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**Independence
Day
July 4, 2026**

**Join us for a
celebration!**
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"AMERICA AT 250TH ANNIVERSARY: A CALL TO REMEMBER, REPENT, AND RETURN TO GOD" PASTOR EDDIE ILDEFONSO

Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people."

As the United States of America celebrates its 250th birthday, we pause to thank God for His abundant blessings upon our nation. For two and a half centuries, America has enjoyed freedom, opportunities, prosperity, and influence that few nations in history have experienced.

While we rightly celebrate the sacrifices of those who **founded, defended, and preserved** this nation, Scripture reminds us that the true source of a nation's greatness is not its **military strength, economic power, natural resources, or political influence.**

According to **Proverbs 14:34**, the determining factor in a nation's rise or decline is its **relationship to righteousness**. Throughout Scripture, God consistently demonstrates that He blesses nations that honor **His moral law** and humbly acknowledge **His sovereignty**. Israel flourished when it walked in obedience to God and suffered when it turned away from Him. The same principle applies to all peoples and nations. God is no respecter of nations any more than He is of persons.

The first half of this proverb declares, "**Righteousness exalts a nation.**" Righteousness is more than outward morality; **it is conformity to God's character and His revealed will.**

A nation is exalted when its people **value truth, justice, integrity, compassion, faithfulness, and reverence** for God. **Homes are strengthened, communities flourish, and society benefits** when biblical principles shape the hearts and actions of its citizens. The second half provides a sobering warning: "**But sin is a reproach to any people.**"

Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people."

Sin brings **shame, division, corruption, and ultimately judgment**. History is filled with powerful nations that rose to prominence only to decline when **pride, immorality, and rebellion** against God became entrenched. No nation, regardless of its history or accomplishments, is exempt from this principle.

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“AMERICA AT 250TH ANNIVERSARY”

Continued

As America enters its 250th year, this anniversary should be more than a celebration of the past; **it should be a call to reflection and repentance.** The greatest need of our nation is not merely **political reform** or **economic prosperity**. **Our greatest need is spiritual renewal.** Revival begins when God's people humble themselves, seek His face, and return to His Word.

2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV

¹⁴ If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

The future of America will not ultimately be determined in the halls of government **but** in the **hearts of its people**. A nation is strongest when its citizens **fear God**, **love righteousness**, and **walk in obedience** to His truth. As Christians, we have a sacred responsibility to **pray for our leaders**, **proclaim the Gospel**, **disciple the next generation**, and **live as faithful ambassadors** of Christ in our communities. While our ultimate citizenship is in heaven (**Philippians 3:20**), we should seek the welfare of the nation where God has placed us and pray that His righteousness would once again be honored throughout the land.

Philippians 3:20 NKJV

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we stand at a historic milestone. Two hundred and fifty years ago, a nation was born. In 1776, the United States of America declared before the world that liberty was not granted by kings or governments, but by Almighty God Himself.

For two and a half centuries, America has experienced extraordinary blessings:

- unprecedented prosperity,
- remarkable influence,
- military strength,
- religious liberty,
- gospel expansion,
- humanitarian impact,
- and opportunities unlike almost any nation in human history.

Yet anniversaries are not merely moments for **celebration**—they are moments for **evaluation**.

The question before us is not merely: “**Has America become powerful?**” But rather: “**Has America remained faithful?**” Because in Scripture, **God never measures** nations merely by their **wealth**, **armies**, **technology**, or **influence**. **God measures** nations **morally** and **spiritually**.

Proverbs 14:34 NKJV says:

³⁴ “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.”

The real issue is not whether America has been great. **The real issue is: Will America honor God?**

GIDEON SPEAKER AT FMBC

Andy Duncan will represent the **Gideons** at our Sunday morning service on **July 12, 2026.**



DANIEL BRASWELL AT FMBC

Maj. Daniel Braswell, US Army Chaplain who has just returned from Poland, will lead our Sunday morning service on **July 26, 2026.** We look forward to his visit back “home!”

Summer Bulletin Board

July 4 Fellowship

Saturday, July 4, 2026 at 11:30 AM
Food Served at 12:00 Noon

in the Fellowship Hall, East Building

Everyone welcome to join in as we gather to celebrate our 250 years of freedom and enjoy some wonderful fellowship together. **Please sign up now!**

Thursday Ladies' Bible Studies

All ladies, please join us for Thursday morning Bible Studies every week at 10:30 AM in the classroom at the front of the East Building facing Smith Avenue. Visitors and church members welcome! This study is led by Mrs. Geraldyn Bradham.

YouthZone & King's Kids Club

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

All children ages 5K through Grade 12 are invited. **YouthZone** meets in the **Fellowship Hall** (at the back of the East Building, next to the gym). **King's Kids Club** meets in the **East Building** on Smith Avenue.

