



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

May 2010

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

July 4th is a very special date our nation celebrates...and for good reason! This day in the year 1776 marks the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence from which our nation and its character emerged. "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." As I remember it, the signers consisted of a variety of disparate individuals who believed unequivocally in the concept of freedom: the right of self-governance. Their actions brought great risk to them personally, and they were well aware of the consequences of their actions. War followed and no one really expected the outcome: victory and the establishment of the United States of America. Without question, the catalyst was the "Declaration of Independence," the document that set forth the high principles of freedom!

It is good that we celebrate these events with our families, fireworks, picnics, song, games, and all that goes with it. We – like our fathers before us – can never take our independence and freedom for granted. It is in the name of freedom that many of our young men and women have already given their lives and many more are even now serving in military operations around the world. Freedom is as costly for us (if not more so) than it was for the original signers of that Declaration so many years ago. We simply cannot afford to take our freedoms for granted – not in today's world.

The best way, I think, we can honor those who have given us our freedoms as a nation with their principles and their lives is to cherish and see that those freedoms are preserved! We can and must strive for a more perfect nation ("Union"), and we must continue to work diligently for justice and liberty for us and for our children. We are called to individual and religious freedoms which means mutual respect for the various nationalities, forms, and faiths we find within our borders.

I favor the use of symbols and rituals in the process of the preservation of our freedoms. I believe in standing during the "Pledge of Allegiance" and singing of the "National Anthem" with hand over heart. I believe in the teaching of a patriotism that promotes the respect for our flag and its meanings. I believe in celebrating the birthday of our nation!

So, this July 4th, I encourage you to celebrate! Celebrate with the *memories* of those men and women whose actions have created and preserved those freedoms for us. Pray for our nation, and for peoples around the world in the hope that they may achieve similar freedoms among themselves. Celebrate enthusiastically, and give God thanks for the joys nationhood has brought us.

And, since this year's 4th of July occurs on a Sunday, why not join me in church and begin our celebrations in church! Yours in Christ,

Phil Shuler, Pastor

We will see you all again in October!

UMW

We will resume in September!

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

Our shelves are looking bare one more time. We fed 32 families this month. We did have a great blessing the day after the Food Pantry. At the First Baptist Church final night of Vacation Bible School they presented me with 106.5 pounds of food for our Pantry. The children had a contest between the classes to see who could bring in the most. Our Pantry was the one blessed by it all. God is so good and continues to make sure our Mission stays open. There is a great need in Granger.

Bible Study

This study is going well and everyone seems to really enjoy it. It is great to read and study Jesus' life in chronological order. Everyone is welcome~ Come join us. – 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday nights.

5th Sunday Community Service

Our 5th Sunday was wonderful although attendance was down some. Food and fellowship afterwards was enjoyed and the music was fantastic. It's a great night to share together as a community.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on July 10th at 8:00 am the fellowship hall and breakfast will be served. They meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month.