June & July Witness 2024 Volume 36, Issue 6 & 7

# June & July Witness

First Presbyterian Church Wickenburg, AZ

# Contentment in a Discontented World

Words from Pastor Jonathan Evans





## Sunday Service:

9:30 Worship Service

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I know I should be writing about Father's Day or July 4th or something that happens in June or July. Summer. Vacations. Getting away from it all. Well, don't be upset or discontented. Oh, and I missed last month's Witness. So, here's a little extra. Oh, go ahead. Take the time to read it. Yeah, it's long. Your choice. Just don't let discontent get a hold of you! □

Here's the thing that's happening. Discontentment. It's everywhere. Discontentment seems universal (or I like the word "ubiquitous"!) these days. Our culture is rife with it. You can hardly watch the news anymore, whether it be TV or the internet, or social media. without any discontentment about everything from politics to social issues to protests on campuses bubbling off the screen. It seems to be the air we breathe nowadays. The insidious thing about discontentment is that it spreads. Like the old adage, misery loves company, well, so does discontentment. And the really troublesome thing is that it easily finds its way into the church.

Discontentment may be the greatest trap in our culture. It may be greater than lust, greed, and even lying, because discontentment leads to all these other sins. It tends to be a well-spring of iniquity, of sin. I have yet to meet an individual who engaged in some destructive sin without first suffering from discontentment. I have yet to speak with a person with an addiction whether it be alcohol, drugs, sex, gossiper, liar, or idolater of body (trying to achieve the ideal image) or rest or recreation without them alluding discontentment. It feels like the entire world is colluding to stir up discontentment within us. Every billboard, every commercial, every brochure tends to communicate, "You deserve and need more."

We have a study going on at the "Ranch Hands" Life Group that meets here at the church Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. The name of the study is "Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table," by Louis Giglio. I love this study. His first point last week was the reason we often mess up. It goes all the way back to Adam and Eve where, as you remember, they may tempted by the Devil because he got them to think they were missing out, missing out on all that God had for them.

"If you do what I'm telling you and go for this," he said, "you're going to be like God!" Of course, you know what happened. All of it led to the Fall in Genesis 3. Listen, we all have a fear of missing out. Which of course, leads to discontentment.

Contentment is a slippery thing. As soon as we think we are content it wiggles away, due to something we see on television, some commercial, some stray thought, or a small comment another person makes. Is contentment even possible?

Paul asserts that it is. In fact, he says that he has learned to be content in whatever situation (Phil. 4:11). He goes on to tell us the secret to contentment: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Paul isn't saying he can do all things in Christ as a kind of blanket statement. He doesn't think he can fly, become Emperor of Rome, or create a rainbow in the sky. Too many yank this verse out of context. Rather, Paul is asserting that in all circumstances he can be content <u>in Christ</u> who strengthens him. This is the secret! It is not ignoring circumstances, it is not rising above them, and it is not resigning one's self to them—it is rather living in them in Christ.

Paul's statement is an echo of an earlier statement in the same book where he comments, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). How is this helpful? Because he knows that in Christ, he possesses everything. This allows him to be content. The Christian finds Christ to be sufficient. We are the richest and most secure people in the universe; so the storms may beat the walls of our lives and yet contentment can lie secure within. It isn't shaken, because it is wrapped up in Him, who is our All in all.

If you're a Christian, look at all you have in Christ. I've said in numerous times when we come to the Table of the Lord's Supper. All things are yours in Christ! "All things are yours, whether...the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God (1 Corinthians 3:21-23). Whatever it is you desire; the answer is found in Christ.

\*\*... the next page is helpful scriptures of things you might need to pray about from time to time. Keep them in your bible, on the fridge, or someplace readily available.

