

July 10 - Mary Hudler
July 21 - David Eller



July 03 - Fred & Sandy Miller
July 14 - Dale & Nan Miller
July 21—Mathew & Erica Marsh
July 23—Allen & Melinda Marsh
July 24—Jim & Margie Pendry
July 29 - Nicky & Lydia Walsh



Pastor: Rev. Randy Lankford

708 Curtis Bridge Rd
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
Church Phone: (336) 838-8674 | Pastor Randy's Cell: (336) 452-4957
E-Mail: rlankford@wnccumc.net Follow us on: Facebook & union-umc.com

July 2026

Issue 7

Happy Birthday America

Happy 250th Birthday U.S.A.! In comparison to other countries around the world, the United States is one of the youngest nations. We celebrate our nation's birthday on the day we declared our independence from Great Britain. At the time, Great Britain was ruled by a monarchy, and a king in 1776. No one could have predicted that England's form of government would have evolved to the point where the reigning monarch would have no power, but serve solely as a ceremonial leader. As young as our nation is, we now have the oldest surviving constitution in the world. Our forefathers were some truly visionary people. After we won the Revolutionary War on September 3, 1783, our constitution was ratified in 1787, and took effect in 1789. The Constitutional Convention met during the hotter than normal summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, and at one point came very close to disbanding for lack of progress. Benjamin Franklin addressed the convention and called on the members to seek God's guidance to complete their task. Although progress was slow, from that point on progress began. But July 4th, 1776 is the day we recognize as our nation's beginning. As a nation we still had to fight and win a war, and we had to agree on a form of government that, while not being perfect, would assure freedom for our land as well as our individual freedoms. We are still in the process of assuring freedom to all our citizenry, but it all began with a declaration. Our faith is like that. We come to God through our faith in Jesus Christ by declaring our belief that God sent His

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Son to save us. We still have to fight battles, but the war has already been won. We still have to discern God's Word, but God's Word doesn't change. Both our nation and our faith depend on us continuing the work that was started. God has blessed our nation and we are free to worship God without hindrance. We may not understand or agree with all the decisions our leaders make, but our forefathers made room for both disagreement and the means to make changes. God makes room for us as well. We are free to ask God questions. While we cannot change God's Word, we have the means to bring those questions to God anytime. But it all starts with faith. I hope we all celebrate our Declaration of Faith by going to God daily. - Pastor Randy



Prayer for the United States and Our Faith

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with gratitude for the blessings You have poured upon our nation. In this new year of 2026, we ask for Your guidance over our leaders, wisdom in our decisions, and unity among our people.

Strengthen our faith so that we may walk in truth, justice, and compassion. Heal the divisions that separate us, and help us see one another as neighbors, not strangers. May our hearts be anchored in Your Word, our hands ready to serve, and our voices lifted in kindness and truth.

Bless our land with peace, protect those who defend it, and inspire us to be a light in the world—reflecting Your love in all we do.

In Jesus' name, *Amen*.

4th OF JULY WORD SEARCH



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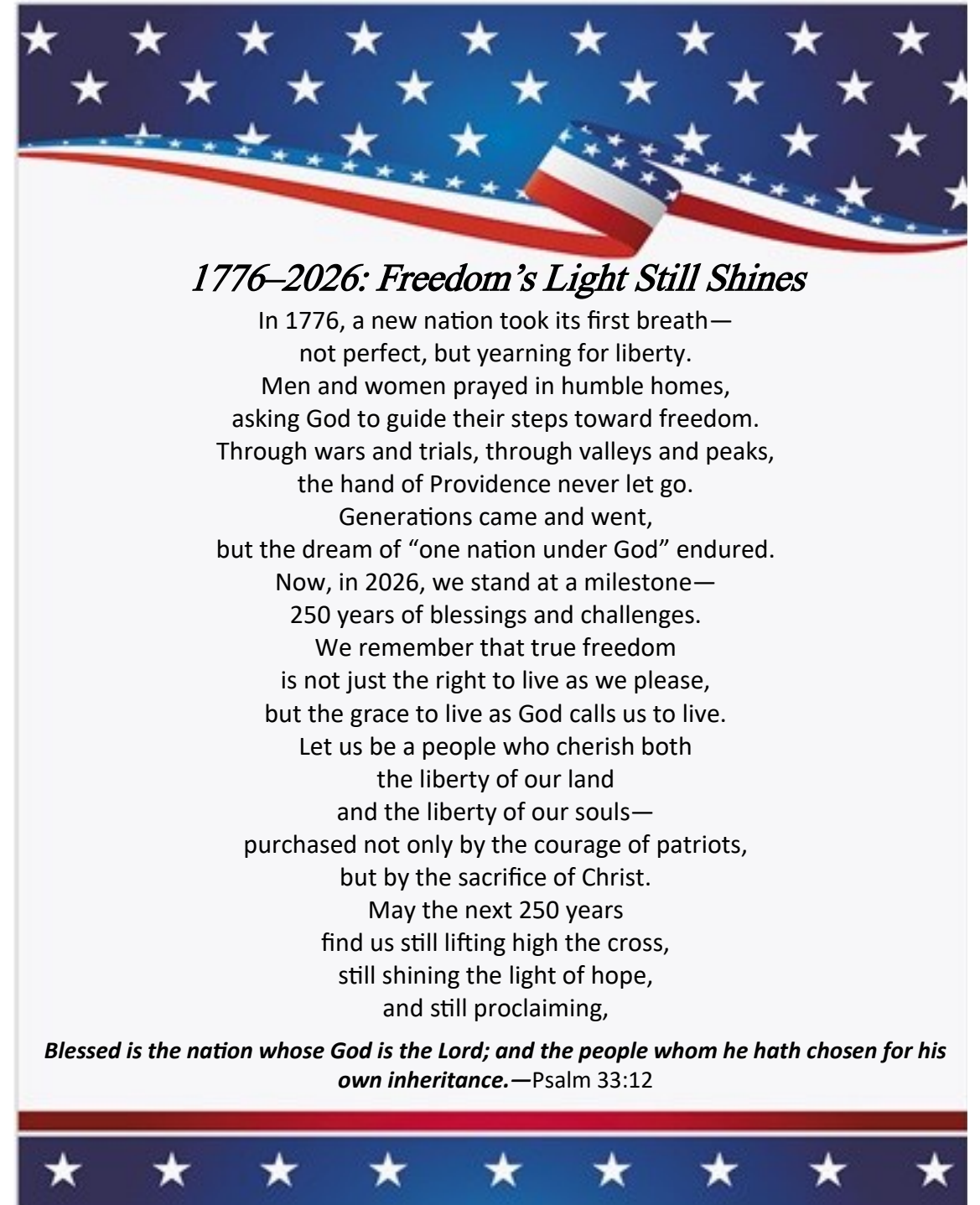
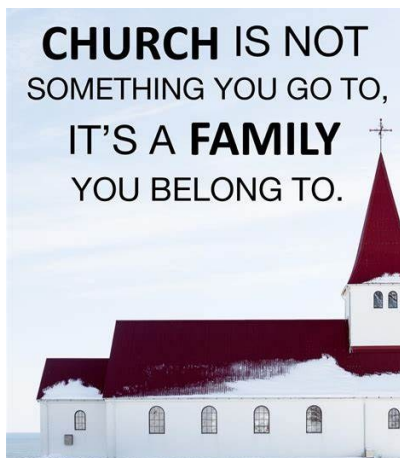
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FRANKLIN
FREEDOM
HANCOCK
HOLIDAY
INDEPENDENCE
JEFFERSON
JULY
LIBERTY
PARADE
PATRIOT
PHILADELPHIA
PICNIC
REVOLUTION
SALUTE
SIGN
SPEECHES
STARS
STRIPES
SUMMER
TEA
WASHINGTON



