

THE BLUFF CITY CHRISTIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, POPLAR BLUFF, MO

JULY 2026

THE BLUFF CITY CHRISTIAN

Vol. 80 - 7

Serving Schedule

July 5, 2026

Responsive Reader

Jodi Berry

Communion Prayer

Pat Fowler

Offertory Prayer

Steve Fowler

Van Driver

Jack Maxwell/Mark Richardson



Serving Schedule

July 19, 2026

Responsive Reader

Danni Brown

Communion Prayer

Kay Gilbreath

Offertory Prayer

Jack Maxwell

Van Driver

Jack Maxwell/Mark Richardson



Independence Day Facts

1. The [Declaration of Independence](#) was adopted on July 4, 1776, but it wasn't signed by all members of the Continental Congress until August 1776.
2. John Adams and [Thomas Jefferson](#), both signers of the Declaration, died on July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years after the adoption of the Declaration.
3. The first Independence Day [celebration](#) took place on July 8, 1776, in Philadelphia, where the Declaration was read aloud.
4. The [Liberty Bell](#) in Philadelphia was rung on July 8, 1776, to mark the first public reading of the Declaration.
5. Fireworks have been a part of Independence Day celebrations since 1777, just one year after the Declaration was signed.
6. The largest fireworks display in the United States takes place in New York City, with over 75,000 shells launched.
7. Approximately 150 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4th each year in the United States.
8. The Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest, held annually on July 4th, has been a tradition since 1916.



Upcoming Opportunities

SATURDAY, JULY 4:

Independence Day

SUNDAY JULY 5:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

No First Sunday Fellowship Brunch

MONDAY, JULY 6:

4:00 p.m. Daycare Board Meeting

THURSDAY, JULY 9:

5:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting

SUNDAY, JULY 12:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

SUNDAY, JULY 19:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

TUESDAY, JULY 21:

No Senior Fellowship

SUNDAY, JULY 26:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Serving Schedule

July 12, 2026

Responsive Reader

Mike Berry

Communion Prayer

Mark Richardson

Offertory Prayer

Kathy Richardson

Van Driver

Jack Maxwell/Mark Richardson



FIRST SUNDAY
FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH AND
SENIOR FELLOWSHIP WILL
NOT BE HELD IN JULY

Serving Schedule

July 26, 2026

Responsive Reader

Angie Croy

Communion Prayer

Kim Wagganer

Offertory Prayer

Megan Garland

Van Driver

Jack Maxwell/Mark Richardson

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDERS

June 2026

Gail Doss

Kay Gilbreath

Mary Grobe

Jack Maxwell

Eva Kay Smith



SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

THE BLUFF CITY CHRISTIAN

Published Monthly By

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located at Main & Davis St. Mailing Address: 1601 N. Main Office Ph. 785-6466

SUBSCRIPTION-\$10.00

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Organist..... Mary Holley

Secretary..... Linda Everett

Custodians..... Kay Gilbreath

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M

ATTENDANCE REPORT June 7, 2026	ATTENDANCE REPORT June 14, 2026
ATTENDANCE:	ATTENDANCE:
TOTAL WORSHIP59	TOTAL WORSHIP87
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	SUNDAY SCHOOL:
Homebuilders6	Homebuilders5
Men's Class2	Men's Class3
Total.....8	Total.....8
ATTENDANCE REPORT June 21, 2026	ATTENDANCE REPORT June 28, 2026
ATTENDANCE:	ATTENDANCE:
TOTAL WORSHIP 82	TOTAL WORSHIP64
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	SUNDAY SCHOOL:
Homebuilders..... 3	Homebuilders.....4
Men's Class..... 5	Men's Class1
Total 8	Total5

A Declaration of Dependence

This month, our nation celebrates **250 years** since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is a remarkable milestone. For two and a half centuries, generations of Americans have looked to that document as a reminder of the freedoms and responsibilities that have shaped our nation's story.

One of the most recognizable lines in the Declaration reads, "*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...*" Notice something remarkable. Before speaking of rights, the Declaration speaks of a **Creator**. It grounds human dignity not in government, wealth, or power, but in the truth that our lives are gifts from God.

There is a thought often attributed to Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen that has always resonated with me: "*The Declaration of Independence is, in reality, a declaration of dependence upon Almighty God.*"

True freedom has never meant complete independence. We were not created to live independently of God, but in joyful dependence upon Him. The opening pages of Scripture remind us that we are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27), and Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

The paradox of the Christian faith is that we become truly free only when we surrender ourselves to Christ. As Jesus said, "*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*" (John 8:36). The freedom we celebrate as Americans is a precious gift, but it is ultimately temporary. The freedom Christ offers is eternal. One shapes how we live as citizens; the other transforms who we are as children of God.

As we celebrate our nation's birthday, let us give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy. Let us pray for our leaders, our communities, and our neighbors. Above all, let us remember that the strongest foundation for any life and any nation is humble dependence upon God. Perhaps that is the greatest lesson we can carry into America's next 250 years: **freedom flourishes best when it is rooted in faithfulness to the One from whom every good gift comes.**

Jesus Is Enough,
Pastor Jason

Independence Day

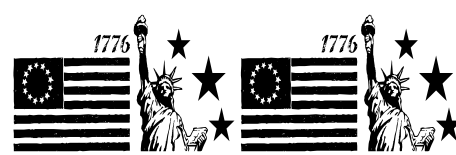
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Remember in Prayer

At Home
J. Dexter Busby, Lonnie Green,
Cathy Haggerty, Jr. Stacy,
Mark Yarbrow

**Kings Daughters and Sons
Nursing Home, Bartlett TN**
Vince Halferty, Room #221

*(Names will remain on our
Prayer Concern list until the
Church Office is notified to
remove them.)*

July 4th
Independence Day

**Looks who's having a
Birthday in**

Jack Childress10

Briley Richardson16

Sherry Williams24

Sawyer Richardson30