



The Laveen Baptist Church Builder

Volume XLVII, Number 7

July 1, 2026

Notes from Harry Sexton, Assoc. Pastor

♪ My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride, From every mountainside, Let freedom ring! ♪

It's July, and on the 4th our country celebrates Independence Day. But this year is even more significant as we celebrate 250 years as an independent country. With all of that flag-waving you're likely to have heard the term, "Christian Nationalism", and wondered where you as a believer should be in all of this. It can bring up all kinds of questions like, "Is it OK to decorate the sanctuary or participate in the festivities?"

Let's start with a definition so we're all on the same page. First off, there's no clean and tidy definition since it's not a formal denomination or sect with a stated doctrine of beliefs, nor is there any single person or group leading Christian Nationalism that oversees followers. Christian Nationalism is an ideology that wants to merge Christian religious identity with national identity, advocating for the promotion of Christian values in government, law, and society.

Christian Nationalism isn't synonymous with evangelical Christianity. Christians can be patriotic, but our ultimate allegiance is to God and patriotism must be guided by faith, justice, and love for others. As believers, we're called to respect governing authorities; Romans 13:1 notes that all authority comes from God, and that we should engage in civic duties responsibly, including praying for leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2) and contributing to the welfare of our community (Jeremiah 29:7). Of course, scripture also highlights the importance of loving neighbors and showing mercy, which extends to fellow citizens and informs ethical patriotism.

The problem comes when excessive nationalism or placing the country above Divine authority becomes a form of idolatry. True Christian patriotism involves celebrating the good in a nation's traditions, working for justice, and serving the common good, even when the government or culture is flawed. So, patriotism is compatible with Christianity when it's exercised with discernment, guided by faith, and subordinated to God's authority. Christians can love and serve their country, celebrate its virtues, and work for its improvement, but our ultimate loyalty remains to God, ensuring that national pride never becomes idolatrous or contrary to Christian ethics. So, break out the apple pie, put up that bunting, and thank God for the privilege that He's given you of living in America.

In His service,

Pastor Harry

Notes from the Youth Team

The last three and a half years has been what some people would call quite a roller-coaster ride for all of us at here at Laveen Baptist Church. I think it's been a little more like shooting the rapids: short stretches of calm water followed by trying to stay afloat in rough water and turbulence without hitting any rocks. And in the meantime, not being able to see around the bend to know what's coming. Some people actually pay to be able to do that; we're getting it for free.

This is when we decide if we really believe what God says in His Word: that if we love God, everything works together for our good and for His purpose. (Romans 8:28). That every event and circumstance in our lives as individuals and as the local body of Christ, no matter how it comes about, passes through His hands before it ever reaches us. According to the next verse, His purpose is that we become like His Son. Sometimes that means some rough water and turbulence; we might even hit a few rocks before God can get our attention. From our perspective, that doesn't seem good sometimes. Especially when God's knocking off our rough edges. Fortunately, He knows our future and what it will take to get us to hold tightly to Him and trust His process.

In Philippians, chapter 3, Paul talks about pursuing the goal of becoming like Christ. He talks about the good deeds he did that did not gain him salvation. He talks about loss and suffering for Christ as a believer. In verses 13 & 14 he sums up his goal this way, *"...but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."* (NLT). The word, "forgetting", here doesn't mean not remembering. It's the decision to no longer be distracted by or rely on anything that happened in the past. Instead, Paul chases after Christlikeness like an Olympic runner competing for the gold, knowing that at the end of the race, there is a prize more valuable than all the gold in the world – spiritual perfection in the presence of Jesus Christ.

So, what is your focus today? Is it the rough water and turbulence, or is it looking toward becoming more and more like Christ? What direction are you going?

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

Wednesdays: Bible Study and After Fellowship – 6-8:30 pm (Summer Schedule)

Sunday, July 19th: Parent's Meeting after the morning service

Sunday, July 26th: Water & the Word



**Youth Ministries
Water & the Word**

Sunday, July 26th
be at the Church
@ 5:00 pm

Bible time @ Fellowship

Ms. Pat Smith's House



Youth Parent Meeting

Sun, July 19th

11:45 am - Building B, Room 4

Come find out more about
our Student Ministry Plans.

Notes from the Worship Leader

Hello Church,

Happy Independence Day as our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary as a nation. Can you believe how time passes by? One day our country had only thirteen colonies, and now our nation is composed of fifty states. Our country was part of a British monarchy, and now our country is one of the most powerful nations in the world. A country that has people from around the world and, I can honestly say, I thank God to be an American. This country has faced a revolution, two world wars, and a civil war that could have divided the nation. Thank God that this is a nation which our founding fathers understood it needed to be one nation under God. Now, our nation isn't perfect, and it seems that, as days pass by, our nation is only turning farther away from God, but nothing should shock us because we live in a sinful world as sinful people. Either way, we should be thankful where God has us living because I recognize others don't have the same opportunity of freedom as we do.

