



THE LINK

LINKING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, EACH TO THE
OTHER, TO CHRIST JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

PASTOR'S NOTES

PASTOR JAMES CARLSON

My precious sheep:

This month of July we celebrate the birth of America and our Independence as a nation (July 4, 1776). Happy Birthday USA! Do you know how old our country is? Do the math. July 4, 1776 - July 4, 2020 - America is 244 years old. As Christians, we should be thankful for our great nation. Many American soldiers have bled and died so that we can enjoy the freedoms we do. They paid the ultimate price - Jesus said there's no greater love (John 15:13). Let's be respectful and grateful. Yet, there are some people in our country who, to this very day, feel as though the promise of independence and freedom which our nation cherishes has not been experienced equally. I am speaking of our African-American neighbors. The death of George Floyd back in May has reignited the issue of race-relations in America. Last month, many Americans recognized what is called "Juneteenth," a portmanteau of June and nineteenth, which celebrates the day that slaves in America were emancipated on June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas. I am not trying to get political. Just imagine how it would feel if the promise of freedom had been delayed for you for 89 years (from July 4, 1776 to June 19, 1865)? And then for another 99 years of segregation in the South (until the Civil Rights Acts of 1964)? We should be empathetic to the stories and experiences of our African-American neighbors. Let us listen (James 1:19) and love (James 2:8). The latter Scripture states that "Love your neighbor as yourself" is the royal commandment of the Bible. There's some other issues I would like to discuss. The first concerns our citizenship. We are American citizens and I believe we should be proud of this. Yet, this will always be secondary to our citizenship in heaven.

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THE MISSION OF CCC:

"WORSHIPING GOD, GROWING,
SPIRITUALLY, SERVING OTHERS,
INVITING FRIENDS"

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CONT'D...

Our first allegiance is to the eternal Kingdom of Christ. Philippians 3:20 states, "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we EAGERLY await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." Are you "eagerly" awaiting the return of Jesus Christ? Or are you too comfortable living the American dream? If Jesus were to return tomorrow, would you welcome Him with open arms, or would you say, "Lord, can You please come back later?" It's a question worth praying about. We are sojourners in this world. It says of Abraham in Hebrews 11, "By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was LOOKING FORWARD to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Heb 11:9-10). Are you "looking forward" to this heavenly city of God (cf. Heb 12:22, 28)? It's the same question as "eagerly." The other issue I want to consider is freedom (independence). We have precious freedoms in America! Some of these freedoms are speech, religion, movement – the freedom to own private property, the freedom to pursue any education and job we want to, etc. Yet, many Americans, probably many Christians, do not live as free people but as slaves to their sin. The Bible is clear that outside the power of Christ we are all slaves to sin. Paul the Apostle states in Romans chap 7, "We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I am doing. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...this I keep on doing!" (Romans 7:14-15, 19).



"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

I can hardly imagine any Christian with whom these words do not resonate at least some, concerning the struggle each has with their own sins. How do we break free from our bondage to sin? Paul the Apostle concludes this section of Romans 7 with that grand declaration in Romans 8:1, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!" Being "in Christ Jesus" is the key. Freedom comes by knowing that no matter how many times you keep messing up, God still loves you and you are forgiven. Grace leads to freedom. We are learning more about the grace that is ours in Christ, our spiritual blessings, our rich inheritance in Christ, from our study of Ephesians chap 1 (Eph 1:3-14). Let us keep praying that God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, would enlighten the eyes of our hearts to see these blessings in Christ (Eph 1:17-19). We learn from the pages of American history that some African slaves were unaware of their freedom after the end of the Civil War. The news had not reached them and thus they were still living as slaves. For others, even after the news arrived, they were so familiar with a life of bondage, that freedom did not come to them for a while. This is the plight of many Christians today. Many Christians simply do not know the news, the GOOD news of the gospel, that they are free in Christ (Gal 5:1). Many do not take the time to study and reflect on the gospel according to the Bible. Ignorance keeps them in bondage. For other Christians, they understand the news, but think and feel it is too good to be true, that salvation can't be full and free, and perhaps worry about exploiting God's grace (cf. Rom 6:1; 1 Pet 2:16). Do you want true freedom this Independence Day? Have the courage to believe that every sin of yours – past, present, and future – has been nailed to the cross (Col 2:14) and live the rest of your earthly life with peace & joy knowing that you are God's FRIEND and CHILD (John 15:15 & Gal 4:6-7)! Grace and Peace.

