



Kanapaha Times

Monthly Newsletter of
Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
July 2025

Join Us...

Sunday Morning Worship 10am in Sanctuary

Note From Pastor...

Are you truly Free?

In the days leading up to July 4th, the American Independence Day there is an increased discussion about true freedom. We accept freedom as our given birth right but often forget as Eleanor Roosevelt said, "With freedom comes responsibility." Each generation is born into this American concept of freedom but it is also the responsibility of each generation to protect that freedom. Sometimes it means fighting for our principles, sometimes it means just living like free people, living what you believe. Living like you are free means that freedom belongs to all even if we don't agree with another's way of thinking. No one has the right to demand that a person think or believe a particular way. Either all are free or none are free. We respect and celebrate the government that is established to protect those freedoms. We also must be responsible for keeping the government accountable to "We the People." We cannot mindlessly accept anything that is told to us simply to avoid that responsibility. If the people do not fulfill their duty to each other and our ideals of freedom- our freedom will quietly disappear under the guise of patriotism. Mark Twain said, "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it." "We the People" must remain vigilant and ready to protect our freedoms.

But there is another, more important freedom- Freedom in Christ.

What is freedom in Christ?

The freedom described in the Bible is internally focused. We are set free from the bonds of sin, free from the confinement of the Old Testament law, and free from self-interest in order to live in a self-giving way. *"Jesus answered them, 'I tell you the solemn truth, everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the family forever, but the son remains forever. So if the son sets you free, you will be really free.'"* John 8:34-36 (NET)

What is freedom in America *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* Galatians 2:20 (NET)

The freedom described in America's founding documents and laws is externally focused. The government cannot create or favor a religion, our private property is protected from unreasonable search and seizure by the government, the government cannot punish crimes through cruel and unusual punishment, etc. You can read a copy of the Bill of Rights, the document that enumerates Americans' most important freedoms. These freedoms pertain to our relationships with the U.S. government and each other.

Why is it important to differentiate between these two? I thank God that I live in the United States and have the government-given freedoms that I do. However, I think it is important to remember that all Christians—regardless of their citizenship—are given the opportunity for freedom in Christ. They may not have access to the same government-given freedoms, but all have access to the freedom that ultimately matters. Let us not combine freedom in Christ with our rights as Americans. Doing so can have a few negative impacts on us. First, combining the two can undermine our understanding and appreciation of the amazing, loving work of our Savior. Second, it can cause us to intertwine our views of our earthly authority with those of our Heavenly Authority. The two are certainly not the same. Lastly, it can give us the false sense that American Christians are somehow favored over other Christians. The Bible doesn't favor anyone over another. As one old minister said years ago, "The ground at the cross is the same for all sinners." As we celebrate Independence Day with barbecues, gatherings, and fireworks, let us remember to be grateful for our freedoms as Americans. Gratefully remember the individuals who fought to get us these freedoms and for those who continue to serve to protect them. Above all let us also be sure to daily give thanks for the freedom we have in Christ. Considering the time we have on earth compared to the length of eternity, it is freedom in Christ that is most valuable.

St Pauly Textile, Inc. Clothing Shed by Pastor M.

You may have noticed that there is a clothing drop off shed in the church parking lot that was placed in early June of this year. St. Pauly Textiles sponsored the Clothing Shed and took care of all the costs of setting up the Shed including county permits, delivery and leveling and security. In return for allowing them to place the Shed the church will receive a small monthly donation based on how many bags of clothing we collect. St Pauly will continue to care for the Shed and pick up the clothing on a regular basis. Session approved the idea and Johnathan has volunteered to keep the Shed organized and report how much is collected.

At the beginning of June we also announced that St. Pauly was running a promotion of giving a sizable monetary donation to the church if we were able to collect 400 bags of used clothing for pickup. The first weekend Johnathan reported that we collected 29 bags. A second pickup of over 30 bags was done the following weekend.

I was thrilled at the excitement that the clothing challenge presented to the congregation as promises were made to clean out closets and take care of some overdue donations. Many of us, myself included, did not realize how much it would take to collect 400 bags of clothes. There was a monumental effort but as of this writing we are less than halfway to the numerical goal. We know nothing is impossible with God even if we don't reach 400 bags this time. I believe God accomplished what he set out to do. We tried something a little unconventional. We thought outside the box- and came up with a Clothing Shed. We moved a little slower, more deliberate and this peculiar ministry paid off in reaching people.

