



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 4, 2021

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Dale Barger

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7 pm

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## Independence

This week we will celebrate another “*Fourth of July*.” I enjoy the hot dogs and the fireworks and especially the arrival of family. Yet, I always contemplate the history of what happened back in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 courageous men. They, and many others of their generation, paid a tremendous price for our freedom.

The Christian’s Declaration of Independence was also gained at a tremendous price of blood when our redemption was purchased by Jesus’ sacrifice (**Ephesians 1:7**). We signed our name to the Declaration when we were baptized into a relationship with Christ and His death (**Romans 6:1-7**). It took some courage for each one who has signed on to publicly declare that they were turning their backs on the world and would now give their lives to Christ.

The present generation may not fully appreciate what the original signers of the Declaration accomplished for all future generations. Our own times seem to be moving in a direction away from the original intent of those early patriots and from the moral principles that guided them. It may also be true that as Christians we could find ourselves slipping back into the ways of the world and enslaving ourselves all over again. We always have the choice as to which direction we go, so with the patriot, Joshua, let us declare: “...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (**Joshua 24:15**).

Guy Orbison, Jr.  
Church of Christ  
Durango, CO

# Independence Day

By Jeff Arnette

This week we will be celebrating our nation's Independence Day. It is a day in which we celebrate our independence from the British 241 years ago. Independence Day really appeals to us as Americans, many of our people fought and died to ensure our freedoms. It causes us to have an independent spirit and sometimes that is good. Sometimes, though, being independent can be dangerous to us. Sometimes, being dependent is better.

The Bible has much to say about our dependence on Jesus Christ for our salvation. Without Him, we have nothing. Without Him, we are lost and doomed to an eternity of torment. Jesus Christ is our hope (**1 Tim. 1:1**), apart from Him life is truly hopeless.

*“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (**John 14:6, ESV**)

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* (**John 15:5**)

It should be obvious to us all that without Jesus and the sacrifice he made on our behalf, we would be hopelessly lost.

Another important aspect of this is our dependence on the church. Jesus created the church because He knew that we would need each other to succeed in this life.

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)

*“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* (**Ephesians 4:1-3**)

This year, as we celebrate our independence let's remember that as Christians our success is dependent on Jesus and His church. We are dependent on each other. God wanted it that way and honestly, it is beautiful. Independence is great but dependence on Jesus is better.