



James Johnson and Tucker Arnette enjoy a meal at Passport Kids Camp.

THE INTERIM



FIRST
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July 2, 2023

From the Pastor...

I love the Fourth of July. Cook outs and fireworks are great, but I'm talking about the reason behind our celebrations. We call it Independence Day because on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress declared that the thirteen colonies were no longer subject to England's King George III.

In declaring their independence from England, our forebearers also declared their dependence upon God and one another. They stated in the declaration that all persons are created equal and endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights.

Shortly after signing the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Franklin declared, "We must all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall hang separately. Franklin and others recognized that for a government to work, it must be trustworthy. It is the same for a church.

As we celebrate our freedoms as Americans, I hope you will also celebrate your freedom in Christ. Jesus himself said, "if the Son sets you free, you will be freed indeed" (John 8:36). We have been freed from sin to live into grace!

Freedom doesn't mean a lack of responsibility. Freedom allows us to live for God and to care for one another. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us, "no one is free until we are all free." Our fate as a country, a community and a congregation require responsible freedom.

This Sunday we will continue our sermon series in the Book of Romans as we look at Paul's call to use our freedom for righteousness. If you learn this on Sunday, you will have a more meaningful celebration on Tuesday. Happy Independence Day. May you know the joy of Christ's freedom!



Schedule

Sunday, July 2

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, July 3

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, July 6

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, July 9

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, July 10

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, July 12

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

10:00 a.m. Water Day

12:00 p.m. Bible Study - Adams Hall

1:30 p.m. Messy Games

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, July 13

Directory Photo Retakes

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
Tel: 704-873-7231

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A Message From Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Our Kentucky mission trip is just around the corner and we are excited about the 12 people we have on the team that minister in this area. Would you please be in prayer for us as we begin packing and prepping for the trip and our hearts and mind to be open to what God will do in and through each other? Please pray for our safety and health as we prepare and travel and pray for the conversations that we will have with those who live in the homes in which we will be working. This area has dealt with repercussions of the flood since last year. This area is mentally and emotionally drained and tired. Pray that we are lights and glimmers of hope to those in need. Thank you for joining with us as we go and leaning in on your knees in prayer as God leads.

Many thoughts and prayers.
Elizabeth

Kentucky Mission Team

William Barnard	Matthew Johnson
Crystal Beale	Ryan Johnson
Hannah Beale	Andrew Kilby
Rachel Beale	Elizabeth Kilby
Chris Johnson	Jody Parlier
Sarah Johnson	Jimmy Webb

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of June 18 & 25, 2023

	6/18	6/25
Live Stream Views.	13	11
In-Person.	164	172
Sunday School.	93	89

Financial Statistics

	June	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	68,751.00	719,530.00
Budget Receipts	52,813.00	666,037.00
Goals Not Met	(15,938.00)	(53,493.00)
Alms	1,145.00	11,045.00
Designated	1,317.00	54,346.00

Goforth Family FBCS Scholarship Established

First Baptist Church has been blessed to partner with the Goforth Family Foundation to establish a scholarship for high school graduates who qualify with the rules of the Foundation.

The first recipients are Emily K. Ashley, who will be attending Appalachian State University to study pre-law, and Cynthia Nicole Osborne, who will be attending Lee's McCrae College to study Business Administration and join their volleyball team.



Passport Kids Camp - June 14-17, 2023

James Johnson and Tucker Arnette attended Passport Kids Camps June 14-17. At camp they got messy at the Rec Party, worshiped during the morning and evening celebrations, had quiet times of devotion, played soccer and gaga ball, explored three different cultures at the Night Market, and ate LOTS of bacon.





Announcements

Wednesday Noon Study

This summer we will study the book of Psalms and learn how the psalmist gives us various ways to pray. Hilda Lee will be preparing a light lunch to serve at noon each day (\$4.00 cash) and our Bible study will be from 12:15 – 12:45 pm.

July 5: No Bible Study

July 12: Still praying...Even While Everything Falls Apart
(Lunch: sandwich bar, pasta salad, strawberry par-faits)

Water Day & Messy Games Wednesday, July 12, 2023

The children will play in kiddie pools, sprinklers, splash pad, and a HUGE slip and slide. Remember to wear your swimsuit, bring a towel, and prepare to get wet. Water Day is 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The students will have messy games 1:30-3:30 p.m. Remember to bring a towel and a change of clothes. You will get MESSY!

Directory Photo Retakes Thursday, July 13, 2023

If you would like to retake your directory photo, please sign up to do so on Thursday, July 13. You may sign up at www.ucdir.com. Church code: nc432 Password: photos. Select July 13 and the time you wish to have your photo taken.



Happy Birthday

July 1

Betsy Evans
Jenna Martin
Sean Martin

July 3

Phil Crowder

July 4

Elizabeth Benfield
Elizabeth Kilby

July 5

Cathy Parlier
Diane Wilkins

July 6

Theresa Martin
Jane Mitchell

July 7

Julia Eckliff
Carolyn Elliott

July 8

Nancy Garland
Carol Robinette

Vera Webster
Tracey Wilson

July 10

Paul Brendle
Will Harper

July 12

Jerry Livingston

July 14

Clyde Elliott
Gary Tolbert

July 15

Elliott Rushton
Madelyn McLain
Preston McLain

July 16

Donald Hatfield

July 17

Hannah Falter

July 18

Tom Falter

July 21

Lynette King
Rosemary Stephens

July 23

Tiffany Acosta

July 24

Dale Wilson

July 25

Terry Earp
Dan Mitchell

July 26

Allison Faulkenberry
Jane Stiles

July 27

Ken Wilson

July 28

Gale Hall
Rob Hall

July 30

Bob Boroughs
Wanda Rushton