest in them by loving them and investing some time in them. When restored God can use them again like the old desk is being used again. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1).

Bro. James Meade

July Sunday ries

July Sunday	
Morning Ministries	
<u>Deacon</u> 5 12 19 26	<u>of the Week:</u> Michael Strickler David Vicars Andy Walters Jasen Wells
<u>Greeters</u> 5 12 19 26	<u>s:</u> J Flemings/C Chapman W Carico TBD D Lawson
<u>Audio:</u> 5 12 19 26	Michael Strickler Michael Bush Michael Strickler Michael Bush
Powerpo 5 12 19 26	<u>pint:</u> Michael Bush Avery Bush Michael Bush Avery Bush
<u>Video:</u> 5 12 19 26	Conner Collins Doug Clark Caleb Hall Conner Collins
<u>DVD Dis</u> 6 13 20 27	<u>stribution:</u> Carico Hurd Bowman Kindle
<u>Nursery</u> 5 12 19 26	<u>Workers:</u> S Clark, M Tittsworth J Ervin, D Gilbert P Leedy, C Chapman L Kirk, J Nowah
<u>Transpo</u> 5 12 19 26	rtation: D Vicars 378-5860 L Trivette 429-7537 J Collier 276-2154 T Tittsworth 571-0016
5 &12	<u>i's Church:</u> A Collins, A Lundy D Gilbert, L Walters
<u>Tellers:</u> 5 12 19 26	Rhoton, Lawson, Bowman Rhoton, Vicars, Bishop Rhoton, Tittsworth, Lawson Rhoton, Bowman, Bishop
<u>Ushers</u> : 5 12 19 26	Walters Wells Osborne Thurman
<u>Outside</u> 5 12 19 26	<u>Morning Security:</u> Bowman Smith Caldwell Collier
If you will not be attending services y	

If you will not be attending services yet please let the church office know and we find a replacement. Remember your safety comes first and finding a replacement is no problem.



Sermons On Youtube Will Continue Sunday Mornings:

Please understand that your decision to participate, or not to participate in returning to worship in the sanctuary, will be respected! Just because you can do something, doesn't mean you have to do something! More than anything, we want you to make the decision that is best for you, your family and your loved ones.

In addition to saying that, we would also encourage those that are considered high risk, whether it be age, underlying health conditions, medications that suppress the immune system, or other reasons, to stay at home. Just know that we still love you and we will miss you, but we see no need in taking an unnecessary risk. For those of you that stay home... we will miss you!

We also want to take this opportunity to let you know that we will continue livestreaming the service each Sunday. This is easily accessed from our website. Below is a link to the Lynn Garden Baptist YouTube channel which can be used to view our church services.

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCmGFp0v5QWg_yFVTbam_EFA

This provides the ability to view a church service remotely should you be unable to attend due to travel, sickness, or other concerns such as the current situation like abstaining from gatherings due to health concerns.

If you "subscribe" to the channel you should receive email notifications when we setup an event prior to streaming one of our services.

Please realize this is a commercially available application which may have internet advertisements which are not disseminated nor endorsed by Lynn Garden Baptist and may be based on previous browser history.

Please contact Michael Strickler If you have questions, suggestions to improve this service, or need further assistance. Michael Strickler, 423-360-9501

It is that time! Please help us fill 100 Christmas shoeboxes and share Christmas with needy children all over the world! Here are the items to send in August:



Time to collect for our **Show Box Ministry!**

July Items Needed: Pencils, small notebooks, small coloring books, pens and crayons.

Project JFK School Supply Collection:

We are beginning to collect supplies for Kennedy Elementary. This year we are only able to accept unopened supplies for each student.

Supplies Needed:

- Backpack (No wheels please)
- No. 2 Pencils
- Crayons 24-count Box
- **Colored Pencils**
- **Glue Sticks**
- Box of Tissue
- **Regular Composition Book**
- Wide-Rule Notebook Paper
- Three-Ring Binder (durable): 11/2" or 2"



New King James Version (NKJV)

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Happy 4 of July!