



Pastors Pen July 2015

Well we find ourselves in the full swing of summer. Try to enjoy the summer months. Take time to spend with your family and friends. Enjoy the freedom that was hard fought for by our soldiers in uniform.

What is the fourth of July? The definition from Webster's says: the anniversary of the adoption of the declaration of independence, on July 4th 1776. A legal holiday in the USA.

If we break down the word independence, we have the word independent. Webster says independent means, free from influence, control, or determination of another or others. Free from influence, persuasion or bias. The definition goes on, but you get the idea.

I ask, are we still an independent country? Yes we have freedom to choose. We have the freedom of religion, but whose religion? The religion that we were founded on, or the religion of another country. Religion is a general term. Following Jesus Christ is pure, it's really not a religious organization, it's a matter of one's heart. There's no confusion, we follow Gods precepts. We love our neighbor as Jesus commands. We follow God's Holy word.

But somewhere along the way, the United States of America has compromised our foundation. That foundation is the rock of Jesus Christ. We have allowed the power of the people to be the power of a few. We have allowed those in power by the vote of the people to pollute our souls. I understand that the politicians make promises that sound wonderful. Then they somehow break the promises. When they don't keep their word, we as the people need to hold them to the fire. All we can do is pray, then cast our vote. God will carry us through.

There is hope, 2 Chronicles speaks to this hope. Verse 7:14 "If My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." I could go on, but I feel God's word says it all.

Let us look at the definition of dependent: Influenced, controlled or determined by something else, relying on another for support or aid. A person who depends on someone else for their existence, support.

I guess the question is, for who are we dependent on? The governments of the world, or God? For a Christian our independence is rooted on being dependent on God. In Christ's service, Pastor Gary



Ceresco Messenger ~ July 2015

Prayer of 2 Chronicles 7:14 for our Nation

And God said: *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Almighty and Eternal Father, we thank you for the inspiration and courage you gave to the founding fathers of our nation to establish a land where your principles and laws would guide us. You have provided for this nation mightily with every good thing but we have squandered your gifts and turned away from your laws and principles.

Forgive us Lord. We acknowledge we have sinned against you and one another in every conceivable way. We deserve your just punishment but plead for your mercy. (Nehemiah 1: 4-11)

Grant us, the people of our nation, the grace to turn from our sins and return to you that we might be healed. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen

God is faithful to His Word and shall accomplish that which He has spoken. (Isaiah 55:11)



YOUTH ACTIVITY DAY!

Saturday, **July 11** at Bill & Laurann Frey's - 9765 B. Drive North. This includes the youth from 3rd grade up to 12th grade and beyond! The day starts at 4:00 pm with activities such as basketball, badminton, ping-pong and swimming.

We will have a bon fire and hot dog roast to end the day. Be sure to bring a friend or two. Let us know if you need a ride or directions.

Also, if anyone is able to help out with snacks, brownies, cookies, or drinks it would be much appreciated.

~ Sharon Hadley

*Looking for some used furniture? See Dawn Frey!
She might have what you're looking for!*

Thank you to all the men who sang on Fathers Day during worship service. Your willingness to do so is much appreciated and enjoyed by all . What a blessing! ~ Joanne Henley



Our Annual Treasure Sale will be Friday, August 27th, 2-6 pm (pre-sale) and Saturday, August 28th 10am-4pm. One person's 'junk' is another person's 'treasure'! Be sure to shop the sale! All items are priced by your donation! You decide how much you want to give for your 'purchases'!

JULY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Not just an American. but also Christian!			1	2	3	
5 Communion Sunday & Patriotic Sunday	6	7 Bible Study 10 am	8	9	10	11 YOUTH DAY!!! Bill & Laurann Frey's
12 Adm Council after the Wor- ship Service	13	14 Bible Study 10 am	15 Church in Use	16	17	18 Relay for Life of Calhoun County East, Calhoun Co Fairgrounds, 3pm-3pm
19	20	21 Bible Study 10 am	22	23	24	25 Church in Use for a Wedding
26 Fellowship Sunday	27	28 Bible Study 10 am	29 Messenger Information Due at noon	30	31	Aug 1st Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority” (I Timothy 2:1-2, NIV)

What Does the Bible Tell Us About How to Pray?

Jesus shares some tremendous insight regarding how to pray in Matthew 6:5-13.

“And now about prayer. When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.”

“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think prayers are answered only by repeating words over and over again. Don’t be like them, because your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. Give us our food for today, and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

In the above verses, Jesus shares how not to pray.

