

THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

5132 Bellamy Manor Drive, VA Beach, VA 23464 www.sccvb.org Phone: 757.495.0352

SAVE THE DATE!

Food Pantry
July 1st & 15th
12:30 – 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
July 19th
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Church Workdays
July 11th @ 9:00 am
July 12th @ 8:00 am

Seniors Ministry Meeting
(Not meeting in July-
see article inside)

Vacation Bible School
July 20th – 23rd
Time: 5:30 pm (dinner)
6:00 PM - VBS
Register @ sccvb.org

OCC Workday
July 28th - note date change
1:00 pm
Suburban Kids Room

From the Pastor's Desk ~ Deacons: Who Are They?

Throughout the New Testament the word "deacon" is defined as a servant. The Greek noun "diakonos" appears 29 times in the New Testament and is almost always translated as servant. In Mark 10:43-45 our Lord describes both himself and his followers as servants (deacons).

However, the word deacon is also used in a narrower sense to describe one of the two offices established in the New Testament for the local church. For the last two months we examined the office of pastor, and for the next two months, we will learn about the office of deacon. It is clear that as the New Testament church is established that the office of pastor and deacon are official positions within the church. Paul acknowledges both of these official positions in Philippians 1:1, "Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ, who are at Philippi, with the overseers (pastors) and deacons." And in 1 Timothy 3:1,8, "If anyone aspires to the office of overseer (pastor) he desires a noble task... deacons likewise must be dignified."

How important is the position of deacon to the church's well-being? Important enough for God to carve out an official position for certain members (men and women) to be recognized as model servants. In the wisdom and goodness of God, he provides deacons to help care for the personal and practical needs of his church.

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul will list the qualifications for deacons. As we examine this list of qualifications, we discover that God cares more about the character than about the abilities of deacons. The focus is on who deacons are rather than what deacons can do. What is most important is that each deacon clearly display the character of Jesus Christ. Paul begins by saying that deacons must be dignified, worthy of respect. This doesn't mean that deacons must be perfect, but that they must display a humble, servant-spirit to the church. So, what does it look like, practically, for a deacon to be dignified and worthy of respect? Paul will highlight 6 characteristics, three negative (what a deacon must not be) and three positive (what a deacon must be).



continued inside on page 2 . . .

Pastor's Desk continued ...

Negative requirements:

***Not double-tongued:** Christ-like character must be reflected in a person's words. A double tongue person says one thing to a group and then says something else to a different group. A double tongue indicates someone has an agenda and is focused on getting their way. In order to be a deacon, God is saying that a person must have the reputation of honesty, sincerity, integrity without the hint of deception in their speech. Deacons should be trusted to handle sensitive information along with unverified (juicy) information with purity of speech.

***Not addicted to much wine:** Not only do deacons need to control their words they also need to control their appetites. Deacons need to be clear-minded, able to exercise sound judgment, therefore they need to possess the fruit of self-control. Qualified deacons will deny the cravings of the flesh that would hinder their service to the Lord.

***Not greedy for dishonest gain:** Paul warns against appointing anyone who is known for obsessing over money, who focuses on material things, who is known for being deceptive and cutting moral corners. There will be times when a deacon will be responsible for providing assistance for people in need. Therefore, a deacon should have the reputation of giving generously and joyfully. A giving heart not a "getting" heart should characterize our deacons.

After listing these three negative requirements, Paul turns his attention to the three positives.

***Holds the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience:** Yes, the primary responsibility for teaching falls to the church's pastor and elders, but deacons need to be students of God's word. The mystery of the faith refers to the truth of the gospel that was once hidden but now has been revealed in the coming of Christ. It is the content of Christian doctrine. Although a deacon is not required to teach God's word, they are required to have a firm grip on the truth of the gospel. You can't hold onto something that you don't know. These deacons are expected to have a clear conscience because they are the same person in public that they are in private.

***Tested and proven:** The office of Deacon is so important to the spiritual well-being of the church. That is why there must be a vetting process for each deacon to go through. Our church will have to determine the process that works best for us in determining the character and competence of potential deacons. This season of testing is for the protection of the church and the potential candidate. This process must be bathed in prayer; praying for God to fill us with his wisdom and discernment.

