

NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH
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4th Of July Crossword Puzzle

Across

- It's a hot _____ day
- We live in the United States Of _____
- The 4th of July is _____ Day.
- We celebrate the 4th of _____
- Someone who loves and supports America is _____

Down

- Our flag is red, white and _____
- Soldiers fight for our _____
- There is a _____ show on the beach.
- Chicken and burgers are cooking on the _____

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North Baptist Church Beacon

July 2023

Over the Coffee

As most of you are aware, I have returned from my one-month sabbatical. It has been a joy to return and to share in worship with the good people of North Baptist Church. Many thanks go out to Chaplain Kim Kollin for filling the pulpit for the four Sundays I was away. Everyone seemed to enjoy her messages and her good humor. She shared on the Memorial Weekend as well as Father's Day, and that was special for the congregation. Many thanks to Terry and Judy Darst, and to Tim McCarthy for adding some devotional reflections to the Common Lectionary Thoughts which I prepared ahead of time to go out on the four Sundays. Now it is back to having a sermon manuscript as well.

I did not get away from home during the sabbatical, but stayed nearby and worked on some reading, writing, and meditation. I shared with the congregation last Sunday that I worked through the New Testament slowly and thoughtfully. Any one of us can sit down over a few evenings and read the whole New Testament. But to read it very slowly, taking a few notes, and noticing the repetition of themes and key words takes a lot more time. And the journey is worth it. I was able to discern the real *unity* of the gospel message throughout the four gospels, the book of Acts, and the letters of the apostles, along with the Revelation of John. The urgency of sharing the good news of the sacrificial death of Jesus and the resurrection runs all the way through. The emphasis on withholding judgment, making space for abundant mercy, and striving to endure life's journey with faith are consistent themes repeated over and over. I was led to think much about how the material fit the first century world, and then to see the parallels to our own time. It is good to pause and think about what the authors were saying to their first readers before running ahead to ask what a passage means to us today.

The Common Lectionary Readings for the month of July are as follows:

July 2 Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 9 Genesis 24:34-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Rom. 7:15-25a; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16 Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23 Gen. 28:10-19a; Ps. 139:1-12,23-24; Rom. 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30 Gen. 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Rom. 8:26-39; Matt.:31-33, 44-52

Have a blessed July – Pastor Cy

July Anniversaries

Joe & Dorena Brown – 7/12
Carl & Amanda Smerdel – 7/16

July Birthdays

Terry Darst – 7/3
Anna Burford – 7/7
Melanie Klapper – 7/12
Gabriella Burford – 7/14
Larry Loos – 7/15
Shawn Huntzinger – 7/17
Betsy Hildebrand – 7/19
Sharon Miller – 7/19
Matt Petersen – 7/20
Nancy Klapper – 7/24
Jack Reed – 7/30
Jo Ann St. Clair – 7/30

Assistance with Utilities and Groceries

Anyone having trouble paying bills or feeding a family may be referred to the Clintonville Resource Center for assistance. Individuals or families must live north of Hudson Street and south of Worthington, west of I-71 and east of Route 315, and must bring an ID and proof of address (such as a utility bill in their name) to CRC between noon and 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. CRC is located at 3222 North High Street, Columbus, OH; phone: 614-268-3539. Also, if anyone needs special assistance please do not hesitate to bring your situation to the attention of Pastor Cy.

Financial Secretary's Report

CATEGORY	6/1-30/23
Total Receipts	\$6,213.57
Budget Receipts	\$4,375.00
Missions	
OGHS	355.00
Other	
Bequest/Ritter	1,422.57
Fellowship Fund	61.00
	-Bette Martin

Contributions

For members unable to attend worship services, contributions may be mailed to Bette Martin, 620 High Timber Drive, Westerville, OH 43082.

