

The Canton Christian

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4 Ways July 4th Can Be Like Freedom in Christ

By Michael Grigsby

July 4th reminds me of freedom in Christ. I promise, this isn't some smelly mixture of patriotism and Christianity. I just think there's some powerful imagery in Independence Day. Let me explain.

First, why does America celebrate the 4th of July? Something about apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames, right? No. On July 4, 1776, thirteen colonies in North America decided they were done paying their taxes and were no longer loyal to the King of England. Colonial leaders met to draft the Declaration of Independence and then signed it into existence.

The Revolutionary War had already begun, but this was a statement of unity and determination to gain freedom from England's rule. You might recognize this portion. *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.* — The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

4 Reasons July 4th Reminds Me of Freedom in Christ.

1. It's a gift. For all living Americans, July 4th is a gift. We didn't earn it—we received it from the people who lived, led, and died to fight for it. Everyone who gets a gift has two questions. First, "Who is it from?" Second, "What does it do?" My freedom in Christ is from Jesus. I didn't earn it. He died for it. That's who it's from, but what does it do? Galatians 5:1 reminds me, it's *for freedom* we've been set free. What does my freedom do? Give more freedom. It's freedom for me, my marriage, my kids, my friends, my co-workers, and my neighbors. I was given this gift to share.

2. It's a mid-war declaration. July 4, 1776, came only about a year after the Revolutionary War began and about six years before it would finally

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Prayer is the Way

Steve Driskill
Amy Warner
Melvin Warner
Dwight Lunsford
Bob Ogle
Cheryl Flynn
Shirley Moore
Josephine Gonzalez
Greg Hargrove
Gayle Roberts
Regina Ray
Josh Blevins
Becky Garriott
Mark Williams
Carolyn Nelson
Zollie Broomfield
Zachary Trace Ramay
Tim Kirk
Nicole Bowman

Emma Burich
Levi Hunt
Connie Johnson
David Lupo
Ron Waltman
Kraig Birchfield
Tammy Long Qualls
Brian Wilson
Tim Chaloupek
Jeremy Walker
Amanda Driskill
Phil Weather
Roy Maybe
Julie Marks
Blakely McKammey
Blake Boulard
Kaylynn Philpot
Ashley Crews
Jim Rose

Steve Bond
Barbara Mason
Arta Waltman
Dave Schwind
Dean Cavett
Raymond Barnes
MaryAnn Phillips
Ty Gardner
Duane Barker
David Howard
Joyce Galer
Bobbie Westfahl
Patty Walters

*Family of Steve Reist
Family of Joshua Guidroz
Family of Vicki Reavis
Family of Bob Lynndon
Family of Beverly Cannon*

Note: To call out a prayer need during the week, contact Laberta at 580-886-5225.



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4 Ways July 4th Can Be Like Freedom in Christ

end. Yet it's the single most revered day of American history. This reminds me of battles we face. You may be fighting for your marriage, struggling financially, or just trying to raise godly kids. Either way, it may be time to make a mid-war declaration of your freedom in Christ.

3. It's a celebration of restoration. Remember apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames? All to celebrate liberty once lost—but

now found. Humans love to celebrate finding lost things because we were made in God's image, and God parties big for restoration. Jesus told a story about this called the Prodigal Son. When the son came home, the Father killed his best cow and threw a party (Luke 15:11-24). Jesus even suggests angels celebrate in heaven when someone discovers freedom in Christ (Luke 15:10). And what happens when we all meet Jesus? A glorious supper (Revelation

19:16-17).

4. It's united. The Declaration of Independence was written by the thirteen colonies, but within the document, they are referred to as "we." "*We* hold these truths to be self-evident..." Jesus set you and me free as individuals, but *we* live out this freedom as His Church. One body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). When your "I" becomes "we," it's amazing what we can accomplish.

