

July 4, 2021  
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John Finn

**\*Responsive Reading (Psalm 48:1-3)**

One: In the city belonging to our God,  
**All: The Lord is great and so worthy of praise!**  
One: His holy mountain is a beautiful summit,  
**All: The joy of the whole world.**  
One: God is in its fortifications,  
**All: Revealing himself as a place of safety.**

**\*Hymn** “God, Whose Love Is Reigning o’er Us” No. 100

**\*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance**

Lord God Almighty, as we prepare to dedicate this hallowed site, we feel your presence with all of our senses. May this become our outdoor sanctuary — a place where we can come to reflect, to pray, to worship, to mourn, and to rejoice. May it also be a place for others — a place where they may feel welcome to approach you and to seek a lifelong relationship with you. This we pray with great anticipation and exultation. Amen!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious and Loving Father, we dedicate this Serenity Garden and Outdoor Chapel to you. May it be holy and pleasing in your sight, and may others come here to converse with you and to know you better. We ask your blessings upon this sacred place, which has been inspired by the Holy Spirit and constructed by your dedicated disciples. May it forever stand as a shrine to you and as a symbol of our everlasting faith. Now and Forever, Amen!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Father in Heaven, even after all these years, we still can’t get it quite right, but we continue to try. Forgive us today for our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Shield us from temptation and shelter us from evil so that we may continue to build on our faith and strengthen our relationship with you. This we pray with humble and contrite hearts. Amen!

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Reading Psalm 48:9-14 CEB  
Second Scripture Reading Ephesians 2:1-8 CEB

Response One: Let us Rejoice in God’s Holy Word!  
**All: For His Word brings us Light, Hope, and Joy.**

**\*Gloria Patri** No. 70

**\*Hymn** “O Jesus, I Have Promised” No. 396

Message “Inspiration, Dedication, Perspiration,  
Jubilation” Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer

As we gather today as a fellowship of believers, let us lift up our prayers and petitions at this time.  
**Pastoral Prayer**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion No. 15

*Jesus is the host at the Communion table,  
anyone who loves Jesus is welcome.*

Presentation to God of Our Gifts

**\*Doxology** No. 95

**\*Hymn** “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” No. 361

**\*Benediction and Postlude**

*\*= please stand in body or spirit*

Opportunities for Service

As we look toward fall and our strategic plans for 2022, we encourage all of you to consider your role in the church. Each of you have been blessed with a range of talents, and we would be honored to apply those talents in service to the Lord. We are looking to restructure our organization so that committees can function at peak productivity and efficiency. In the coming year, we will have opportunities for service in a variety of areas, including Christian Education, Worship, and Outreach. If you feel a call to service in these or other areas, please contact Pastor John, and he will be happy to find a place for you.

Christian Education

The COVID crisis certainly took its toll on Christian Education, but brighter days are ahead. We plan to restart our Sunday School classes this fall, although those who wish to start sooner are certainly welcome to do so. We would also like to re-establish Sunday School options for our youth and our children. If you feel called to help in either of these two areas, please let us know.

Happy 4th of July

Today, we are honored to share the Sabbath with an important national holiday. Independence Day enables us to celebrate our freedom, particularly our freedom to worship, and so we come together to give thanks for those who gave their lives so that we could all be free. May we never take that privilege for granted





### **Our Prayer List**

Our neighbors and our community  
Those serving in the armed forces  
Our country, its leaders

#### **Our church family**

Jennifer Adair	Ann Kahrig
Betsy Bower	Wayne Kahrig
Sheila Burckhart	Steve Moore
Esther Franks	Elsie Mykrantz
Ewing Giffin	Christy Rickard
Elaine Sprinkle	

#### **Our Friends, Family and Neighbors**

Family of Kate Jolliff  
Family of Jake Cassady - Jennifer Adair's brother  
Ron Blosser - following the passing of his wife Amy  
Harriet - Friend of Connie Garg  
Frank - Friend of Ewing Giffin  
Gary - Friend of Steve Moore  
Les - Friend of Phyllis Weaver  
Andy - Wendy Rife

#### **Today's Concerns**

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Names will be removed from this list after three weeks unless otherwise requested.



#### **Opportunities for Ministry This Week**

Sunday 7/4	Worship	10:30 am
Monday 7/5	Office Closed for Independence Day	
Tuesday 7/6	Days for Girls	1:00 pm
Wednesday 7/7	Morning Circle	9:30 am
Saturday 7/10	UMM Breakfast	7:30 am

#### **Looking Ahead**

Sunday 7/11	Worship	10:30 am
Monday 7/12	Retirees' Breakfast	8:00 am
Thursday 7/15	Acorn Deadline	

#### **Choices for Worship on Sundays**

- ◇ Come inside with social distancing.
- ◇ Listen in the parking lot without leaving your car or on the lawn by tuning in to 97.9 FM on your radio.
- ◇ Live stream on YouTube.com at 10:30 am.
- ◇ Links to Pastor John's sermon are posted on our website to view on YouTube or to listen as a podcast. <https://oakchapelumc.com/worship/sermons/>

#### **We lift to you O, Lord**

Alabama shooting victims, those impacted by the building collapse in Florida, and those suffering with Alzheimer's. We pray for comfort, grace, contentment, and wisdom.

# Oak Chapel United Methodist Church July 4, 2021 Independence Day



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John Finn, *Pastor*

*Serving God and Community  
through Love, Compassion,  
Fellowship and Caring*