

Happy July, friends!!!!

We trust you are all doing amazing and you're excited about entering into a new month, a new season, and maybe, a new adventure. Maybe you're taking a family vacation this July or just gonna sit back and enjoy the moment you're in. (that sounds amazing!). Whatever this month brings you and your loved ones, we pray it is refreshing, exciting, fulfilling, memory-making and of course, celebratory!!! (After all, July 4th is right around the corner!!)

And just like that...June is out (goodbye June! You have been a doozy and we are ready to leave you behind. Take your hail and go... now. We ain't kiddin'). And now that we've dealt with that, it's time to let the good times roll cuz...It's time to bust out those annoying noise makers (Whoops, we mean, fireworks). It's about to get exciting and loud... We love this time of celebration and remembrance. We love this opportunity to set aside a particular day (we said day for all of you who think fireworks are supposed to happen EVERY night. It's only one night, really. Just one), to honor those who have honored us by protecting our freedoms! We love that we have the 'right' in this country to stand up for her (That her would be America), and throw all caution to the wind and irritate our neighbors, legally (ya know... with those loud crackings and boomings and whistles, and...well, that can be heard at all the wrong times...like when you're sleeping, or when you just put the dog to bed, or when you want to settle in on the back deck and sip on a coffee and think, or when ya just put the baby to sleep, or ya know, when you just want it to be quiet 😊). It's July and some of us just maybe need to loosen up a bit, & bear patiently with the noises coming from our neighbors. (Really, this too shall pass & they are great neighbors!). They are just excited to be an AMERICAN!!! Yay!!! And really, we all are (or should be, right?). And, we are excited cuz...

...We have the best country in the world. We have the blessings of the Lord in our nation. We have the joy of being free. We have prosperous lives (compared to many others around the world). We have freedoms others around the only globe can only dream about. We have love for the nation and love for each other. We have a right to say it, to feel it, to celebrate it, to act on it and we should make sure this season, we do not take for granted any of it. We are a blessed people and we live in one of the most beautiful nations in the world. We should honor her, and protect her, and love her, and be ever so grateful for those who have given these rights to us. Everything worthy of praise and celebration costs something... costs someone, and America is no exception. Our freedoms are not free. Our victories have come with a price. Our joy and our celebrations didn't just happen. Our dignity and allegiance haven't come without trouble, heartache, and pain. An amazingly loving God and selfless, strong, fearless people sacrificed much to make this country happen. To grant us our freedom. To make sure we have the kind of nation that we do. We are a unique people who inhabit a very

unique place and we should always remain thankful for those that made it happen, and never take for granted this beautiful place we all share and call home.

We love July 4th. God says to give honor where honor is due. So, yes, we, unashamedly, honor all those who gave us this beautiful gift. We, unapologetically, honor all our military who have fought fearlessly through the generations. We, humbly, honor those who have lost loved ones and all those who have returned broken, hurt, and forever impacted by your sacrifice. We, unwaveringly, stand behind you and salute your bravery that we are so blessed to walk in the results of. You know who you are. And we may never meet you face to face on this side of heaven, but we love you and we cherish you and we honor you and we celebrate you this July. We recognize it cost much and some gave all, and all gave some, and we couldn't be celebrating this season without your sacrifice to us and our nation. You are breathtaking and remain forever in our heart!! Thank you, our fellow Americans for loving the rest of us enough to go!

We pray you all have an amazing July! We pray your hearts burst out with new gratitude. We pray your lives overflow with thanksgiving. We pray your mind is overwhelmed with the blessing of freedom. We pray your family is blessed beyond measure. We pray your days are filled with peace. And we pray you have the best July 4th that you have ever had!

Love to you from us,
Forgiven Church friends

P.S. If you're looking for a great place to watch the fireworks on July 4th, we invite you to our property @ 1409 S. Main St. in Bluffton! We'll be having our kiddie blowups out and popsicles frozen & ready to be eaten from 8-10pm!! Fireworks at 10! It is the best place in the community for a front row seat to the show and we'd love to have you there!! It's free, so why not? 😊 See you then!!

Happy 4th of July!!!!