

The

Messenger



Greg Davis, Pastor

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Have you ever had a personal hero? We don't talk about heroes too much anymore. Did you ever wonder why? Have we become too skeptical? Has human nature or human's nature to sin clouded our views of heroism in a spiritual sense? Where have all the heroes gone?

I remember that as a child, I had many heroes. I have always admired Abraham Lincoln as a great leader and a man of great faith in God and in humankind. I had sports heroes. Kenny Boyer played third base for the Cardinals in the early to mid sixties and I wanted to play third base just like Kenny Boyer and some day make a great salary like he did – say \$30,000/year. (Times have changed there.) As an even younger child I watched those hokey 30 minute Superman episodes and wondered if he really could do all those remarkable things. One of my personal heroes was my Uncle Roger – when I was growing up he coached the Otwell Millers and I wanted to be a coach just like him. Another model human being for me was Andy Griffeth – he could deal with all those characters in Mayberry, especially Barney Fife and still keep an even temperament.

My personal heroes were good clean-cut hard-working role models. Do these folks still exist today? Yes they do, but too many people in our time are making poor choices. One day they look good and the next day we begin to doubt because of bad life choices (sin).

What better place may we turn to find real heroes than the Word of God? In Hebrews 11:1 we find a definition for faith as "*Assurance of things hoped for and evidence of things unseen.*" The rest of chapter 11 lists examples of faith in those Godly men and women who were known for their belief in God - People like Abel, Enoch, Abraham & Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Rahab the harlot. These men and women lived their lives as examples to all who would follow after them. Though all were imperfect, and they all lived at various times in uncommon situations, they all set their feet upon the same track.

In Hebrews 12, the great heroes of faith are seen as a great cloud of witnesses. The writer of Hebrews describes them as spectators who have passed on the baton of faith which we are now called to carry – "*let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*" Today, as each of us holds on to that baton of faith, desiring to run the race that God has set before us - I challenge each of us to take to the track and strive to become a hero for the next generation to follow. There are three things I would like to suggest to you today, that may help you to become a hero through your faith in Christ:

I Rid yourself of sin (Hebrews 12:1).

Have you ever tried to run a race while carrying a couple of bowling balls? Sounds silly, doesn't it? You have a much better chance of winning if you cast off the extra weight. And yet, so often as Christians, we continue to carry the burden of sin when we don't have to - Christ redeemed us from the burden of sin by dying on the cross!

On the day you were baptized you were freed from the burden of sin - being raised with Christ, you became a new person. At times we still do wrong- As we strive to do right, we must constantly be aware of our struggles with sin. [James 1:12-15] encourages us to "*put aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness.*" 1 Corinthians 10:13 allows us to know that God always provides a way of escape from tempting situations. If we attempt to run the race while carrying the burden of sin, we will never leave the starting block!

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II Fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)!

From Matthew 15:22-31 we read about how Peter walked on water until he took his eyes off of Jesus - He lost his focus. Jesus is our coach and guide - it is Jesus who shows us how to run the race. Jesus is also why we run the race. 1 Peter 2:21 says, *"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ suffered for you leaving you an example to follow in his steps."* Therefore, we have been called to exemplify Jesus by the way we live our lives.

III. With your eyes fixed on Jesus, God calls you to run with perseverance. (Hebrews 12:1)! In Philippians 3:14 Paul writes, *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* Jimmy Valvano, the very successful college basketball coach near his death from cancer was quoted, "Never give up! Never give up! Never, ever give up!" So many begin the race, but so few Heroes complete it! Remember this - Nothings matters if you do not finish! So where have all the heroes gone? Just look around – you'll find many heroes of the faith here in our church and community, all striving to follow Christ to the end. You find heroes striving to find God's direction and purpose in their lives – teaching, loving, giving, and sharing.

In Christ,
Pastor Greg



GOD'S KIDS reporting



Happy Birthday to our July birthday children! Cora (5), Kaely (24), Keagan (24), Emma (27), Jake (28), Olivia (13), and Elin (25).

Summer Session has started off with a BANG!!

We have gone to Orange Leaf and taken a trip to McCutchanville Park where we had a picnic and played. Field trips are great. The younger children played in the sprinklers and had ice cream. Our field trip to McCutchanville Park was cancelled in June because of the torrential rains! But we went to Auntie Anns and the carousel in the mall and we will be traveling to the movie theatre too!

Summer activities at God's Kids really are the best! In July we will be attending VBS—ROAR! Listen and watch closely to hear all of the animals!



God's Kids will be closed July 29th-August 5th/ EVSC will open on August 7th!



Our Children's Ministry is gearing



**Vacation Bible School at MCC
Week of July 8-12 10AM-Noon
For ages 3 to 3rd Grade**

I would personally like to thank everyone who combed the streets of Evansville to bring our Bible buddies back to church. Thanks to your efforts, VBS will be a memorable week for all our attendee's.