***A faithful family life:** Paul's final requirement is that a deacon's godliness must begin with his closest relationship, namely his family. If a man is married, he must love his wife as Christ loves the church and display faithfulness to her alone. If the deacon is a woman, she must display a spirit of respect and honor for her husband, submitting to his loving leadership. If the deacon has children, they must bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. The household of a deacon must be managed well before they are to be trusted with the care of God's household.

As we continue to lay the foundation for elders and deacons at Suburban, let's join together in praying for God to cultivate qualified deacons who will lovingly care for his people.

In Christ,

Pastor Todd



Food Pantry Ministry

July is when we celebrate the birth of our nation. We meet and share food, fellowship and fun and maybe a fireworks show too. As the temperature heats up, so does the need in our community to provide food and comfort to the families that come. We are so grateful that you, our church family, continue to provide food and comfort items week after week. Don't forget, if it's too hot to shop, a monetary donation is always welcome. The Food Pantry Team



Seniors Ministry

At our June meeting, Bob Grymes presented a summary of his book, "A History of Suburban Christian Church." Starting a church is not easy. At one point the decision was made to dissolve for a lack of financial support. One member made a passionate plea to rethink about dissolving and as the Bible says of Abraham in Romans 4:18, "in hope believing against hope" the congregation decided to continue.

The initial land and building costs were mentioned. Comparing real estate prices then and now generated interesting conversations.

We **WILL NOT** be having our monthly meeting in the month of July. In the month of August, the Gospel quartet "Heaven Bound" will be joining us. Bar-b-que and coleslaw will be served for lunch. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Larry Thomas



Operation Christmas Child

The summer is passing by so fast! There are only 4 months until we'll be shipping off our shoebox gift boxes. In a lot of the developing countries, school is free with uniforms provided. BUT, in order to attend, the child must have a pencil and notebook of their own. In some families, this is not possible or only one child can be afforded so only one of the children can go to school. Seeing the abundance of school supplies available in the United States, it's hard to picture a child left out due to lack of the basics.

July is when school supplies go on sale at many of our stores. Think how many children can benefit from your purchase of a few notebooks this year. Our collection suggestions for July are: one subject spiral notebooks, pencil sharpeners, and erasers.

Our crew of workers packed 120 shoeboxes in June. One thing we ran out of is soccer or playground balls. We have 14 air pumps but no balls to go with them. If you can help, thank you!

Keep praying for the kids who receive the boxes and the hands that deliver them. This is one way the love of God is presented to the world. Any questions, contact me, Lynn Cooke.

Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service Assistant
7/6/25	NO Sunday School in July	Samantha Haynes Barbara Skarupa	Samara Saucedo
7/13/25		Stacie Raymer LaToya Rakes	Emma Tyler
7/20/25		Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Elena Tyler
7/27/25	Melissa Tucker	Christine Rogers Laura Tyler	Donovan Saucedo



If you would like to be a part of this ministry to our church families, please contact Stacie Raymer (rraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). We can always use substitutes. Please consider helping! Young teenagers are also welcome to volunteer.



SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



Derrick J. Sloan
Associate/Next Generation Pastor

MISSION: Our desire at Suburban Christian Church is to help you KNOW, SERVE, AND SHARE Jesus Christ.

Visit us on Facebook! Search for
"Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com
We want to hear from you! Contact us at office@sccvb.org

Ambassador Youth Ministry

Let's Talk About It: What Do I Do When It Is My Fault?

Contrary to the popularized view of the prosperity gospel, this side of eternity is not where you live "Your Best Life Now." In fact, quite the opposite is true. What we can expect as followers of Christ in this life is to have tribulation, trials, and to be hated by the world around us (John 15:18, 16:33). These may not be the verses you run to as your "life verse," but they speak to the truth of the hardships we can expect now.

The difficulties we face today come in all different shapes and sizes, and for several reasons. Take for example the man who was born blind in John 9. When the disciples passed by, the only logical conclusion they could draw from his condition was that he or his parents had sinned, and the result was his blindness. This was not the case however, as Jesus made clear. "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3). Why did this man endure the difficulty of blindness? In order that Christ might display himself to be the "light of the world" through giving this man sight (John 9:5).

What if the reason for our difficulty however is our own fault? We lied to our friend and now the relationship is strained. We cheated on a test and now we must face discipline. When the situation we are in is clearly a direct result of our sin, what do we do? We find the answer in a prayer from Nehemiah. Let's talk about it.

How Did We Get Here?

