

Generations

Together on God's Abundant Journey

Independence Day

With Independence Day quickly approaching, we want to take time to pause and give thanks for the freedoms we are blessed to enjoy in this country. The freedoms to worship our Savior, gather together, and speak freely are things I do not think of without gratitude.

I am grateful to the many men and women who are currently serving, retired from service, or who have paid the ultimate price for this freedom. I am grateful for your sacrifice.

While I remain grateful for these civic freedoms, I can't help but consider the freedom I find in Christ, someone else who paid the ultimate price. Romans 6 tells us that we have been set free from sin and now have the blessing to serve our Risen King.

This sacrifice demands that we live our lives with grace and intentionality. This month, let's aim to take greater pride in the freedom Christ offers us. May we bear the fruit of the Spirit, love our neighbor as ourselves, and walk in freedom without being weighed down by sin.

As we remember the freedoms this country allows and remember the sacrifice of many, may we remember the freedom from sin Christ offers us through His death and resurrection. May we remember that our hope is not in this country, but in Christ. For who the Son sets free is free indeed.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:36

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Galatians 5:13

He remembered us in our low estate
His love endures forever.
and freed us from our enemies.

His love endures forever.

He gives food to every creature.

His love endures forever.

Psalms 136:23-25



Gen Z and Their Hunger for Authenticity

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a Gen Z and Preaching conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin. We explored who Gen Z is and how we can best minister to them. Many of you were unable to attend, and the information we discussed is too important not to share. It is vital that we as a church understand how to reach a generation that, for the most part, has no church background.

To effectively minister to a group, we must first understand who they are. Generation Z follows Millennials, with the earliest Gen Z being born in 1997. This means we (yes, I am a Gen Z myself!) are too young to remember 9/11, are 'digital natives' having grown up with technology, and many have no religious affiliation. (From Pew Research: [Defining Generations](#) and [Religion](#).)

Now, let's pivot to what Barna research wants you to know about Gen Z, and then we will talk about how the church can serve this generation. In their article "[5 Things You Need to Know About Gen Z](#)", Barna highlights the following points:

1. Gen Z feels held back from truly being themselves.
2. Gen Z prioritizes happiness, stability, and good health.
3. Gen Z is online, but they still value in-person connection.
4. For Gen Z, morality is often subjective.
5. Most Gen Z say they've prayed in the last week.

These insights are fascinating to me. They show that Gen Z has a desire to connect with God, to experience joy, and to find authentic community. Is there space for them in your church? Seriously, is your church a place where all people can encounter the Holy Spirit, experience the joy of the Lord, and engage in genuine Christian community? I certainly hope so! I hope each of our churches creates opportunities for people to deepen their connection to Christ and one another.

There's no perfect formula, only a hunger for real connection. Here are a few practical ways to foster that:

1. **Develop opportunities for connecting with Gen Z.** The age gap of 18 - 30 seems to be overlooked in many churches. What plan does your church have to foster relationships with young adults after high school graduation? Many Gen Z show up to church only to find no class or group for them.
2. **Mentor someone.** One of the greatest takeaways from our conference in Green Lake is that mentorship can be two-way. You have a lot to offer Gen Z, and Gen Z has a lot they can teach you. The Bible just may call this discipleship! Consider taking a Gen Z person out for coffee, listening to their story, and offering the good Christian encouragement I know you can give.
3. **Be authentic.** In a world where online interaction may feel fake, Gen Z is craving authenticity. Don't be afraid to show your flaws or admit when you make mistakes; we all want to know it's okay to be human.

ABC-IN/KY Released 50K in Funding to Indian Creek Baptist Camp

In June, the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky held a Region Board meeting at Indian Creek Baptist Camp (ICBC). This gave the Board Members the opportunity to tour the camp and hear a proposal for the Region Board to release \$50,000 in funding as part of the Growing the Legacy campaign.

ICBC is currently raising funds at a 2:1 matching ratio as part of this campaign. This means for every dollar raised, the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky provide two additional dollars. This partnership has allowed Indian Creek to construct a new showerhouse, with another on the way, install air conditioning, new flooring, and make other much-needed improvements in the cabins. However, to complete Phase 1 of this project, another \$50,000 was needed to cover cost increases and design improvements. Both showerhouses will receive new plastic partitions to divide the bathroom and shower stalls, flooring upgrades, and other game-changing finishing touches to create a more comfortable experience for every camper. This also allows the camp to hire out more labor for a quality and more durable build.

