

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF JULY 4, 2021

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ashlyn; Jim Cleveland; Aiden Snyder; Emily Slone; Ralph Hammel; Ralph & Brenda LeFever; Barb Myers; Carolyn Wilkins

THE ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL meet this Tuesday, July 6, at 6:00pm and 7:00pm respectively.

THE WHITLEY COUNTY HEALTH FAIR is being held at Zion in Columbia City this coming Saturday, July 10, from 9:00am – 3:00pm. See Pr. Mullet for more details or if you might be interested in volunteering to help out.

THE VOTERS' MEETING for the summer quarter is next Sunday, July 11.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Our next VBS evening will be Tuesday, July 13, beginning at 5:30pm with a potluck supper. The topic will be “What is Worship?” Sign up by the doors!

TIN CAPS! We still have tickets for next Sunday, July 11. \$10 each includes lunch at the ballpark beginning at 12:00 and the game at 1:05. See Pr. Mullet to purchase your tickets!

CALENDAR

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| Sun. July 4 (Trinity 5) | 8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Bible Study |
| Tue. July 6 | 6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Church Council |
| Wed. July 7 | 7:00pm Holy Communion |
| Thu. July 8 | 7:00pm Bible Study |
| Sun. July 11 (Trinity 6) | 8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Voters' Meeting 12:00 / 1:00 Tin Caps lunch / game |

THE BACK PAGE

Independence Day is another one of those holidays that give us the opportunity as Christians to give special thanks to God. The Fourth of July is not, of course, a Christian holiday, but rather an American holiday. This does not mean we have no reason to celebrate! Far from it, in fact. But, how do we see Independence Day from our Christian perspective?

We all know the following to be true, but it's worth saying anyway: we are Christians first, and Americans second. In terms of loyalty to crown and kingdom, ours belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Kingdom of God. Many times we see Christians getting this confused or misunderstood. We are American Christians, not Christian Americans. Put another way, we are Christians who happen to be American, not merely Americans who happen to be Christian.

This is important to consider for a few reasons. First, the United States of America is not "God's chosen nation" any more or less than any other nation. The U.S. Constitution, while certainly a remarkable document, was not written by God. Second, we have fellowship with Christians around the world, regardless of nationality, race, background, etc. Finally, it is a source of comfort to know that we are heirs of an eternal kingdom. The U.S., wonderful a nation as it is, is nevertheless an earthly kingdom, which, like all other earthly kingdoms, will someday fall.

All that having been said, **we can and should celebrate Independence Day!** We live in one of the greatest nations in the history of mankind. We have freedoms that Christians in other parts of the world can only dream of. God has indeed richly blessed our land with health, wealth, and prosperity. Do we agree with everything our leaders do and say? Of course not! But we thank God for a nation where we *can* disagree with our leaders, where we can work together for good, and most especially where we can freely worship the one true God who has been so gracious to us. Let us celebrate our freedoms and our earthly nation, giving thanks to God, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Happy Independence Day. God bless America!