

FREEDOM FOREVER

The Fourth of July is a day that holds deep significance for every American. It marks the moment, all the way back in 1776, when our nation boldly declared its independence from Britain. On that day, with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, America proclaimed to the world: *We will be free*. But how free was that freedom, really?

It’s a sobering thought that the day we now celebrate with fireworks and cookouts was, for many of the 56 signers of the Declaration, the beginning of tremendous personal sacrifice. Five were captured by the British and tortured before being executed. Twelve had their homes looted and burned.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. watched his own house be taken over by British General Cornwallis and used as enemy headquarters. Rather than hold back, Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire—on his own home. It was destroyed, and Nelson later died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his property destroyed, and his wife was captured and imprisoned by the British. She died in captivity. Carter Braxton, once a wealthy Virginia planter and trader, lost his ships to the British Navy. He was forced to sell his estate and died in poverty. Two other signers lost their sons in the war. Another saw both of his sons taken prisoner. In the end, nine of the 56 died from wounds or hardships suffered during the Revolutionary War. When we look at the true cost of our independence, it becomes clear: **freedom is never free**. Our liberty today was purchased with pain, courage, and sacrifice. As Americans, we should never forget that the freedoms we enjoy came at great cost.

But as meaningful as these sacrifices are, there is one sacrifice greater than them all, a sacrifice not made for a single nation, but for the entire world. One that didn’t just secure freedom from political tyranny, but from something even more enslaving: **sin**. In **John 8:31–32**, Jesus said, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Yet, those who heard Him were confused. “We’re Abraham’s descendants,” they said. “We’ve never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by ‘set free’?” So, Jesus clarified in **John 8:34–36**: “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

It’s easy—even as Americans, living in the “land of the free”—to forget that we can still be enslaved. Not by foreign power, but by the power of sin. Sin keeps us bound in guilt, fear, and separation from God. But Jesus came to break those chains. Paul writes in **Galatians 5:1**: “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” When Jesus was betrayed, unfairly tried, mocked, beaten, and crucified, He took upon Himself the punishment we deserved (**Isaiah 53:5**). He paid the debt we owed. **Our freedom from sin was not free. It came at the highest cost.**

Now, imagine being back during the days of the American Revolution. Imagine if, after years of war and unimaginable sacrifice, the leaders of early America had simply gone back to King George in 1783—after the peace treaty was signed—and asked to be taken under British rule again. How senseless would that have been? All the suffering and progress would have been for nothing.

That’s exactly what happens when someone who has been baptized into Christ chooses to return to a life of sin. It’s going back to the very bondage Jesus died to save us from. **1 Peter 2:16–17** urges, “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.” Freedom in Christ is not a license to sin—it is a call to live for God. Paul echoes this truth in **Romans 6:1–4**: “What shall we say then? Are we continuing in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus was baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

So, as we celebrate the Fourth of July this week—grilling out, watching fireworks, enjoying the blessings of our country—let’s pause to remember the cost of our national freedom. But even more importantly, let’s reflect on the greater freedom offered through Christ. He died to give us life. He rose to set us free. If you’ve been baptized into His death, walk in *newness of life*. Live in the freedom He purchased for you. And share that hope with others—because the good news of Jesus is the only freedom that lasts forever. “So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” **John 8:36**

Andrew Spivey

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES
Sunday Read – Matthew 21:28-22:14
Wednesday Read – Matthew 22:15-46

Questions for last week’s reading of;

Mark 11:1-33

Questions:

- 1.What did the people say and do when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem?
- 2.What did Jesus do when he saw people selling things in the temple court?
- 3. What did Jesus teach about the temple?
- 4. How were the disciples to pray if they wanted to receive what they asked for?
- 5. What was Jesus’ answer when the chief priests, scribes, and elders questioned Him about where he got his authority?

UPCOMING EVENTS

* 4:15 Singing class first Sunday only*
Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm

- July 4th – Independence Day – office closed
- July 6 – 1st Sunday Singing – Nashville Road – 2:30 pm
- July 8 – TNT -6pm
Ladies Bible Class – 6:30pm
- July 10 – Elders meeting 6:30pm
- July 16-19 VBS “DREAM”
- July 22 – TNT – 6pm
Ladies Bible Class -6:30pm
- July 24 - Senior Group – 5:00pm

THANK YOU NOTE

I would like to thank the congregation for the cards and prayers on the passing of my father.

Darryl Lockett

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Daniel Yates came forward Sunday morning requesting the prayers of the congregation for encouragement. Please keep Daniel in your prayers.

VBS 2025

July 16-19:Wed – Fri 6-8 pm & Sat 4pm
The theme for this year’s VBS is “Dream.”
We will be focusing on the story of Joseph.

ORDER OF SERVICES
SUNDAY

July 6, 2025

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
Auditorium Lesson.....Mike Tidwell

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Allyn Hosman
Scripture Reading.....Jon David Senn
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson
Lord's Supper.....Bob Brown
Servers.....C. Nelsen; J. Johnson; M. Lyle
J. Crawford; Z. Tooley; D. Johnson
Sermon.....Mike Tidwell
Closing Prayer.....Fate Evans

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Allyn Hosman
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Garrett Rowlett
Sermon.....Mike Tidwell
Lord's Supper.....Matt Ellis
Closing Prayer.....Bob Sever

WEDNESDAY

July 9, 2025

7:00 PM

Welcome.....Allyn Hosman
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Jim Cherry
Lesson.....Tim Strickland
Closing Prayer.....Carl Newby
Ushers for July.....T. Cummins/E. Stephenson
Communion Care for July.....B/T Brown
Door Greeters – West Door.....C/P Newby
East Door.....E/D Stephenson
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Sherry Perry

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL
Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Bobbie Stephens has been placed on Hospice Care. **James Towe**, son-in-law of Donna Jennings is in Centennial, room 5122. **Larry Hammock**, uncle of Andrew Spivey will be undergoing chemo & radiation treatments. **Joann Lockett**, mother of Darryl Lockett has been diagnosed with breast cancer. **Wayne Hunt**, cousin of Tim Cummins, had a bone marrow transplant. **Chuck Tooley**, father of Zach Tooley, home with health issues. **Roscoe Smith**, father of Brent Smith has started his treatments for cancer. **Larry Bailey**, son of Tina Bailey had his last radiation treatment.



PRAYER LIST

Jack & Anita Cato; **Bobbie Stephens**; **Wanda Seals**; **Lena Baggett**; **Stella Messer**; **Hugh Fulford**; **Maddie Andrews**; **Mary Spivey**; **Ottis & Maxine Cothron**; **Shauna Lockett**; **Jean Knowles**; **Zach Tooley**; **Mary Ann Reinhart**; **Sandi Jones**; **Pat Watson**; **Frances Catron**; **Jackie Williams**; **Pat Crump**; **Chuck Maxey**; **Max & Pat Lemley**, parents of Michael Lemley; **Heather Lemley** daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; **Jean McCurdy** mother of Olivia Nelsen; **Ariel Clift**, niece of Tarina Brown; **Elaine Reynolds**, friend of Christie Coleman; **Alan Greene**, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; **Vycki Puckett**, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; **Ty Tyler** son of Ann Tyler; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **Harold Cole**, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill; **Aza Topik**, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton, **Mary Spivey**

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	95
Morning Worship.....	163
Sunday Evening.....	70
Wednesday Evening.....	71
Contribution.....	\$7,186.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$6,976.00

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

Deacons

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Adam Williamson	



Phone (615) 452-3431

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Web Site: www.nashvilleroad.org

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister