

# BLUE RIDGE

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Independence Day Celebration July 4  
Cookout Lunch July 11  
Speak Now Conference July 16-17  
Join us in person at Blue Ridge or  
On YouTube every Sunday!

## From My Heart

**I**ndependence Day is this Sunday! We will celebrate and Reborn Harmony will be singing. It should be a great day. I came across a great video which I will try to share Sunday. It features the voice of Sandi Patti and the landscapes of our beautiful country. The song she sings is, "God Bless America".

After watching the video, I thought that I would do a little digging to get the back story on this beautiful song which has informally become our second National Anthem.

The song as you probably know was written by Irving Berlin. Irving Berlin's real name was Israel Baline, and it turns out that he was an American success story. He was born in Russia in the Jewish village of Tyumen in a harsh and cold region called Siberia. At the age of 5, changes were happening in Russia and an anti-Jewish mob destroyed his family's home. It was no longer safe for the Baline family to live there so they fled for America, ending up on New York City's Lower East Side.

Irving's Father was a Jewish cantor, so music was in his DNA, but he didn't get to know his father for long. At the age of 8 his father died. At 8 he began selling newspapers to support his family. As a teen he sang in saloons and taught himself to play the piano. He had a knack for writing simple songs that people had fun singing. His first published hit was in 1911 and the tune was called, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and that's how he went from Israel to Irving. Unlike famous folks today he didn't change his name to help him become more popular, but a printing error took place on the sheet music. The song became a hit, and he had a new name.

Even after all these years most everyone knows at least one of Irving's hits, they include: "White Christmas", "Blue Skies", "There's no Business

Like Show Business", I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm", and of course, "God Bless America".

in the fall of 1938, our world was falling apart as it seems to be every year. Irving needed a song and he wanted to write a peace song. He recalled that he had set aside an unpublished song and stuck it in a trunk, he took it out and crafted what we know as God Bless America. You can see online the actual handwritten first draft of the song.

Three things about the song. It's title came from a phrase that his mother fervently repeated during his childhood. The song itself is an expression of gratitude for what this country has done for its citizens and what home really means. And finally, even more than being patriotic, the song is a prayer.

Like 1938 our world and our country seem to be falling apart. What our country needs most of all is prayer, sincere and fervent payer. We need the prayer that God talks about in **II Chronicles 7:14**, "*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*" That kind of prayer starts individually in our hearts. We don't have to wait for D.C. or anyone else we just need to humble ourselves and call on our mighty Savior. There is always hope for healing when people turn from themselves and yield themselves to the God of creation. We need to be informed and active citizens, but first we need to be on our knees.

*Hope to see you Sunday at Blue Ridge or online! We love you!*

*Bro. John*

**Destination Dig VBS 2021** was fantastic! We had a great crew of kids, and we made a lot of new friends. All our workers were amazing. We thank everyone at Blue Ridge for their prayers and support! Can't wait to do it again next year.



**God Bless America,  
The Home of the Free and the Brave!  
Join Us as We Celebrate our Independence  
Day, July 4, 1776-2021  
In God We Trust!**



- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| July 4     | Patriotic Service in Morning Worship                               |
| July 11    | Celebrate the 4 <sup>th</sup> with a Cookout after Morning Worship |
| July 11    | Adult VBS Resumes  |
| July 16-17 | Youth Evangelism Conference in Trussville                          |
| July 18    | Adult VBS Concludes  |



**Invite Everybody to Come Celebrate July 4!**



Our Morning Worship Service will be a joyful service with a Patriotic message from Bro. John, Reborn Harmony in concert, and your favorite Camp Meeting hymns. We will pray for our country and for our family of faith at Blue Ridge Baptist Church. Dress casually all this month and next month and enjoy a great time of fellowship with fellow believers. Please pray for Bro. John as he leads us.

**Come Enjoy a Celebratory Cookout  
Sunday, July 11!**

We will grill out and serve a delicious lunch for our church family right after Morning Worship. It will all be red, white, and blue in the Fellowship Hall and lots of fun for everybody.

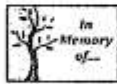
Please bring your favorite homemade ice cream or your favorite flavors from the grocery store to share with everybody. Sugar-free and/or sweet will be enjoyed by all. Just drop your ice cream by the church kitchen on your way in that morning.

## Youth News and Views and What's Happening

We are very thankful for our Youth teachers, Emily Riddle and Don Roney for praying and planning for our Youth each Sunday. We have great kids and we enjoyed our visiting youth at our VBS.

Please pray for Emily as she takes the Alabama State Bar Exam at the end of this month. This has been her dream for her life since childhood.

Our Youth will head to Trussville, Alabama for the Youth Evangelism Conference this month. Please pray for each one as they draw closer to our Lord as they attend this great event planned by our State Convention.



### Terry Graydon

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Parsons have given a generous gift to the church in memory of our friend and brother in Christ, Terry Graydon.



### Kids' Korner



VBS was so great that all the children did not want it to end! Excellent! They are ready to come again.

Congratulations to Avery, Evelyn, and Caroline

Roney on memorizing the books of the Old Testament and reciting them in Morning Worship.

They each received a nice trophy for their accomplishment. Anyone who memorizes either the Old or New Testament books will receive the Blue Ridge trophy. Just talk to Bro. John or Jackie when you are ready.



### Happy July Birthdays



2	Anne Funchess
3	Buddy Davis
9	Jody Mallonee Henry Blake
10	Lorrie Sereneck
14	Brooke Riddle Mistrot
17	David Funchess
27	Shelly Bennett James Miller
31	Trent and Tyler Aldridge



### Children's Ministry in July



4<sup>th</sup>: Preschool: Carney; Children's Church: Tammi Stevenson

11<sup>th</sup>: Preschool: Shirley Davis and Susan Bass; Children's Church: Carney

18<sup>th</sup>: Preschool: Volunteer; Children's Church: Volunteer

25<sup>th</sup>: Preschool: Lorrie Sereneck; Children's Church: Carney

## *Thank You*

As we give our thanks to the Lord for our lives and freedom to love and serve God, we thank our friends who help make our ministries at Blue Ridge to be ongoing. We thank God for Dr. Don Cheatham, James and Jody Mallonee, Drs. Cory and Marcia Stanley, and Brenda Chambliss. Thank you for tithes and offerings. We pray His blessings on your lives daily. We love you.



### "DESTINATION DIG"

June 6-10 2021 was dedicated to sharing the good news of Jesus! We felt so blessed to have so many children come and were able to meet their parents. These were the best-behaved children and Youth! Every VBS Worker loved their time with them. We thank our Lord for leading them into our path!

**Snacks:** Barbara Harris, Shirley Davis, Lorrie Sereneck, Linda Jones

**Crafts:** Bonnie Ryals, Tammi Stevenson, Linda Jones, Renee' Miller, and Ashley Bonasera

**Music:** Bro. John Carney

**3<sup>RD</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Archaeologist Emily Roney, Charis Hand, Amanda Mann, Bekah Richardson, James Roney, Gus Mann, Caroline Roney, Kellen Hand, Addie Hand, Isaiah Bonasera, Gwen Richardson, Blake Hall, Ronan Hand  
**K- 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE:** Archaeologist Amy Brown, Sydney Brown, Avery Roney, Brooklyn Hall, Nolan Richardson, Evelyn Roney, Madison Bowden, Lincoln Mann

**3<sup>RD</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Archaeologists Emily Riddle, Linda Graydon, Elijah (Bob) Richardson, Billy Bowden, Chance Mullis, David Ferguson, Bella Hawley  
**5<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Archaeologist Wendy Aldridge, Jake Spivey

**YOUTH:** Archaeologist Don Roney, Jon Lowry, Justin Brown, Maria Richardson, Evan Richardson, Ben Lowry, Tatum Mullis

**Photographer:** Jim Harris

**Set Design:** Chris Stephens, Jackie Carney, Bro. John Carney

**Director Curator:** Jackie Carney

**Pastor Archaeologist:** Rev. John Carney

**Treasurer:** David Brown, Jim Beck



### SEEK TRUTH! FIND JESUS!

We thank our members who brought so many finger foods, drinks, VBS Store items, and welcoming smiles to Family Night. God loves you! And I do, too!

Jackie Carney, Curator

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Join us every Sunday for Worship at 11:00 AM at Blue Ridge or on YouTube!  
 Go to our Website [www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net) and click on the link'.

**How to Give Online**

Unleash your generosity by giving through our safe and secure GiveThree65 digital platform.  
 Visit [www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net](http://www.blueridgebaptistchurch.net) and click on the Secure Donations Page to begin the process.

# JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Counting and Lock up Jim Harris		Invite a Friend to Celebrate Independence Day at Blue Ridge!	1	2	3 <i>Pray for our Nation!</i>
4 <i>Independence Day Reborn Harmony</i>	5	6	7 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 5:00 PM	8	9	10
11 <i>Cookout After Worship Bring a Friend!</i>	12	13	14 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 5:00 PM	15 Remember you can give online at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>	16 Youth Conference Speak Now!	17 Youth Conference Speak Now!
18 Discipleship 5:00 PM	19	20	21 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 5:00 PM	22	23	24
25 Discipleship 5:00 PM	26	27	28 The Mid-Week Picker Upper 5:00 PM	29 Visit us on the web at <a href="http://blueridgebaptistchurch.net">blueridgebaptistchurch.net</a>	30	31
		June 2021 S M T W Th F Sa 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		August 2021 S M T W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		Notes: Coming Up! Independence Day 4-Jul Cookout 11-Jul Bake Off Coming Soon

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