- The house you long for, what is it but a desire for freedom and rest? You may get the one you long for but remember there is a better house not made with human hands, which is ultimately found in Christ (Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 8:2).
- That job? At its root, it is simply security and respect (Psalm 62:6-8). Ultimately, these are found in Christ.
- Friendship? What a friend we have in Jesus, one who never abandons or forsakes (Deuteronomy 31:6; Matthew 28:20).
- Family? We have an older brother who leads the way (Hebrews 2:11) and unites us to a Father, who ever loves us (Galatians 4:4-7).
- Justice He is a Judge who forever upholds righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8).
- Comfort? We have a priest who forever intercedes (Hebrews 7:25).
- Wisdom? We have a counselor who is ever ready with comfort (Matthew 11:28-30).
- A prophet who always proclaims (Hebrews 3:3).
- A provider who ever supplies (Philippians 4:19).
- A Savior who pays the price for our sins (Hebrews 10:12).
- A defender who will guard and keep us (Psalm 23).
- If we desire love, it is found in His spread arms on the cross (Romans 8; Ephesians 3).
- If we want hope, it is found in his resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:19).
- If we seek peace, it is found in his blood shed for us (Colossians 1:20).
- If we seek joy, it is given in His Spirit (Galatians 5).
- Happiness? It is found in knowing what awaits us (Revelation 21).
- Power? You will rule with Him forever (Revelation 3:20-21).
- Are you hungry? He is the bread of life (John 6:3).
- Thirsty? He is the living water (John 7:37).
- Naked? He covers you with His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Health? He is the Great Physician (Psalm 147:3).
- Wisdom? He is the fount (Colossians 2:3, Isaiah 9:6).
- Knowledge? He holds it in His hand (Colossians 2:3).
- Rest? He says come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30).
- Compassion? It flows from Him (James 5:11).
- Riches We are made co-heirs with Him (Galatians 3:29).

John Ortberg, former senior pastor at Menlo Park, relates a time when he was experiencing frustration in the church he served. He asked his friend, the late Dallas Willard for advice.

I asked him what I needed to do to help our church experience greater levels of spiritual growth.

Long pause . . . "You must arrange your days so that you are experiencing deep contentment, joy, and confidence in your everyday life with God." Huh?

"No," I corrected him. "I wasn't asking about me. I was asking about other people. I was wondering what I need to make the church do. I was thinking about a book everyone should read, or a program everyone should go through, or a prayer system everyone should commit to."

"Yes, Brother John," he said with great patience and care. "I know you were thinking of these things. But that's not what they need most. The main thing you will give your congregation - just like the main thing you will give God - is the person you become. If your soul is unhealthy, you can't help anybody. You don't send a doctor with pneumonia to care for patients with immune disorders. You, and nobody else, are responsible for the well-being of your own soul."

"I'm trying," I said. "I learned long ago about the importance of having a quiet time when I read the Bible and do daily devotions; I do my best to start each day that way."

"I didn't say anything about having a quiet time" he gently corrected again. "People in churches - including pastors - have been crushed with guilt over their failure at having a regular quiet time or daily devotions. And then, even when they do, they find it does not actually lead to a healthy soul. Your problem is not the first fifteen minutes of the day. It's the next twenty-three hours and forty-five minutes. You must arrange your days so that you are experiencing total contentment, joy, and confidence in your everyday life with God."

"But how can I have total contentment, joy, and confidence?" I responded. "My work isn't going nearly well enough. Lots of people are not happy with me. I am inadequate as a pastor, husband, and father. Every week I carry the burden of delivering a sermon and knowing I'll have to feel the pain if it doesn't go well."

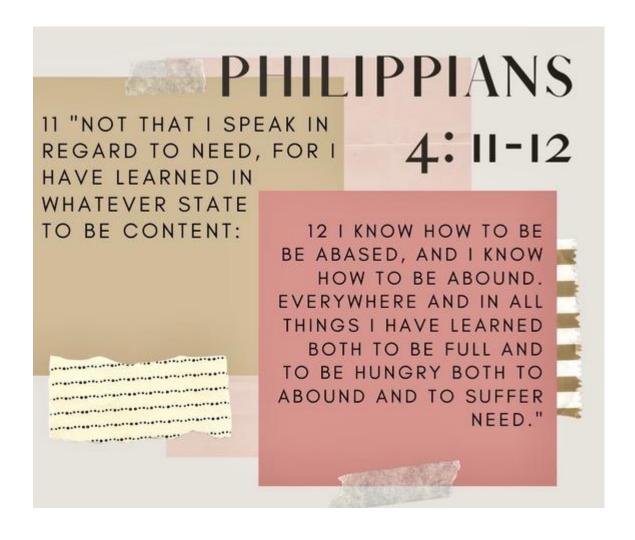
"I didn't say you should experience total contentment, joy, and confidence in the remarkable adequacy of your competence or the amazingly successful circumstances of your life. It's total contentment, joy, and confidence in your everyday experience of God. This alone is what makes a soul healthy. This is not your wife's job. It's not your elder's job. It's not your friend's job. It's your job."

