

# THE WINDOW VIEW

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

July 2026

## Who Do We Worship?

As I mentioned last Sunday (July 5th), Ed Rees, our Transitional Presbytery Executive, wrote a good article on the potential danger of confusing our Christian faith and our patriotism. This potential danger is often termed “Christian Nationalism.” Christian nationalism is a political movement where leaders seek to merge political identity with Christian beliefs.

However, Christian nationalism is not just an American anomaly. It is a global phenomenon and studying how Christian nationalism manifests itself in other contexts, helps us see the dangers of such efforts.

In Russia under Vladimir Putin, the state has used a close alliance with elements of the Russian Orthodox Church to rally domestic support for the invasion and war in the Ukraine. In Poland fundamentalist groups have sought to intertwine politics with conservative Catholic values to undermine the freedom and safety of minority peoples.

Christian nationalism movements in Uganda and Hungary have been used to justify and restrict the rights of various groups not reflecting traditional cultural values.

Of course, we are well familiar with Religious nationalism involving non-Christian faiths. In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has governed under the idea that the Hindu faith should be the deciding factor in government policies. We see similar efforts to invoke religious belief and national identity in Israel, Iran, and many other countries. Many Christians have been persecuted physically or economically under Religious nationalism movements in places where Christianity is a minority religion.

Certainly, one can be Christian and patriotic. And we affirm that our faith should inform our politics. The challenge for us is to remember who we worship and to live our Christian faith, as Ed said, “conducting ourselves with such humility, compassion, and love that our true (Heavenly) citizenship is revealed, to the glory of God.”

May God bless the United States of America, that we may be a blessing to the world!

*Blessings, Mike*

\*The Below is taken from the NEGA Presbytery July Newsletter, written by Former Pastor, Ed Rees

Two hundred and fifty years ago this week, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to resume debate on a previous motion which proclaimed that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States...” Sentiment favoring independence had been growing, although not unanimously, and following more debate that motion was adopted on July 1st. A committee of five members, which included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Ben Franklin, had previously been assigned the task of preparing a declaration which would lay out the case for American independence. That declaration was now presented, and on July 4th, 1776, it was formally adopted.

It’s worth noting the role that Presbyterians played in the formation of this new nation. Presbyterian clergy were prominent in preaching in favor of independence, so much so that King George III referred to the conflict as the “Presbyterian Revolt”. Twelve of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence were Presbyterians, including the clergyman John Witherspoon, who at the time was the president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). It is also possible to make a sound case that the form of our government is based on a Presbyterian model.

Acknowledging all that in no way supports the idea that America was founded as a “Christian nation,” although it seems clear that certain Judeo-Christian themes run through the founding framework of the country. Indeed, it’s worth pondering the question of whether a democratic republic such as ours is even feasible apart from a broad-based agreement that “all men are created equal, and are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights...” Even though we must confess that the Founders were glaringly blind to the full implications of that phrase, they spoke better than they knew, and 250 years on, we are still striving to form “a more perfect union.”

The potential danger in celebrating our national heritage is the ever-present risk that love of our American citizenship might supersede our love for the citizenship we hold in the kingdom of heaven, or somehow be confused with it. When we look to political figures or movements as worthy of our highest allegiance, we have gotten very mixed up about what we owe to Caesar and what we owe to God. Ultimately we must remember the words Daniel spoke to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...” (Daniel 2:20-21). Earthly kings and kingdoms come and go, but we look toward the day when we see the fulfillment of the vision given to John in Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.’”

As we long for that day, our calling is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, regardless of which country we live in, and conduct ourselves with such humility, compassion, and love that our true citizenship is revealed, to the glory of God. Yours in Christ,

Ed Rees, Transitional Executive

### Christian Education Ministry News for July



#### Latest news from the Christian Education Ministry for July and August

**Sunday School Classes** will not meet during the months of July and August. We are taking the summer off for a break. The Sunday School teachers will be evaluating past efforts and planning for future classes. If you have ideas for study, please see Ken Voss.

**Wednesday Night Fellowship and Bible Study classes** will continue thru the summer. BYO Brown Bag meal starts at 5:30ish, the program will start at 6pm and end around 7:15pm. Please try to make it to see the sights of the Holy Land!