The book of Nehemiah begins with a bit of a shock factor. Nehemiah, an Israelite, is in the foreign country of Persia (Neh. 1:1). Instead of living in the city Jerusalem, the city where God promised to dwell among his people (2 Chro. 7:16, Ps. 132:13), he is in the city Susa. As if things could not be worse, not only is Nehemiah away from the city, but the walls and gates of Jerusalem are broken down and burned with fire (Neh. 1:3).

In short, things are not supposed to be this way. Israel is to be a thriving nation whose presence testifies to the goodness and might of Yahweh among the nations. Instead, the city walls of Jerusalem are destroyed, and its people are in trouble. This begs the question, how did Judah get here?

The answer is found in Nehemiah's prayer; a prayer that is built upon earlier promises from Yahweh. He says, "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the people" (Neh. 1:8). In this part of his prayer, Nehemiah is alluding back to Deuteronomy 28 which speaks about the blessings and curses that Yahweh promised Israel just before they entered the promised land. If they obey Yahweh and keep his commands, things will go well for them. But if they do not, Yahweh will scatter Israel among the nations. Moreover, he will send a mighty nation against them who will destroy their towns and their walls (Deut. 28:52). Without tracing every detail of this event, what is clear is that Israel rebelled against Yahweh and Yahweh kept his promises. Because of their sin, Yahweh scattered Israel among the nations, and he used a foreign nation to destroy the walls of Jerusalem.

The reason for Judah's grim circumstance is clear. They brought this difficulty upon themselves. Truth be told however, all of us do the same thing. We all have sinned against God and then found ourselves in difficult circumstances as a result of it. In these moments, how should we respond? We respond with a humble heart, an honest heart, and a heart filled with hope.

How We Should Respond?

First, we respond with a humble heart. The moment Nehemiah heard of Jerusalem and its people, he tells us that, "I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven" (Neh. 1:4). Grief overcame Nehemiah like a sudden rushing wind. His people were in trouble and the pain they were suffering was difficult to bear. And what was Nehemiah's response? He immediately took to fasting and prayer.

"Fault" continued on next page ...

"Fault" continued . . .

Put yourself in Nehemiah's shoes for a brief moment. Those whom he loves dearly, his own family, is in great distress. Would the temptation not be to blame God and become angry with him? What might be on the tip of our tongues is "Why God would you let this happen!" Nehemiah however knows better. This situation is *their* fault. The only proper response to the God of heaven is to draw near to him in humility and complete dependence. Whenever we sin and bring difficulties upon us, let us draw near to God with a broken and contrite heart (Ps. 51:17).

Second, we respond with an honest heart. When you read Nehemiah's prayer in chapter one, here is what you will not find, an excuse. Nehemiah does not try to twist the facts of what occurred, nor does he attempt to undermine their actions. Instead, he calls it like it is and admits the problem is their sin. He says, "Even I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses" (Neh. 1:6-7).

Only when we are honest with our sin and recognize that it is against God, will we respond in true repentance. We cannot expect to make progress in putting our sins to death if we make light of them. Difficulties in our life will arise as a direct result of our disobedience to God. When they do, we must be honest about the severity of our actions and see them as God does. Is there a situation in your life right now that has clearly come as a direct result of your sin? Avoid making the matter worse or prolonging the process of restoration by taking responsibility for your sin. An honest heart is pleasing to the Lord (Ps. 32:5).

Third and finally, when difficulties arise as a result from our sin, we respond to God with a hope-filled heart. Even though this situation was intense, Nehemiah still had hope. The grief was real, and the circumstances were severe, but hope was the heartbeat of Nehemiah's prayer. So then, where did Nehemiah find light in such a dark place? He found it in who Yahweh is.

At the beginning of his prayer, Nehemiah went straight to the truth that Yahweh is faithful and will keep his promises with his people. He prayed, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments" (Neh. 1:5). Yes, their sin was great and their consequences severe, but what is greater than that is the steadfast love of God to his people (Ex. 34:6-7). If they would turn from their sin, Yahweh was ready to deliver them from their distress.

Whenever we find ourselves in a mess of our own design, we must run nowhere else except to God. There is grace and forgiveness to be found in him. Christ has come to bring us salvation and reconcile us to God. Now that we are in Christ, we can at any moment approach the God of heaven and find forgiveness because of what Jesus has done for us (1 John 1:9). When you sin once again and bring trouble in your life, turn to God in humility and honesty. And when you turn to him, remember why it is you can find forgiveness for your sin. You have forgiveness in Christ alone, your only hope (Col. 1:27).

