

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 18, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:29

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading John 8:42–47

Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Pastor's upcoming travel—Dave Havir will be leaving tomorrow on a nine-day trip to visit individuals. The trip will include a church visit in Salt Lick, Ky., next Saturday. He expects to return home on Monday, July 27. (He reminds you that he is just a text away, but he may not always be able to answer you immediately).
2. Dominoes—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—July 22 at 7:00.
4. Edifying the Body—"What Is the Greatest Empire in History?" by Matthew S. Guglielmello.
5. Among Friends—"25 Declarations in the Declaration of Independence" by Craig Seibert.
6. Eye on the World—Compiled by Stephanie Hammons.

Thoughts for the week

"Our church is like fudge: sweet with a few nuts."

"If you're praying for a blizzard, please go to Dairy Queen."

Prayer updates

On Monday, **Angela Dunnam** reported that **Timberly** had “three awesome days in a row.” (Those on **Dave Havir’s** text list read about the positive details.) However, Mr. Havir heard yesterday that Timberly dealt with health challenges again throughout the rest of the week. The conclusion of Mrs. Dunnam’s Monday report is an accurate reminder of Timberly’s excellent example on her bad days: “She is still a warrior on the bad days as well.” We ask our Heavenly Father to give her some more good days this week.

Following is an update from **Stan** and **Roxanna West** about **Brandi** on Wednesday: “There is a 65 percent probability that the origin of the cancer is in the appendix. While no cancer is good, this is more favorable than colon cancer and especially ovarian cancer. Brandi had her first round of chemo and will attend her school workshops the next two days.” Brandi and the family appreciate your prayers.

Jerry Thompson has some pain in his chest, but he is progressing well. After the surgery, he had moments when he was blacking out “for a couple of seconds”—but that seems to be behind him. He thanks you for your prayers.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Bill Weaver** (retired pastor of the Baptist church in Big Sandy) was in an accident that took his wife **Margie’s** life—and that he had a crushed pelvis. Apparently, his pelvis was broken but not necessarily crushed as initially reported. He is in a facility in Tyler.

New prayer requests

On Friday afternoon, we heard that **Stan West** was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Brent Curtis of Gardnerville, Nev., died in a car crash on June 18. Please remember his wife, **Jeanne**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Synopsis of July 12 board meeting

- The board recognized the reelection of David Coleman and Stan West to the board. (The board is well positioned to have Doyle Welborn and Melodee Kimmons in reserve—in case any of the board members cannot serve due to family, job or health.)
- The board voted to maintain the previous officers from last year—with David Coleman as president, Daniel Hammons as vice president, Carol O’Brien as secretary and Neil McIver as treasurer.
- In the treasurer’s report, Mr. McIver gave an update on the new chairs.
- In new business, the board discussed expanding the board back to seven members—as it was originally established. That would work nicely in the next election cycle.
- Dave Havir presented his pastor’s report, which focused on the speakers from January to June in 2026

Scriptures to consider

John 8:12—"Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.' "

John 8:14-18—"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.' "

John 8:19—"Then they said to Him, 'Where is Your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.' "

John 8:23-24—"And He said to them, 'You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.' "

John 8:28-30—"Then Jesus said to them, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him. As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.' "

John 8:34-38—"Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.' "

John 8:39-41—"They answered and said to Him, 'Abraham is our father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father.' Then they said to Him, 'We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.' "

John 8:42-47—"Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.' "

“25 Declarations in the Declaration of Independence”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 18, 2026. (A version was posted at americanthinker.com on July 4.)

By Craig Seibert

EL CERRITO, Calif.—While it’s questionable how many younger Americans have been exposed to the Declaration of Independence, signed 250 years ago, on July 4, 1776, most Americans probably know the famous preface.

■ “The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

■ “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among them include, Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

What fewer people know is that the remainder of the document rests on core principles about the human condition, man’s relationship to God and government and man’s relationship to each other.

My studies of the Declaration of Independence have allowed me to distill 25 of the principles that undergird our nation. Thus, the Declaration of Independence declares the following.

1. There is a higher law to appeal to—The Laws of Nature and Nature’s God.

2. There is a Higher Power to appeal to—nature’s God.

3. There is a universal truth.

4. These truths are self-evident.

5. Truth 1: Man is valuable because God created him.

6. Truth 2: All men are equal in their standing before God.

7. Truth 3: God endows man with rights.

8. Truth 4: Rights do not come from government.

9. Truth 5: Because the rights come from God, a government cannot revoke them.

10. Truth 6: The primary rights are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness (a happiness understood to flow from virtue, not transient pleasures of the flesh).

11. The purpose of government is to secure these rights.

12. The government’s authority comes from God—“just” powers—and from the people (the people give consent to be governed).

13. The government is accountable to God and the people.

14. A government is illegitimate when it becomes destructive to these ends (truths).

15. The people have the right to alter or abolish the government.

16. Change should not be made for trivial reasons.

17. When the government usurps the people’s rights over a long period, that fact demands change.

18. Tyranny is the steady quest to have greater and greater power over people.

19. It is the people’s duty to act for future generations.

20. God is the Supreme Judge.

21. God is the One who knows men’s hearts and can judge their motives and actions.

22. God holds people and rulers accountable.

23. God will be relied on for protection.

24. The Founders would commit their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to these principles (words).

25. And, by signing the Declaration, they did, in fact, commit their lives, fortunes and sacred honor (deeds).

No other form of government has ever been founded on these principles. And that is why America remains the most free and dynamic country in the world today.