

F.H. & L.

Faith, Hope and Love, and the Greatest of These is Love

A Mini-Newsletter From Your Family at Oakhurst United Methodist Church



OAKHURST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, LOVING LIFE

**Our Mission is to make disciples, nurture disciples,
and spread the Kingdom of Christ.**

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Rev. Nathan Carlson, Associate Pastor
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Hello to our Friends and Family,

May you live in interesting times is often said to be an old Chinese curse. Research doesn't show the curse is Chinese, only that it has been around since the early 1900's. No matter the origin it seems we are living in interesting times. Everywhere we look there seems to be pandemonium and panic, not to mention a pandemic.

Imagine the interesting times on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress had been working on the Declaration of Independence for a month or so. The American Revolution was well underway, it started in April 1775. But on July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence we still read today.

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness". Even now we are struggling to make these Truths true. In the 1770's we threw off the yoke of Great Britain. Today we are trying to throw off the yoke of racism and sometimes even the oppression by our own government (federal, state or local).

Our nation's founders included God in the first document they wrote when creating the United States of America. The sentence above is the second mention of God, the opening sentence also references God. Psalm 33:12 states, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." The writers of the Declaration of Independence and later, the writers of our Constitution and Bill of Rights knew we must follow the teachings of Christ to build a great nation.

Today, during these interesting times, pray for our nation. Pray for our President and our governors, mayors and other leaders (whether you like them or not). Pray for our first responders and our military. And don't forget to pray for the rioters that they may find peace and a better way to communicate. Ask God for an end to racism and to put love in our hearts for all mankind. Last, but not least, thank God for our great nation. It may not be perfect, but by the grace of God it is ours.

In His Joy,
Your Pastors and Staff

Did Ya Know. . .

- Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
- Congress declared Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1879. In 1938 it became a paid federal holiday.
- Only two signers of the Declaration of Independence later became President of the United States. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.
- The thirteen stars on the first American flag were in a circle so all the Colonies would appear equal.
- The first Independence day was on July 8, 1776 in Philadelphia. The ringing of the Liberty Bell summoned the citizens to the first reading of the Declaration of Independence.
- Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson died on the same day within hours of each other.



Notice

**The church offices
will be closed
Saturday, July 4, 2020
through
Sunday, July 12, 2020.**

America the Beautiful

America the Beautiful is one of my favorite hymns. The lovely melody and harmony blend perfectly with its poetic text. Every time I sing this song I find myself reflecting on the vivid imagery of our country's natural beauty.

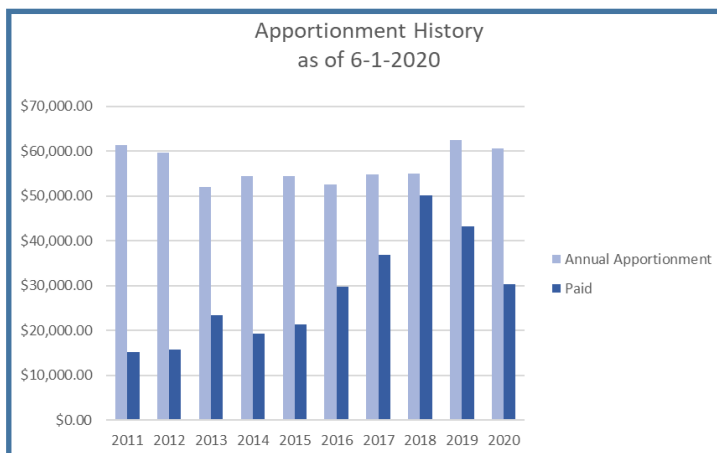
The words to this hymn were written by Katharine Lee Bates who was a writer and an English professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. During the summer of 1893, Miss Bates took a train trip to Colorado to teach a class at Colorado College. As the train passed through the wheat fields of Kansas and the grassland of the Great Plains, Bates was inspired by the natural wonder of the world around her. Once she settled into her teaching job, she went on a trip to Pike's Peak. When she reached the top of the mountain she felt great joy and was deeply moved by the "purple mountain majesties" of the Rocky Mountains. This was the moment when the first words of the hymn were formed in her mind. By the time she left Colorado, she had completed four poetic stanzas that reflected the beauty of all the places she had experienced on her trip.

The poem was published two years later in the weekly journal, The Congregationalist, to celebrate the Fourth of July. The poem became very popular and many composers submitted melodies to accompany the famous words. The tune we all know and love was written by a church organist, Samuel A. Ward, who served at Grace Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey. His music, combined with Bates' poem, was first published in 1910 and received the title we know today as America the Beautiful.

As we approach this Fourth of July, 2020, our country is in the midst of another racial crisis. I would encourage us all, as Christians and Americans, to find a way to let the words of this hymn ring true in our own lives. God shed His grace for all of us around the world and in our country. May each of us find a way to extend love and compassion to one another so that true brotherhood may be found from sea to shining sea.

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

APPORTIONMENT HISTORY



Year	Annual Apportionment	Paid	% paid
2011	\$61,372.00	\$15,255.00	24.86
2012	\$59,727.00	\$15,719.00	26.32
2013	\$51,936.00	\$23,455.00	45.16
2014	\$54,373.00	\$19,324.00	35.54
2015	\$54,527.00	\$21,420.00	39.28
2016	\$52,490.00	\$29,803.00	56.78
2017	\$54,760.00	\$36,829.00	67.26
2018	\$54,919.00	\$50,100.00	91.23
2019	\$62,477.00	\$43,266.00	69.25
2020	\$60,580.00	\$30,259.00	50

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

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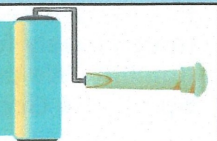
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Unscramble each of the words below, then copy the letters in the numbered cells to the similarly numbered cells at the bottom of the page to discover the hidden message.

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4

A number line from 0 to 2, divided into 7 equal segments. The first segment is shaded.

A horizontal number line with tick marks at 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The segment between 0 and 1 is shaded gray.

				7	1

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1	2	3	3	4

B							
	5	6	7	1	8	9	4

