

True Independence Day

*So if the Son makes you
free, then you are
unquestionably free.*



Let's face it, we all want to be free. We want freedom from trials, tribulations, persecution, violence, danger and fear. Freedom is central to the health and well-being of every human on earth; yet our peace is threatened almost daily. Evil people threaten us. Our own health threatens us. Our finances threaten us. Life threatens us. But Jesus makes us free. No matter what life brings, isn't it great to know that no weapon formed against us will ever prosper because whomever the Son sets free is truly free indeed!



Pastor's Page



I was blessed to be asked by the Springfield Unity Project to address our community regarding the celebration of Juneteenth (see page 5). Honestly, I just found out about this celebration about 10 years ago. But in my research and recent involvement I realized one thing. Our ancestors were not slaves. They were enslaved! And there is a big difference.

Imagine you were a young teenager or child playing in your yard and suddenly kidnappers descend upon you and take you away to a distant land. You fight for your life to no avail. Well, that's what happened to those poor folk on the shores of Africa. And to make matters worse, they were ostracized, stigmatized and branded as subhuman, evil and unworthy.

However, even though they lost their home and their freedom, they never lost their faith. You can enslave a person, but never enslave hope, faith and the favor of God.

Juneteenth is more than a celebration about the passing of a law abolishing slavery. Juneteenth is the fulfillment of God's promise to come to the rescue of all that seek him.

God Bless

A MERRY HEART DOES GOOD LIKE MEDICINE PROVERBS 17:22

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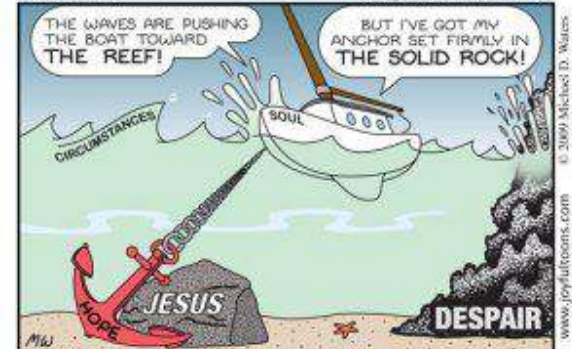
Thanks to Nick Hengeveld 11-29-2010
YOUR SOCIAL NETWORKING RECORD IS TERRIBLE ... TWO MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO "LIKE JESUS AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOR" AND REFUSAL TO PROVE YOUR FAITH WITH A SIMPLE "FORWARD TO TEN FRIENDS"

FOLLOWING FATHER'S EXAMPLE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. EPHESIANS 5:1-2 NIV

ANCHOR A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. — HEBREWS 6:19 NIV

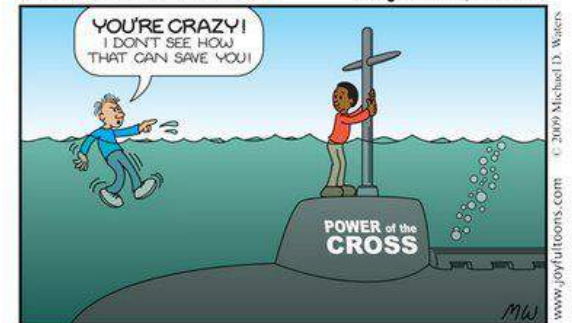
RANGER RESCUE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" — ISAIAH 52:7 NIV



POWER OF THE CROSS A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. — 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 NIV



**DIGITAL
VBS!**

July 12th – 16th
Youth Classes
10 AM to Noon

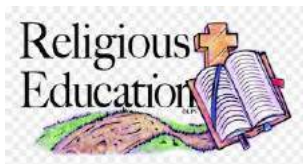
July 19th – 23rd
Adult Classes
7:30 PM to 9 PM

Learn more at
Antioch640.org

There is no limit to the excellence we can achieve with Jesus! All ages (youth, teens, young adults, adults) will discover leadership, trust, prayer, determination, discipline, obedience, perseverance, righteousness and rewards through this year's Vacation Bible School program!



 **Biblical Training**



Christian Education is not just Sunday School. Christian Ed covers a multiplicity of interest, ages and disciplines. We need everyone to participate; starting with all our professional educators. We have some exciting new plans in the works...with your name on it!



Don't get caught standing in the hall without a pass. Contact the church office today to find out where you may fit in best.



Antioch in the Community



Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony

Monday, June 21, 2021
Chisholm Community Center
100 South Springfield Avenue
Springfield NJ 07081



Beginning promptly at 6 PM.
The flag will be raised after remarks from our
esteemed guests and Township officials.

With a performance by
The Essex & Union County Marching Cougars



Antioch in the Community

LET MY PEOPLE... **STAY**



There's a story in the book of Exodus about a man named Moses who was given a message from God to bring to Pharaoh. The message was simply, "Let My People Go". Please note that God didn't ask permission, he didn't seek advice or counsel. God gave Pharaoh an order. And disobeying God's order came with grave consequences.