If you have a question that you would like to have answered in "Let's Talk About It," email Pastor Derrick at derrickslsloan@sccvb.org.



Belong Women's Ministry

We had so much fun at the Renew. Restore. Refresh. Ladies Retreat sponsored by the Belong Women's Ministry! We began with a quick game of "Would You Rather" and Karen Meads led us in a time of worship before our first session titled "Renew" led by Jan Grills. First, she reminded us that 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we are made new if we are in Christ. This renewal doesn't happen overnight. Renewal is a process (Ephesians 4:23). We are to offer ourselves (Romans 12:1-2) "**offer your body: transformed by the renewing of our minds.**" We must give God our attention daily in Bible reading and prayer and He will give "new" ~ prayers, songs, thoughts about God and ourselves, the fruits of the Spirit, and His promises.



Secondly, we were challenged to **not be conformed to the world or be pushed into its mold.**" She brought us back to our childhood by giving us all a little container of playdough and asked us to "Push" the dough into the molds we were provided (world). She then asked us to take out the playdough and form it into something else (representing renewal of God in us). Ephesians 4:22 reminded us that we are to "**Put off our old selves**" – **our old thoughts and put on new thoughts (His truths).** Philippians 2:13 confirmed that "It is **GOD** who works in us to will and to do His good pleasure."

Part of this renewal process is to remember that our thoughts and minds are powerful. Proverbs 23:7 tell us, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Our thoughts affect our cells, gene expression, brain structure (epigenetics, neuroplasticity). Therefore, we must pick up our SWORDS – THE WORD OF GOD (Ephesians 6:14) and choose what we think about. Use your "Battle Box" of verses! We are renewed when we bring our bodies, minds, and wills under the LORDSHIP of Jesus and His Word.

Mitzi Ricks graciously said, "Yes" when she was asked to speak for our "Restore" session. She brought us to Psalm 23:1-3 to get us started. After reading the scripture, she took us to Mr. Webster to give us a definition of the word "restore" – it implies a return to an original state after depletion or loss, as in restoring a fine piece of furniture, or being restored to your original position in work. But she reminded us that we need more than restoration. We are all born sinners and God is looking to restore with MORE! The biblical meaning of the word "restoration" is to receive back more than has been lost to the point where the final state is greater than the original condition. WOW! **God is in the business of restoring us to the point where the final state is greater than the original condition! Praise God! "God's power to restore is greater than Satan's power to destroy!" HB**

"Retreat" continued on next page ...



"Retreat" continued ...



After our second session, we gathered for a homemade lunch which was prepared by the Belong Gang. The lunch was delicious, but the fellowship was greater, and door prizes were given throughout the event.

As we ended our time together, we moved into the Sanctuary for our final session "Refresh" which began with another time of worship. Sarah Nelapaty caused us to look at Psalm 46 and Matthew 11:28-30 with new eyes to see "Who God Is," "Who We Are," Look for His Promises," and "What are our actions and responsibilities?"

The word "refresh" comes from the Latin term "refrescare" which means to make fresh again or to revive and the term "revive" means to bring back to life or consciousness. Sarah used several personal illustrations to share with us that life is full of things that can suck the life out of us. And sometimes these life situations cause us to sin. She said that sometimes "when we hit rock bottom, we may have found the Rock of all Ages." The Rock to whom we need to, "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago." (Acts 3:19-21)



One of the things that the Belong Women's Ministry tries to do at every event is to have a mission's emphasis which may include a community project. At this event we asked those who attended to bring snack items which would be collected and taken to the Fourth Police Precinct in appreciation for their daily sacrifice to protect our community. Pastor Derrick joined Stacey Super, Beth Blankenship, and Wendy Haynes as they delivered the snacks!



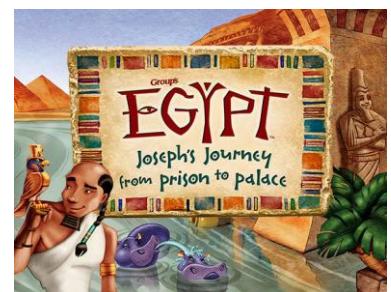
I would like to thank the Belong Gang for their hard work to make the retreat a success. I would also like to thank Karen Meads for leading our worship time, Kristen Hughes for playing the piano, and for Christen Haynes-Bulaski for running the sound and her supportive care in the sound room.