If you would like to learn more about the campaign or donate today, please visit: www.campindiancreek.com. To learn more about the details of Phases 2 and 3, reach out to Jordan Morris, Camp Director.

The Spirit is moving at Indian Creek, and we invite you to come check it out!

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:4-6

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Isaiah 40:3-5

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:9-10

Read the Gospels in 30 Days with Us

This last month has taught me how important it is to encourage people to be in their Bible daily. I am doing my best, but there are usually at least a couple of days in a week that I fall short. This month, let's try to read through the Gospels together! If you don't know, the Gospels are the books that tell the story of Jesus' life and include Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They all tell the same story, but from different perspectives and with different emphasis. If you have a question about what you read, just ask!

Day 1: Matthew 1-3
Day 2: Matthew 4-6
Day 3: Matthew 7-9
Day 4: Matthew 10-12
Day 5: Matthew 13-15
Day 6: Matthew 16-18
Day 7: Matthew 19-21
Day 8: Matthew 22-24
Day 9: Matthew 25-27
Day 10: Matt. 28 and Mark 1-2
Day 11: Mark 3-5
Day 12: Mark 6-8
Day 13: Mark 9-11
Day 14: Mark 12-14
Day 15: Mark 15-16 and Luke 1

Day 16: Luke 2-4
Day 17: Luke 5-7
Day 18: Luke 8-10
Day 19: Luke 11-13
Day 20: Luke 14-16
Day 21: Luke: 17-19
Day 22: Luke 20-22
Day 23: Luke 23-24 and John 1
Day 24: John 2-4
Day 25: John 5-7
Day 26: John 8-10
Day 27: John 11-13
Day 28: John 14-16
Day 29: John 17-19
Day 30: John 20-21

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

Psalms 78:1-3

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42 -47

2025

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	<div> <div>4th OF JULY</div> <div>4</div> </div>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July 3 at 11:30 AM: Bethel Association Pastors Gathering at Mission BBQ in Clarksville

July 4: Independence Day, Region Office Closed

July 8 at 6:00 PM: Northeastern Central Pastors Gathering, Spouses invited, too, at Culver's in Anderson

July 9 at 10:00 AM: ABC-IN/KY Region Staff Zoom

July 10 at 7:00 PM: Long Run Association Pastors Meeting at Mo's Steakhouse in Vevay

July 14 at 10:00 AM: Laughery Association Pastors Meeting at Versailles Baptist Church

July 14 at 1:00 PM: Coffee Creek Association Pastors Gathering at Denny's in Scottsburg

July 15 at 12:00 PM: Evansville Pastors Gathering at Panera Bread on N. Burkhardt Rd.

July 17 at 12:00 PM: Judson Association Pastors Meeting at Olive Garden in Kokomo

July 23 at 12:00 PM: North Pastors Lunch at Vinatelli's in Markle

July 24 at 8:30 AM: Madison Association Pastors Gathering at Hinkle's Sandwich Shop

July 29 at 1:00 PM: Flat Rock and Decatur Associations Pastors Gatherings at Westport Baptist Church



Thank You to Our Supporters

We are grateful to these sister churches who have given to the Region Offering in the month of May to support the Ministry of the Region. (Please note that fiscal months do not follow a regular calendar.)

Avoca Missionary Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church
Crooked Creek Baptist Church
Dabney Baptist Church
Deer Creek Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Anderson
First Baptist Church of Bedford
First Baptist Church of Bicknell
First Baptist Church of Camden
First Baptist Church of Columbus
First Baptist Church of Decatur
First Baptist Church of Evansville
First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne
First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville
First Baptist Church of Lafayette
First Baptist Church of Madison
First Baptist Church of New Market
First Baptist Church of Peru
First Baptist Church of Plainfield
First Baptist Church of Rochester

Freedom Baptist Church
Greencastle First Baptist Church
Hope First Baptist Church
Judson Baptist Church
Kimberlin Creek Baptist Church
Lebanon Baptist Church
Mill Creek Baptist Church
Oakdale Baptist Church
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Tampico Baptist Church
Tea Creek Baptist Church
Tell City First Baptist Church
Versailles Baptist Church
Washington First Baptist Church
Westport Baptist Church
Wirt Baptist Church