

THE LEAF

NEWS AND NOTES FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FOREST PARK

Green Balls

At FBC Forest Park we have **1 Vision** to see **200 baptisms** through the ministry of our church. That's **1 Percent** of Forest Park! How are we going to achieve that goal? **1 Person** at a time! Put a green ball in the bucket for every person you invite to church. We are **1 Church** united around **1 Mission!**

J.O.Y. Club

At FBC Forest Park we do not have old people. We have Just Older Youth! If you are older in years but still young at heart you are invited to meet us at **Shane's Rib Shack** (2136 HWY 155 North, McDonough, Ga) on **Tuesday, July 29 at 11:00**. We will gather for food and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

First And Foremost

Every **first Sunday** we invite you to return to the church at 4:00 for a time of prayer. Meet us in the chapel and we will guide you as you spend time in the presence of God.



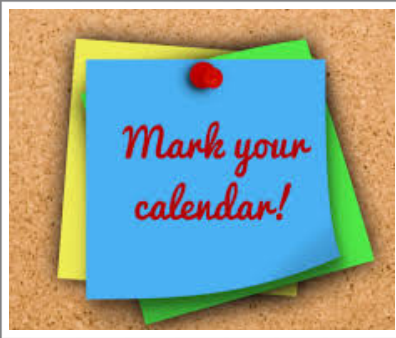
Independence Day

Independent as a Nation. Fully dependent on God as His people.

The 4th of July is a celebration of our nation and our independence. Our hearts swell with gratitude for the freedoms and opportunities that define this great country. The 4th marks the anniversary of our independence, a pivotal moment when our forbearers courageously declared liberty from tyranny. Yet, amidst the fireworks and festivities, it is essential that we remember this foundational truth: *our greatest strength lies not in our independence as a nation, but in our continued dependence on God.*

In **Deuteronomy 8:10-11**, we are reminded, "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands." This scripture serves as a profound reminder that every blessing we experience as a nation, one of wealth and prosperity, is a direct gift from God. We are called not only to revel in these blessings but to acknowledge the divine hand that sustains them.

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Upcoming Events

- July 6** - First and Foremost
- Discipleship Team Meeting
- July 9** - Wacky Wednesday
- Role Model Rev.
- July 12** - Spelling Bee
- CSU Football Practice
- July 15** - Evergreen Skeet Shooting
- July 16** - No Wednesday Night Activities
- July 23** - Wacky Wednesday
- Role Model Rev.
- July 26** - Evergreen Fishing and Cookout
- July 29** - J.O.Y. Club
- Aug. 1** - Food Truck Friday
- Aug. 3** - First and Foremost
- Aug. 6** - Back To School Bash
- Aug. 10** - Fall Schedule Starts
- Aug 13** - Role Model Revolution
- Aug 26** - J.O.Y. Club
- Sept. 5** - Food Truck Friday
- Sept. 7** - First and Foremost
- Sept. 14** - Lord's Supper
- Sept. 24** - Church Conference
- Sept. 28** - College Sunday
- Sept. 30** - J.O.Y. Club

As citizens of a wealthy and prosperous nation, we are afforded countless opportunities—freedom of speech, education, enterprise, and worship. These are privileges that many around the world yearn for. But with such incredible blessings comes significant responsibility. **Luke 12:48** reminds us that "to whom much is given, much will be required." This is not just a call to gratitude but a call to action—an encouragement to use our resources and freedoms to advance the gospel, extend God's love, and serve others.

Therefore, while we honor our nation and its journey, let us lift up God even higher. In **Proverbs 3:5-6**, we are called to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." God is our guide and protector; it is through Him that we find true purpose and wisdom in stewarding our national blessings and the opportunities we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. We must also remember we are citizens of the Kingdom of God first and Americans second. As we enjoy the celebrations of Independence Day, let us remember the profound dependence we have on God, both as individuals and as a nation. May we recommit to using the extraordinary opportunities we have to reflect His love and light in our communities and beyond. God bless America, and may America always bless God in return.

Skeet Shooting

Pull!

We are taking our young adults skeet shooting on **Tuesday, July 15 at Tom Lowe Sporting Clay Range**. While this trip is "*targeted*" (Haha!) at our young adults, **anyone over the age of 13 is welcome to attend**. We will meet at the church at **4:30** so we can drive together.

Skeet shooting is a shotgun sport where the shooter attempts to knock down small orange discs flying through the air. It is low impact (unless you're a clay pigeon) and very accessible to anyone. You do not have to have firearm experience to participate. If you have never shot a firearm, don't worry, we will have an instructor and everything you need. The cost is **\$40** and can be paid online at ForestParkFirst.com. Make sure you earmark your payment for "Youth and Young Adult Event Payments."