In a similar way, our church has celebrated its eighty-three years since it opened through a VBS program. It has seen people come and go and pastors come and go, God has been with us. Some of y'all have been at LBC since you can remember, others when you were children, or maybe like myself, you've only been here for four years or less; the point is God has maintained our LBC doors open. It is not man who has kept it opened, but God. This church, like our nation, has seen good times as well as hard times, but what has kept our nation moving and our church moving is God, and we should be thankful for that. We should strive to be obedient to God's command and, more than Americans, we should be proud we are children of God. One day our nation will fall, our LBC doors will close, but God's Church will remain until one day we will be in the holy presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With that being said, let's pray for our nation and let's pray for our church. Let us strive to be a one nation under God and a church under God.

**God bless you all
my brothers in Christ,**

Cesar Aleman



BLOOD DRIVE
Thursday, July 9th 2pm - 7pm

[Sign Up Online](#)
or
[Call the Church Office](#)



LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH
5036 w Dobbins Rd.
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-237-4885

Sunday
School
Teacher

Wednesday
Night Kitchen
Crew

Sound Booth

Welcome Cart

Fun & Fellowship

Greeters

Adventure Club

Children's
Church

Youth
Ministries

serve

BE the church

For more
Information

Contact the
Church Office



Grieving the death of a spouse?
Join us for this encouraging seminar!

Loss of a Spouse
Saturday, July 25th
@ 10:00 am In Building B

Register via QR Code or
Contact the Church Office



LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH



GRIEF SHARE
griefshare.org/loss





Camp Report Back & Dessert Bake Off



SUNDAY, JULY 19TH - 6:00 PM

Bring Desserts to Kitchen by 5:45 pm to be judged

**Come hear what the Kids did at Camp this year
then enjoy Dessert Fellowship**



VBS 2026



ZONA 2026

VBS 2026



Kids Camp 2026



**Monthly Meeting
After AM Service
Bldg. B, Room 3**

**Join Us
July 19th**

ADVENTURE CLUB



Volunteer Meeting

Sunday August 2nd Bldg B Room 4

11:30 am

**Planning for the
2026 - 2027 year.**



ADVENTURE CLUB

For children 3 years old through 6th grade

Sign-up begins July 15th

Club starts Wed, August 19th 6:00 pm

Please scan one of the codes below to sign up:
Volunteers: Kids:



**Cost: \$35 - for 1st year participating in Adventure Club
Cost: \$25 - for 2nd year participating in Adventure Club
scholarships available**

Crafting in

Ruth's Footprints

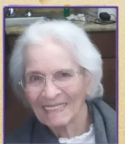


2nd and 4th TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH

July 14th & 28th

9:30 AM

BLDG B Room 2



LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH



QTR 3 Church Business Meeting

July 26, 2026

Following AM Service

**Pick Up Your Agenda
In the Foyer**

July 12th



ADVENTURE CLUB

Volunteers NEEDED



Wednesday Nights - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**We need: Small Group Leaders
and Game Leaders**

**Have questions, see
Tina Freeberg**





JULY

1 st	Evangelyn Downs	8 th	Henok Teferra	25 th	John Johnson
	Japheth Konki	19 th	Donna Gajdowski	26 th	Louise Richardson
	Nick Pena		Tina Worley	28 th	David Raitter
5 th	Patricia Smith	22 nd	Melba Stewart	29 th	Joshua Jenkins
6 th	Kris Williams	24 th	Robert Grinnell	31 st	Jimmie Creekmur
7 th	Bethany Asher	25 th	Raquel Esparza		



JULY

3 rd	Donald & Jennifer Holmes	18 th	Bill & Donna Pulley
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JULY



Regular Events

JULY

SUNDAY

Sunday School Classes (all ages)	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

MONDAY

AM Ladies Bible Study –Revelation	8:30 am
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TUESDAY

Young Adults Bible Study (Off-site)	6:00 pm
Victorious Overcomers Support Group	6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Prayer Hour	6:00 pm
Ladies PM Bible Study, room 3	7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study, room 2	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

College Bible Study (off site)	6:30 pm
AA Meeting	6:30 pm

FRIDAY

AA Meeting	6:30 pm
Al-Anon Meeting	6:30 pm

Special Events

JULY

5 th	4 th of July Celebration Potluck	11:45 am
6 th	Office Closed 4 th of July	
6 th	Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
12 th	QTR 3 Business Meeting	11:45 am
14 th	Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am
19 th	Youth Parent Meeting	11:30 am
	Deacon Meeting (Room 2)	11:30 am
	Mission Team Meeting (Room 3)	11:30 am
	Camp Report Back Night & Dessert Bake Off	5:00 pm
20 th	Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
21 st	Primary Election	5:00 am – 8:00 pm
25 th	GriefShare Loss of Spouse	10:00 am
28 th	Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am

AUGUST

2 nd	Lords Supper	
3 rd	Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
6 th	GriefShare 13 weeks	10:00 am
9 th	Mission Team Meeting	11:30 am
10 th	Life Line Screening	8:30 am

We Want To Hear From You:

E-mail prayer requests to:

lbc@laveenbaptistchurch.org

Call us at: 602-237-4885

See what's happening & Register for events:

www.laveenbaptistchurch.org

Reach the elders at:

elder@laveenbaptistchurch.org

Welcome New Member



Ethan Lipski
5-31-2026