Verse 5: We are to pray in secret, not the way people did in His day — praying out loud publicly, primarily to just be seen, and heard.

Verse 6: Jesus asks us to go to a private place since our Heavenly Father already knows what we are going to pray about.

Verse 7: Jesus tells us not to ramble on and on, as people of other religions do, or be repetitious with words. God, our heavenly Father, would have us be specific about our prayer.

Verse 8: Jesus reiterates that the believer is not to pray repetitiously like the heathen. Next, Jesus, teaches us how to pray.

Verse 9: Jesus says we should give honor to God and His name.

Verse 10: We are to pray for His Kingdom to come, and for His will to be done, that there would be a heavenly or godly presence here on earth.

Verse 11: We are to pray for daily provision.

Verse 12: We are to pray and ask for forgiveness for our sins, and for others who have wronged us.

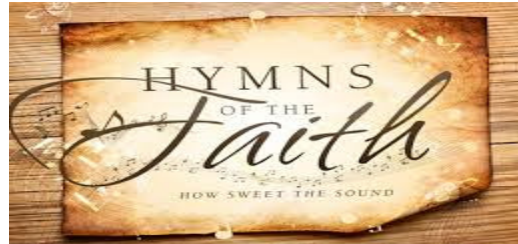
Verse 13: We are to pray and ask God to keep us from being tempted, and to deliver us from Satan and his power.

FLOWER SCHEDULE

July 5 ~ Sommers
July 12 ~ Schooler
July 19 ~ OPEN
July 26 ~ OPEN
August 2 ~ OPEN
August 9 ~ OPEN
August 16 ~ Sommers
August 23 ~ OPEN
August 30 ~ OPEN

Have a Favorite Hymn?

During the summer months we will pick a favorite hymn from the basket in the foyer. Please write down your favorite hymn, #, and your name.



A Prayer for America

Father in Heaven,
We, the people, in the
land of the free and
the home of the brave,
desperately need You.
Oh that we would leave our ways
of seeking to be blessed
and instead seek to bless others.
We beg for Your guidance and wisdom
for our leaders.
We ask You to protect our land
from enemies, both within and without.
And we praise you for the freedom
we have through the blood of Your Son.
May Your plan be the desire of our nation.
Amen

rachelwojo.com



Join us at Relay for Life!
Relay is 3 pm July 17th -3 pm July 18th
at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds.
Please join us!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 4 Shirley Westphal
July 5 Kevin Sommers
Jul 10 Phyllis Schooler
Jul 10 Joyce Cary
Jul 10 Benjamin Markos
Jul 15 Andrew Sommers
Jul 15 Malia Scott
Jul 17 Alyssa Holder
Jul 17 Isaac Wood
Jul 21 Skylar Marie Miller
Jul 21 Bradley Jacob Thomas
Jul 26 Rick Frey
Jul 27 Robert Lutz
Jul 27 Kyle Sorell
Jul 27 Floyd 'Pete' Burrows

Aug 1 Sharon Hadley
Aug 5 Christy Phelps
Aug 10 Kaleb Collins
Aug 10 Kate Skinner
Aug 12 Veronica Anthony
Aug 12 Bruce Boice
Aug 13 Allison Biljum
Aug 13 Jason Holder
Aug 13 Jonathan Holder
Aug 16 Jeri Wood
Aug 16 Dorene McJunkin
Aug 16 Joy Sommers
Aug 18 Bonnie Halstead
Aug 20 Patricia Heidrich
Aug 21 Nancy Reed
Aug 25 Rick Bonney
Aug 25 David Hadley
Aug 26 Whitney Rose Ivey
Aug 28 Tyler Sommers
Aug 28 Kristen Sommers

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !!!

7/3 Brad & Karyn Halverson
7/7 **Gary & Phyllis Schooler**
7/9 Peter & Paula Briedis
7/20 Bill & Shirley Westphal
7/22 Floyd 'Pete' & Diane Burrows
7/23 Ted & Lora Finch
7/26 Ron & Linda Chisholm
7/30 Bruce & Monica Entsminger

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !!!

Aug 2 Derek & Emily Holtz
Aug 11 Jim & Darlene Anthony
Aug 15 Dick & Linda Schlee
Aug 17 Mike & Shirley Young
Aug 24 Bud & Vi Halder
Aug 24 Dan & Ruth Johnston



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The Ceresco Messenger

Church Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:45 am
Sunday School 11:00 am
Bible Study Tuesdays 10 am

**God loves you,
And so do we!**
~ Ceresco Baptist Church