

1776-2026



NCPC July 2026 Newsletter

July Events

Friday, July 3

The Church Office will be closed in observance of the 250th celebration of our country's Independence Day.

Saturday, July 4—Independence Day

8:00 pm, Fire & Ice, Ice Cream Social & Fireworks

Sunday, July 5

Food Bank Collection Sunday

Wednesday, July 8

6:00 pm, Missions Meeting, Library

Saturday, July 18

6:00 pm, Scripture Singles, @ Beth Oliver's Home

Wednesday, July 22

1:30 pm, Kneedles & Hooks, Promise Room

Thursday, July 28

6:30 pm, Christian Movie Night, Sanctuary



Reminder:

Sunday, July 5, is our Food Collection day for the Reno County Food Bank.
Please remember to put your donations in the basket by the Church Office.
Thank you for your generosity!



A Word from the Pastor

"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, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." (Preamble to the Declaration of Independence, July 4th, 1776)

This month we mark an incredible day in the history of our country – the 250th anniversary of the founding of this nation on July 4th, 1776. Pretty much since its founding, there has always seemed to be this one issue of debate in regards to the desires of our Founding Fathers. That question? Whether the United States of America was founded as a Christian nation.

Depending on what historian you ask you are bound to get both answers – 'Yes, we were founded as a Christian nation.' And, 'No, this country was not.' Generally, those historians supporting the negative view will point to our Founding Fathers with the contention they were non-religious secularists. And, if they supported any type of religious expression, these scholars would say, it was Deism, which is a belief in god, but in a god who remains apart and disconnected from the affairs of man and the goings-on in the world. The Deists believe in a god who created the world, but then stepped away from it all, acting like little more than a disinterested observer in all that takes place. Certainly, these scholars contend, our Founding Fathers did not believe in a benevolent and providential God who is so intimately involved in His Creation as to send His only begotten Son to redeem the world from our sins through His atoning sacrifice on the cross.

The Christian side believes just the opposite: that God is intimately involved in all that we do, is involved in our nation, and it is our responsibility as Christians bringing forth a new nation that it be a Christian nation, founded on Christian principles and obediently upholding the commands of our Triune God who sent forth His Son to redeem and to save us.

And the proof of that belief is in evidence, simply, by the way our Founding Fathers established this nation. We see it plain as day in the opening words of the Declaration of Independence, the words shared above, that: "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, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

In fact, that brings up one of the chief criticisms used against the founding of the United States as a Christian nation. And that is, the critics say, that God is only mentioned four times in the founding documents. But, as Charlie Kirk pointed out, four times is pretty important. And besides, as he also mentioned, before we became these 13 united states, this country was comprised of 13 individual colonies/states, all with their own individual constitutions. And all 13 of those individual constitutions required of their representatives a declaration of faith, including a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Would state leaders make such affirmations individually, then ignore them completely when coming together as a country? In fact, 55 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Bible believing, church attending Christians.

But, again according to Charlie Kirk, the greatest proof that our country was, indeed, founded as a Christian nation with Christian ethics necessary for guiding our government are the rights that stand as the foundation upon which all the rules of our land rest. Rights like the Presumption of Innocence - that all people are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The principle of Due Process - that the government must operate within the law and provide fair procedures before acting against individuals. And the principle that every defendant has the right to be judged by a jury of his or her peers. These rights, as do all other 'unalienable Rights' we possess as citizens of this country, all operate under one premise; they follow one unchanging principle; they originate in one place – God's Holy Word.

(continued on next page)

A Word from the Pastor, Page 2

And what is that one unchanging principle upon which all others stand and our Founding Fathers used as the basis for creating this new country and government? Again, you see it above in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence – that all people are created equal. As the Apostle Paul states in Galatians 3:28 - *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.”* As God declared in Leviticus 19:15 – *“You shall not be partial to the poor, nor defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. I am the Lord.”* We know it as blind justice.

Every one of our rights that this country was established on, and that we enjoy as citizens of this nation, were and remain based solely on biblical principles. The Christian ethic runs throughout everything we believe in and practice as a nation. We were established as a Christian nation. And our government continues to operate based upon being a Christian nation.

