



July News

The Freedom Jesus Brings

“For freedom Christ has set us free, stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1

As we are preparing to celebrate The Fourth of July, you probably know by now that America has an important birthday on July 4. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America will turn 250 years old and millions of Americans will be celebrating our freedom as a nation.

For those who know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, there is a freedom that has been granted to them that is even more precious than the freedom our nation will soon celebrate. It’s a freedom that is revealed in the Bible that God has made possible through His Son Jesus. It’s on this topic of freedom that I’d like to focus and share about the freedom Jesus Christ provides.

Freedom is a universal desire. Throughout history, people have fought for political freedom, personal freedom, and religious freedom. Yet despite living in societies that often promote liberty and self-expression, many individuals still struggle with inner bondage. They may be trapped by fear, guilt, sin, anxiety, bitterness, or unhealthy habits. The Bible teaches that true freedom is not merely the absence of restrictions but the presence of a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Freedom in Christ is one of the central themes of the Christian faith. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ provides liberation from sin, condemnation, and spiritual death, enabling believers to experience a new life marked by peace, purpose, and hope.

The Scriptures reveal that all people are affected by sin. Sin is more than wrongdoing; it is a condition of the heart that separates humanity from God. This

separation creates spiritual bondage and prevents people from living according to God's original design.

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ came to set people free. Through His sacrificial death on the cross, He paid the penalty for sin that humanity could not pay. Through His resurrection, He defeated death and opened the way for eternal life.

Freedom in Christ is not earned through good works, religious rituals, or personal effort. It is a gift of God's grace received through faith. When a person trusts in Christ, God forgives sin, grants a new spiritual identity, and begins the work of transformation through the Holy Spirit.

This freedom is expressed clearly in the Apostle Paul's words: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." The Christian life begins with recognizing that Christ alone has the power to break the chains of spiritual bondage. My prayer is that more people would know about this freedom that Jesus brings. May those who are far from Jesus trust in Him for salvation and experience the ultimate "Independence Day."

Make Much of Jesus,
Pastor Michael



It is such a blessing to be able to use our gifts and help kids and families learn about Jesus. And that is exactly what happened during our week of Summer Camp! So many volunteers made the week possible, doing everything from preparing and serving meals to coaching sports, leading small group Bible studies to getting us singing and making us laugh during the openings and closings. THANK YOU to our Journey Church family!

Many kids and families had the opportunity to learn about the unique way God has made them and that He has a special purpose for each of them, and the Gospel was clearly presented. For our final night on Thursday, we celebrated with a Summer Family Fest-*-indoors* due to the severe weather! All who came enjoyed the fun games and activities and some really sweet fellowship and interactions. Please continue to pray for all the families who were represented, that seeds planted would continue to grow!

IN YOUR ELEMENT



JOIN US!

-  Sunday Mornings
-  10:00 - 10:25am
-  Fellowship Hall

Meet & Greet will continue to meet during August!

We invite you to serve as a Meet & Greet host this summer. Please sign up in the kitchen.

LIFE GROUPS

connecting / caring / community

Life Groups will take a break from Aug 2 - Sep 6, resuming on September 13

Missionary Focus - Josh and Jen Duey

Josh and Jen Duey and family will be here at Journey Church on July 19th. Josh will speak with the high school students during the Life Group time. We will be having a luncheon for them after church and they will be giving updates and sharing about their ministry. Aubrey will be starting her 2nd year at the University of Minnesota and Alex is starting his first year of college at the University of St. Thomas.



From Josh and Jen:

Another school year has drawn to a close and each year we are incredibly encouraged in what God continues to do in college students' lives. There have been many highlights this year including leading the UMN junior men's Bible study. It was encouraging to see each of these guys grow and take courageous steps of faith. For example, throughout the year participating in evangelism with many of these guys (for some it was their first time) and witnessing the Lord soften people's hearts in their response to the Gospel. Often times we'd depart these conversations in awe and thanksgiving of God's provision.

This spring we also dove into the Old Testament, specifically looking at God's Redemptive plan through the books of the prophets and historical narratives (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah, etc.). This offered great conversation and momentum to look deeper into these accounts.

Participating in mission trips with several of these guys was also of great encouragement (such as France and our spring break trip to Florida). These trips gave many opportunities for these guys to grow in sharing their faith and growth in their relationship with Jesus and others.

I was also able to disciple eight students this year at the UMN and the University of St. Thomas. Finally, this year I had the great privilege to train and help coach the Cru interns on our Twin Cities Metro staff team. Each week we would meet for development and connection. Our times together were so encouraging and fun. These interns were incredibly valuable to our team and had great impact on the Cru movements at UMN, St. Kate's and St. Paul College.

Thank you for your prayers as students begin their summers. Pray for continued delight in Him, refreshment and joy. This summer I again have the opportunity to coach Cru interns as they raise financial support to report to various campuses and I will be working on our own personal financial support as well. Thank you for your partnership with us in reaching students with the Gospel of Jesus. Thank you as we conclude our 13th school year in the Twin Cities-which again is a remarkable testament of God's provision and grace. We are incredibly blessed by you!

Josh and Jen Duey and family

Join us for

Lunch & Learn

July 19
after the worship service
in the Fellowship Hall
with
Josh & Jen Duey

Learn about their ministry with
College Students through CRU

Women's Chair Exercise Class

Mondays
4:45p Warm up
5:00p - 5:30p Class
Fellowship Hall

Contact Joanne Tietjens or
the office with questions.

All Ladies Are Welcome

Tuesday Ladies' Community Bible Study | The Chosen Season 4 | June 2 - July 28

Continuing on Tuesdays through July 28 from 9 a.m. to 11:30. Please sign up on the signup sheet if you plan to attend so Lisa can contact you with pertinent information regarding the details of the study.

You need not be present every week to participate, and you do not have to have completed the studies done previously. Each season and each week's lesson can stand alone. Any questions, text Lisa Balk at 309-738-4422.

WE ARE HIRING



- Secondary Math/Science Teacher (Part-time)
- Secondary Resource Teacher (Part-time)
 - above positions could be combine for full-time
- Cook/Assistant Cook (Part-time)
- Janitor (Part-time)
- Choir Accompanist (Part-time)

Send your application and resume to:

Head of School - Dr. Hollewell
jhollewell@unitychristian.com

Applications can be found at unitychristian.com/careers