Ways to continue to receive FMBC News beginning in September 2026:

1. Pick a copy up at church.
2. Go to foremanbaptist.com and click the Newsletter link.
3. Ask someone to deliver yours (if local to FMBC) if you are unable to attend church.
4. Email us at fmbc.church@outlook.com to request yours be sent to your personal email.
5. Request that yours be mailed to your home. You will need to get a message to the church office by calling 803-652-2242, email the church email, or mailing a note to **FMBC, 207 Smith Avenue, New Ellenton SC 29809**.

Blessings & Brunch

Saturday, August 22, 2026
10:00 AM

All Ladies Invited! Sign up at church!
Please bring your favorite brunch dish to share. This will be in the FMBC Fellowship Hall.

Baby Bottle Campaign

Mother's Day to Father's Day

As of the Monday after Father's Day, we had collected \$1,275+ in contributions by check; and 13 of the 18 bottles distributed had been returned.

Our contributions enable the staff at Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center to continue the work entrusted to them by God, helping families in the Aiken area. FMBC partners with them to save lives and change lives.

Men's Prayer Breakfast **Discontinued**

There will be no First Saturday Men's Prayer Breakfast times beginning in July.

Shoebox Ministry

Please look for the monthly item in the Sunday Bulletin, or our Facebook page. This collection will continue through the month of October since the boxes will need to be packed and delivered by mid-November.

To order online, go to **Amazon.com**, search their registry lists for the "FMBC Operation Christmas Child" wish list. It's a simple way to share joy from the comfort of your home—just click the link (*it's really easy if you are on the church Facebook page where the link is posted in the featured items*), choose an item, and it ships directly to Tiffany Boyd to be stored in the Shoebox Collections room.

THE GALLERY



Father's Day Picture, June 21, 2026, Men of FMBC:
Rex Nordeen, Jon Noeller, Shane Cooper, Robert Grigsby,
Pete Blose, Todd Matranga, Matt Webb, Aaron Boyd, Austin Boyd;
Back row: Pastor Eddie Ildefonso, Carl Bledsoe and
Jeffrey Williamson



Thanks to Aaron Boyd & his crew, the driveway to Jewel Street is even again, all the wood left after the tree cutting has been removed, and it looks great!



Renovated middle rooms of the East Building – June 2026

PRAYER REQUESTS

Members' Health Concerns

Aaron Boyd (Praise!)
Edna Hanna
Rex Nordeen
Typhany Nordeen
Friends/Family Health Concerns
All Seniors & Caregivers

Our Bereaved

Family of Louise J. Parrish, 5/14/26
Family of Rev. Matt McAlister, 6/25/26

Other Requests

Visitors & Families
Our Community
Other Area Churches
New Ellenton Christ Central
Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center
Aiken Baptist Association
Aiken Schools, Teachers/Students
Our Country, State & Local Leaders
Daniel Braswell & Family-home!

Church Leaders/Ministries, Cont.

Pastor Eddie & Elia
Music Ministry, Praise Team
Deacons, Trustees, Ministry Asst.
Sunday School Teachers/Leaders
All FMBC Committees
Adults on Mission
YouthZone and King's Kids Club
Ladies' Thursday Bible Studies
"Knowing the Living God" Study
Shoebox Ministry, Tiffany Boyd

FINANCIAL REPORT - JUNE 2026

TITHES & OFFERINGS: \$7,807.00 (through 6/21)

EAST BUILDING FUND: Total Given: \$56,529.74 ~ Total Expenses: \$52,396.07
Balance Remaining: \$4,133.67

CHANGES COMING TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Due to rising costs of postage and paper and the desire to be good stewards of the tithes and offerings we receive, FMBC will be turning to more cost-effective ways of distributing our newsletter.

We recently relaunched our website in mid-June, so you will have access to a digital version of the newsletter by way of foremanbaptist.com, especially if you are one of the 60+ subscribers who live outside of FMBC's immediate area.

For the 140+ "local" subscribers, we direct most to the website for access to the newsletter. For those who attend, a copy will be available on the vestibule table. If you are homebound or without internet access, we can mail or deliver your newsletter. You may also request a copy be sent to your personal email address. Just email the church office at: fmbc.church@outlook.com.

We hope everyone who desires to keep up with the happenings at FMBC will continue to look for the newsletter at the beginning of every month. **This new way of getting the FMBC News will begin with the September 2026 issue.**

Thank you to EVERYONE who took the time to read this publication when it came by USPS, and hope you will continue to pray for us as we adapt to our changing times with providing digital access to the newsletter. We are so thankful that our GOD never changes!

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

Thank you for reading the FMBC News! We covet your prayers and support. Please contact the church office if you know of anyone who wishes to **subscribe** — the subscription is free. We always welcome and encourage new subscribers! To **unsubscribe** please either:

- Mail a request to 207 Smith Ave, New Ellenton SC 29809
- Send email to: fmbc.church@outlook.com
- Personal Message on Facebook.
- Call the church office at 803-652-2242 and leave a message.

Thank you!
Wendy Grigsby, Editor





2026

SUNDAYS: 9:45 AM Bible Study Classes ♦ 11 AM Worship Service ♦ 5 PM Worship Service

TUESDAYS: "Knowing the Living God" Study at 9 am and 6 pm

WEDNESDAYS: 6:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study; YouthZone Grades 6-12; King's Kids Grades K-5

THURSDAYS: 10:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. -2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV</i>			1 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club Joshua 20:1-9	2 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study Joshua 21:1-45	3 Joshua 22:1-23	4  July 4 Celebration at FMBC, 11:30 am Joshua 22:13-26
5 9:45 – S. School 11 – Worship 5 - Worship Joshua 22:27-34	6 6:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Meeting Joshua 23:1-6	7 9 am & 6 pm Knowing the Living God Study Joshua 24:1-13	8 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club Joshua 24:14-33	9 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study Judges 1:1-20	10 Judges 1:21-36	11 Judges 2:1-13
12 9:45 – S.Sch. 11 – Worship 3 – Budget Mtg.. 4 – Finance Comm. 5 - Worship Judges 2:14-23	13 10:00 AM Adults on Mission Judges 3:1-11	14 9 am & 6 pm Knowing the Living God Study Judges 3:12-31	15 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club Judges 4:1-10	16 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study Judges 4:11-24	17 Judges 5:1-15	18 Judges 5:16-31
19 9:45 – S. School 11 - Worship 12 – Church Meeting 5 - Worship Judges 6:1-10	20 First Day of School, Aiken County Schools Judges 6:11-24	21 9 am & 6 pm Knowing the Living God Study Judges 6:25-32	22 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club Judges 6:33-40	23 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study Judges 7:1-14	24 Judges 7:15-25	25 Judges 8:1-9
26 9:45 – S. School 11 – Worship 3:30 Ch. Council 5 - Worship Judges 8:10-21	27 Judges 8:22-35	28 9 am & 6 pm Knowing the Living God Study Judges 9:1-21	29 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club Judges 9:22-41	30 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study Judges 9:42-57	31 Judges 10:1-18	

Pastor's Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4:00 pm (12-1 Lunch break)
Ministry Assistant Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (1-2 Lunch break)



2026

SUNDAYS: 9:45 AM Bible Study Classes ♦ 11 AM Worship Service ♦ 5 PM Worship Service

TUESDAYS: "Knowing the Living God" Study at 9 am and 6 pm

WEDNESDAYS: 6:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study; YouthZone Grades 6-12; King's Kids Grades K-5

THURSDAYS: 10:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>"It was You who set all the boundaries of the earth; You made both summer and winter."</i> Psalm 74:17 NIV					
						1 <i>Judges 11:1-11</i>
2 9:45 – S. School 11 – Worship 5 – Worship <i>Judges 11:12-28</i>	3 6:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Meeting <i>Judges 11:29-40</i>	4 No Ladies' Study <i>Judges 12:1-15</i>	5 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club <i>Judges 13:1-16</i>	6 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study <i>Judges 13:17-25</i>	7 <i>Judges 14:1-9</i>	8 <i>Judges 14:10-20</i>
9 9:45 – S. School 11 – Worship 4 – Finance Comm. 5 – Worship <i>Judges 15:1-13</i>	10 10:00 AM Adults on Mission <i>Judges 15:14-20</i>	11 No Ladies' Study <i>Judges 16:1-11</i>	12 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club <i>Judges 16:12-20</i>	13 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study <i>Judges 16:21-31</i>	14 <i>Judges 17:1-13</i>	15 <i>Judges 18:1-13</i>
16 9:45 – S. School 11 – Worship 12 – Church Meeting 5 – Worship <i>Judges 18:14-31</i>	17 <i>Judges 19:1-16</i>	18 9 am & 6 pm Knowing the Living God Study <i>Judges 19:16-30</i>	19 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club <i>Judges 20:1-10</i>	20 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study <i>Judges 20:11-28</i>	21 <i>Judges 20:29-48</i>	22 Blessings & Brunch 10 AM Fellowship Hall <i>Judges 21:1-12</i>
23 9:45 – S. School 11 – Worship 5 – Worship <i>Judges 21:13-25</i>	24 <i>Ruth 1:1-15</i>	25 9 am & 6 pm Knowing the Living God Study <i>Ruth 1:16-22</i>	26 6:00 Service 6:00 YouthZone, King's Kids Club <i>Ruth 2:1-9</i>	27 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study <i>Ruth 2:10-23</i>	28 <i>Ruth 3:1-9</i>	29 <i>Ruth 3:10-18</i>
30 9:45 – S. Sch. 11 – Worship 5 – Worship <i>Ruth 4:1-12</i>	31 <i>Ruth 4:13-22</i>	Pastor's Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4:00 pm (12-1 Lunch break) Ministry Assistant Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm (1-2 Lunch break)				