



JULY NEWSLETTER

July 2022

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“Freedom”



by Rev. Grant Parker

This July 4th— Independence Day— complete with fireworks and backyard barbecues, will mark 240 years since the American colonists declared their freedom from England.

Sometimes, though, we get so caught up in celebrating our freedom that we often forget that freedom is not an American innovation at all! The truth of the matter is that no country can rightly claim liberty as its own invention. Freedom was conceived in the mind of God! As we read in the book of Genesis in the Holy Bible, chapters 1 and 2, God created man (Adam) and woman (Eve). It also appears that although He placed restrictions on their behavior (that is, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”), He also endowed them with a free will and the option of making choices concerning their

actions! In other words, they were—as we are— free to choose to do right or wrong, good or evil; free to practice obedience or disobedience regarding God’s will and Word, to sin or not to sin against God and against our fellow human beings. Adam and Eve learned—as we must— that liberty and our God-given privilege to exercise freedom of choice also implies that we must exercise our freedom responsibly, or else face the consequences when we don’t.

The apostle Paul writes to the Galatian Christians: “You, my

brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature!” (Galatians 5:13) We all should ask ourselves daily, “Do I exercise my free will to the greater glory of God in order that I might be a positive witness for Jesus Christ?” “Do I exercise my freedom of choice in ways that honor and please God, or do I grieve Him with my misbehavior and disobedience?”

Let’s remember, freedom is a double-edged sword with potential for both good and evil. Our freedom is most effectively and faithfully borne within the sheath of the principles of biblical morality found in God’s Word, and when wielded by an arm of obedience to His perfect will.

Keep the Faith, but Share the Gospel!

Brother Grant



Important Update:

Sunday night small group meeting will start back meeting again on Sunday nights starting September 11.

Epic Summer 2.0 every Wednesday night in July.

June 21 thru July 26: Tuesday morning Bible study

More information coming soon. Please watch the bulletin, email and text for updates about what the youth will be doing this summer.

Thanks
Bro. Mark

June was a busy month for our Youth. Youth Camp in Tennessee, assisting with Vacation Bible School, Epic Summer every Wednesday and Tuesday morning Bible study and fun day. We look forward to all of our July activities.



Birthdays

July 1	Rylee Pruet
July 3	David Johnson Leslie Merritt Natalie Wade
July 4	Inge Seibert
July 5	Bill Griffis Zach Ranew
July 6	Josh Thomas Noah Cato
July 7	Carla Waldrop Danielle Bradley Gabriel Linsley
July 8	Carol Addison
July 9	Rendi Hall Brittany Lurker Brock Garner
July 10	Sandra Arnold Kayla Caldwell
July 13	Pam O'Brien Letha Parker
July 15	Jake Jones
July 16	Susan Wiggins Matt Taylor Tina Byrd Rachel Richard
July 17	Kathy Yohn Payton Zeigler
July 18	Dalton Pippins Lou Sieck
July 19	Bill Parker Mallory Campbell
July 20	Bill Prickett Tammy Leatherwood Carmen Brooks
July 22	Leigh Ann Barbaree
July 25	Steve Ward Marietta O'Neill
July 26	Betty Henderson Ted Shores Britt Wilkerson Lillianna Waldrop
July 27	Ronnie Badowski Jesse Parker Caitlyn Martin
July 29	Carver Johnson
July 30	Laura Johnson
July 31	Belle Lee Elise Culpepper

Anniversaries

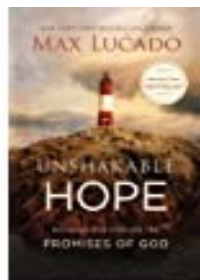
July 1	David & Carol Parker
July 2	Steve & Cindy Gray
July 4	Mike & Roxanna Hamilton
July 7	Josh & Jessica Thomas
July 10	Wesley & Jennifer Adams
July 13	John & Linda Findlater
July 17	Cameron & Mallory McLeod
July 23	Drew & Brittany Lurker Taylor and Scott Riddle
July 24	David & Amy Head
July 31	Jay & Adicia Coulter

Visitation Volunteers

The following people will accompany Brother Grant when he goes visiting on Monday nights. Please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church.

July 11 Susan Stillwell
July 18 Belle Lee
July 25 Bryce Gaunt

Blessings,
Kathryn Perdue

**New Adult Bible Study****Unshakable Hope**

By: Max Lucado

What feels shaky in your world? Maybe you feel hurt by the past, disappointed by the present, or worried about the future. If so, there is hope. For every problem in life, God has given you a promise.

