

Joy Letter - July 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford

Pastor: Don Everhard

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Sunday Service @10:30am weekly

Email: abbypresbyterian@gmail.com

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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchofabbot>

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Mark Your Calendars:

*July 13-17, 6-7:30pm, Bible School for Children. Summer Good News Club is returning to partner with the Church, to offer a week of fun learning, memorizing Bible verses, singing and fellowship with friends. If you would like to volunteer to bring snacks or drinks, we have a signup at the Church entrance table, or message the office. Please invite families, and most importantly, pray for a wonderful week for the kids! Follow this link to see more details, and to register.

<https://www.cefnorthcentral.org/parents-summer-clubs>

*Sunday August 30th, Annual Backyard Worship Service and Potluck Picnic, held at Don and Gloria Everhard's home in Medford. Food-Fun-Worship!



Updates and Reminders:

*Continue to be in Prayer, for our young people attending Camp this Summer. We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

*Thank you to the amazing Church Family, \$1540 was raised by the congregation, to present to James Lecheler of the Center City Church of San Diego, 2026 Basketball Camp!

*The Upper Room daily devotionals booklet for July/August is available at the Narthex table. Please take one.

*The Abbotsford Lions Club is collecting clean, clear, empty prescription bottles, informational flyer is at the bulletin board and a bucket for collection is at the Church Narthex table. The bottles collected are redistributed so that medicines can be safely dispensed around the World.

*Recently a donation of hospitality items was delivered to Ronald McDonald House by the Church. In 2026 they have already served 100 families and provided 1300 meals. Please continue to collect can tabs and hygiene items for them.

*Aluminum can collection, did you know the Church collects these as well, to help support the Heifer International mission? Funds from the cans are sent with the monies collected on fresh egg sales. Please continue to donate.

*Sunday School Classes will be on a "summer break". Class schedule will resume September 6th.



Happy birthday !

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

Romans 15:13



JULY Birthdays

Happy Birthday Blessings to:

Russell Palmerton-5th

Nels Anderson-6th

Cindy Koch-9th

Sara Fischer-15th

Cindy Anderson-19th

Donald Everhard-26th

Patriotism and Christianity: Living in Harmony

Patriotism and Christianity are sometimes portrayed as being at odds with one another, but they do not have to be. A healthy love for one's country can exist alongside a wholehearted devotion to Jesus Christ when our priorities are properly ordered. Christians are first citizens of God's kingdom, yet God also calls us to be faithful citizens of the nations in which He has placed us.

The Bible teaches us to respect and pray for those in authority. In Romans 13:1-7, the Apostle Paul reminds believers that governing authorities have a role established by God for maintaining order. Likewise, in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Christians are encouraged to pray "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (NIV). Loving our country includes praying for its leaders, its communities, its military personnel, its first responders, and its future.

Patriotism is at its best when it is expressed through gratitude rather than pride. We can thank God for the freedoms we enjoy, honor those who have sacrificed to preserve those freedoms, and work to make our communities places of compassion, and integrity. Christians should be among the first to serve their neighbors, care for the vulnerable, and contribute positively to society.

At the same time, our allegiance to Christ must always come before our allegiance to any nation. No country is perfect, and no political party or government can accomplish what only the gospel can do. Jesus alone is Lord. When the values of our culture conflict with God's Word, Christians are called to remain faithful to Christ with humility, courage, and love.

Healthy patriotism also reminds us that our blessings are meant to be shared. As followers of Christ, we should use our freedoms to worship openly, serve generously, speak truth graciously, and extend Christ's love to all people—regardless of race, nationality, or background. The gospel knows no national borders, for God's desire is that people from every nation, tribe, and language come to know Him.

Patriotism and Christianity are harmonious when patriotism is guided by biblical principles. We honor our nation by being honest citizens, compassionate neighbors, faithful workers, and devoted followers of Christ. As we celebrate our country, may we never lose sight of our greater hope: not in any earthly kingdom, but in the eternal kingdom of God, where Christ reigns forever.

May we be grateful citizens of our nation and faithful ambassadors of Jesus Christ, living in such a way that our love for our country never overshadows our love for our Savior.

Submitted by: Pastor Don Everhard



***Have a Blessed and Safe Independence Day!!!
Praise God for our Freedom!***
"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." ~ Galatians 5:1 (RSV)