

Our vision is to be a community of grace,
telling the unsaved of salvation by grace,
encouraging the saved to live and grow in grace,
and extending grace to others.

True Freedom

As we get ready to celebrate the 4th of July, I've been thinking a lot about the idea of freedom. We're blessed to live in a country where we can worship freely, speak freely, and pursue opportunities that many around the world can only dream of. That's worth celebrating. But as believers, we know there's a deeper kind of freedom that goes far beyond fireworks and cook outs.

Paul says in Galatians 5:1, *"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."*

Jesus didn't set us free just so we could feel better about ourselves or be more comfortable. He set us free so we could live free. Free from guilt, free from fear, free from trying to earn God's favor. Free from all the stuff we heap on ourselves; expectations, pressure, graceless religion.

But here's the thing. Just like it's possible to live in a free country and still live in fear or bondage, it's also possible to be set free by Christ and still live in spiritual bondage. Sometimes we slip back into thinking we have to perform for God. Or that we're not good enough, or forgiven enough, or strong enough to live a life that is pleasing to Him. That's not the kind of freedom Jesus died for.

Paul says to stand firm. Don't drift back into that old mindset. Don't carry the load that Jesus already carried for us. When He says you're free, He means it.

This Independence Day, while we fire up the grill and wave Old Glory, let's also pause to give God glory for a freedom that no country, court, or constitution can give us or take away. The kind of freedom that lives in our soul, not just in our backyard.

Let's walk in that freedom. And let's help others find it too.

Happy 4th, church family. I'm thankful for our freedom, our faith, and for each of you.

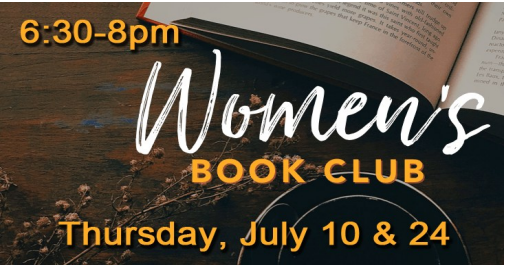
Gary












- Join us for these upcoming events.
- 4 - July 4 Celebration, 7pm
 - 5-12 - Spanish Wells Mission Trip
 - 7- Evening of Prayer, 7pm
 - 10 - Women's Book Club, 6:30pm
 - 19 - Men's Breakfast, 7:30am
 - 19 - Ladies' Prayer Breakfast, 7:30am
 - 24 - Women's Book Club, 6:30pm
 - 26 - Ladies & Girls Iced Tea, 12:30pm



- FAMILY UPDATE
- Pray for the Spanish Wells Mission Team going to the Bahamas July 5-12. The team includes Melvin and Kathy Jackson, Emma and Leilani Matlack, Debbie Emerson, and Becky Charpentier,
 - Pray for Charlie Bing as he travels to Ghana on July 12 to teach pastors at the Gracelife Institute and to speak at the FGA Regional Conference. Pray also for the Gracelife team going to Burundi later in the month.
 - Pray for our July 4 Celebration. Pray for an opportunity to reach our community and for the growing fellowship with one another.



JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 7pm—Celebration 	5
6 * Mike Bennett 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Youth Group	7 	8 	9	10 	11	12
13 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Youth Group	14	15	16 * Tracy Hallak	17	18 * Angie Lutz	19 * Marlie Beth  
20 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Youth Group	21 * Chela Armstrong	22 * Donna Brown	23	24 	25 * Robbie Matlack	26 * Allison Dick 
27  10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Youth Group	28	29	30	31		*Birthdays