Treasurer's Report for July

INCOME/EXPENSE CATEGORY	6/1-30/2023
INCOME	
Bequest from Katherine Ritter	1,422.57
BUDGET RECEIPTS	4,375.00
Designated Offering - Fellowship Fund	61.00
Designated Offering - OGHS	355.00
Northwestern Mutual - Monthly income stream	3,250.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,463.57
EXPENSES	
Designated Offerings: Fellowship Fund Payment	92.00
Fees: Finance charge / charge card interest	1.50
Worship Team Expenses	29.94
Worship music / Melanie Klapper	90.00
Operating Expenses / Website fee	128.40
Facilities-Equipment-Maintenance	19.96
Office Supplies	112.94
Pastoral Substitute - Chaplain Kim Kollin	575.00
Postage	252.00
Utilities	88.50
TOTAL Operating Expenses	1,176.80
Pastor's Compensation	4,370.29
M & M Retirement	715.09
TOTAL Pastor's Compensation	5,085.38
Pastoral Expenses: Pastor Auto	452.90
Pastoral Expenses: Pastor Professional	118.31
TOTAL Pastoral Expenses	571.21
Staff Expenses: Musician Services / Mike Boyer	225.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,311.83
Treasurer's note - The offering for One Great Hour of Sharing for \$1,822.65 was mailed but has not yet cleared the bank.	
Bank Balances	
Checking Account 6/29/23	\$ 22,566.91
Savings Account 6/29/23	\$ 25,504.01
— Tim McCarthy	

BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY:

7/2 – Matthew 18:15-35
7/9 – Exodus 5:1-21
7/16 – Hosea 2:2-23
7/23 – Hosea 11:1-11
7/30 – Jonah 4:1-11



A DEVOTION FOR JULY 4TH

by Carol Knapp



Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you...—Romans 15:7 (RSV)

It was a cloudy, quiet July Fourth for us, that year of 1988. My husband worked. There were no parades. We'd decided not to spend the extra money on fireworks. You can barely see them, anyway, in Alaska's summer twilight. We didn't even have a picnic. Yet it's the Fourth of July that I remember and treasure the most.

The two-story log home where we were living was not our own. We were house-sitting for the summer for our friends Lou and Elsa, who were visiting their native Czechoslovakia for the first time in twenty years. As a young married couple, they had fled the streets of Prague in terror when Soviet tanks swept through the city in 1968. For days before, Elsa had hidden beneath the bed in their cramped apartment with her two little girls. When they left, they could say good-bye to no one. They simply disappeared.

Lou and Elsa found a welcome in the United States, eventually making their way to Alaska. They learned English and worked hard. Lou, a master craftsman, fitted each log in their home with mortar and hope. Elsa tended a fruitful vegetable garden and produced wonderful aromas from kettles simmering in her tidy kitchen.

I was alone in Lou and Elsa's living room in the afternoon on that Fourth of July, when I suddenly burst into tears. *This is it*, I thought. *This is the real Fourth of July. They came to*

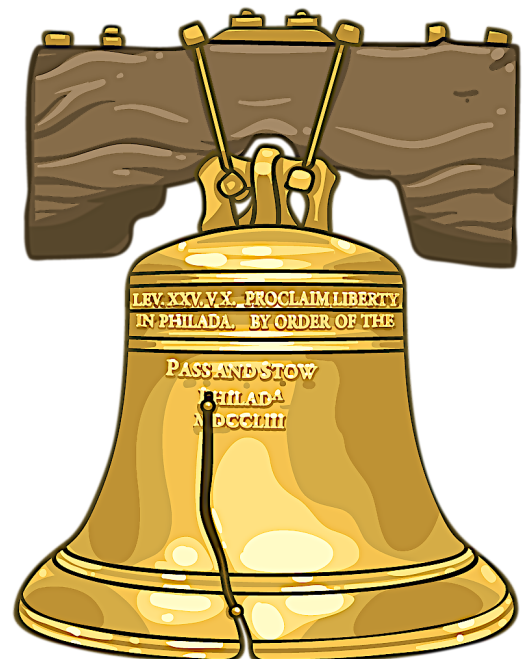
America to find "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and here I am, standing in the middle of their dream. I had a glimpse of how precious this beautiful, bountiful country of ours really is. And so I waved the only flag I had ... my tears, genuine and proud.

She's Yours, Lord, but You've allowed us to call her ours. Thank You from sea to shining sea.

<https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/holiday-devotions/a-devotion-for-july-4th/>

Prayer Needs

Jacques Angelino
Lori Boyer
Katie Brigham
Bev Dowler
Marilyn Grossi
Dave & Sharon Miller
Nancy Morris
Mamie Powelson
Sandy & Bud Runyon; Sandy's niece Bev Stiles;
Bud's cousin Lucy Estep
Craig Shields
Janis Snowball
Steve & Ann Waltman
Our country
Ukraine



THE FAITH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Gary Scott Smith

On July 9, 1755, the “most catastrophic” day in Anglo-American history, Colonel George Washington was traveling with General Edward Braddock’s army toward Fort Duquesne when they were ambushed by Indians and French hiding in the woods. In the ensuing massacre, hundreds of British soldiers, including Braddock, were killed or seriously wounded. Perched on their horses, officers were perfect targets. One after another, they were hit. Bullets ripped through Washington’s coat, knocked his hat off, and killed two of the horses he rode.

Rumors circulated that Washington had been killed. On July 18, he wrote his brother from Fort Cumberland, “As I have heard since my arriv’l at this place, a circumstantial acct. of my death and dying Speech, I take this early opportunity of contradicting both, and of assuring you that I now exist and appear in the land of the living by the miraculous care of Providence, that protected me beyond all human expectation.” Two weeks later the colonel wrote to Robert Jackson, “See the wondrous works of Providence! The uncertainty of Human things!”

Preaching to a volunteer company of militia, Presbyterian minister Samuel Davies declared, “As a remarkable instance” of military ardor, “I ... point ... to ... that heroic youth, Colonel Washington, whom I cannot but hope Providence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner for some important service to his country.” And so began the stories about Washington’s faith in God and divine selection to lead the American people.

Although the religious convictions and practices of many presidents have been ignored, Washington’s have been closely scrutinized and endlessly debated. Some authors have portrayed the Virginian as the epitome of piety, and others have depicted him as the patron saint of skepticism. The fact that Washington said almost nothing publicly or privately about the precise nature of his beliefs has evoked competing claims that he was a devout Christian, a Unitarian, a “warm deist,” and a “theistic rationalist.”

One point, however, is not debatable: Washington strongly believed that Providence played a major role in creating and sustaining the United States. In public pronouncements as commander in chief and president, he repeatedly thanked God for directing and protecting Americans in their struggle to obtain independence and create a successful republic. Arguably, no president has stressed the role of Providence in the nation’s history more than Washington.

The Virginian planter was a giant even among the remarkable generation of America’s founders. His powerful physique, athletic prowess, stately bearing, personal magnetism, and incredible stamina impressed his

contemporaries. More significantly, because of his exceptional character and extraordinary contributions, he has been deemed indispensable to the success of the patriot cause and the new republic. Risking his reputation, wealth, and life, he commanded an undermanned and poorly supplied army to an improbable victory over the world’s leading economic and military power. He presided over the convention that produced the United States’ venerable Constitution. For nearly a quarter of a century (1775–99), Washington was the most important person in America. As president, he kept the new nation from crashing on the shoals of anarchy, monarchy, or revolution.

Washington firmly believed that God controlled human events. In both his public and private writings, he repeatedly discussed how God providentially helped the United States win its independence against incredible odds, create a unified country out of diverse and competing interests, establish a remarkable constitution, and avoid war with European powers that still had territorial ambitions in North America. Because God created and actively ruled the universe, Washington insisted, people must revere, worship, and obey Him. Although members of his staff wrote most of Washington’s public statements, he oversaw the process, and therefore they expressed what he wanted to convey. Furthermore, Washington routinely used similar language in private letters he wrote.

Throughout his life, Washington appealed to “an all-powerful Providence” to protect and guide him and the nation, especially in times of crisis. Throughout the War for Independence, he asked for and acknowledged God’s providential guidance and assistance hundreds of times. He told Reverend William Gordon in 1776 that no one had “a more perfect Reliance on the all-wise, and powerful dispensations of the Supreme Being than I have nor thinks His aid more necessary.” “The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous” in the war, the general asserted in 1778, that anyone who did not thank God and “acknowledge his obligations” to Him was “worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked.” After the war ended, Washington declared, “I attribute all glory to that Supreme Being,” who had caused the several forces that contributed to America’s triumph to harmonize perfectly together. No people “had more reason to acknowledge a divine interposition in their affairs,” he wrote in 1792, than those of the United States.”

Scholars and ordinary Americans will continue to debate the precise nature of Washington’s faith, but clearly it became deeper as a result of his trying and sometimes traumatic experiences as commander in chief of the Continental Army and the nation’s first president, and it significantly affected his understanding of and his actions in both positions.

<https://www.faithandfreedom.com/the-faith-of-george-washington/>