A Little Kindness

Edward S. Murphy

A Little Sunshine

A flower in a vase
A bow in her hair
The smile on a face
Are contrasts to a cold gray day
A little sunshine brightens everything
So little means so much
Just a little pleasantry lightens a heavy load
Nothing is lost when good feelings are shown
To act as one should like to be
Brings forth the dispositions that lie await
And when the right moment finally arrives
All the right moves will have been in place

By Edward S Murphy

Stardust

Dianne Ingle

For God and Country

*I see our flag gently waving in the breeze
standing for the freedom
given to us
by the brave men and women
who gave their all.*

*Someone made the great sacrifice,
they died for their country
and their death was not in vain.*

*We shall not forget
and their memory shall live on.*

The price of freedom is not free.

*Our flag still proudly waves
thanks to the blood, sweat, and tears
of those who have so bravely sacrificed all.*

*I salute the brave men and women
who have served our country
and who have paid the price for our freedom.*



HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

BIRTHDAYS

- July 3rd Pete Call
- July 4th Stephen Bailey
- July 5th Brenda Warnshuis
- July 9th Kevin Rogers
- July 12th Ken Warnshuis
- July 13th Thom Roberts
- June 12th: Dennis Branham
- July 14th Audrey James
- July 16th Jaily Smith
- July 17th Sarah Voigt
- July 21st Jaime Earnhart
- July 23rd Diane Ingle
- July 24th Margot Flanders
- July 25th Joseph Umbriaco
- July 26th Dennis Richards
- July 30th Teri Davis
- July 30th Judy Kane

CLASSES & STUDIES

Classes/Groups for Spring:

For the health and well-being of our congregants, classes held at the church building are postponed until further notice.

Remote studies, facilitated via ZOOM are as follows:

- The Measure of a Man on Thursdays at 7pm. A men's group led by Chris Morin (Cd_morin@hotmail.com).
 - A study through "**Becoming a Woman of Excellence**" (by Cynthia Heald) on Tuesday's at 7pm. A women's group led by Shari Boehmer (shari_coffeebeanqueen@msn.com).
 - **The Twelve Steps for Christians** on Monday's at 7pm. Open to everyone. Led by Richard Axmann (richardaxmann@comcast.net).
 - A study through the book of Ruth on Wednesday's at 7pm.
 - A group for everyone led by Pastor James (jamescarlsonsr@gmail.com).
- *This class is facilitated via the church's Facebook Page.*

Directions:

When you sign up to be part of a group, you will email the group leader. Then, they will send you an email inviting you to join their small group. This email will include a link that you press on and, voila- you can join. It will ask you to run the program on your computer, and after a couple clicks, you'll be in the chat room. If you have questions about how to use this, contact your group leader or Pastor James (626-476-5543) or the church office (801-825-1115).

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

MINISTRY NEWS

- Rocky Mountain Care Center Ministry

Please Come join us every Friday at 10:30 AM for a half hour of song and a message from the speaker that day with patients. **Canceled until further notice.*

Any questions you may contact Eileen or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471.



Join us on July 19th for another drive-in church service! The Church will be providing lunch (Hot dog & Chips) for all who are interested. We are taking all precautions to be safe. We would love to see your smiling faces! Praise the Lord! We will be in the East Parking lot and the overflow if needed and weather permitting.



Summer Sermon Series



Mission: Deep Sea is a deep-sea adventure where kids will explore the depths of God's love. You will guide your S.E.A. agents in training to the bottom of the ocean and help them discover that our faith grows deeper when we surround ourselves with people, spend time with God, use our gifts, and share our story.

VBS in a Box Registration is OPEN!
Register HERE: <http://clearfieldcommunitychurch.org/vbs/>
July 29 - July 31

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

PRAYER CONCERNS

July 2020

Ronald Branham, Kevin Branham, Sue Carlson,
Edith Warnshuis, Kaylin Terry, Kathy Knighton, Mildred
MacDonald, Eric Palmer, Lynn McCarthy, Pat Call,
Linda Manning, Jamie Richards, Stuart Simmons,
Jean Varner, Bob Roberts, Mike Mann, Matt Tobey,
Travis Jeffery, Mark MacDonald, Edith Aleman, Barrett
Wellington, Ervin Herdt, Bill & Marte Hazelwood,
Evie Guzman, Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon,
Jessica Woeppel, Susan Woeppel, Angelika Bertrand,
Traudy Sanborn

One Great Hour of Sharing

Clearfield Community Church Missions will be collecting offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing during June and July. This is a special offering, and is for Disaster Relief. Every dollar for disaster relief goes to work to impact those suffering from hurricanes and natural disasters. This is a Christian effort to empower communities, provide water, supply food, alleviate poverty, and respond to disasters. There are special envelopes marked "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the plastic bin outside of the church, or you can just mail in your offering and designate on it for One Great Hour of Sharing. Please give generously; know that your gifts will help both now and in the months to come. Thank you all so much for your continuing support! Your Mission Ministry Team

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"Rejoice
always, pray
without
ceasing, give
thanks in all
circumstances;
for this is the
will of God in
Christ Jesus for
you."

1 Thess 5:16-18