

Ponderings From the Pastor

By Brad Taylor, Pastor

Happy 4th of July! Let Sparks Fly!

Pre-Teen Camp will be July 8-11 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Pre-Teen Camp is for students who have completed the 3rd grade through 5th grade. We are using the same “Breaker Rock Beach” theme as VBS as students will learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Each day will be packed with lots of fun activities. Campers will begin the day with a devotion, followed by fishing at the home of Steve and Robin Thomas, then campers will return to the church for archery or glow in the dark disk golf, then they will enjoy a tasty lunch, campers will have a time of worship and Bible study, arts & crafts and laser tag will occur after lunch and the campers will complete the day with some time at Bill and Denise Brownlow’s swimming pool. Camp is free for the first 25 students that sign up. Forms are available on the welcome center desk.

Our church family has elected the members for this year’s Nominating Committee. These members have the responsibility to search out, enlist and bring before the church, nominees for officers, teachers and committees. To accomplish this task they will be contacting MEMBERS of Oak Grove to serve in these important areas of ministry. The proper functioning of members serving in these positions are very important for our church to fulfill our mission. If contacted by one of these members to serve in a position prayerfully consider the opportunity. They will have spent much time in prayer and planning before contacting a prospective member for a position. This committee plans to present the nominees during a special business meeting in August and they will begin serving in September.

July Sermon Calendar

July 7— Distinctives of the Gospel Mark 2:18-22
July 14 — Lord of the Sabbath Pt 1 Mark 2:23-28
July 21 — Lord of the Sabbath Pt 2 Mark 3:1-6
July 28 — Jesus Mark 3:7-12

Children’s Church Lesson Calendar

Submitted by Cindy Tittle

July 7 — A Psalm about Creation, lead by John and Cindy Tittle
July 14 — David’s Song of Praise, lead by Dave and Margaret Gaulding
July 21 — Jesus Read the Scriptures, lead by Charles and Gayla Pruett
July 28 — Hearing and Doing the Word, lead by Charles and Gayla Pruett



July

Let FREEDOM Ring!



Submitted by Mindy Taylor, Worship Leader

The Story Behind the song: God Bless the USA

Lee Greenwood tells the story: I was raised on a farm in Sacramento, California. My parents were divorced when I was a year old, so my grandparents were my guardians. My father joined the Navy after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, so you can see I was born about a year later. My mom had to work several jobs in order to support me and my sister, so she really couldn't afford to have childcare while she was working so that's why I was raised by my grandparents, Thomas and Edna Jackson, who I love dearly.

I had farm chores, I had music. My mother was a piano player in the '40s. We had a little Spinnet piano in the corner of our trailer. I was allowed to play every evening if I wanted to and it was just something I could not tear myself away from. I listened to all kinds of music growing up. I played for The American Legion, The VFW, and marching in parades. I was immersed in all kinds of music. I learned more than the piano while I was in junior high and high school, and by the time I graduated in 1960, I had formed my own band and left for Nevada. During those early years – because I was the drum major in the high school marching band – I really enjoyed the marches of Sousa and many of the other composers and leading my own band in The National Anthem. Then (I was) working for the USO when I was 15 and 16 at McClellan and major Air Force bases in Sacramento...I got a good taste of the military and their sacrifice.

I wrote the song on my bus one night in '83. I already had four albums I think, two albums a year at the time. ...That particular year, we already had an album song chosen, "You've Got a Good Love Comin'," the title of the album that year for release for 1984. When Universal made the call after they heard "U.S.A." on that album to release it as a single, I was just surprised. I think that if that had not happened, no one would have ever heard the song, and it probably would have just been one of

those things in my discography that I was proud of, but it was more than that. When it got on the radio, the audience heard it, it became the song for the National Guard of Tennessee, and then the military, and then with President Reagan and his '84 campaign, which I was part of, and then moved forward to Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf War – not in that order – and the (September 11) attack on America. Each time, more Americans found "God Bless the U.S.A." to be a song of spirit and unity. It didn't happen overnight.

