

THE BODYBUILDER

*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.*

Celebrate Freedom

This year, our country celebrates 250 years of national independence. I imagine the get-togethers will be a bit more festive...more fireworks...more hot dogs...more extravagant celebrations. And rightfully so. It's a monumental anniversary.

They are estimating that Americans will spend \$2.8 billion on fireworks, eat 150 million hotdogs, and 68 million cases of beer will be consumed. That's a lot!

Other statistics show a more somber side of the day we are celebrating. It is estimated that 25,000 Americans died during the American Revolution. The war lasted over eight years. Their efforts and sacrifice secured for us a country free from the reign of Britain. All political and economic ties were finally broken, giving us the freedom to govern ourselves and develop our own constitution. We should not take our freedoms for granted.

There is a freedom that impacts us exceedingly more than our country's independence. It's the freedom we inherit when we believe in Jesus. Christ's sacrifice liberates each of us from the bondage of sin, the burden of the law, and spiritual enslavement. By His grace, we step into spiritual freedom.

First, the saving work of Jesus completely removes the penalty and power of sin in our lives and we are made new. *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Second, Jesus removes the unachievable requirements of the law and gives us His yoke to put on. *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls* (Matthew 11:29). Last, we are able to enjoy spiritual freedom. No longer do we experience the fear and condemnation from sin, but we are able to live righteously through the Holy Spirit. *Now where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom* (2 Corinthians 3:17).

This holiday season, let's be grateful for our country and the freedoms we enjoy, but let's not forget the true freedom that came through the saving work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It was for freedom that Christ set us free! (Galatians 5:1).

Jaris



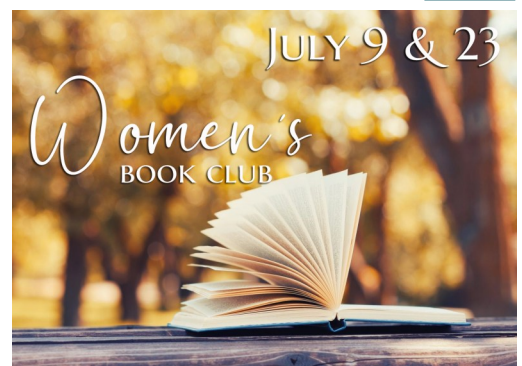
Join us for these upcoming events.

- 5 - Family Worship Sunday
- 5 - Membership Class, 9am
- 6 - Evening of Prayer, 7pm
- 9 - Women's Book Club, 6:30pm
- 18 - Men's Breakfast, 7:30am
- 18 - Ladies' Prayer Breakfast, 7:30am
- 23 - Women's Book Club, 6:30pm
- 25 - Ladies and Girls Tea, 12:30pm
- 26 - Meet and Greet, 12pm









- Please be in prayer as we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in choosing our next pastor. Pray also for the pastoral candidate.
- Pray for the July 4 celebration. Pray that we will connect with our community and be a welcoming presence. Pray for the fellowship of our church family as we celebrate.
- Continue to pray for the physical health of those in our church family facing upcoming surgeries and procedures.

FAMILY UPDATE



JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 7pm—Celebration 
	Y O U T H S U M M E R C A M P					
5  MEMBERSHIP CLASS 10:30AM Worship	6 *Mike Bennett 	7 *Emrys White	8	9 	10	11
12  10:30AM Worship	13	14	15	16 *Tracy Hallak	17	18 *Angie Lutz 
19 *Eden Beth 10:30AM Worship	20	21	22	23 	24 *Mike Hallak	25 *Russell Rains Ladies & Girls Tea and Luncheon 
26  10:30AM Worship	27	28 *Greg Schulte	29 *Rob Matlack Jr.	30	31	*Birthdays