THE ACORN JULY 2026

Oakland BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

On July fourth the United States of America will be 250 years old! When we turned 200, the year was called the Bicentennial Year. This year is called the Semiquincentennial or Sestercentennial Year. I had to look those terms up. Unlike the 200th anniversary, when the word "bicentennial" was commonly spoken, I haven't heard those terms used. Probably it is partly because those words are harder to say.

I believe it is also because the country is quite different from what it was fifty years ago. At that time, it seemed like almost everybody was excited about the Bicentennial Year. Bigger celebrations than normal were carried out. All kinds of bicentennial merchandise were produced. Even bicentennial quarters were minted. I'm currently not seeing much of that fervor.

Back then, however, almost every American was proud to be an American. It is not the same story today. Many citizens trash our country and want to turn it into something totally different than it is and that our Founding Fathers intended. Yes, America has done much that is wrong and is currently far from perfect. But America has done and is doing a lot of good things, too. I don't want to live anywhere else. While we have often fallen short of them, I believe that the ideals set forth in our founding documents are the highest ideals that human beings can come up with. There is no reason why we shouldn't continue to strive to reach these ideals. To not do so will lead to America's downfall.

I believe these ideals were inspired by the First Great Awakening. Eddie L. Hyatt, author of 1726: The Year That Defined America (c. 2019, Hyatt International Ministries, Inc.), puts forth that the Awakening roughly began in the year 1726. If that is true, in one sense we could say that our country is 300 years old.

In the early years of America's settlement, religious groups that came, such as the Puritans, the Separatists, the Dutch Reformed, the Presbyterians, the Baptists and the Quakers came for purposes of religious freedom. They came not so they could do anything they wanted, they came so that they could fervently worship God according to how they interpreted the Bible and to their consciences. That they did. Many of the first-generation settlers were very zealous for Christ. Sadly, many of their children and grandchildren became listless and stale in their faith.
There was a great need for revival and awakening.

Thankfully, God brought it. Through the preaching and lives of people such as Theodore Frelinghuysen, Gilbert Tennant, David Brainerd, Samuel Davies, and most famously Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, America was greatly impacted. Whole communities were transformed. It is estimated that Whitefield preached to a crowd of 20,000 in Boston and 25,000 in Philadelphia. This was during the 18th century! The number of people who were saved and the number of Christians who were revived were most likely in the millions. There can be no doubt that the ideals upon which our country was founded came as a result of the influence of the First Great Awakening.

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REFERENCE INFORMATION

Send information for the bulletin, newsletter, website or Goshen News to:
communication@oakland-baptist.com

Deadlines:
Bulletin – Noon on Thursday
Newsletter, Website, Goshen – 15th

For updates to personal information please notify any member of the Deacon Fellowship or log into ChurchTrac (link on church website) and update your information.

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Pastor's Pen (continued)

For our country to be what it was intended to be, for us to get closer to our ideals that were inspired by the Great Awakening, we are going to have to experience for ourselves revival and awakening. Much of the church in America is listless and stale. This affects the rest of the country. No political leader, no political party, no law, no policy, no tax, no institution can transform the human heart and bring us together in unity. It must come from a sovereign movement of God.

Thankfully, we have God's heart revealed in His promise of 2 Chronicles 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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." This instruction is for God's people, now the church. By God's grace we can do this. Do it we must! And pray, pray, pray! If we want God to continue to bless America, then the church in America needs to bless God!

In Christ, Pastor Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SPECIAL NOTE:	***There will be no Choir practice during the month of July***
July 1	**Prayer Meeting (Summer)** - 6:00pm on Wednesdays during the summer while we are on break from Wednesday Night Suppers & Group Bible Study
July 4	Independence Day
July 8	**Cookout/Prayer Meeting/Quarterly Business Meeting – starting at 6pm** – Bring a side dish or dessert to share – we provide the main course. The cookout will be followed by Prayer Meeting and our Quarterly Business Meeting.
July 16	**Seniors Meeting/Luncheon** – Holly Grove Christian Church – 11:00am
July 18	**Mission Stitchers** – Goshen Association office – 9am-2pm
July 19	**Women on Mission** – 12:30pm
July 22	**Prayer Meeting (Summer)** – 6:00pm
July 26	**Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** – 8:00am
July 26	**Commissioning Service for Armenia Mission Team** – 3:00pm Mineral Baptist Church
July 30 – Aug 10	**Armenia Mission Trip** – please continue to pray for the teams

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: TOGETHER – SERVING OTHERS – MEETING NEEDS – CHANGING LIVES

JULY - CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis. Justice Thurgood Marshall

Mt. Gilead Food Pantry - Please continue to support this joint ministry program with your donations of non-perishable food items, plastic grocery bags (all colors including white). THIS MONTH'S EMPHASIS: Canned fruit, canned meat, crackers, jelly, and dish detergent Drop off box located in the main hallway.

Glasses for Guatemala – We are collecting prescription eyewear, new and/or gently used reading glasses and eyeglass cases/holders for a missionary in serving in Guatamala. Collection box in the Seekers Sunday School classroom.

Hope for Appalachia - Hope Box Item Collection
THIS MONTH WE ARE COLLECTING: Decks of playing cards, card games, and dominos. Collection box located on the table next to the church office.

See the Goshen Monthly newsletter, "The Goshen News" for additional ministry needs.

Goshen Mission Action Project

- Christmas in July – Collecting school supplies for our local schools (Byrd Elementary and Jouett Elementary). Collection box by the church office

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12

May the Lord richly bless you for your on-going support of these mission opportunities and your compassion for helping others.

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Bobby Fields	July 2
Michelle Alford	July 4
Todd Hicks	July 4
Debbie Groome	July 4
Sandra Pleasants	July 5
Sharon Atkinson	July 6
Patsy Dymacek	July 9
Ray Henley	July 11
Jeff Childress	July 14
Ann Taylor	July 15
Roxanne Corey	July 18
Richard Alfred Willis	July 18
Elsie Mickens	July 19
Cary Kincaid	July 22
Mary Bradshaw	July 25
Ronnie Cook	July 25
Virginia Beach-Cook	July 26
Angie Justiniano	July 27
Sandi Williams	July 29
Brian Atkins	July 29

ANNIVERSARIES

Adam & Michelle Alford	July 7
Becky & Gabe Edwards	July 15
Charles & Doris Atkins	July 21
Ronnie & Virginia Cook	July 27
Stacey & Mike Greene	July 27
Christina & Tim Clough	July 31
Katie & Robert Nixon	July 31

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Ron Taylor	July 5
Bill Groome	July 12
Frank Smith	July 19
Tom Sutterfield	July 26

STAY INFORMED!

In addition to the monthly newsletter, you can get up-to-date information on our website, Facebook and Instagram – Follow Us!

Website: f
Facebook: OBCGumSpringVA
Instagram: oaklandbaptistgumspring

Focus on the Power of Prayer

Prayer is one of the greatest gifts God has given His people. Through prayer, we have the privilege of speaking directly to the Creator of the universe. It is not merely a religious practice or routine - it is a personal conversation with our Heavenly Father who loves us, hears us, and cares deeply about every detail of our lives.

Throughout Scripture, we see the power of prayer at work. Elijah prayed and God sent rain after a long drought. Hannah prayed and God blessed her with a son. The early church prayed and saw God perform miracles, open prison doors, and strengthen believers in times of persecution. Most importantly, Jesus Himself often withdrew to pray, setting an example for us to follow.

Prayer changes things because God works through the prayers of His people. Sometimes He changes our circumstances. Sometimes He changes our hearts. Often He does both. Prayer brings comfort in times of sorrow, wisdom in times of confusion, strength in times of weakness, and peace in times of uncertainty.

James 5:16 reminds us, *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* God invites us to bring our praises, concerns, burdens, and thanksgiving before Him. No request is too small and no problem is too great for His power.

As a church family, let us continue to be a people of prayer. Pray for our church, our community, our missionaries, our nation, and one another. Pray for those who are hurting, those who do not yet know Christ, and those who are serving faithfully in ministry. When God's people pray, God works in ways that bring glory to His name and blessing to His people.

May we never underestimate the power of prayer and the faithfulness of the God who hears every prayer offered in His name.

JULY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Vacation Bible School – Wrap Up** *11:00 am – 12:00 pm*	29	Jun 30	1 **Prayer Meeting (Summer)** *6:00 pm*	2	3	4 **Independence Day**
5 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **The Lord's Supper** *11:00 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Deacon's Meeting** *12:30 pm*	6	7	8 **Prayer Meeting (Summer)** *6:00 pm* **Quarterly Business Meeting** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	9	10	11
12 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	13	14	15 **Prayer Meeting (Summer)** *6:00 pm*	16 **Seniors Luncheon** *11:00 am*	17	18 **Mission Stitchers** *9:00 am – 2:00 pm*
19 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Women on Mission** *12:30 pm*	20	21	22 **Prayer Meeting (Summer)** *6:00 pm*	23	24	25
26 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	27	28	29 **Prayer Meeting (Summer)** *6:00 pm*	30 **Armenia Mission Trip**	31 **Armenia Mission Trip**	Aug 1 **Armenia Mission Trip**

Scripture:

"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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tyler Adams
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
Dennis Braswell
Charlie Childress
Ronnie & Virginia Cook
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Carolyn Ferris
Frances Gillend
April Grant
Robbie Green
Alex Guardino
Judy Gunter
Denise Harper
Hallie Hicks
Stewart Hicks
Jeannie Hyatt
Angela Lewis
Family of Dot Lloyd
Joan Lloyd
Harry McClurg
Mary McCullough
Jessie Magana
Barbara Mayberry
Hazel Morgan
John Nunn
Susan Parker
Mabel Pleasants
Sam Pleasants
Casey Ralston
Jane Salo
Steve Smith
Judy Trouch
Kathy Wade
Tony Wade
Martin Walton
Donnie Ware
Gordon Whitehurst
Sandy Williams
Ernie Wootton

Continue to pray for:
Bobby Fields
Jane Morgan Jones
Riley Saunders
Betty Jane Smith
Leah Stiles
Billy Walton
Our Pastor & Church
Our Country
The Holy Land
Outreach Project
Pianist for Oakland

Remember our Servicemen & their families:
Nathan Alford
Gabe Edwards

Please email any additions or changes to communication@oakland-baptist.com by the 15th of each month to be included in our Sunday bulletin

The Acorn

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Oakland
BAPTIST CHURCH