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The Messenger

The Pastor's Two Bits...

July 4, 1776. Independence Day. America's Birthday.

Fireworks. Family. Friends. Swimming Pools.

Barbeque. Watermelon. Homemade Ice Cream.

I have always enjoyed celebrating the 4th of July. There is only one time I can remember that wasn't too much fun. I was ~14 years old. One of my brothers worked for a small local company that put black tar sealant on driveways and parking lots. It was a dirty job. A local bank needed their parking lot sealed and the 4th of July was the only day they were going to be closed. My brother agreed to do it, but none of his coworkers wanted to work on the 4th. So he enlisted me. ...It was a hot, mucky, smelly mess. By the time we finished, we were too tired for very much celebration. But we did anyway. Mom barbequed. Dad made ice cream. We set off fireworks. We weren't too tired to celebrate America. It was worth celebrating.

Was?

America is different now. It has the same name, but is a different country. It was a country (I believe) that God formed and blessed. Today it is a country

doing all it can to separate itself from God and Godliness. It was (I believe) a country worth fighting for. Today it is a country fighting with itself. I am saddened by the current state and Godless direction of our country. I fear that God is lifting His mantle of blessing off of us. But I am not yet to the point of giving up on it. Way back in Israel's heyday, there were times when it looked like all was lost, but God granted them reprieve after reprieve. The people would repent and turn themselves back to Him. There were nationwide revivals. It's possible. It's possible that America can find it way back to God. Let's pray that it will. Let's do our part. Let's be faithful in our neck of the woods and encourage brothers and sisters across our land to do the same. I'm still looking forward to many future celebrations with barbeque, watermelon, homemade ice cream and fireworks. May God Bless America once again... and have good reason to!

- *Pastor Doug*



July 4, 2020

JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries



7/5 Miriam Van den Akker

7/6 Slim Phillips

7/7 Tori Santiago

7/9 Jeremy Faalafua

7/10 Mary Lester

7/11 Ralph Davis

7/11 Jim Ferguson

7/13 Evelyn Phillips

7/14 Sue Brasel
7/14 Deb Carlson

7/14 Brenda Williams
7/15 Barbara Elliott
7/19 Bob Jones
7/20 Rhonda Phillips
7/21 Carolyn Bruton
7/22 Farrah Flower
7/23 Idella Lohman
7/23 Rachel McKeel
7/24 Gary Kaufman
7/24 Lisa Santiago
7/27 Naomi Trembley
7/28 Ray Harrison
7/29 Sam Newell
7/30 Joel York



7/4 Rick & Sheri Leonard
7/7 Charlie & Pam Gannon
7/13 Jim & Janic Botbyl
7/14 Jim & Phyllis Ferguson
7/15 Jay & Mary Lee Dingee
7/18 John & Teresa Borton
7/19 Dale & LuAnn Klein
7/26 Phil & Mary Smith
7/30 Barbara & Bill Branson



Youth Notes July 2020

Despite pandemics and riots and just overall insanity, the Lord continues to move time along. Here we are at July 2020! We have come through quarantines; graduations have taken place (albeit somewhat unique) and now we are on the precipice of tomorrow!

Last month, several of our youth went to Camp Ozone in lieu of a Mission Camp, to assist in preparation for the camp's upcoming events. We had over 10 people come throughout the week to help clear brush, move rocks, dredge a beach on a lakeshore, and be a blessing to those trying to minister to children and their families through nature and God's Word.

Looking ahead at July, our Youth Summer Retreat to Massanutten, VA is scheduled for the 5th-11th. This will be a great time of study and fellowship, as well as "adventure"! We are going to be doing a study entitled, "The Alpha and Omega".

Thank you all for your continued support, love, and prayers! This ministry moves through the Power of God and the prayers and support of His children – YOU! Thank you again, and may God continue to bless FBC!

Going 'Til He Comes,
Pastor Robert

Check the website, www.onhisrock.org, for new information, new links and the church's calendar - updated daily!



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