

Members in Need of Prayer

Rose Marie and Joe Starr, Sr. and Joe Starr, Jr., Donna Short, Beth Walborn, Shirley Beach, John Parker, Mary Dawn Stuenkel, Rick Watts, Clay Stephenson

Prayer Concerns: If you have an urgent prayer concern, please contact Kamara Reade at 828-430-0760 or kay.29@netzero.net. She will send it out to New Covenant members.

Upcoming Events from the Church and Community Life Commission

Homemade Ice Cream Social



I scream, YOU scream, let's ALL scream for Homemade Ice Cream! On July 23rd, after church, we will all enjoy fresh Homemade Ice Cream made by New Covenant Church members. We will have toppings to add to your ice cream for you to enjoy. Bring your neighbors and friends to our worship service and to have ice cream with us!

NALC Disaster Relief Collection

During the month of July, we will collect paper towels and Comet/scouring cleanser for the flood buckets used for NALC Disaster Relief Efforts. Please use the donation boxes to place your items inside by Sunday July 30th. The items will be collected and taken to the collection area to be used as needed throughout the year. Thank you for your support!



Christmas in JULY-Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

We are going to try to spread out our Christmas Cheer this year by completing The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry for the Samaritan's Purse in July instead of in November. Here's how this will work: 1)Purchase a plastic shoebox or use a cardboard shoebox to put your child's items inside; 2) Add a card to say if the box is for a boy or a girl and what age it is appropriate for; 3) Then carefully select items to surprise the child with. You may want to include a picture of you and a note to the child. Suggested items to include are school items, toys, personal care items, hat/scarves, and flashlights with batteries. Do NOT include any food items; toothpaste; gum; glass items; used or damaged items; or scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures. Please pray for your child who will receive your box you prepared. You can do as many boxes as you want during the month of July only. The boxes will be collected and saved to go to the Samaritan's Purse in November 2023. Ho Ho Ho! Share Christmas Joy and the love of Jesus Christ with children in need. Sunday July 30th is the last day to bring your box for the Christmas in July Event! Please give \$10 per shoebox by writing a check payable to New Covenant Lutheran and mark it for the SHOEBOX MINISTRY in the memo line. For more information about Operation Christmas Child or to find more gift suggestions, go to <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ>



New Covenant News

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New Covenant Lutheran Church in Morganton, NC



MISSION STATEMENT: New Covenant Welcomes God's People
Founded in Faith, United by Love, and Gifted to Serve

From the Pastor:

(A would be follower of Jesus said), "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:61-62



This week, we will celebrate July 4th, the anniversary of the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. On July 3, 1776, the day before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, George Washington wrote a letter to his wife, anticipating the hardships which would soon occur. Here in part are his words, "In a few days, you will see a Declaration setting forth the causes which have impelled us to this mighty revolution and the reasons which will justify it in the sight of God. I am fully aware of the toil and blood and treasure what it will cost to maintain this declaration and support and defend these states; yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory."

The men who signed the Declaration were putting their lives and all they had on the line for freedom from the oppressive reign of the King of England, George III. They put their hands to the plow and never looked back. Had they not been committed to the cause—and it cost most of them greatly—we would not have the freedom we have today to worship the God of our Bible, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This God calls to us to follow Christ the Son, our Savior and Lord, in total commitment.

Fifty-six men from each of the original 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers and two were cousins. One was an orphan. The average age of a signer was 45. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate at 70. The youngest was Thomas Lynch Jr. of South

Carolina at 27. John Witherspoon of New Jersey was the only active clergyman to attend. (Indeed, he wore his pontificals to the sessions.) Almost all were Protestants. Charles Carroll of Maryland was the lone Roman Catholic. Seven of the signers were educated at Harvard, four at Yale, four at William & Mary, and three at Princeton.

Seventeen signers fought in the American Revolution, among them Thomas Nelson, William Whipple, Oliver Wolcott, Caesar Rodney, and John Hancock. The British captured five signers during the war. Richard Stockton of New Jersey never recovered from his incarceration at the hands of British Loyalists. He died in 1781. Thomas McKean of Delaware wrote John Adams that he was "hunted like a fox by the enemy — compelled to remove my family five times in a few months ...". Abraham Clark of New Jersey had two of his sons captured by the British during the war.

Eleven signers had their homes and property destroyed. Francis Lewis's New York home was razed and his wife taken prisoner. John Hart's farm and mills were destroyed when the British invaded New Jersey, and he died while fleeing capture. Carter Braxton and Thomas Nelson, both of Virginia, lent large sums of their personal fortunes to support the war effort but were never repaid.

The University of Virginia owns two copies of a rare early printing of the Declaration. It is believed the copy once belonged to George Washington. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were hidden at Fort Knox during World War II, two weeks after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

John Dunlap was the official printer of Congress at the time. He worked all night and into the morning of July 5 to produce the large, single-sided sheet, known as a broadside. About 200 copies of Dunlap's broadside were made. In 1989, an original Dunlap Broadside was found hidden behind a picture a Philadelphia man bought at a flea market for \$4. It later sold for \$8.1 million. Ultimately, 26 copies of the original prints have been found.

Early on, not everyone in America was supportive of the Declaration of Independence. Partisan politics led to discord. Federalist John Adams was feuding with Republicans and Thomas Jefferson. The anniversary date of the signing was not widely celebrated until the Federalists were no longer involved in politics.

The one-year anniversary of Independence Day and the celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence slipped the minds of Congress in 1777. When they remembered it was July 3rd, they planned a last-minute celebration on July 4th, and each year thereafter. (Factual information adapted from Wikipedia)

The Declaration of Independence is dear to the hearts of all patriotic Americans. But Christians have a written



declaration of freedom that is far more valuable to us: the Holy Bible. In the 8th chapter of John, Jesus declares, "...if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." May we never forget the cost of our political freedom but even more importantly, the cost of our spiritual freedom, won for us by God's Son himself. He died on the cross to bear our sins away, and he was raised from the dead to bring us new life. In him we have our true and everlasting freedom.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Marty

Prayer and Bible Study

Pastor Marty will lead prayers for the spiritual growth, future direction, and current needs of NCLC at 10:00 AM every Friday. Come join us for this time of spiritual renewal as we seek God's guidance in our personal and congregational commitment to following the Great Commission. Weekly Bible study follows at approximately 10:30 AM at the church. Bring your Bible and a friend!

Church Council Meeting

New Covenant's Church Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. All are welcome to attend. The next meeting is July 12. If you have an item that you want the Church Council to discuss or consider, please contact Eric Stuenkel at westuenkel@bellsouth.net or Angela Williams at 3521awilliams@charter.net

NALC Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit

The New Covenant Church Council, along with Pastor Ramey, recently voted to complete the "Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit" during the weekend of August 25-27, 2023 in order to gain objective, Christian insight from the NALC Bishop's office for a "new location and future building" for New Covenant and for possible new mission opportunities. Pastor David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry, will personally come to New Covenant to help us learn more about ourselves, where we should be located, and what missions we should pursue in order to fulfil the Great Commission.

There is some "pre-work" that must be completed prior to that weekend and it will require everyone's participation. We have been given some questions to answer that will assist Pastor Wendel in learning more about us in order to better guide us. When you receive your questions, please make every effort to respond truthfully and timely. Put August 26th on your calendar because we will meet that Saturday for conversation and lunch! This is an exciting time! (More information on the back of the calendar insert.)