The Belong Gang prayed for all who attended and for the speakers weeks before the event and we are so thankful for what God taught us during the planning and preparation. We are especially thankful that His Word is new **EVERY TIME** we open it.

As we enter the summer months, be looking for ways you can be a blessing to one another. And look to the fall when we will announce what is coming next for the Belong Women's Ministry. Wendy Haynes

Vacation Bible School ~ ALL HANDS ON DECK

Have you ever had this question to pop into your mind? "How could I help at the church?" Well, let me answer that for you. During the month of July, our church has Vacation Bible School. It requires a lot of prep work and volunteers during the event. It's a great place to start volunteering. You have the chance to get acquainted with a lot of people within the church body and have fun too! It normally takes about 50 volunteers to make Vacation Bible School a success so when we say we need volunteers, we mean it!



This year's theme is EGYPT – Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace. Our fearless leader, Carol Brooks, has provided a place for you to sign up at the Welcome Desk in the foyer near the church office. The volunteer opportunities are listed below:

***Tribe Leaders** – we will need at least 20 adult/teens to be the tribe leaders of about 8 children of all ages. You will take them from station to station and guide their VBS experience.

***Games Leader** – this position, along with assistants, will run different games each night. There are at least 2 choices of games to choose from each night.

***Actors** – for Joseph's Journey:

- 1. Joseph** – 1 adult actor to take on the first-person role of Joesph (anyone willing to get really, really short haircut to make the move from prison to place even more realistic)
- 2. Prison Guard, Rameses** – prison guard who travels with Joesph from prison to palace
- 3. Shop Owners** – run your own shop in the Egyptian marketplace. There will be items to make but each shop owner has their own persona. You will interact with the children not only by selling your "crafts" but by talking to them about your religious belief (chosen by the program along with talking points)

If you have any questions, please email or text Carol Brooks at cubrooks20@gmail.com or 757-620-7822.



Church Workdays – July 11th & 12th



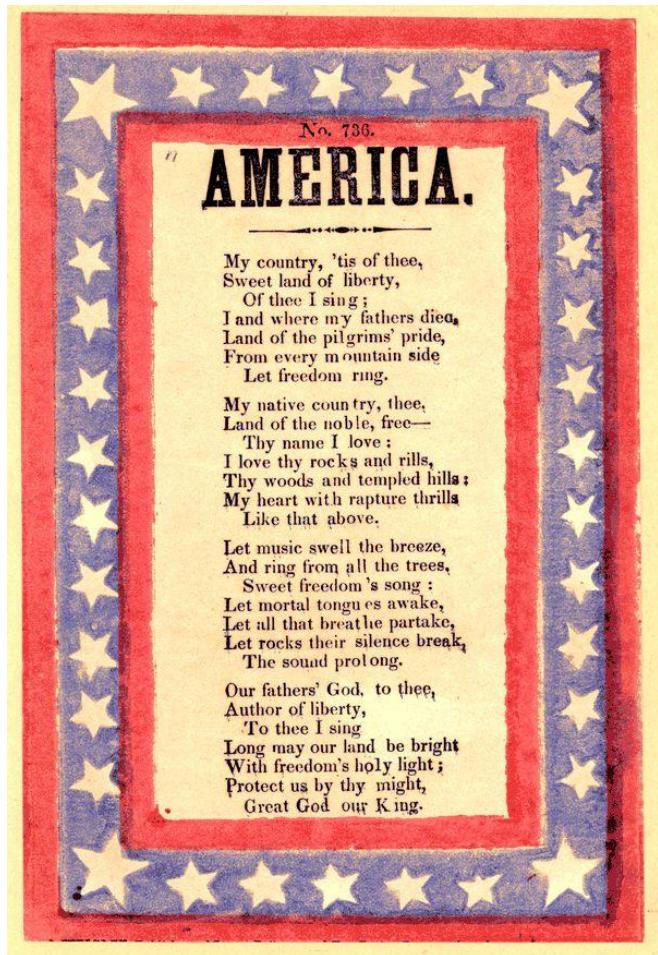
Come and join in on the fellowship and fun as we join as a church family to beautify our church campus inside and out! We have tasks for all ages! Breakfast will be provided on both days, and lunch will be provided on Saturday!

Friday, July 11th, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Saturday, July 12th, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

If you have any questions about how you can help, please see Chris Mowery, Lou Miller, Phyllis Wiggins, or Wendy Haynes.



