

# *In Our Prayers...*

*\*Requester's name is in parentheses*

**Ryan Patrick** (Debbie Sutherlin) – Ryan was recently hospitalized for a severe liver condition.

**Jodi James** – Jodi broke her elbow recently.

**Kenny & Travis Sutherlin** (Kenny Sutherlin) – Kenny and his son, Travis, are experiencing similar health symptoms. Doctors have not been able to diagnose yet.

**Brad & Sarah McGlothlin** (Nathan Wheeler) – Brad and Sarah, of Oklahoma City, plan to begin studies at Bear Valley this fall.

**Ongoing Health Concerns** — Jodi James; Ken Williard's daughter-in-law; Judy Woody; Cailin Porter; Bobby Arnett; Miriam Nij; Judy at Needham Elementary; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Scarlett Siner; Bill Harrell; Joe Shattuck; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.

**Door for the Word** – Pray for relationships with the lost that lead to opportunities to talk about Jesus.

## *Announcements*

**Men's Business Meeting** The next business meeting will be this Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 am in the basement of the education building.

**Mountain States Children's Home** Please participate in MSCH's 2026 Change Can Campaign. This fund-raising effort supplies the Home with much needed clothing, school supplies, food, and much more. See the flier in the foyer for more information. Pick up your can on the foyer table. No cans left? Let Nathan Wheeler know, and we'll request additional cans. We will collect the cans on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **The church of Christ in Durango**

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[www.churchofchristdurango.org](http://www.churchofchristdurango.org) | (970) 247-0865

### **Service Times**

**Bible Study**  
Sunday 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

**Worship**  
Sunday 10:20 a.m.



# ***The Durango Disciple***

*July 5, 2026*

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## **Christians Declare Dependence Upon the King**

By Nathan G. Wheeler

Our nation is celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. At its core, the independence declared in that document is an independence from the dictatorial rule of a king.

Ever since then, Americans have acted to empower the individual citizen. To diversify power across multiple institutions and many people. The ideal always is to prevent a single person – or a small, unified group – from dictating against the will of many individuals.

From the beginning, Americans have proven passion for independence from “kings” of many kinds. We have been willing to spill blood – even our own – to prevent power from concentrating in any “king’s” hands. This has been true globally, as we’ve fought several hot wars and a Cold War to hold back communism and the tyranny such as Hitler threatened. Many fight in our streets by means of peaceful and violent protests, from regular “no kings” pro-

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## *Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 4*

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### **Christians Declare Dependence Upon the King**

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test rallies to “no peace” riots instigated by the likes of Antifa.

As Americans 250 years into our “no kings” experiment, we live on the assumption that a monarchy is automatically an oppressor of all freedoms and individual rights.

However, our nation’s experience is full of examples proving that a democratic, constitutional republic can be just as corrupt as any monarchy. The problem is not the form of government but the human beings who fill whatever form the government has.

What great news we hold, that the only righteous human being in the history of the world also rules the world as king, now and forever.

Jesus was crucified by Rome based on an official charge of insurrection. Jesus’ enemies claimed that Jesus challenged the Emperor’s right to rule. They said Jesus claimed that he – not the Emperor – held the right to rule the world. Jesus did not exactly deny their claim.

When Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world [or] my servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews,” (John 18:33, 36).

Jesus is not only the King of the Jews, he is the King of Kings (1 Tim 6:15). So, when John sees a vision of Jesus’ return, Jesus wears many crowns (Rev 19:12). We confess that Jesus is King when we call him “Lord” and “Christ.”

Furthermore, though we enjoy great freedom in Christ (Gal 5:1) it is not the “independence” our American forefathers valued. Our great freedom in King Jesus is because we are slaves yoked to him (Matt 11:28-30) to follow his every step, his will rather than our own.

## ***Are You Really Forgiven?***

Luke 7:36 – 50

1. Who knows what's going on here?
2. Jesus Teaches Kindness to a Sinner
  - A. More Forgiven, More \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Know \_\_\_\_\_, Know Forgiveness
  - C. Know Faith, Know Peace
3. Do You Love Who's at the Table?

## **Weekly Bible Reading Schedule**

|         |      |               |
|---------|------|---------------|
| July 6  | Mon  | Psalm 51 – 54 |
| July 7  | Tue  | Psalm 55 – 58 |
| July 8  | Wed  | Psalm 59 – 62 |
| July 9  | Thur | Psalm 63 – 66 |
| July 10 | Fri  | Psalm 67 – 70 |