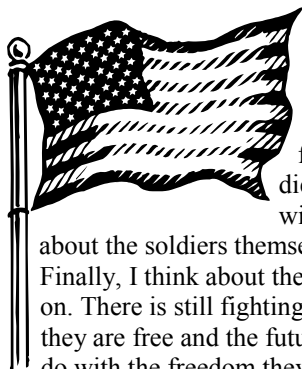


“No one hates their own body, but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his. As we are his body.” Ephesians 5: 29 & 30



God Bless America

July 4th this year carries a strange feeling for me. I think about the many soldiers who have died in the war on terrorism and the many families left without husbands, wives, fathers and mothers. I think about the soldiers themselves and the uncertainty they have for tomorrow. Finally, I think about the Iraqi people and the path they now find themselves on. There is still fighting in the streets and danger around every corner, but they are free and the future is what they make it. What will the Iraqi people do with the freedom they have been given? This is the ultimate question. In the short term it will decide who the next President of the United States will be, and in the long run it will be the one thing remembered about the tenure of George W. Bush. Empires will rise and fall over the simple question “What did they do with their freedom?” Will they use it to better themselves as humans and help fight off the oppression that once ruled them? Or will they slip into chaos and poverty, ultimately being worse than when under the control of a dictator. Our Christian Faith is very similar. Freedom from sin was given freely to us not by the courage of Marines, but by the death of a single man upon a cross. As Christians we must answer the same question - “What will you do with your freedom?” It is a question that must be answered day by day, hour by hour, and minute by minute. Each decision in our life is a reflection of this choice. Deny ourselves and follow Christ or slip back into the bondage of sin. You may not be able to see it now but this question carries just as much weight for you as the one posed to the Iraqi people. Empires will rise and fall, and so will you.

On this July 4th I will take a moment to reflect on the many people who have given their lives, husbands, wives, children, arms, and legs for the freedom that I enjoy. I am thankful for the first Americans, who when faced with the question of “What do we do with our newfound freedom?”, laid the ground work for the greatest country in the history of the world, ultimately becoming a defender of freedom and justice in the world. Now don't get me wrong - I am not some naïve, wet behind the ears youngster who is blind to the ways of the world. There are many things wrong with America but there are also many things right with America, and most of what is wrong with us is still better than what the rest of the world must live with. I am proud be an American and I am proud to be a Christian, and I am thankful for the many men and women who have given me the freedom to be both of those things. This Independence Day, may God bless America and we as a nation turn our hearts to the One true Lord, so that America blesses God.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

NIV

Galatians 5:1

5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

NIV

Chris Jones

Director of Recreational Ministries

Featured Programs

Upward Basketball Camp

Upward is a faith based basketball camp where instruction and having fun are placed above competition. If you would like for your child to learn the proper techniques of basketball in a non-threatening, Christian atmosphere, then Upward is the answer. Each child will receive equal playing time in a format designed for success through encouragement and positive motivation. Upward is ideal for children who have never played before, but also offers advanced instruction for the seasoned player. The \$70 camp fee will provide your child with a t-shirt, water bottle, camp poster, snacks, and the opportunity to play in an encouraging environment. Sign up today as spaces are going quickly.

Upcoming Events

Drama Camp



July 12-16

9 - Noon

This class will be taught by

Drama Teacher Jonette Dalfonzo.

Class instruction will be centered around improvisation and technique.

Upward Basketball Camps

K-2nd

July 12-16

1 - 5pm

3 & 4

July 26-30

8 - Noon

5 & 6

July 26-30

1 - 5pm