And that is why there seems to be so much unrest today in our society. 250 years following our country's founding, it appears that this country is now suffering with a constitutional crisis. Why is that? It is because some in our society, and even some duly elected leaders within our government, no longer think we are, nor do they want us to be, a Christian nation.

And so the unrest arises. Because while there are those who don't want us to be a Christian nation, nevertheless our nation is still being run by the Christian form of government established by our Christian Founding Fathers. A nation trying to be non-Christian cannot operate with a Christian government. The two are incompatible. And, so, we have unrest.

There is only one answer, one way, for this country to continue to be the shining light on a hill that our Founding Fathers intended for this country when it was established as that Christian nation 250 years ago – and that is by never giving up on it being that Christian nation. Don't fall for the lies of the so-called scholars who keep insisting this country was never founded to be a nation devoted to Jesus Christ. Don't listen to the lies of those elected officials who insist it no longer is. Don't give up believing that it continues to be. And never give up upholding the Word of God and the testimony of Christ who continues to proclaim that exact same government today where justice is blind and all people are created equal.

In closing, let us never forget the words of one of those Founding Fathers, John Adams, who said – “Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” The only way this country will still be around 250 years from today is by listening to those words of Mr. Adams – and by always listening and following the Word of God on which this Christian nation stands!

Beloved, have a most joyous and blessed holiday.

God bless,

Pastor Craig



“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

♪ *A Note From Janet* ♪

Military Music – Part 2 of 4

It has been said that there are no atheists in foxholes. This points out the significance of faith in our Triune God to those who commit their lives to preserving our nation. Starting this year and continuing for the next eight years, our country will recognize the founding of our democratic republic through the times of the Revolutionary War that began in 1776 until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1784.

U. S. Army: The song – “When the Caissons Go Rolling Along” was popular during and after the Civil War. However, in 1908 it was re-written to say “*When the Army Goes Rolling Along*” since many did not know the meaning of the word caissons. The newer version has been sung since World War I, but was not officially adopted until 1956. The Army Hymn is “*Eternal Father, Hear Our Prayer*”. It is used in church services and ceremonies.

U.S. Navy: “Anchors Away” was composed for the Navy in 1906. The Navy hymn, “**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**” tells the story of our triune God with the first verse focused on God, the Father and His attributes. Verse two focuses on Jesus, the Son of God, and His protection of us. The third verse shares how the Holy Spirit cares for us. The fourth verse focuses on the Trinity. This hymn is so beautiful and the lyrics so meaningful that it is included in many protestant conservative hymnals like ours – page 575.

FAMILY NEWS

Condolences to...

Family and friends of Marty Clark, who died
on June 13, 2026.

Family and friends of Barb Morti, who died
on June 15.

Family and friends of Al Sowers, who died
on June 24.

*If you know of any information that should be included in
the newsletter, please notify Julia in the church office.*



LEARN: LIGONIER CONNECT

In case you haven't heard, New Covenant Church has embarked upon a new learning opportunity that can benefit the entire congregation. Our church has recently become part of the **Church Partnership Program** with Ligonier Ministries.

As a Church Partner, our church will continue to receive our monthly subscription to *TableTalk* magazine. But that's just the beginning of the learning opportunities available to us. This membership also gives *every church member* free access to Ligonier's online resource center called *Ligonier Connect*. This will allow you to view all the Ligonier resources—from Bible studies, to sermons, conference messages, and much more. In addition, you get a 60% discount on everything in the Ligonier store, which includes Reformation Study Bibles, books and all Bible study resources. You can even take advantage of a 25% discount on the registration fee for all Ligonier conferences.

This is a great value and it is all available to *you* for *free*! This is all made available for the same cost as was our annual *TableTalk* subscription. If you have any questions about accessing any of these resources, just talk to me and I'll help you get started.

Pastor Craig

Christian Movie Night

Tuesday, July 28, at 6:30 pm



Please join us to watch this month's Christian movie. Watch your July bulletins for the movie title—we'll be announcing it before long.

We hope to see you there!