The highlight of the summer will be **Adult Vacation Bible School**. They will meet on the last 4 Fridays of July, (10,17,24, 31) 10am to 12pm. Please register by contacting Jackie Voss. There will also be a registration section in Sunday's Bulletin. We need the number of participants for refreshments, copies of material and the surprise goodies that sometimes just show up.

## Where will Adult Vacation Bible go this year?



**We will be walking on the road to Emmaus!**

**Please join us at St Andrew Presbyterian Church**

**on Friday, July 10, 17, 24 and 31**

**from 10AM till Noon**

**All adults are welcome, bring a friend!**

**There is no charge, but we would like to know that**

**you are coming so we have enough supplies.**

**Questions? Ask Jackie Voss**



## Bible Reading in One Year

|                |                                                  |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 1</b>  | 1 Chronicles 1, Psalm 150, Revelation 20-22      |
| <b>July 2</b>  | 1 Chronicles 2, Psalm 1, Matthew 1-2             |
| <b>July 3</b>  | 1 Chronicles 3-4, Psalm 2, Matthew 3-4           |
| <b>July 4</b>  | 1 Chronicles 5, Psalm 3, Matthew 5               |
| <b>July 5</b>  | 1 Chronicles 6, Psalm 4, Matthew 6               |
| <b>July 6</b>  | 1 Chronicles 7, Psalm 5, Matthew 7               |
| <b>July 7</b>  | 1 Chronicles 8, Psalm 6, Matthew 8               |
| <b>July 8</b>  | 1 Chronicles 9-10, Psalm 7, Matthew 9            |
| <b>July 9</b>  | 1 Chronicles 11, Psalm 8, Matthew 10             |
| <b>July 10</b> | 1 Chronicles 12-13, Psalm 9, Matthew 11          |
| <b>July 11</b> | 1 Chronicles 14-15, Psalm 10, Matthew 12         |
| <b>July 12</b> | 1 Chronicles 16-17, Psalm 11, Matthew 13         |
| <b>July 13</b> | 1 Chronicles 18-20, Psalm 12, Matthew 14         |
| <b>July 14</b> | 1 Chronicles 21-23, Psalm 13, Matthew 15         |
| <b>July 15</b> | 1 Chronicles 24-25, Psalm 14, Matthew 16-17      |
| <b>July 16</b> | 1 Chronicles 26-27, Psalm 15, Matthew 18         |
| <b>July 17</b> | 1 Chronicles 28-29, Psalm 16, Matthew 19         |
| <b>July 18</b> | 2 Chronicles 1, Psalm 17, Matthew 20             |
| <b>July 19</b> | 2 Chronicles 2-4, Psalm 18:1-24, Matthew 21      |
| <b>July 20</b> | 2 Chronicles 5-6, Psalm 18:25-50, Matthew 22     |
| <b>July 21</b> | 2 Chronicles 7-9, Psalm 19:1-6, Matthew 23       |
| <b>July 22</b> | 2 Chronicles 10-12, Psalm 19:7-14, Matthew 24    |
| <b>July 23</b> | 2 Chronicles 13-15, Psalm 20, Matthew 25         |
| <b>July 24</b> | 2 Chronicles 16-18, Psalm 21, Matthew 26         |
| <b>July 25</b> | 2 Chronicles 19-20, Psalm 22:1-18, Matthew 27-28 |
| <b>July 26</b> | 2 Chronicles 21-23, Psalm 22:19-31, Mark 1       |
| <b>July 27</b> | 2 Chronicles 24-25, Psalm 23, Mark 2             |
| <b>July 28</b> | 2 Chronicles 26-28, Psalm 24, Mark 3             |
| <b>July 29</b> | 2 Chronicles 29-30, Psalm 25, Mark 4             |
| <b>July 30</b> | 2 Chronicles 31-32, Psalm 26, Mark 5             |
| <b>July 31</b> | 2 Chronicles 33-34, Psalm 27, Mark 6             |



7/1 Janet Mennecke  
 7/2 Bill Lee  
 7/2 Anne Iverson  
 7/16 Karen Hickman  
 7/17 Dan Moore  
 7/27 Deborah Buoni  
 7/29 Louise Taylor



"I WAS SICK AND  
YOU VISITED ME."