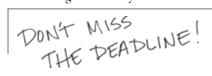
"It is the responsibility of every Christ-centered follower to carve out a satisfying life under the loving rule of God or else sin will start to look good." We can be content because life's circumstances do not dictate to us. We live in Him. Christian contentment is based upon dependence not independence. Paul is no Stoic. He is not acting as though he is above his circumstances which have no effect upon him. Rather, in the midst of the difficult circumstances, he is trusting in God and looking to Christ in whom He has all things. He is not independent; he is Christ-dependent. For me to live is Christ. It is not being self-satisfied or self-fulfilled; it is being Christ-satisfied and Christ-fulfilled. And this makes contentment possible.

How are you doing with the contentment thing? Are you content or are you irritated? Anxious? Angry? Discontent? You may want to see what you have in Christ and dwell in that.

I want to conclude and ask you to ponder this wonderful quote from Dallas Willard on contentment. It speaks for itself.

"Abandonment to God is the fruitful way to experience good under God. It means relinquishing 'our way.' It means not being angry or resentful when things do not go our way. It means that in God's hands we are content for him to take charge of outcomes. And in that posture, we make way for him to occupy our lives with us and achieve what is best for us and for others far beyond anything we can even imagine."

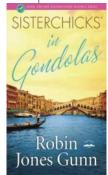




The Witness deadline for the August/ September issue is Wednesday, July 17th. Please double check your calendar and have articles into the office by the deadline!

Thank you and God Bless!

## Book Worms Book Club News



SISTERCHICKS The Presbyterian Book Worms meet on a monthly basis and will look forward to sharing our thoughts on "Sisterchicks in Gondolas" by Robin Jones Gunn. Deborah Pinnell will facilitate on the first Friday, June 7th, and Marsha North will provide our snacks!

Come and find out what we'll be reading for the summer months as well. Look for us in Fellowship Hall or the Gathering Room.

We hope you'll join us!



## Wickenburg Neighborhood **Green Bag Food Project** Last Drop Off Day!! June 7th

Bring your Green Bags to the stage in Fellowship Hall by Friday the 7th. The Deacons will take them to the CAP office on the morning of the 8th. You can still drop your donation anytime here at the Church or at the CAP Office directly.



#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office (928) 684-2836 fpc.wickenburg@gmail.com Witness Editor: fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com Website: www.fpcwickenburg.org

> Jonathan Evans, Pastor Cell (928) 231-7704 Office (928) 684-2836 jkevans54@me.com



#### **CONTACT THE WITNESS**

Deb Berner, Editor fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com

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## Session Highlights from May 28, 2024

20 members viewed the ECO zoom presentation "Cultivating Flourishing Congregations" before the Session meeting. Session moved to participate in the program. There will be an information gathering period during the summer including participation by the congregation. This will be followed by a meeting with a navigator in September.

There was further discussion of the Habitat for Humanity proposal to purchase two of the Adams Street lots. No decision has been made.

Session meeting time has been changed to 3:00pm beginning with the June 25 meeting.

Deacons have been approved to purchase an AED (Automated external defibrillator) for the church from Deacons funds. The fire department will be providing free training. Stay tuned for more details!





Sunday, July 28, 4:00 p.m. Wickenburg Christian Academy, Lion's Den

Help us pray our children back to school.

School Safety

Sound School Decisions

Administration Wisdom

Teacher Guidance

Any questions, Contact Debbie Wright

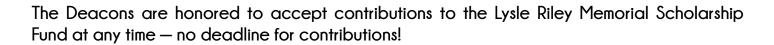
# Lysle Riley Scholarship Applications

## Deadline Approaching!!

The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church have supported dozens of students over the years with Lysle Riley Scholarships for higher education. In the last year, we have awarded scholarships to Ross Longshore and John Thomas.