Son-Rise Guys

Every Thursday morning—7:00-8:00 am
In the Church Library



We are starting a new study: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ," by Paul Washer. The Gospel reveals that God has come and won the victory for us in a hopeless world. Guys, join us for Coffee, Snacks and Fellowship!

Deacons Corner

Deacons—our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:30 pm, in the Church Library. Enjoy your summer!

July Deacon Greeters

Annie Gajewski
Kathy Sayers

"Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Psalms 100:2a

Kneedles & Hooks

Kneedles and Hooks will meet on July 22, (We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month) at 1:30 pm.

We hope you will join us in making scarves and other warm items for those in need.



July Recipes

4th of July Fruit Platter



Ingredients:

- 2 pints strawberries
- 1 pint blueberries
- 1 large angel food cake

Directions:

- Wash and dry berries (remove greens from strawberries).
- Chop strawberries in half, and cut cake into 1x2-inch cubes.
- Place blueberries in a rectangular bowl in the top left corner of an 11x17 platter.
- Alternate layers of strawberries and cake across the rest of the platter to create the stripes.
- Chill until time to serve. Enjoy!

Found online: www.aroundmyfamilytable.com

Grandpa's Popcorn Balls

Ingredients:

- 1/2 stick of butter (not margarine)
- 1 bag of marshmallows
- 1 tsp of vanilla
- 10-12 cups of popped popcorn

Directions:

- Lay out on the counter a large piece of wax paper to place popcorn balls
- Pop the popcorn and place in large bowl—set aside
- Melt butter, and add marshmallows, stirring constantly until melted
- Remove marshmallows from burner immediately when melted, then stir in vanilla
- Pour marshmallow mixture over popcorn, stirring until all is coated
- Working quickly, with buttered hands, make popcorn-marshmallow mixture into balls
- Roll in festive colored sprinkles if desired

~ from Bob Berdahl



July 2026 Mission Prayer Notes



Murray & Kathy Trim— Japan—TEAM, (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) - since 1988

PRAY for Murray and Kathy as they teach and in their relationships with people as they share the message of GOD's LOVE in Japan: **Kathy** - teaches classes and has a ministry with women &

Murray in his opportunities to and other activities.

Continue to **PRAY** for health and strength for each of their mothers. Kathy's mother is in Pretty Prairie, in her 90's and Murray's mother is in Nebraska, and celebrated her 100th birthday this past April.

Shelly Zadina – Medical Ambassadors – Albania & the U.S.

PRAISE THE LORD that **Medical Ambassadors** continues to give Shelly the ability to live in the U.S.A; being with her parents and overseeing their health needs, visiting churches and individuals here in the U. S. and sharing about the work in Albania. **PRAY** for Shelly's health needs – she had one cataract surgery in June, her other eye is scheduled for July.

PRAISE the LORD - She found a couple – in the U. S, going to Albania this summer. They were able to connect with her when they made a visit to Wichita, picked up the program she wrote for the for VBS in Albania this summer, and delivered it to her co-workers in Albania, and they taught the lessons to two different groups of children. She **NEEDS TO GO TO ALBANIA BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER** to keep her permanent residency status there.

Fredy and Djana JAVIER – Macedonia – World Outreach (WO)

Pray for the Javier's – as they work with the mission project they set up in Macedonia and for their children JAVI (Shavi) and SHARON. Pray for us to have better communication with them.



The New Jerusalem / Children of Hope—School in Haiti

Haiti continues to have many needs. Our communication with the school is missing, **PRAY** that there will **soon be an end** to the **gang activity** which is so very dangerous, destructive and disruptive. **PRAY** for the people there – students, faculty and others, what they are enduring each day is sad and destructive. **PRAY** for **VOLVICK**, continues to live and work in Port au Prince, supporting himself, so that money sent goes to support the schools. The town where the schools are located is some distance from Port au Prince. In better times, **Volvick** was able to get back and forth and in the summer, he went to the area of the school and supplied the students and their families with food. **PRAY** for safety for **VOLVICK**, the **teachers** and **students** and their **families**. **PRAY** that we will be able to safely send money to the school soon.

