



The Birth of a Nation

For 236 years, America has been blessed as the longest on-going Constitutional Republic in the history of the world. These blessings are not accidental they are blessings of God. This is evident as we look at the turmoil in other nations and contrast that to the stability we see in America. Preserving American liberty depends first upon our understanding of the foundations on which this great country was built, and then it depends on preserving the principles on which it was founded.

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to approve a complete separation from England. Two days later, the early draft of the Declaration of Independence was signed. Four days later, members of Congress took the document and read it out loud from the steps of Independence Hall, proclaiming it to the city of Philadelphia, and afterwards they rang the Liberty Bell. The inscription on the top of the bell is [Leviticus 25:10*](#), which reads, *"Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."*

John Adams said, "The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity." Probably the clearest identification of the spirit of the American Revolution was given by John in a letter to Abigail the day after Congress approved the Declaration. He wrote her two letters that day: One was short and jubilant that the Declaration had been approved; the other letter was much longer and gave serious consideration to what had been done that day. Adams could already foresee that their actions would be celebrated by future generations.

A Different Holiday

Adams also noted: "This day will be the most memorable epic in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival." He felt the celebration should be in a manner that would commemorate the day as a "day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty." John Adams believed that the Fourth of July should be a religious holiday. The two top holidays celebrated in this country are Christmas and the Fourth of July. According to John Quincy Adams, the two dates are connected. On the Fourth of July, the Founding Fathers simply took the precepts of Christ and His birth (Christmas) and incorporated those principles into civil government.

The Declaration of Independence was the birth certificate for this nation, but the men who signed it knew it could be their death warrant. The closing paragraph states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance of the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." The 56 Founding Fathers, 27 of whom were trained as ministers, took their pledge seriously. On the morning of the signing, there was silence and gloom as each man was called up to the table of the President of Congress to sign the document, knowing that it could mean their death by hanging.

Most wars have a motto. The motto of World War II was "Remember Pearl Harbor." The motto during the Texas war for independence was "Remember the Alamo." The spiritual emphasis, directed towards King George III who violated Gods laws, gave rise to a motto during the American Revolution: "No King but King Jesus." The Founding Fathers passed the torch to us. It is our responsibility to not let it go out. God Bless America.

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July/August 2024



We will have outside services, as the weather permits. Please don't forget to bring your own chairs.

JULY

Thursday, July 4th -



Just to let you know.....
Pastor Ray will be out of the office
from July 1st - July 21st.

Pastor Ray and Agneta will be on
vacation from
July 8th – July 21st.

While Pastor Ray is gone,
Karen Kaldor will be in the church
office on Monday, July 1st from
9:30 to 11:30 am.

After July 4th, her office hours will
be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from
9:30 to 11:30 am. This is for the
month of July.

Sunday, July 7th - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Ruth Frost will be in the pulpit. Special Music by Tim Paetsch.

Sunday, July 14th - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. JoAnne Potter will be in the pulpit. Special Music by Phil Peters.

Sunday, July 21st - Worship Hour at 10:00 am.
Our service will be filled with music and song from the Jubilee Band. This will be our morning Worship Hour!

Sunday, July 28th - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Special Music by Elmer Sparks.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 4 - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Special Music TBD.

Sunday, August 11th - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Special Music TBD.

Sunday, August 18th - Worship Hour at 10:00 am.
Special Music by Cindy Ovokaitys.

Saturday, August 24th - Ice Cream Social from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Sunday, August 25th - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Special Music TBD.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH

MUSIC IN THE PARK
AND
ICE CREAM SOCIAL!
FROM 10:00AM- 3:00 PM.

COME JOIN US ON THE
NORTH LAWN OF THE
CHURCH FOR ICE CREAM
AND LOTS OF
WONDERFUL MUSIC!

Lectionary Readings for July and August

July

7/7 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.

7/14 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19; Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29.

7/21 2 Samuel 7: 1-14; Psalm 89: 20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

7/28 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145: 10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21.

August

8/4 2 Samuel 11:26-12; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

8/11 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34: 1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:51-58.

8/18 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14, Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58.

8/25 1 Kings 8:1-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2, 4-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**


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*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

www.fccrochesterwis.com

July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 10:00 am Church Ruth Frost will be in the pulpit. Special music by Tim Paetsch.	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:00 am Church JoAnne Potter in the Pulpit. Special Music by Phil Peters.	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:00 am The Church Service will be Music by Jubilee.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 am Church Special Music by Elmer Sparks.	29	30	31			

Pastor Ray will be out of the office from July 1st - July 20th.

August 2024



21Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 10:00 am Church Special music TBA	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 am Church Special Music TBD	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 am Church Special Music by Cindy Ovokaitys.	19 Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM	20	21	22	23	24 Music in the Park & Ice Cream Social! 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
25 10:00 am Church Special Music TBD	26	27				

Pastor Ray's Office Hours are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.