



## JULY Newsletter

# Zoar Baptist Church



By the time you read this, my family and I will be on vacation. I am grateful for that time, and I am also grateful for a church family that understands the need for vacation. Even while we are away for a few days, my heart is full when I think about the blessing it is to serve as your pastor.

This July marks four years since the Lord called us to Zoar. In some ways, it feels like it has gone by quickly. In other ways, when I look back at all God has done, it is amazing to think how much life we have walked through together.

Over these four years, we have seen baptisms. We have seen people profess faith in Christ. We have celebrated new life, growing families, and even adoptions. We have watched children grow, ministries continue, and new opportunities open before us. We have gathered for joyful moments, church celebrations, meals, worship services, VBS, outreach, and times of fellowship that remind us what a gift the church family truly is.

We have also walked through hard days together. We have stood beside hospital beds. We have prayed through sickness. We have grieved with families. We have celebrated lives of faithful saints who have gone on to glory. Those moments are never easy, but they are holy.

They remind us that the church is not just a place we attend; it is a family where we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. What a privilege it has been.

I do not say that lightly. It is a privilege to preach God's Word. It is a privilege to pray with you. It is a privilege to visit, counsel, encourage, baptize, bury, celebrate, and serve. It is a privilege to watch God work in ordinary people through ordinary faithfulness for His extraordinary glory.

And church, I believe the best days of Zoar are still ahead. That does not mean the past has not mattered. It has. We stand on the faithfulness of generations who have prayed, served, sacrificed, taught, given, and loved this church well. But honoring the past does not mean living in the past. God has placed us here, in this community, at this moment, for His purpose.

As we celebrate what God has done, let us also look forward with faith. There are more people to reach. More families to love. More children to disciple. More neighbors to serve. More gospel conversations to have. More ministry to do. More opportunities to be the church God has called us to be.

Zoar, thank you for loving my family. Thank you for letting me serve as your pastor. Thank you for the grace, encouragement, and partnership you have shown over these four years. I am grateful for where we have been, thankful for where we are, and excited for where God is leading us.

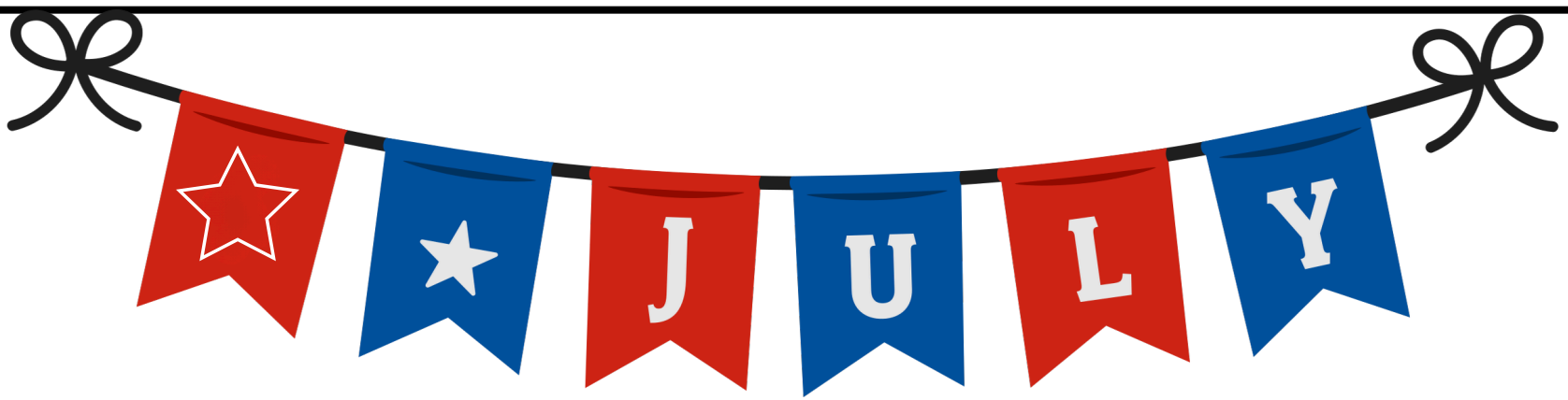
Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, our hearts open to His work, and our hands ready for service.

The best days are still ahead.