If you are not already, we would like to invite you to become a member of Union United Methodist Church. Our vision is to connect to faith and each other through worship, fellowship, community and God's love. Our church mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As a part of the worldwide United Methodist Church family, we follow a set of Bible-based, God inspired beliefs set forth by our denomination. To learn more about our beliefs, go to [What We Believe \(umc.org\)](https://www.umc.org)

If you are interested in joining our church, please reach out to Pastor Randy to schedule a time to discuss becoming a member! We look forward to having you join our membership!



1776–2026: Freedom's Light Still Shines

In 1776, a new nation took its first breath—
not perfect, but yearning for liberty.

Men and women prayed in humble homes,
asking God to guide their steps toward freedom.
Through wars and trials, through valleys and peaks,
the hand of Providence never let go.

Generations came and went,
but the dream of “one nation under God” endured.

Now, in 2026, we stand at a milestone—
250 years of blessings and challenges.

We remember that true freedom
is not just the right to live as we please,
but the grace to live as God calls us to live.

Let us be a people who cherish both
the liberty of our land
and the liberty of our souls—
purchased not only by the courage of patriots,
but by the sacrifice of Christ.

May the next 250 years
find us still lifting high the cross,
still shining the light of hope,
and still proclaiming,

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his
own inheritance.—Psalm 33:12*



The Ministry Team met on Tuesday, June 16th. We added a number of events to the calendar for the remainder of the year. There will not be a game night/fellowship meal in July since that is normally a month where lots of people are having family picnics and/or vacations. We will however have a game night/fellowship meal in August and in September we are planning something different! How about going to a “Drive-In” movie? More details will be announced closer to that date.

July

- Sat, July 25 — Chicken-Que

August

- Sun, Aug 8 — Game Night & Fellowship Meal
- Sat, Aug 22 — Chicken-Que

September

- Sat, Sept 12 — Drive-in Movie Night
- Sat, Sept 26 — Chicken-Que

October

- Sun, Oct 11 — Annual Homecoming with Fellowship Meal
- Sun, Oct 11–Tue, Oct 13 — Revival Services (Nightly)
- Sat, Oct 24 — Last Chicken-Que of 2026
- Sat, Oct 31 — Halloween Trunk or Treat Event

November

- Sun, Nov 22 — Joint Thanksgiving Service at UUMC
- Sat, Nov 28 — Church Decorating Day
- Sun, Nov 29 — First Sunday of Advent/Hanging of the Greens Service

December

- Sat, Dec 5 — Christmas Breakfast
- Tue, Dec 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion



We invite everyone to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am for our Sunday School time! Pastor Randy is leading us in a Sunday morning Bible Study in the fellowship hall. Our group is currently studying the book based on Season 3 of the popular series “The Chosen.” Anna also has a Sunday School lesson for the children so bring your children or grandchildren to Sunday School and then join our Bible Study. We’d love to have you join us!

Here is a brief overview of “The Chosen” for those unfamiliar with the Series:

"The Chosen" is a television series portraying Jesus’ life through the eyes of those who met Him. Bible studies based on the series are designed to deepen faith, encourage reflection, and facilitate group discussion. Each study aligns with specific episodes, offering scripture readings, discussion questions, and devotional prompts to help participants connect the story to their own spiritual journey.

***We have a great group and enjoy some really great scripture discussions.
We’d love to have you join us!***