Now, I'm no Moses, but today I also come with a message from God. And no, I didn't receive my message from a burning bush; but instead, from a deep burning in my soul for hurting and disenfranchised people. I don't have a miraculous staff in my hand. Instead, I have the eternal word of the Lord in my heart. So let me proclaim the Lord's message loud and clear. While Moses said, Let My People Go; today I bring a message from that same God demanding that America must, Let My People Stay.

As much as Juneteenth is a celebration of the liberation of kidnapped, sex trafficked and enslaved African children, for me, it is more an affirmation of God's everlasting love and affection for his children. All his children everywhere!



For far too long we've tried to put blinders on the hearts of those witnessing centuries of atrocities perpetrated by ruthless villains upon innocent young people in the name of capitalism. Remember, laws are not made for the lawless. These same rouges kidnap, rape, torture and kill young people to this very day. Sex trafficking is a booming business. I only wonder when we find these poor children (and we will), will they be stigmatized, ostracized, and abandoned like the young African children that first landed on the shores of this continent? I certainly pray not.



For 400 years, the Children of Israel suffered under the hands of Egypt before being freed. It's been 400 years since the slave traders first began their evil business in the Americas. And now is the time for true liberation.

But as it was with Moses, it will be with us. Liberation doesn't come from the will of men. Liberation cannot be mandated by laws alone. True liberation only comes from God. And I proclaim this day that the God of all creation has spoken and decreed that this United States of America will be a land for all people. Black people. White people. Asian, Latino, African, European, Native American and every other group imaginable. And these groups will live in peace. God has declared it. It will come to pass.



To my Juneteenth brothers and sisters. Yes, this is truly a time of celebration. But we must remember the sacrifices made that we may enjoy this land. Our ancestors plowed these fields with hope, planting seeds of faith with every step they took. And watered those seed with their own blood. Today we enjoy that harvest. It's a fruit called, freedom.

Freedom is never free. And Juneteenth will never be what it should be until all God's people are not only legally free, but literally free.

God Bless

If You Have An Urgent Request, Need Prayer, or Want to Know More About Our Ministry



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Antioch Baptist Church Springfield

Deacon's Corner



Did God cause the pandemic?

Pondering the events of the past year with COVID 19, the question arose did God cause the pandemic? With people dying worldwide in large numbers, what is going on? When asked the question, the reply I got was, "Absolutely not". The reason for the pandemic was sin and the turning away from Jehovah.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but that the world should be saved through him.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye turn from your evil ways, for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

We cannot measure the amount of love God has for us. God is sovereign, he reigns over the just and the unjust alike. God is love, but there are consequences to our sins and disobedience.

Jonah 3:9-10 Who knoweth whether God will not turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way: and God repented of the evil which he said he would do unto them: and he did it not.

Just as God's judgment was passed on the world in the time of Noah and his prepared judgment on Nineveh, he will judge the world today. When 9/11 happened, our leaders in Washington stood on the steps of the capital and prayed. Not so, with this pandemic. We the people called by his name must continue to pray for our world leaders. We have not reached the point of Sodom and Gomorrah yet, but we must continue to pray and repent worldwide.

I welcome any comments and replies. Deacons

Church
DEACONS



PLEASE DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!



OWN A BUSINESS? HOSTING AN EVENT? HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU WANT TO SHARE?

WHY NOT **ADVERTISE IN THE ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH (ABC) NEWS.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT ANTIOCH640@GMAIL.COM OR **973-379-1465**

PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL

(805) 706-4589

JOIN OUR DAILY PRAYER LINE!

PRAYER IS OPEN TO ANY AND EVERYONE!!!

NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, COWORKERS AND EVEN STRANGERS PLEASE COME IF YOU WANT TO PRAY.

GOD DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE; AND NEITHER DO WE!

TO JOIN DIAL THE NUMBER ABOVE @ 7 AM AND 7 PM

READY TO RETURN TO IN~PERSON WORSHIP?

For the last few months, we've been diligently working toward reopening the church. We are well on our way, but not exactly where we would like to be. We must ensure your safety above all other considerations. We don't want anyone visiting Antioch to come in contact with any contagion. Consequently, we are proceeding with extreme caution.

We do realize that our closure has impacted many traditions. We've had to forego Home-Going celebrations for loved ones in the sanctuary, Easter Service, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas and all the special events we generally have had in the past.

But the trade-off has been beneficial. In return we have incorporated daily prayer twice a day by Free Conference Call. We are being viewed on Facebook Live on Sundays and Wednesdays. We hold Zoom Sunday School classes, ministry meetings, social interaction and conferencing. We are on YouTube, Instagram and Twitter, and we even have a church newspaper! I doubt any of these things would have happened if we hadn't needed to shutdown for a few months.

We will continue with the gains we've made in social media and modern technology, but it's time to get back in the building. I pray you are ready, because we certainly miss you.

WE WILL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT VERY SOON!