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Cortney Thompson Sandy Murray	3 Jordon Blackburn Rita Carol McCurdy Jacalyn Grigsby Dennis & Oleta Acre	4 Joe & Wilma Hart 
5	6 Bob & Sueann Baird	7	8 Sueann Baird	9 Ryan Hoskins Amber Allison Mike & Donita Murray Shannon & Sara Hoffman	10 Joshua MacDonald Keaton Littleton Nate Bates	11 Kim Dreessen
12	13	14 Renee Murray	15	16 Matt & Evin Swartwood Curtis & Sheri MacDonald	17	18
19 Elio Palacios	20 Ben & Julie Marks	21	22	23	24 Steve Holsapple David & Brenda Reichert	25
26 Joe Hughes Judy Long	27 Eileen Jenkins Dean Haigler RD & Emma Schultz	28 Shari Holsapple Karla McGinn	29	30 Sharon Lacy Keith Nelson	31 Greg Edwards Zayden Grigsby	
			<i>Brenda Palacios - July</i> <i>Becky Garriott - August</i> <i>Evin Swartwood - September</i> 		NOTE: Please notify us if a name needs to be removed or added. Contact Toni Goforth at: tonigo4th@hotmail.com or you may text or call 580-822-5109.	

WOMEN'S EVENT SAVE THE DATE!

**Save the date for a women's event
to be hosted here at the church.**

The date is Saturday, September 12th.

The guest speaker will be Whitney Allen.

Details to follow soon.



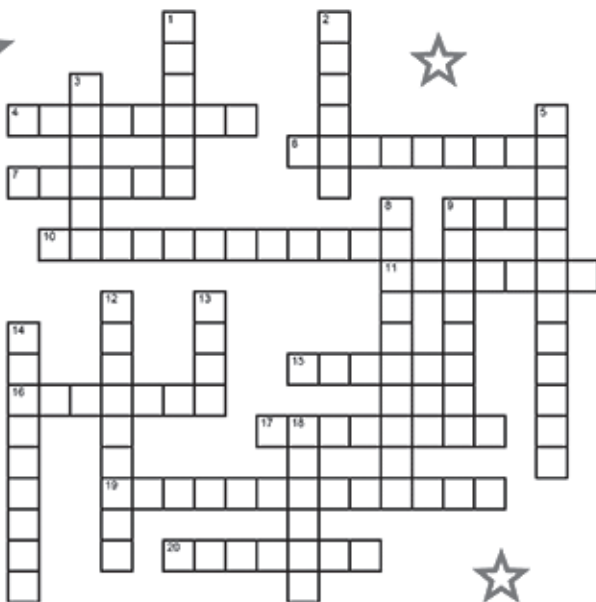
Family Game Night

***The next family game night will be
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.***

***Everyone is welcome to
come and join in for a
great time of fellowship!***



Crossword Challenge



ACROSS

4. American President who was born on July 4th, Calvin ____.
6. Founding Father and third President of the United States.
7. Public procession that might occur on July Fourth.
9. Red, white and ____.
10. City in which the Declaration of Independence was signed.
11. Nickname for the American flag, stars and ____.
15. Open air meal popular on July Fourth.
16. Symbol of freedom located in the New York City Harbor: Statue of ____.
17. Number of original colonies that declared independence.
19. Fight for American independence: The ____ War.
20. Famous signer of the Declaration of Independence: John ____.

DOWN

1. Patriotic song often sung on Independence Day: Yankee ____.
2. National anthem of the United States: The Star-Spangled ____.
3. The day of the month on which America declared its independence.
5. Founding document of the United States: The Declaration of ____.
8. First President of the United States.
9. Cooking outdoors on a grill.
12. Light show often seen on the 4th of July.
13. Month in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed.

14. National bird of the United States.
18. Commonly consumed food on July 4th.

Bald Eagle	Jefferson
Banner	July
Barbecue	Liberty
Blue	Parade
Coolidge	Philadelphia
Doodle	Picnic
Fireworks	Revolutionary
Fourth	Stripes
Hancock	Thirteen
Hot Dog	Washington
Independence	

God loves the way you sing.

*Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.*

—PSALM 63:7

It doesn't matter if you sing like an angel or if you can't carry a tune in the proverbial bucket. When you sing God's praises, you're part of His heavenly choir—there's never a note out of tune.

And with God as your heavenly Director, you can sing through the shadows of life and dance through both sunshine and storms. Because no matter what the weather of your life is like, God loves to shelter you under His wings while you sing.