MATTHEW 25:36

Martha Deason  
218 Washington Commons  
Dr. Evans, GA 30809

Alice Redmon  
223 Simmons Ct.  
Augusta, GA 30907

## TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 2026

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2026 Budgeted Weekly Needs | \$5,446.65         |
| YTD Average Weekly Income  | \$3,155.49         |
| Total Income MAY           | \$13,478.53        |
| Total Expenses MAY         | <u>\$28,921.81</u> |
| Net (Deficit)              | (\$15,443.28)      |

## COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE- JULY

The Christian Education Committee will meet on July 19<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

The Hospitality Team will meet on July 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

## FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The committee will soon begin the process of selecting congregants to serve as Deacons and Elders. Please give prayerful consideration to accepting the call to lead our church in the coming year. If you are so led, please speak with a member of the committee, we look forward to hearing from you:

Ann Hill, Lee Kitchen  
Gingy Wolcott, Karen Winburn  
Cindy Lesniewski, Debbie Long- Chair

## July 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                       | Monday                                                                                                           | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                          | Thursday                                                                                                                 | Friday                                                                                               | Saturday                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                  |           | <b>1</b><br>5:30pm Wednesday<br>Night Bible Study  | <b>2</b><br>1:00pm Women<br>Prayer Warriors<br>@ the Kershner's<br>Home<br>2:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary   | <b>3</b>                                                                                             | <b>4</b><br>12:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons  |
| <b>5</b><br>10:45am Morning<br>Worship with<br>Communion                                                     | <b>6</b><br>10:00am Line<br>Dancing<br>3:30pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary                               | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>5:30pm Wednesday<br>Night Bible Study  | <b>9</b><br>2:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary                                                                  | <b>10</b><br>10:00am Adult<br>Vacation Bible<br>School                                               | <b>11</b><br>12:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons |
| <b>12</b><br>10:45am Morning<br>Worship                                                                      | <b>13</b><br>10:00am Line<br>Dancing<br>3:30pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary<br>6:30pm Session<br>Meeting | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>5:30pm Wednesday<br>Night Bible Study | <b>16</b><br>1:00pm Women's<br>Prayer Warriors at<br>the Kershner<br>Home<br>2:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary | <b>17</b><br>10:00am Adult<br>Vacation Bible<br>School<br>7:00pm Augusta<br>Gem & Mineral<br>Society | <b>18</b><br>12:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons |
| <b>19</b><br>10:45am Morning<br>Worship                                                                      | <b>20</b><br>10:00am Line<br>Dancing<br>3:30pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary                              | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>5:30pm Wednesday<br>Night Bible Study | <b>23</b><br>2:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary                                                                 | <b>24</b><br>10:00am Adult<br>Vacation Bible<br>School                                               | <b>25</b><br>12:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons |
| <b>26</b><br>10:45am Morning<br>Worship<br>12:00pm Deacons<br>Meeting<br>12:00pm Hospitality<br>Team Meeting | <b>27</b><br>10:00am Line<br>Dancing<br>3:30pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary                              | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>5:30pm Wednesday<br>Night Bible Study | <b>30</b><br>2:00pm Myers<br>Music Lessons-<br>Sanctuary                                                                 | <b>31</b><br>10:00am Adult<br>Vacation Bible<br>School                                               |                                             |

**Angelic Choir ( A Summer Poem)**

*What wonderful warmth weaves through my bones  
Some mystic music with healing tones*

*A summer waft a sunshine snuggle  
A hug so deep erasing trouble*

*If only I could bottle this to keep it fresh  
This cleansing balm this wonderous mesh..*

*Connecting souls correcting ills  
Blessing so full It overflows*

*The world needs more - This love strewn hit  
To cure pandemic Deficit*

*Yet here I rest tired eyes closed tight  
While restful thoughts redeem the blight*

*A harvest doth my soul peruse  
An ancient truth stills daily news*

*Join me, do If you so desire,  
To find your heart's Angelic choir*

*A harmony that lives within  
To quell the worldly heartless din*

*Peaceful corner, comfy chair  
Your favorite spot, I'll meet you there.*

*~ Sam Scott*