Church Spotlight

Kanapaha Presbyterian Church

Kanapaha Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, FL is considered the "mother church" of all the Presbyterian churches in the area. Today, we still operate and maintain the historic Kanapaha Church Cemetery, which surrounded the original church built in 1859 (no longer standing). We still worship today in the 1886 sanctuary, located further to the west



From the official state marker:

In 1857, a group of Sea Island cotton planters from South Carolina who settled near here called an organizational meeting to establish Kanapaha Presbyterian Church. The Reverend William J. McCormick (1821-1883) was recruited from South Carolina to be its first pastor. The first sanctuary was erected in 1859 on land donated by Moses Ramsey on the old military road now known as S.W. 63rd Boulevard. In April 1859, McCormick conducted the first services and the church was formally organized. During the Civil War, Kanapaha Church fell into disrepair. A new sanctuary designed in the Gothic Revival style was built in 1886 near the train depot in South Arredondo, later called Kanapaha. Beginning in 1961, services were held in a building closer to Gainesville, but the congregation returned to the church here in 1970, after restoration was completed. Kanapaha Presbyterian Church is one of the oldest churches in Alachua County, and still retains its original pews, kerosene chandelier, stained glass windows, and bell. The church's original steeple, badly damaged by hurricanes in the 1940s, was restored in 2001.



this article was featured in the June 25, 2025 edition of the Staying Connected newsletter, a communication product of the St Andrew Presbytery
<communications@posa.ccsend.com>
or for newsletter in its entirety see website
<https://standrewpresbytery.org/>

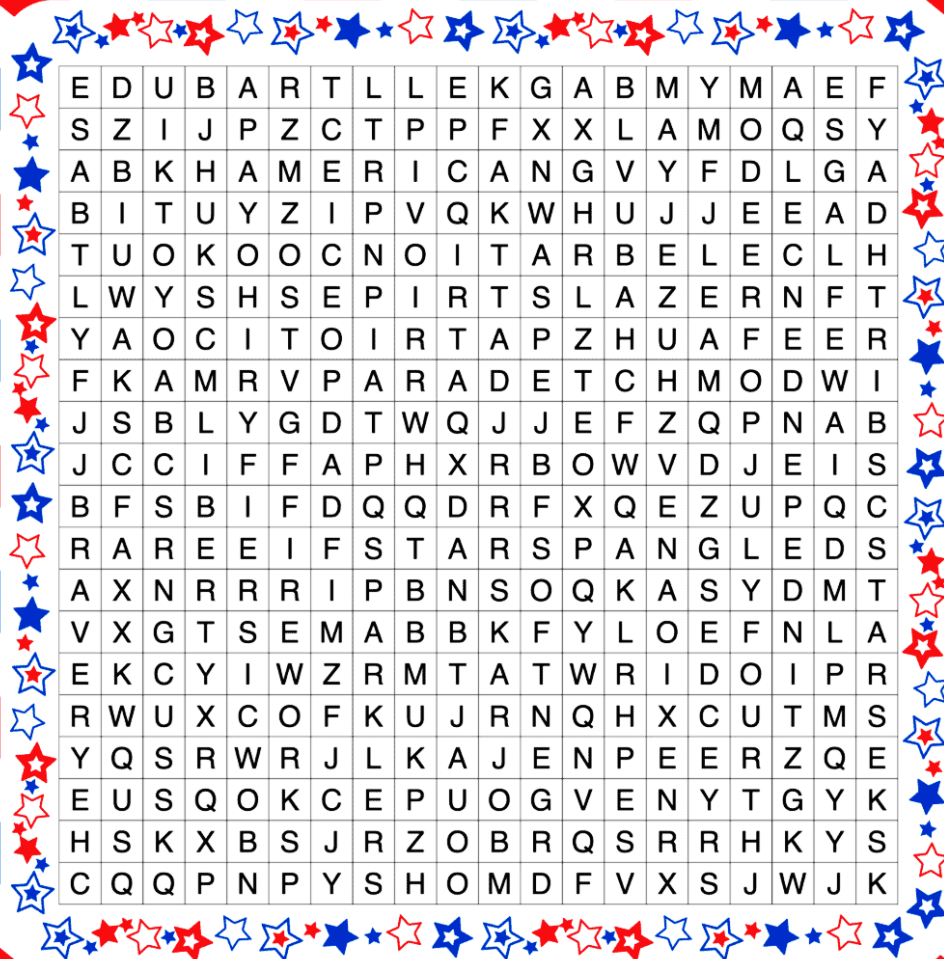
Boy Scouts Summer Camp

We can't wait to see you next fallouting, with programs for young men and women, helps meet these six essential needs of the young people growing up in our society:

Mentoring
Lifelong Learning
Faith Traditions
Serving Others
Healthy Living
Building Character



★ 4TH OF JULY ★ WORD SEARCH



PATRIOTIC LIBERTY BARBECUE FIREWORKS STAR-SPANGLED
 AMERICAN PARADE BANNERS FREEDOM INDEPENDENCE
 CELEBRATION STRIPES FLAG PARTY COOKOUT BRAVERY
 JULY FOURTH STARS BIRTHDAY



Bill Clark	July 26
Kim Friend	July 30
Veronica Ziegler	July 30

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



July 04 Wednesday		Independence Day
July 06 Sunday	10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship in the Sanctuary
July 16 Wednesday	6:00pm	Session Meeting
July 27 Sunday		Magic Penny
July 28 Monday		Pastor's Vacation Days July 28/August 11
July 28	Monday	Newsletter Deadline

