



NEWSLETTER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CHILLICOTHE, MO

CHILDREN & YOUTH RECAP

170 campers attended Grand Oaks youth camp from June 1st through 5th. The theme was "Follow the Leader." It was a blessed week, and the students had a great time and were challenged in their faith. Two young men from the cabin I was in made professions of faith. Thank you so much for your prayers and support of this vital ministry to teens in our area.

47 children attended VBS on June 8th through the 12th. We had plenty of help, so a huge thank you to everybody who pitched in to make it an amazing week. We taught the kids that Jesus is the Light of the World. The kids were loved on and listened to, and they had a blast. VBS is a tremendous discipleship ministry in the annual life of our children's ministry and we could not have done it without your prayer & generous support. To God alone be the glory!

Blessings,
Gene

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



GRAND OAKS YOUTH CAMP



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

It's Christmas in July for Operation Christmas Child! Inventory has been completed, and we now know which items are still needed to fill the shoeboxes that will be shared around the world this November. Beginning in mid-July, you'll find a Christmas tree in the foyer decorated with tags representing needed items such as drawstring backpacks, glue sticks, hairbrushes, flashlights, and more. Simply take a tag, purchase the item listed, and place your donation in the red and green collection box. Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ with children around the world!

CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

Join us on Sunday, July 26, from 6:00–8:30 PM at Simpson Park, at the *Kiwanis East Shelter House* (the shelter closest to the playground), for an evening of fellowship with your church family.

The deacons will provide the meat, buns, and ice cream. We ask that each family bring a side dish or dessert to share. A lawn chair is also recommended for comfortable seating and a better view of our special guests, the Campbell Family, also known as the "Give Me Your Heart" Band. We look forward to spending this special evening with you!

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR



I am an armchair historian. I know just enough to have a sense of confidence about historical events. I know so little that I can maintain a vibrant curiosity and genuine excitement about history.

One aspect of history I have been thinking about in light of the 250th anniversary celebration of America is the role of Baptists in the period leading up to the Revolutionary War and the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

During the colonial period of our nation, nine of the original thirteen colonies had tax-supported churches. None of which were Baptist. Many Baptists were reluctant to join the fight for liberty simply because those who asked for their support were the same who sought to punish them for their convictions. Yet the Baptist ideal, a Biblical principle of a free church in a free state, persuaded them to support it.

If it were not for one Baptist in particular, the nation as we know it might not exist. John Leland, a Baptist from Massachusetts living in Virginia, a state that sponsored religion until 1786, was an influential leader among Virginian Baptists. James Madison, campaigning in that state to secure support for the ratification of the Constitution, met with Leland. Madison knew that without the support of the Baptists, there would not be enough states to ratify the Constitution. In exchange for Baptist support, Leland persuaded Madison to work towards enshrining religious liberty in the U.S. Constitution through what became known as the Bill of Rights. Without Baptists, who were once reviled and persecuted in the colonies, our nation as we know it could look very different.

I am celebrating our nation's birthday with great pride. We live in the greatest country in the world. Not a perfect nation, because none this side of heaven will exist. But we live in a nation that, by the providential hand of God, is a beacon of freedom, hope, and ambition. A nation that both experiences and has globally defended the right to worship as individuals and groups see fit. Including the right not to worship at all.

May we, until the Lord Jesus returns, seek the welfare of our nation and pray to the Lord on its behalf. For in its welfare, we will find our welfare (Jer. 29:7).

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

June 29th-July 3rd

Grand Oaks Children's Camp

July 4th

Men's Breakfast

July 5th

Missions Committee

July 6th

Youth Trip

July 7th

Monthly Staff
Trustee Meeting
Deacon Meeting

July 8th

Business Meeting

July 12th

Church Council

July 15th

2nd Harvest Food Pantry

July 20th

Golden Heirs

July 26th

Church-Wide Picnic

August 1st

Men's Breakfast

August 2nd

Missions Committee

August 4th

Monthly Staff

August 11th

Trustee Meeting
Deacon Meeting

August 12th

Business Meeting

August 17th

Golden Heirs

August 19th

2nd Harvest