My Country, 'Tis of Thee: The Story Behind the Song



Moved deeply by the desire to create a national hymn that would allow the American people to offer praise to God for our wonderful land, a 24-year-old theological student, Samuel Francis Smith, penned these lines on a scrap of paper in less than 30 minutes in 1832. Yet even today many consider My Country, "Tis of Thee their favorite patriotic hymn and call it our "unofficial national anthem."

The easily singable words of the song are matched with a popular international melody used by many nations, including England, where it accompanies "God Save the King/Queen." The emotionally powerful ideas that Smith expressed had an immediate response. The hymn soon became a national favorite. The stirring tributes to our fatherland in the first three stanzas lead to a worshipful climax of gratefulness to God and a prayer for His continued guidance.

Following his graduation from Harvard and the Andover Theological Seminary, Samuel Smith became an outstanding minister in several Baptist churches in the East. He composed 150 hymns during his 87 years and helped compile the leading Baptist hymnal of his day. He was also editor of a missionary magazine through which he exerted a strong influence in promoting the cause of missions. Later he became the secretary of the Baptist Missionary Union and spent considerable time visiting various foreign fields. He was truly a distinctive representative of both his country and his God. Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories (2nd Edition)

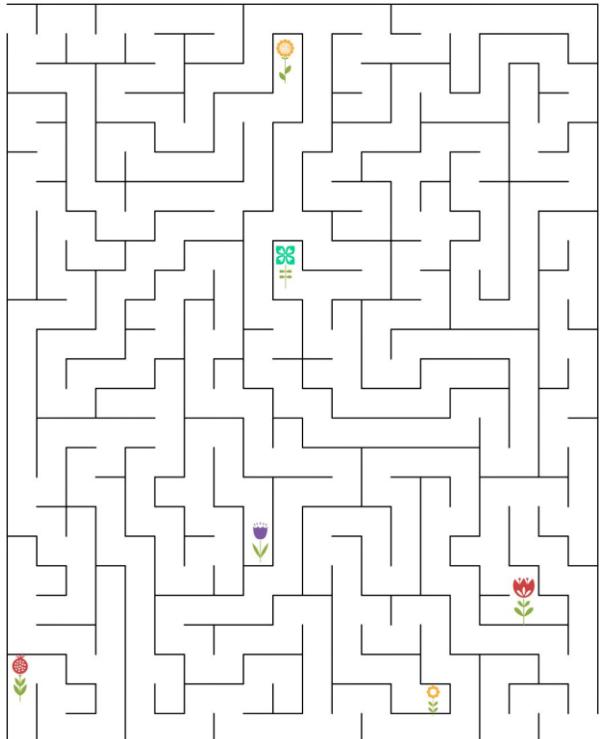
Look up the following verse and fill in the blank:

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my _____ who are _____ by my _____
humble themselves, and _____
and _____ my face and _____
from their _____ ways,
then I will _____ from heaven and
will _____ their _____ and
_____ their _____.

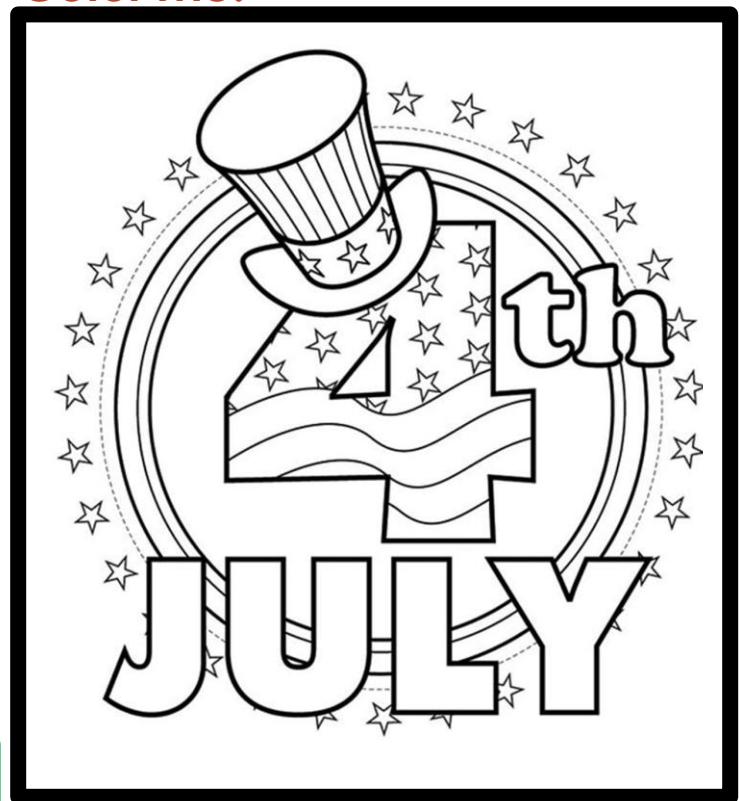


Help Buzzy Reach His Friends!



Just for... **Suburban
Kids**

Color Me:



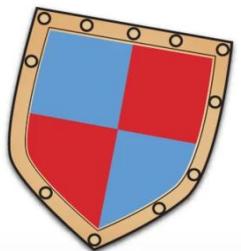
ARMOR OF GOD

WORD SEARCH

P	E	A	C	E	S	S	U	S	I	C	X	O	R	D
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**WORDS
TO FIND**

Truth
Belt
Righteousness
Breastplate
Peace
Shoes
Faith
Shield
Salvation
Helmet
Spirit
Sword



A Little 4th of July History

Just for ... **Suburban**
Kids

Do you know what the fifty stars on the American flag represent? What about the thirteen stripes on the American flag? What do the red stripes represent? (answers below)

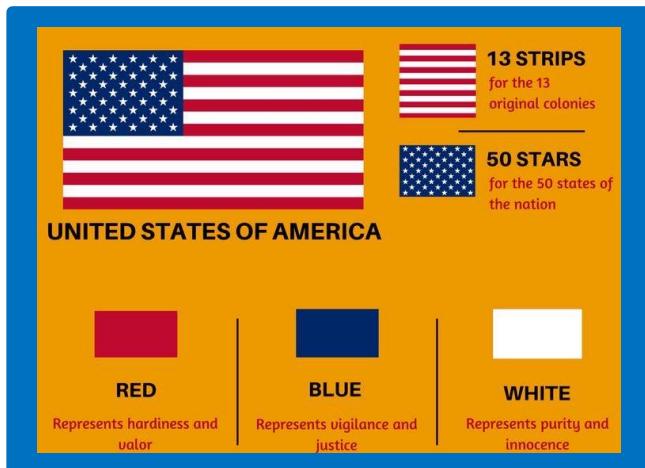
The fourth of July is just another day to most of the world, but here in America, the Fourth of July is all about freedom. It's a day when kids are free from school, thanks to summer vacation. It's a day most of your parents are free from work thanks to it being a national holiday. But more importantly, it's a day we celebrate our freedom as Americans.

The Fourth of July, 1776, is the date marked on the Declaration of Independence, a document drafted by Thomas Jefferson to tell the King of England, "You are no longer our ruler!" It was a bold statement made by the American colonies that led to the birth of our nation.

The Declaration of Independence was only the start of our quest for freedom. Freedom is rarely bought with words, and the price of America's freedom was the blood of its citizens. Many men gave their lives for the cause of freedom and many more shed their blood in that long fight. The Revolutionary War lasted five years before England finally gave up. The English went home, and America became a free country.

This week we will celebrate the freedoms we enjoy with barbecues, watermelon and fireworks, but we should never forget that the freedoms we enjoy were bought with a price. The price of American freedom should also remind us of an even greater sacrifice: The one Jesus made for us on the cross.

God made the ultimate sacrifice when he sent Jesus to die for us, and when Jesus rose from the dead, He won us a greater freedom than any government could ever grant its citizens. Jesus set us free from sin, and that's a freedom no power on Earth can ever take away from us. True freedom only comes from knowing Jesus! wh



Sunday School Reminder

Our Sunday School program is happy to announce that we are giving our dedicated Sunday School teachers a four-week summer break! There will be no Sunday School classes for children on the following dates:

Sunday	June 29
Sunday	July 6
Sunday	July 13
Sunday	July 20

Please pray that this is a restful time for all our teachers and that God would grow our Sunday School program. LT

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, July 27th!

Children's Church News

July Children's Church Ministry Calendar

Date	Lead	Assistant	Service Helper
7/6/25	Lois Ritger		Samara Saucedo
7/13/25	Jan Grills	Leigh Simms	Liam Cooke
7/20/25	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
7/27/25	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler