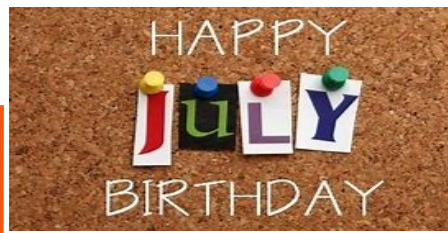
I'd also like to thank everyone who has brought in their donations and those who are bringing in the perishable items on July 7th. If you have any kids who are interested in attending, please visit the church website and click on the Roar! logo and complete the registration form for each child attending. We will have volunteer and prayer sign-up sheets for VBS located in the lobby on July 7th. If you can volunteer a day or more for VBS, please sign-up for what your schedule allows. If you are able to volunteer, please arrive between 9:15am – 9:30am. We also invite you to pick a topic or specific VBS day to sign-up to pray for. The power of prayer is one of God's greatest gifts. I would be honored if you'd cover us in prayer, please.



~Shiloh

Pass the word: The registration for VBS can be accessed on our website or at

vbspro.events/p/15d545



JULY

Eileen Venema	2
Martha Lease	3
Kemper Lease	11
Coleton Russell	15
Charles "Chaz" Burris	16
Keagan Lee Smith	24
Kaelyn Ann Smith	24
Dean Hubble	27
John Turner	30
Pastor Greg	31
Jonathan Tapp	31



Jonathon and Shiloh Abner	9
Keith & Debbie Kinney	10
David & Sara Dixon	22
Richard & Rosie Dixon	23



Prayer Requests: Mary Lou Ellis, Josette Higgins, Curtis Kinney, Jim Smith, Gary Sprinkle, Stella Vennard Hettenbach, Victor Doty, Terri Schuetter, Amy Dubber, Joy Roettger, David and Sara Dixon, Marie Pickett, Our Haitian children: Daphnica Noel and Richecarde Charitable Louissant, MCCutchanville Firefighters, The homeless population, God's Kids.

Do you have a prayer request you would like listed in the Messenger?

The Story of the Fourth of July

The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the **Declaration of Independence** and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776). It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775). And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).



So what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and



June 2019 Attendance and Giving

	Att	Building Fund	General Fund	Internet Giving	VBS Lent Boxes Pancake Dinner	Food Pantry	Missions Haiti/UMCOR	Memorial Lanny Taylor	Total Checking Deposit
June 2	83	\$1,390.00	\$2,320.00	\$100.00		\$25.00	\$235.00		\$4,070.00
June 9	61	\$235.00	\$921.00	\$390.00					\$1,546.00
June 16	58	\$930.00	\$1,460.00	\$100.00					\$2,490.00
June 23	86	\$240.00	\$897.00	\$100.00				\$95.00	\$1,332.00
June 30	98	\$210.00	\$2,160.00	\$100.00				\$430.00	\$2,900.00





We have received several thank you notes from various places that we have 'gifted' money and time.



We actually received two thank you notes from Patchwork Central: "Thank you so much for the food you gave to patchwork Central Food Pantry. You donated 420 pounds which will be a big help. We appreciate you so much." and " Thank you seems little to say for the kindness and generosity you have shown to Patchwork Central food pantry. We really appreciate you."



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Integrity Compassion Safety Team Oriented Committed



We also received two thank you notes from the Methodist Youth Home.

"The Indiana United Methodist Children's Home gratefully acknowledges your generous gift of \$599.13 received. . . . Please extend our appreciation to everyone in your congregation who helped



make this contribution possible. This generous gift is a meaningful investment in a better future for the children we serve." Also received was a note thanking several members of our congregation for visiting the United Methodist Youth Home to play games and eat pizza with the youth.

There is a list of volunteer opportunities at the Youth Home on our front Bulletin board.



The United Methodist Women will be assembling school kits to send to UMCOR.

Donation boxes will be in the foyer.

Items needed are:

- Blunt scissors-round tip only but no plastic.
- 24-count boxes of crayons
- One subject notebooks (no 3 or 5 subject can be accepted)
- Loose-leaf paper; 100200 page packets either wide or college ruled
- Hand held pencil sharpener at least 1 inch long
- Rulers (12 inches or 30 centimeters) of sturdy or flexible material
- Unsharpened pencils
- Erasers-two inches or longer
- 2 gallon resalable plastic bags



As you are gathering supplies for your children, please pick up an extra pack to donate to UMCOR.



The children attending VBS this year has made this the mission for VBS. Children will be bringing school supplies in to help children in need.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 30 Fellowship Hall Reserved Kinney Couple shower 1:00-3:00pm	July 1 6:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved	July 2	July 3	July 4  6:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	July 5	July 6
7 Communion	8 VBS-ROAR  6:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved	9 VBS-ROAR  6:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved	10 VBS-ROAR 	11 VBS-ROAR  6:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	12 VBS-ROAR 	13
14	15 6:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved	16	17	18 6:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:30 Ad/Fin Meeting Conference	19	20
21 1:00-4:00 pm Gym Reserved Birthday Party	22 6:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved	23 UMW 12:00 Picnic and Meeting Conference Room	24 UMWI Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:00-10:00 pm	25 6:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	26	27
28	29 God's Kids Closed 6:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved	30 God's Kids Closed	31 God's Kids Closed	August 1 God's Kids Closed 6:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	August 2 God's Kids Closed	August 3
August 4	August 5 God's Kids Closed 6:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved	August 6 God's Kids Closed	August 7 EVSC & God's Kids in session	August 8 6:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	August 9	August 10