In the *New York Times* bestselling book, *Unshakable Hope*, Max Lucado unpacks 12 of the Bible's most significant promises, equipping you to overcome difficult circumstances by keeping your focus on the hope found in the promises of Scripture.

Now more than ever, we need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God.

What is your life built on—the circumstances of life or the promises of God? The answer to that question changes everything. Join Max as he takes a closer look at Scripture's unbreakable promises and shows you how to live with unshakable hope.

This 12-week study starts Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 6:30PM in the Ruth and Matthew classroom.

**If you would like to be a part of this Bible study, please call or email Linda at the church office at 334-298-3186 or linda.findlater@epworth-pc.org.*

EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS IN JULY - Join us for Terrific Tuesdays in July. We will be attending the new Launch trampoline site as well as Montgomery Zoo, Uptown Splash Park and playground. Watch for details on the web site and in the bulletin. If you are available to drive on any of these Tuesdays, please contact Letha by phone or email. (334-298-3186; lethaparker@epworth-pc.org)

BLUE LAKE CAMP PARTICIPANTS - Time is near! We will be leaving Monday, July 11, at 9:00. Please meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time. We will eat at McDonalds in Greenville and check in at Blue Lake at 1:00 Central Time. You must have an Event Form filled out and signed by your parents to ride the church van. Please be looking for an email from Blue Lake with information regarding camp. It's a great time to serve the Lord and enjoy His fellowship! Call Letha if you have any questions! 205-799-8547.

Thank You!

The FunFest committee would like to give thanks to the congregation of Epworth UMC. We thank for your support of FunFest with your prayers, donations, and time. It was an evangelistic event and we are most certain God showed up and showed out! Not only did this event bring our community lots of smiles, laughs and some Saturday fun, it brought our community together for fellowship to know who we are at Epworth United Methodist Church and to know the true meaning behind John 3:16; and I'm not just talking about the FREE Chick-Fil-A sandwiches that were handed out. During FunFest we enrolled 34 VBS participants and had multiple new visitors to our church on Sunday morning. Glory be to God!

It is with deepest gratitude we Thank You and look forward to another successful FunFest event in the Summer of 2023!



July 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
3 No Evening Activities Due to Independence Day	4 Independence Day Office Closed 5:30—6:	5 9:00 am Mom's Day Out Terrific Tuesday	6 9:00 am Mom's Day 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study & Kids Konnections	7 9:00 am Mom's Day Out 5:45 pm UMW "Summer Girls' Night Out" at T'Bones Steakhouse & Grill	1 8	2 9
10	11 Noon Happy Days Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	12 9:00 am Mom's Day Out 10:30 AM—4:00 PM - Youth Bible Study Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	13 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am Mom's Day Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	14 9:00 am Mom's Day Out Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake 6:00 PM Men's Ministry	15 Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	16 Gym Reserved
17 4:00 pm Admin Board	18	19 9:00 am Mom's Day Out Terrific Tuesday 10:30 AM—4:00 PM - Youth Bible Study 6:00 pm Prayer Vigil	20 9:00 am Mom's Day 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study & Kids Konnections	21 9:00 am Mom's Day Out	22 5:00 PM Adult Ministries— Red Door Theatre	23
24	25	26 10:30 AM—4:00 PM - Youth Bible Study	27 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kids Konnections	28	29	30
31					Sundays ~ 8:30 am Traditional Services 9:30 am Coffee & Donuts 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Services 11:00 am Sunday School	



We are looking for individuals to help with our breakfast ministry. The way it works is one volunteer picks up donuts at Golden Donut in Columbus (the church pays) and another volunteer provides fruit and juice (the cost of which is reimbursed to the individual). These volunteers would also set up for breakfast that day, including making coffee, and cleaning up afterward.

Diane Glass will make herself available to show new volunteers the ropes--how it works and where supplies are, etc. We'd love to get enough volunteers that each person would only be responsible for one Sunday per year, or maybe two. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. If you have questions, you may contact Diane Glass at 706-681-2107. (text preferred) – or email @ dianeglass99@gmail.com

Summer Girls' Night Out

July 7th is the date for our Summer Girls' Night Out. This is open to all women, whether Epworth members, visitors, neighbors, or friends. We plan to meet at T-Bones Steakhouse & Grill on Crawford Road between 5:45 and 5:55 for a quiet dinner and a time of fellowship. (Dinner is Dutch treat.)

Please sign up by June 30th in the Gathering Room so we know how many to expect. Call or text Diane Glass @ 706-681-2107 if you have questions.

Please join us for a great time of fellowship!!!!