

Freedom!

We have just celebrated our country's freedom. We like the idea of being free. Our country is founded on the idea of freedom, going all the way back to the Declaration of Independence. "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."

As Christians, we also seek freedom, although many may not fully understand what we want freedom from. The Bible is clear that no matter where you live, or what situation you find yourself in, outside of Christ you are a slave. Humans are slaves to sin, a cruel master that destroys lives and only leads to death. The Bible tells us that humanity is sinful, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23). Sin then ensnares us and makes us slaves. Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin" (John 8:34). Sin will lead to death, but God has made a way out, a way for us to have real freedom. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

We celebrate our country's freedom, but do we live a life that celebrates the true freedom which can only be found in Christ. "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:11-14). Celebrate your freedom each day by living the life we are called to live. ~ Brad Tolbert

MINISTERS

Pulpit Minister
Paul Mowrer

Campus Minister
Brad Tolbert

Youth Minister
Jason Meier

Secretary
Cathy Mowrer

ELDERS

Mike Beard
Larry Fisackerly
Joe Moore

Deacons

Marty Baker
Chris Bryant
Ray Linder
Jason Meier
Jeff Newton
Josh Pettigrew
Kerry Rice
Jeremy Wilson

Assemblies

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 PM



MONTICELLO

CHURCH OF CHRIST

"...speaking the truth in love..." Eph. 4:15

July 5, 2020

BACK AGAIN!

It was good to be back together again, even if only for one hour! Faces were half covered, but we could still see the smiles as we entered the building together. It was so good to hear multiple voices singing praise to God. On a personal note, it was really good to see faces as I shared God's Word. We had 89 for the two services combined. There were folks traveling and some not ready to get out yet with health concerns with the virus the way it is. But I know that in time we will all be together again. I pray that happens sooner than later!

I would encourage each of us to be calling on folks you know who weren't present Sunday, just to check on them and make sure they are doing well. Because of the virus and the effect it has had on all of our lives, we may have the tendency to think that everyone is fine and just staying safe in their homes. Safe in our homes from the virus still leads to discouragement and frustration because we are not able to be about our normal lives. This is when we all need to step up and reach out to each other and encourage during difficult times.

Several years ago I was reminded by a preacher friend that discouragement is just one tool of many in the devil's arsenal. One defense of discouragement is our rejoicing in God and His promises. But sometimes it is a big help just hearing from someone else, so we know we are not alone in the battle. The devil knows well that when we are alone we are at our weakest. And this is one of the reasons it is so important to be together as God's family as often as we can—strength in numbers!

Lately, I have heard from many with their concerns on where our country is headed. I am not going to go political on you, but perhaps we need to stop and rethink the problem. When Jesus visited with Mary and Martha in their home, Martha was distracted by many things. Upon complaining about the lack of help from Mary, Jesus responded, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:38-42).

I can't change everyone around me, but I can concentrate more on my relationship with the Lord and less on the frustration, discouragement and anger of the world. This is the work of Satan and I would rather concentrate my efforts on being a light for the dark world to see their way to Jesus Christ—the only answer to these problems! ~P. Mowrer



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HEART-TO-HEART

Fran Calvert responded Sunday morning requesting prayers to live a more faithful life for the Lord.

Our sympathy is extended to **Josh Pettigrew** on the passing of his aunt, **Florence Metcalf**.

Jacque Davidson is recovering at home from torn ligaments in her foot following a fall last week.

Eddy Don Russell suffered a heart attack this past week and is being treated at home with medication

The **Paragould Children's Home Change Cans for Children** are available in the foyer of the church building. **They will be due back in late August.**



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"God never takes a vacation 'cause He can't find anybody good enough to fill in."

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 5 - Worship live streamed at 9:30

July 8 - Bible Time streamed on Facebook
Evening devotional streamed @ 6:30

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:

Lyndell Baker...Linda Bates...Tony & Judy Beard...
Barbara Dyson...Emma Miller...Rita Stiles...Bob & Pat Turner...Tom Weaver...Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:

Clara Cooper...Betty Henry...Betty McGuire...
Linda Rabb...Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:

Adam Aylor...Corey Bryant...Donnie Collins...Noah Draper...Tucker Koonce... Matthew May... Neil Rampy...Keith Robinson...Christian Stepanovich...
Mathew Tannehill...Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Ann Bolden...Valerie Bryant (due in Dec.)...Dona Buie...Jerry Carter...Meagan Dyson (due in Nov.)...
Jeremy Ewell...Mike Frost...Terry Gibson...Carolyn Herring...Kara Johnson (due in Aug.)...Jerry Lawrence...Lavon & Betty Light...Ronnie Light...Stephen McKinney...Jessie Naron (due in Oct.)...George Nickolson...Hardy Peacock...Michael Potter...John & Christine Riddle...Eddy Don & Suzette Russell...
Hollie Smith...Samantha Tannehill (due in Aug.)...
Joel Thompson...Cheiree Webb...Sue Woodward

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Today! John Staudinger

July 10 Cindy Thornton

13 Jeremy & Rachel Wilson

15 Jimmy Potter
John & Carolyn Ashcraft

17 Paul Mowrer

18 Shawn Curtis

19 Janice Wright

20 Joe Moore

21 Tony Beard

22 Donnie & Janice Wright

24 Jamie Beard
Paul & Cathy Mowrer
Chris & Whitney Vanderzwulam

"And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"

Romans 8:30-32



July Daily Bible Reading Schedule

6 Psalm 123-126
7 Psalm 127-129
8 Psalm 130-132
9 Psalm 133-135
10 Psalm 136-138
11 Psalm 139-141
12 Psalm 142-144

Attendance

Bible Class
Sunday AM Worship 89
Sunday PM Worship
Wed. Evening
Contribution

Schedule of Volunteers for Communion to Shut-in

MISSIONARIES

Truth for Today
In Search of the Lords' Way
Ghana Radio

NURSERY

Communion Preparation

Ladies July Duties

Cards: TBA
Food: Terry Boykin
Pens & Cards: