

# New Beginnings

Kresge Global Methodist Church Newsletter & more

**Blessed is the nation whose  
God is the Lord and the people  
whom he hath chosen for his  
own inheritance.**

July, 2024

Psalm 33:12

On July 4th, Americans unite to commemorate Independence Day, marking our nation's birth. Across the country, festivities unfold with backyard barbecues, beach gatherings, and park picnics, abundant with hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the fixings. Parades weave through streets, while fireworks illuminate the night sky, all amidst cherished moments with loved ones.

Yet amidst these celebrations, how many pause to reflect on the true significance of this day? As Americans, we cherish a freedom that many around the world long for—a freedom secured through the sacrifices of our military and, for many, grounded in faith.

Our nation's foundation is rooted in the belief in God, echoed four times in the Declaration of Independence. Despite this, the percentage of Americans identifying as Christian has steadily declined, one research center states as of 2020 only around 64% of Americans identify as Christians, down from the 90% in the early 70's, with projections suggesting by 2070 it could be 50% or less.

I share this because I believe our freedom carries a profound responsibility—to share the blessings bestowed upon us by God, to spread His message of love and forgiveness far and wide. So, amidst the festivities of barbecues and fireworks, consider sharing the story of Jesus with someone close to you. Perhaps a friend or family member is waiting to hear His message. Together, let us embrace this responsibility and strive to increase these numbers.

As always, if you have a comment or something to share email me a [caw.newbeginings@gmail.com](mailto:caw.newbeginings@gmail.com). Happy Fourth all.



## Please Keep These People in Your Prayers



Prayers for Vandy Cobb in rehab and wife Brenda also ill.  
Continued prayers for Sandra Simpson & family as she goes through treatments.  
Judy Cook, having tests done.  
Charlie Self's friend Tom Canada, in hospice.  
Carol Campbell's sister-in-law Jackie Campbell recuperating heart surgery.  
Prayers for the family of Lamar Owens, their mother is very ill.  
Continued prayers for our interim pastor Linda Stanton for God's guidance.  
Continue to pray for Kresge that God will soon send us the right Pastor to help lead us forward



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

## Sunday Worship

Interim Pastor.....Linda Stanton  
Breakfast.....9:30am  
Sunday School.....10:00am  
Sunday Service.....10:55am

**INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH**

# Fourth of July: Remembering America as a Nation Under God

by: Katherine T. Phan

America became a free country on July 4, 1776, however, what many may not know - or forget - is that America is also a nation under God founded on Christian principles.

54 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Christians, 27 held theology degrees. Many went on to form Bible societies.

The signers intended the document to officiate the separation between America and Great Britain. However, they based the Declaration which has served as a foundation to the beginnings of the American nation upon a greater foundational belief that God, or as written in the Declaration "Creator", was the source for men's irrevocable rights.

Samuel Adams, who signed the historic document and writer of the Rights of the Colonists (November 1772), once said, "Just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty, in matters spiritual and temporal is a thing that all men are clearly entitled to by the eternal and immutable laws of God and nature, as well as by the laws of nations and all well-grounded and municipal laws, which must have their foundation in the former."

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, also believed "God who gave us life gave us liberty."

Two of the Continental Congress' first actions were to hire military chaplains and to purchase 20,000 Bibles to remedy a national shortage.

Although America was already a free nation during the presidency of George Washington, the first president of the United States, he suggested that only religion could uphold its morality. During his farewell address he said, "And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience

both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Even if America's roots were traced back to its primitive stages, the marriage between the early inhabitants of the land and Christianity are inseparable. The Pilgrims clearly stated the purpose for their voyage even before stepping off the Mayflower: "...undertaken for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith..."

The U.S. Supreme Court also identified America as a Christian nation in 1892, after 10 years of examining hundreds of documents on the foundation of the country. The justices came to the unanimous conclusion that the documents undeniably "add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a religious people, a Christian nation."

John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, summed up the historic event that led to America's independence best when he said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

The conviction that God cannot, and should not be moved from the social and governmental construct of America continues to echo in the voice of the USA's more recent leaders.

According to the late Ronald W. Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, "Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience....without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure....If we ever forget that we are one Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under."

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# Announcements

1. Worship Team will meet on July 2th at 4:00 p.m.
- 2.f One Board will not met in July, next meeting will be Tuesday, August 20th at 6:00pm
3. Womens Group will meet at 10.00 am on July 10th at the church to clean Sunday school classes. We will go to lunch afterwards.
4. Breakfast will be served every Sunday at 9:30. Schedule as follows:
  - 1st- Sunday - Men's Club
  - 2nd- Sunday - Women's Club
  - 3rd- Sunday - Sunday School Class
  - 4th- One Board
  - 5th- Sunday - Trustee Committee

**Plan to join us**



## Church Family Happenings

Judy and Jimmy Cook went to Tennessee to visit their daughter.  
 Jeff and Maria Masi traveled to Wisconsin for a family wedding.



## July Birthdays

*Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday*

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 6th Kayci Moates  | 11th Ann Wood      |
| 6th John Roberts  | 12th Gaynell Owens |
| 9th Linda Stanton | 19th Charlie Self  |



## July Anniversaries

20th Russ & Deborah Edge



## Cleaning Schedule

June-July 2024

- July 11 - Gaynell Owens
- July 25 - Judy Cook & Deborah Edge

**If you are unable to clean when scheduled, please find a substitute to take your place. If you would like to volunteer to help clean the church, see Gaynell Owens. All help is greatly appreciated.**

Q	G	O	X	V	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	N	R	N	T	M
R	E	Y	A	R	P	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	S
O	G	N	O	I	T	A	T	P	M	E	T	S	K	V	D	I
B	R	E	V	E	R	O	F	L	R	U	F	J	Z	A	Q	T
L	Z	V	F	J	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	H	U	F	P
K	R	A	G	P	R	A	P	V	I	A	T	D	C	O	V	A
I	P	E	B	B	I	S	R	A	E	L	Z	G	X	L	L	B
A	K	H	T	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	S	A	P	G	S	Y
M	T	P	J	A	N	B	B	N	E	G	T	T	R	I	Q	S
F	R	S	G	U	W	O	L	W	B	N	I	Y	S	E	E	E
R	U	O	I	V	A	S	I	E	X	R	O	E	A	S	T	K
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E	C	N	C	K	H	Y	A	P	A	E	O	M	E	G	X	F
Y	A	S	P	I	R	C	S	R	G	E	T	C	W	D	C	Y
H	R	G	L	O	L	I	F	E	T	Z	R	H	F	N	E	Q
V	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	H	K	C	E	G	L	N
D	O	G	M	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	K	F	W	V

## FIND THESE WORDS

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Baptism   | Life           |
| Bible     | Mary           |
| Christ    | Message        |
| Creation  | Moses          |
| Earth     | Nazareth       |
| Forever   | Prayer         |
| Genesis   | Garden of Eden |
| Glory     | Resurrection   |
| God       | Revelation     |
| Good News | Salvation      |
| Heaven    | Saviour        |
| Holy      | Sin            |
| Israel    | Spirit         |
| Jerusalem | Temptation     |
| Kingdom   | Water          |

# Are We Taking God Seriously?

by: Chris Swanson

How many Christians do not treat their faith seriously, or take it for granted? Many get up and go to work or school, but they did not find time to talk to God. Undoubtedly, many Christians have some type of insurance (life, home, auto, medical, dental, etc.), but they see their spiritual lives as a bit trivial, like only praying when trouble comes their way.

Jesus was invited to a Pharisee's house for dinner. A sinful woman learned of this, came to the house, and began to wash the feet of Jesus with her tears. She kissed them and anointed them with oil. The Pharisee was critical of this, but Jesus told him a parable. A creditor had two debtors, one owed a small amount while the other a large amount. The creditor forgave both debts, so which one was more grateful? The Pharisee replied that it is the one that was forgiven the most.

*“Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven — as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.’ Then Jesus said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven’” (Luke 7:44-48).*

Basically, the people who love Christ little are not as intense about their faith in Jesus. As we come to Jesus in a serious manner, astounding things occur.

## Are We Taking God Seriously?

Because we currently live in a critically challenging time, there must be a reason why people do not take God at His Word. Do we even take God seriously? Provided that this is true, how might we be aware? What is the significance here in taking God in such a grave manner? How can we say whether or not people are earnest about their confidence and faith in God?

Individuals who are serious about their faith

do not mistake it for different convictions, loyalties, or blend them together aimlessly with the secular world's belief system.

Individuals who are serious about their faith do not agree to, empower, or allow any infringement of its norms by its declared believers.

Individuals who are serious about their faith do not stay quiet about it, apologize for it, or allow it to be treated as if it had little or no effect in their conduct or in their associations with others.

Individuals who are serious about their faith study the Scriptures, have a positive prayer life, and look for ways to lead others to Christ.

Individuals who are serious about their faith continually seek the Lord's guidance in all aspects of their life.

I believe that the actual question that we should ask ourselves is this, “How do we go about taking God seriously?” Taking God seriously starts first by us having a “fear of the Lord.”

## What Is the Fear of the Lord?

“The fear of the Lord” is a vital topic in the wisdom writing of the Bible, from the book of Job through the Song of Solomon. It means to have regard and adoration for God and to feel in wonder of His highness and power. This is the beginning stage to tracking down genuine wisdom.

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).*

Perhaps the most irritating sort of individual is a smart aleck, an individual who has an overbearing assessment on everything and who is shut to anything new. Solomon calls this sort of individual a braggart. We should not turn into a know-it-all. All things being equal, we ought to be open to the guidance of others, particularly the people who are familiar with us and can give us significant insight and advice. We should ascertain how to gain understanding from others. Only God knows everything.

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).*

Nobody can be really wise except if he fears the Lord. This is not only about respect, yet it does not infer panic and terror. The thought is one of lowliness, profound love, and surrender. The reason for fearing God in this manner is believing that He is sacred and abhors and rebuffs sin. The people who appropriately comprehend God's position have a reasonable perspective on the real world, prompting knowledge and improved results.

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise” (Psalm 111:10).*

The best way to turn out to be genuinely insightful is to fear (revere) God. Time after time, individuals try to skirt this progression, imagining that they can become savvy through life experience and scholastic information alone. Yet, if we do not recognize God as the wellspring of wisdom, then the core for using sound judgment is temperamental, and we are ill-fated to stupid decisions. We ought to continuously recall that wisdom comes from perceiving God as the wellspring of wisdom, and to submit to His regulations.

*“The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility” (Proverbs 15:33).*

## The Impact on Our Lives

By revering the Lord, an individual increases in wisdom, yet he should lower himself to acquire that wisdom. He readily recognizes his dependence on the Lord for good judgment, and he unassumingly submits to the Lord's directions. An individual cannot begin with a mentality of haughtiness and hope to procure honor.

*“In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence; and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death” (Proverbs 14:26-27).*

*Continued to page 5*

## Taking God Seriously continued from page 4

Revering the Lord builds certainty. Neither troublesome individual conditions nor disturbing world occasions can shake the believer's confirmation that God is in charge. The word fear interpreted here suggests regard and respect. In a believer, a solid regard for God and His truth helps us keep away from the results of sin in our lives. The children of a person who loves the Lord also enjoy the Lord's security, as the life of a God-fearing adult impact the kids and help them to also venerate God.

That trusting, compliant submission to God's will delivers a nurturing stream, interfacing us to the honest love of our Creator (John 10:10). Confiding in the Lord as Savior brings plentiful, never-ending life (John 3:16). Additionally, showing respect to God brings about a reviving, intentional life. By respectfully fearing the Lord, an individual stays away from the normal outcomes of transgression and malevolence (Proverbs 12:28). That security reaches out past the natural life; creatures caught in a trap face demise, yet the believer will not face eternal

death (John 10:27-28).

*"To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech" (Proverbs 8:13).*

The more an individual regards and fears God, the more the person will not stand evil. Having a love for God and a love for transgression cannot coincide. Holding onto secret sins implies that we are enduring evil inside ourselves. We should make a total separation from transgression and commit ourselves totally to God.

*"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9).*

### True Spiritual Wisdom

The "fear of the Lord" may seem like a weird term for the law God gave Israel, however the Law was expected to help the Israelite people to fear the Lord. The significance of fear here is the old feeling of significant regard, lowliness, and

acknowledgment. This is not a feeling of terror, however, but of respect. That respectful anxiety toward the Lord is spotless, and perseveres until the end of time. Not at all like false religions that are polluted, God's Word is pure and never-ending. An appointed authority might deliver an off-base decision, yet God's decisions are valid, and they are completely exemplary.

*"He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure" (Isaiah 33:6).*

The treasures of God are abundantly more than our needs, and He provides salvation and wisdom to the individuals who accept and respect Him and His sovereignty.

To take God seriously is to have a reverential fear of God. By doing so we gain true spiritual wisdom and knowledge on how we are to live, how to work, and how to teach others. We can be assured that God will do what He says that He will do.

## Bible Trivia answers from June issue

1. Who is the author of the book of Romans? **Paul**
2. To whom was 1 John written? **believers**
3. In what book is the following verse found? "Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." **Galatians**
4. Which book are these verses from?: "whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." **Psalms**
5. What does Jude say he originally planned on writing about in his epistle? **Salvation**
6. Who wrote the book of Colossians? **Paul**
7. In which book of the Bible do we find the verse: "... for God did send me before you to preserve life." **Genesis**
8. Who wrote 1 and 2 Corinthians? **Paul**
9. Which is the only book in the Bible that does not mention the name of God? **Esther**
10. Which book holds the account of Moses smashing the Ten Commandments? **Deuteronomy**

## July Trivia Questions

1. King Solomon was the son of a king of Israel. Who was Solomon's father?
2. Who was Solomon's mother?
3. Solomon's most famous building project was the Temple at Jerusalem that had been planned by David. Why didn't David build the Temple himself?
4. One day two women came to King Solomon with a baby, each woman claiming to be the baby's mother. What did Solomon do to resolve the dispute?
5. Which personal quality was Solomon noted for?
6. Which famous monarch came to visit King Solomon?
7. King Solomon's reign was an era of
8. Which Bible book was not written by Solomon?
9. What was Solomon's great sin?
10. Which of Solomon's sons succeeded him as king of Israel?

### Answers in August Issue



## Just Joking



### The Wish

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer when all of a sudden he said aloud, "Lord grant me one wish". The sky clouded and a booming voice said, "Because you have tried to be faithful I will grant you one wish." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want to."

The Lord answered, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the logistics of that kind of undertaking; the supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific; the concrete and steel it would take. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time to think of another wish, a wish you think would honor and glorify me".

The man thought for a long time and finally said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know what they feel inside, what they are thinking when they give me the silent treatment, why they cry, what they mean when they say 'nothing', and how I can make a woman truly happy?"

After a few minutes God said, "How many lanes do you want on that bridge?"

### Jesus knows you're here

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said,

'Jesus knows you're here?'

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze.

When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued.

Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard

'Jesus is watching you.'

Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot. 'Yep', the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'

'Moses,' replied the bird.

'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'

'The kind of people that would name a Rotweiler Jesus.'