Completed applications for the Fall term are due July 1. If you are a member of this church or are involved in the life of this church, the Deacons would be happy to consider your application for scholarship assistance.

Application forms for scholarships may be picked up at the church office during business hours.







# "The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least...you did for me." "Matthew 25:40

# Mission Mexico Embrace July 7-12, 2024

It's not too late to sign up for an incredible mission opportunity! First Presbyterian Church is once again sending a team down to Rancho Agua Viva outside Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. Participants get to choose from a variety of mission opportunities- construction, sports ministry, vacation bible school, evangelism, and more. The cost is \$395 which includes room and board, with the church paying half.

The deadline for signing up is June 14. There will be an orientation meeting in early June for those who are interested. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Taylor or Deb Berner at the church office.



# Mission Team Headed to MonGOlia

First Presbyterian Church is sending a mission team of five to Mongolia July 4 to July 17, 2024, to share the Gospel through conversational English. The team will be working alongside Mongolia Campus Crusade For Christ fulltime staff members who are arranging their ministry time. The outreach will be to educators and their families through English. English is a great way to open doors to talk about the Christian faith and invite people to accept Jesus.

Mongolia gained its independence from Russia in 1991 and elected to become a democratic, capitalistic country. Their constitution includes freedom of speech and religion. Only 15 years ago Mongolia changed from Russian to English as their second language. People are very open to hearing the Christian message as most Mongolians come from a Buddhist or Shamanist background. And they want to learn English. This is an open window of opportunity to share the Gospel.

There was a special luncheon May 19, 2024 after service at First Presbyterian Church, and a presentation on Mongolia and the mission trip. The public was invited.

If you want to be part of this team, without physically going to Mongolia, you can support the team by making a financial gift to;

FPC GO MonGOlia, 180 N Adams Street, Wickenburg, AZ, 85390. If you have any questions contact the church office, 928-684-2836. The team will be commissioned to go to Mongolia on June 30, 2024 at the 9:30AM service. The public is also invited to the commissioning.



# NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



will meet Tuesday's from 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m., or any portion of that time, throughout the year in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to come, and bring a friend! All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary!!

Currently, we're making crafts for the Christmas Bazaar!

Join us, we'll have you in stitches!!

## A Little Bit About Presbytemen Women

Women who attend First Presbyterian Church are Presbyterian women. PW exists to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. In order to make that happen, there is a group of volunteers who plan bi-monthly functions for the women of the church to encourage fellowship. These women also plan fundraisers, such as the Christmas Bazaar in December, and accept donations to help support several missions both locally and worldwide, which are listed on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Donated and purchased fabric is used to create comfort quilts for those suffering a loss or illness. If you would like to be on the planning team, please join us at our next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome!





TITHES AND GIFTS								
MONTH OF:	GENERAL FUND	DEACON'S FUND	TOTAL					
May	\$7,689	\$338	\$8,027					
ATTENDANCE								
MONTH OF:	In-Person	\	Virtually					
May	173		112					

# Birthdays

Gordon Graham Debbie Leschner Denise Wisseman Verne Crissman Carole Weinschenk Brownie Harriet Haggett Marilyn Austin Deborah Pinnell

Jennie Armstrong

Linda Pimm

Dawn Gatke

Judy Varner

Jack North

Sharen Mourn



July 25 July 25 July 31 Aug 1 Aug 7 Aug 8

June 21

June 24

June 25

July 5

July 12

July 14

July 16

Aug 12 Aug 14

If we inadvertently omitted your birthday (or that of a family member) or got the wrong date, please call the Church office, or send an email to the Witness, so that we can add your special day to our list.





