

JULY 2025

THE MESSENGER

Talbot Park Baptist Church

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THE REVEREND'S RAMBLINGS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Dana Costas – 2
Linda James – 4
Jackie Kirkman – 7
Stephanie Wensil – 7
Karen Baril – 8
Sharon Woodard – 12
Chuck Steinbruck – 13
Brandon Woodard – 19
Aaron Brittain – 20
Owen Foster – 20
Craig Casper – 23
Judy Smith – 31

SERMON TEXTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

July 6

Luke 10:10-24

July 13

Luke 11:37-54

July 20

Keith Martin Preaching

July 27

Luke 17:1-4

During the month of July, Aaron will be preaching a series of sermons entitled "Woe, Cowboy" about the woe passages from the Gospel of Luke.

There is much debate in our country these days over how to interpret our national story. Some claim that because of our mistakes, particularly slavery, our country is forever tainted. Others insist we should not even mention the failures of our past because to do so is somehow unpatriotic. I fall somewhere in between those two extremes. While I think it is good and appropriate for us to honor leaders and successes of the past, I think we should also be aware of the ways that we as a people have fallen short.

The old line "those who do not learn from their history are doomed to repeat it" looms large to me these days. Yes, we can and should be proud of our achievements as a country. The United States has accomplished great things. We should give thanks for the freedoms our country enjoys.

We should also be willing to acknowledge that our history has not been without its ups and downs. Even the best of our leaders has sometimes made mistakes. And even though some of those things happened many years ago, they continue to shape our reality in the present. I'm not suggesting that you and I need to keep apologizing for things that happened centuries ago. But national humility is not the same thing as national humiliation. It is simply an awareness that we can do better. And because we are followers of Christ, we believe that God's grace offers us a path forward even when we fail.

In *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony*, published in 1981, the political scientist Samuel Huntington writes: "Critics say that America is a lie because its reality falls so short of its ideals. They are wrong. America is not a lie; it is a disappointment. But it can be a disappointment only because it is also a hope." You and I are caught in that tension between our disappointments in our country and our hopes for our country. May we be willing to learn from the mistakes of our past as we pray for a hopeful tomorrow. Happy 4th of July!



Preschool News

SUMMER GAME NIGHT



On Wednesday, July 16th, we will have a game night in the Social Hall at 5:30pm. Bring any summer fruits or vegetables (watermelon, strawberries, cantaloupe, tomatoes, etc.) for us to enjoy together and any card or board games.

We are cruising right through summer! Summer camp is going well, and everyone is having a blast! Coming up in July we have Disney Week, Race into Space, Super Spies, Christmas in July and Shark Week! We have so many wonderful things planned for our campers including a visit from Santa himself! It has been a very hot summer, and we love to cool the campers off with a popsicle treat on Fridays. If you are looking for a way to support the campers, you can donate popsicles or freeze pops! As always, we appreciate your support!

Holly Costas

AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every year during the month of August, we have one combined adult Sunday School class centered around a particular theme. This year's theme is "Rethinking..." and will challenge us to think about familiar topics in new ways. The class will begin after worship at 11am each week in the Social Hall. The schedule is below:

August 3: Rethinking the Bible, led by Rev. Aaron Brittain

August 10: Rethinking Sin, led by Dr. Mark Biddle of Sophia Seminary

August 17: Rethinking Norfolk, led by Dr. Johnny Finn of Christopher Newport University

August 24: Rethinking Denomination, led by Mark Snipes, Co-Coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia

BUSINESS MEETING

Our quarterly business meeting will be held on Sunday, July 27th. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the meeting will begin at 12:45pm. The lunch is \$10.00 per person, please make your lunch reservations no later than Monday, July 23rd. The menu is:

- Chicken Fajitas with Peppers/Onions and toppings
- Mexican Street Corn
- Yellow Rice with Tomatoes
- Desserts



VBS

This year, in conjunction with FreedomLife Church, we will be having a one-day Vacation Bible School for children ages 4 through 5th grade. It will take place on Saturday, July 12 from 9am-1pm. If you are interested in helping in any way (teaching, leading recreation, crafts, decorating, cooking lunch, etc.), please sign up at the link below.

To register to volunteer:

<https://freedomlifechurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/984039>

To register your child:

<https://freedomlifechurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2978540>



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

We are reaching out to children and families in the Norfolk area by providing book bags filled with basic school supply items. These book bags will be distributed to low income or displaced families with school-age children at various locations.

If you are interested in participating in this mission project, please purchase items from the list below. Items/book bags filled with supplies can be left on the tables in the hallway from July 6-30th. We will bless the book bags during worship on Sunday, August 10th and then distribute them. Thank you for your contributions! See Susan Jones for additional information.

Supplies Needed:

- Boxes of Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Pack of Standard #2 Pencils
- Pencil Box/Pouch
- Scissors
- 3-Prong Pocket Folder
- Bottle of White Glue
- Package of Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper
- 12" Ruler (with centimeters and inches)
- Black & White Composition Notebook.
- Book Bag



July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed 	5
6 10:00am Communion 12:00pm Women's Group	7	8 7:00pm Deacons Meeting	9	10	11	12 9:00-1:00 VBS
13	14	15	16 5:30pm Summer Game Night	17 7:00pm Church Council	18	19
20	21	22 5:00pm Preschool Board Meeting	23	24	25	26
27 12:00pm Business Meeting Comfort Meals @ Ronald McDonald House	28	29	30	31		