I'm a conservative Christian, and even though most people recognize the song who may not be Christian, or just don't know how to sing the whole song (think "I'm Proud to Be an American" is the title. I'll go with that, and as far as on the sheet music MCA has listed, after pressure for many years, "God Bless the U.S.A." (with the) subtitle "I'm Proud to Be an American."

It's been nearly 40 years since Lee Greenwood wrote his signature "God Bless The U.S.A." – a patriotic anthem informed by his veteran father, his experiences traveling across the country in a tour bus.

The reason I wrote that line was not just because my father served in World War II, and survived it by the way, but I hadn't heard for many, many years that people were proud of their heritage. My heritage is American. Sure, I'm German, English, Irish, Scottish, but I was born in the United States of America and this is my heritage, American...So, when I said "I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free," I know that resonated with every American who has lost a son or daughter in conflict combat, and maybe just the strife of how we exist here in America. There's no other country like this that's free like we are.

(The Story Behind the song, Nashville Songwriters Association International)

God Bless the USA

[Verse 1]

*If tomorrow all the things were gone I'd
worked for all my life
And I had to start again
With just my children and my wife
I'd thank my lucky stars
To be living here today
Cause the flag still stands for freedom
And they can't take that away*

[Chorus]

*And I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up
Next to you and defend her still today
Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land
God bless the USA*

[Verse 2]

*From the lakes of Minnesota
To the hills of Tennessee
Across the plains of Texas
From sea to shining sea
From Detroit down to Houston,
And New York to L.A
Well there's pride in every American heart
And its time we stand and say*

[Chorus]

July Daily Bible Reading Plan

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 1 Isaiah 49:1–12 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 12 Jeremiah 31:15–22 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 23 Zephaniah 1:1–18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 2 Isaiah 49:13–26 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 13 Jeremiah 31:23–40 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 24 Zephaniah 2:1–15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 3 Isaiah 55:1–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 14 Lamentations 3:1–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 25 Zephaniah 3:1–20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 4 Isaiah 63:15–64:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 15 Lamentations 3:25–57 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 26 Psalm 32 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 5 Isaiah 66:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 16 Ezekiel 20:33–44 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 27 Psalm 38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 6 Isaiah 66:12–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 17 Ezekiel 28:20–26 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 28 Psalm 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 7 Jeremiah 3:6–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 18 Ezekiel 33:1–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 29 Psalm 41 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 8 Jeremiah 4:1–4 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 19 Ezekiel 36:1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 30 Psalm 130 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 9 Jeremiah 30:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 20 Ezekiel 36:16–38 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 31 Philemon 1–25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 10 Jeremiah 30:12–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 21 Joel 2:1–17 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 11 Jeremiah 31:1–14 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 22 Joel 2:18–32 | |



- Wyatt Ball
- Zayden Wilson

July 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----|-----------------------------------|
| | 1 Ed Moheng bday | 2 Tori Lovett & Amanda Crook bdays | 3 | 4 Independence Day Macy Collier & Joe Eastham bdays | 5 | 6 Margaret Gaulding bday |
| 7 Lord's Supper | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | PreTeen Camp | | | | | |
| 14 James Onyon bday | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Charles Young bday | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Pauline Ellis, Chris Whitlock, Paul Roberts bdays | 24 Denise Brownlow bday | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Cuma Hardison bday | 31 | | | |

OGBC Youth News

Submitted by Matt Shepard, Youth Leader

Falls Creek 2024 is in the books and it was an amazing one! So many students grew in their relationships with Christ as well as a few started a relationship with Him. We had 9 students make a decision while at Falls Creek (salvations, baptism, and rededications). We've had 2 youth baptized so far with a few more coming in the next few weeks! God is so good! Thank you to anyone and everyone who contributed to Falls Creek with prayers and donations!

Upcoming dates to know:

July 3rd - No church

July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st - Regular Wednesday Night Services for youth from 6:30 - 7:30 (will pick back up to normal 6:30 - 8:00 when school starts back up!)

August - 6th graders join youth!



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