In Christ, *Pastor Jon*





## **Birthdays :**

Sherry Smith - **07/08**

Brianne Hamrick - **07/10**

Nina Willis - **07/14**

Jesse Hamrick - **07/16**

Isaiah Baldwin - **07/17**

Maryann McSwain - **07/21**

Kennedy Baldwin - **07/22**

Allison Jenkins - **07/22**

John McSwain - **07/26**

Carolyn Hester - **07/27**

Sybil Hollfield - **07/27**

### **Nursery Volunteer**

#### **JULY:**

5- Sherry Blanton

12- Glenda Allen

19- Allison Jenkins

26- Rhonda Newton

### **Children's Volunteer**

#### **JULY:**

5- Allison Jenkins

12- Dorris Swafford

19- Rhonda Newton

26- Family Worship



# Activities

## *Date Reminders:*

**July 2nd-5<sup>th</sup>, Youth Camp**

**Sunday, 7/12/26 - 5:00 - CARE Meeting**

**Thursday, 7/16/26 Kids Night**

**Sunday, 7/19/26, 4 pm, Church Council**

**Sunday, 7/19/26 - 6 pm - Sweet Supper**

**Tuesday, 7/21/26, 7 pm, Deacon Meeting**

**Sunday, 7/26/26, 11 am, Church Conference**

**Saturday, 7/25/26, 5:30 pm - Church Game Night**

next month

**Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm - Children's Committee Meeting**

**Saturday, August 8 - 9am Prayer Walk**

**Saturday, August 8th - 11 am- Block Party Promo Shaved Ice**

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> - 3-5pm - Block Party**

**Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm - Youth Committee Meeting**

**Saturday, August 15, 8 am- Mens Breakfast**

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> Teacher Dedication**



Our annual block party is planned for Sunday afternoon, August 9, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm.

**Please mark your calendar and save the date.**

Begin now to pray about how you can be involved in this event.

Sign-up sheets will be on the trophy case in the hallway during July.

We also need to borrow tents to put up that day. You will sign up on the same sheet for both. There is something for everyone!

We need all hands on deck!

While we prepare and serve, let's remember Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."



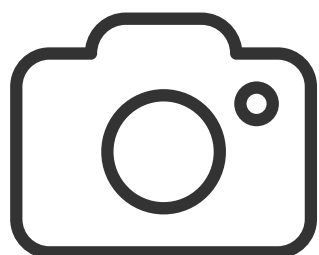
7/19/26- 6 pm

Bring your favorite sweet treat.



The Joy Group may be going to Pigeon Forge in October!

Let Julie know if you are interested.



Pictures!!!!

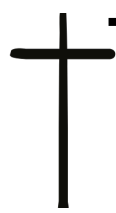
Our social media team would like to showcase our church through pictures of all of us doing things at the church. A small group together or working in a mission project, any miscellaneous picture of us being a family at Zoar is great!

Please pass your pictures to Holly.



7/26/26- 5:30 pm





**Mission Action Committee Report:**

Zoar fellowship opportunities in July are opportunities to invite others to see what Zoar is all about as a body of Christ and fellowship. JOY group meals, Sweet Treat Supper in July, Block Party supper and activities, CARE each month. Be the hands and feet and voice of Jesus in your daily walk.

Larry Gamble gathers aluminum cans and sells them in order to donate the proceeds to missions in particular to the Baptist on Mission funds that help rebuild homes in western North Carolina. You can help by collecting your empty aluminum drink cans, bag them and give them to Larry. Or just make a donation directly to Baptist on Mission where 100% of your donation will be used directly on missions.

Being the hands, feet and voice of Jesus is a joy!

**Future and continuing mission projects are below. Your prayers and support are needed.**

- Our food closet has served so far in June, 25 adults and children and most were children. Our grant funds are being used to refill the shelves and you can donate anytime as well.
- Come enjoy game night at the FLC, July 25, 5:30 and bring some neighbors.
- Please join us on August 8 at 9 am for the Shelby Middle School and James Love School prayer wall, meet out front at SMS
- Please join us on August 8 at 11am at the church office as we will use the shaved ice trailer again to give away snow cones to promote the block party on Sunday, August 9. We plan to visit Washington Square again and other locations.
- Volunteer to help at the Aug 9 block party. We will serve the community a hotdog meal, provide great treats and have lots of fun on the ball field community families, a great opportunity to witness to others and pray. Come join us!
- Men's breakfast on August 15 at 8am, bring a friend and enjoy a hearty breakfast and fellowship.
- September NC Mission Offering, a great opportunity to plan now for your donations to help the Baptist on Missions activities, especially in western NC, our goal will be \$1,800 this year. Remember this will help restore damaged homes and build new ones in WNC.

Thank you all for your devoted support to provide snacks and food for our Shelby Middle School students and support for the monthly show of support to the teachers, support staff and leaders there. They really appreciate all we do. Please continue to pray for SMS.



**Donations are always needed for the NC Baptist on Missions for WNC residents who are in desperate need. Link to donate:**

**<https://baptistsonmission.org/Mission-Projects/By-Mission-Type/Disaster-Relief/Hurricane-Helene>**

**PLEASE CONTINUE PRAYING FOR OUR COUNTRY, OUR LEADERS AT EVERY LEVEL, OUR MILITARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS, AND OUR COMMUNITY. IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS.**

Your Mission Team, Jon Jones, Martha Ledford, Nina Willis, Billy and Sherry Blanton, Eddie Winecoff, Mickey and Paulette Bradley

