

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 Broad sides, 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 1941.

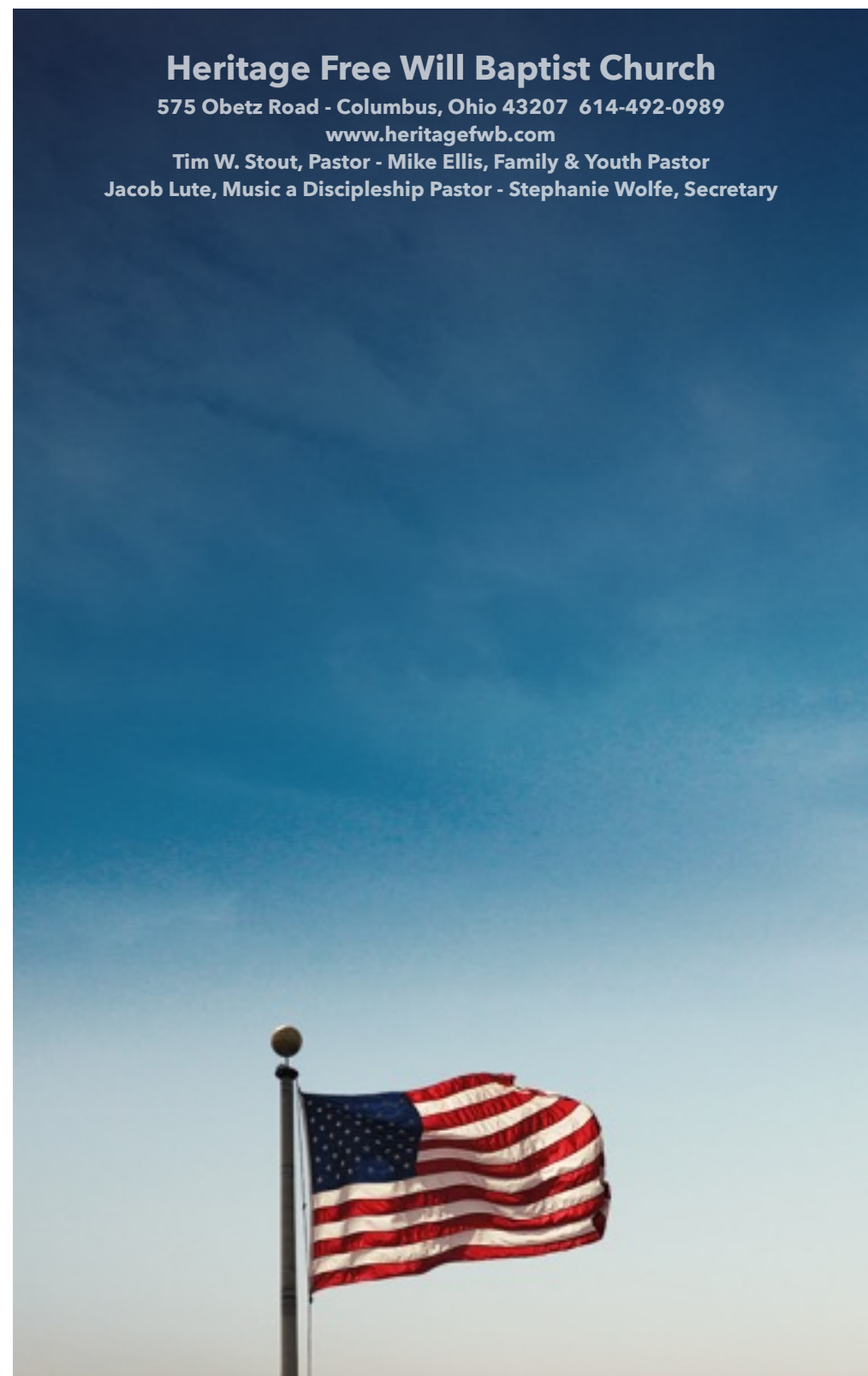
Heritage Free Will Baptist Church

575 Obetz Road - Columbus, Ohio 43207 614-492-0989

www.heritagefwb.com

Tim W. Stout, Pastor - Mike Ellis, Family & Youth Pastor

Jacob Lute, Music & Discipleship Pastor - Stephanie Wolfe, Secretary



THE LORD'S DAY - JULY 7, 2019

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THANKS FOR JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TODAY! IF YOU ARE A VISITOR PLEASE TAKE TIME TO FILL OUT A CONNECTION CARD AND BRING IT TO PASTOR TIM AFTER THE SERVICE AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT. WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday School: 103

Sunday Worship Service: 255

Nursery Workers - Today

AM Babies:

Angie Copeland & Debbie Copeland

Toddlers:

Penny Damron & Jenna Moore

Next Sunday - July 14

AM Babies:

Carol & Sandy Fraley

Toddlers:

Ashley Fraley & Mandy Steele

Church Ushers

Today: Michael Clark, Rusty McKnight, Dennis Snavely, Ken Vaccariello, Don Wiles, Mike Woltz, William Wycuff, Dave Young

July 14: Fred Adams, Jeremy Baldwin, Mike Damron, John Duty, Lawrence Hayes, Don Moore, Dale Ryan, Jack Schultz

Welcome Center

Today: Don & Sue Moore

July 14: Patti Spiess & Sandy Tharp

Greeters

Today: Denise Franzetti & Sharon Hoover and Jerry & Marlyne Rosebrock

July 14: Emmett & Jo Allen and Dale & Sue Ryan



Please subscribe to Flocknote to receive updates and information from Heritage. Text the word heritage to 84576 to sign up now!

New LED Church sign account balance \$18,182.00

Mark Your Calendars - Heritage Golden Seniors Overnight Trip - Sept 12th - 13th Gospel concert and dinner. The Isaacs (Family Gospel Group) will be performing at The Amish Inn, Wilmot, OH. Concert and Dinner is \$45 per person, payable to Sue Moore. Hotel information is available. Contact Sue Moore if you would like more information.

AT HERITAGE THIS WEEK

Today

9:30am

Sunday School (for all ages)
Membership Class / Pastor Tim's office
Worship Service
SuperKids (ages 4 - 6th grade)

10:30am

Tuesday, July 9

9:30am

Shut-In Visitation

Wednesday, July 10

7:00pm

Bible Study / No Limits Worship / Kid's Class

Thursday, July 11

8:00am

Heritage Yard Crew

7:00pm

Scioto Community Service

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

Dr. Rogers shared, A man named Solomon Peas died. His tombstone in London reads:

"Beneath these clouds and beneath these trees
Lies the body of Solomon Peas.
But this ain't Peas - it's just the pod.
Peas shelled out and went to God."

I like that. That's what your body is. It's just a pod. What happens to a child of God who has trusted Christ as his personal Savior? When he closes his eyes in this life, he opens them in the next. Jesus did not say, "After two or three thousand years, you'll be with Me in paradise." Jesus said, "Today, truly, you'll be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Are you confident that if you died today you'd be with Jesus in paradise? If not, then confess your sins and believe upon His name to save you. Now, go and tell someone!

Next Sunday, July 14

3:30pm - Trustee and Fellowship of Deacons Meeting

4:30pm - Executive Board Meeting