LOCAL MINISTRIES

FOOD BANK—THANK YOU for your generous giving to the **Food Bank**, This is taken to and distributed through the **Food Bank** to those in need in our community. **THANKS** again to **CARL** and **JEAN SIDEBOTTOM**, who deliver our donations to the **Food Bank**.

YOUNG LIFE - PRAY for **Grant Luttrell**, the local **YOUNG LIFE** leader and others who spend time with the young people, both junior and senior high students who are involved in the **YOUNG LIFE program**. **Young Life** has been focusing on students in the Buhler school district, this fall they hope to start work in the Hutchinson schools - starting with those in the 7th and 8th grade and going to the high school.

Note from Grant – WE are continuing to look for some more adults to be **PRAYER PARTNERS** for the local program.

PRAY for dedication and good stewardship of people's time and talents as the leadership committee is being rebuilt.

PRAY for the current need for more adults to work with Grant - 4 to work with senior high students and 2 more to work with junior high students.

(Missions continued on next page)

LOCAL MINISTRIES *(continued)*

STERLING COLLEGE - **PRAY** for the faculty, leadership and others who work at **STERLING** as they have a summer break and are preparing for the coming school year. **PRAY** for the students as they have a summer break and for the new students who will be going there in September, including one from New Covenant.

PRAY for ways for New Covenant to help and support **STERLING COLLEGE** and its activities.

PRAY for **Jose Carrillo**, campus pastor. **Pray** for the students who went on the summer mission teams, **PRAY** for them to know GOD'S PLAN and leading in each one of their lives.

OTHER MISSION CONCERNS

Zach and Ellie - **PRAY** for wisdom for them as they continue to minister to people that come into their lives in the country where GOD has called them to serve and for them to be sensitive to the **LORD'S LEADING** in all of their activities, for ministry with people **GOD** puts into their lives, and activities they are involved in and as parents. **PRAY** for their young sons, **Roman** and **River** as they grow and develop.

Our special family - **PRAY** for them as they continue their life here. **Pray** for concerns for their families here and family and friends still living in their native country. **PRAY** for the girls as they grow and develop.

PRAY for **PROJECT VIDEO** and those who work with it. This is the mission that **Kevin Evenson** is involved with, he will be happy to talk to you if you have questions, or if you would like more information on this Mission and its activities.

Thank You for Praying for Our Missionaries.

1. TIONNA _____
2. FIORRSKWE _____
3. IEC EMRAC _____
4. RKSPERASL _____
5. TTRNEHIE _____
6. ILCEAOANDTR _____
7. ROCITHIS _____
8. NDPCDNEIEEEN _____
9. TTSESA _____
10. NIAKLFNR _____
11. RITIOTPAC _____
12. LNAENEQNITSCIEMNU _____
13. GFAL _____
14. ENUDTI _____
15. ECAERTLEB _____

July Puzzle

Word Scramble:

Unscramble this list of words that have to do with our nation's 250th birthday. The answers are on the back of the calendar page.





July 2026
Newsletter

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
700 East 25th Avenue
Hutchinson, KS 67502
Office: 620-662-3399
Website: www.newcovenantpc.net

Rev. Craig Waetke, Pastor
Email: pastorcraig@newcovenantpc.net

Julia Berdahl, Administrative Assistant
Email: secretary@newcovenantpc.net

Fellowship Footnotes

July Fellowship—Fire & Ice

You are invited to join us on Saturday, July 4th, at 8:00 pm, for our traditional "Fire & Ice" celebration of our country's 250th birthday. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall for a good old-fashioned Ice Cream Social (remember to bring whatever goodies you may have signed up for).

Once we've finished our delicious snack, we'll grab our lawn chairs out of our vehicles and meet on the church lawn to watch the fireworks that are set off at the State Fairgrounds. We'll miss the Ulster Project folks this time, as they will not be joining us this year due to a schedule change.

So bring your family, friends and neighbors, along with your ice cream, toppings, other goodies and lawn chairs, for a fun evening celebrating our country's birthday. Be sure to wear your **Red**, **White**, and **Blue**!



Looking Ahead...

Our August Fellowship meal will be something pretty special. We will be having an antique car show and barbecue. Watch for more information coming soon.