## **Volunteers**

#### COMMUNION PREP

June 1: Nancy Craig & Harriet Haggett July 6: Doug Quine & John Thomas

#### COMMUNION SERVERS

June 2: Nancy Craig, Doug &

Wendy Quine, Debbie Wright

July 7: Verne Crissman, Guy DeChellis, Sharon Reinhardt, Susie Wirsing

August 4: Carol Arnett, Deb Berner, Harriet Haggett, Arleen Younkman

#### **LITURGISTS**

June 2: Kerri Crawford June 9: Carol Arnett June 16: Susie Wirsing June 23: Doug Quine June 30: Deborah Pinnell July 7: Dawn Gatke July 14: Guy DeChellis July 21: Wendy Quine July 28: Arleen Younkman

#### **USHERS**

Month of June:

Deborah Pinnell

#### Month of July:

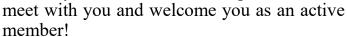
7th & 14th, Sharon Reinhardt 22nd & 28th, Harriet Haggett

#### Month of August:

Deborah Pinnell

# A Covenant Partnership?

Ready to put down roots in this community of faith? Speak to Pastor Jonathan or Gail Graham (gkg1025@yahoo.com) of your interest anytime. Covenant Partner (New Member) booklets are ready and session is waiting to





### PLEASE PRAY FOR, VISIT, AND/OR PHONE

#### Military:

Staff Sgt. Ryan Breen, United States Air Force, Minot ND. A.F.B (Grandson-in-law Betty Ek)

Luke Crissman, Army

Joshua Geisler, Navy Medic (Barb Russell's nephew)

Lt. Col. Bruce Palmer MD, Anchorage, AK (Sallee's son-in-law)

Captain Gillen Papenfuse, National Guard (g-son of Kimmins)

Staff Sgt. Mark Sobol (Sobol's g-son)

Jonathan Thomas, US Army, Reserves (John Thomas' nephew)



#### Fire Fighters:

Keith Christofferson, Sedona Tony Christofferson, Wickenburg Todd Reinhardt, Tonopah Samantha Reinhardt, Tonopah



#### Law Enforcement:

Jeffery Thomas, Tucson Police Dept./SGT.
Mike DeChellis, Douglas County, NE/Detective
Matthew Moulson, Orange County Deputy Sheriff
~ Sharon Horn's nephew.



#### Nurses & EMTs:

Sharon Forrest, Cardiovascular Sonographer, Saint Agnus Medical Center, Fresno CA. ~ Deb Berner's Aunt



## PLEASE PRAY FOR, VISIT, AND/OR PHONE:

### Assisted Living:

Jeanine Brown, Joyce Shaw, Howard Kennedy, Wanda Schneider, Mary Kyler

#### At Home:

Judy & Ron Bjorhus, Sam & Carole Weinschenk, Leo & Denise Wisseman, Marilyn Austin, Glori Beattie, Brownie

## College Students:

Jameson Haggett, Franklin Pierce Univ. N.H

Ross Longshore, Yavapai College

Lauren Brockett, Montana State Univ.

John Thomas, Yavapai College

Russell Barnes, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo



#### Missionaries:

Mexico: Allyson Searway, Justin & Rosita Searway

Taiwan: Rod & Beth Williamson

*Indonesia*: Mike & Christy Brown

Indonesia: Sean & Angie McKelvey

**ECO Ministry** ~ **Alaska:** Joey Chang

**United World Mission:** Nancy Kilpatrick

**KAIROS** Prison Ministry

JARS (Jungle Aviation/radio service)

Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ: Ebo & Nergui Enkhbold



# THE STING OF LOVE LOST

In the dawn's embrace, Daisy sought, Through fields where memories lingered, caught. Her search, a silent song of longing, For her friend, now softly wandering. As tears welled within my gaze, I felt the weight of time's cruel maze. for loss, a shadow, haunting near, [choes of departures, crystal clear. In prayer, I reached to skies above, Beseeching comfort, solace, love. for all who've felt the bitter sting, Of parting's ache, the sorrowing. I trust in whispers on the breeze, That God, with tender grace, will ease. Each heart that mourns, each soul in woe, With kisses of healing, gentle, and slow. So fear not, dear ones, in sorrow's tide, for love eternal shall abide. In every tear, in every sigh, God's love, a beacon, never shall die.

# Current Mission Projects at First Presbyterian

**Reighborhood Green Bag Project:** Fill your Green Bag every other month with non-perishable food items, paper products, or health & hygiene items. Bring your Green Bag to the Fellowship Hall Stage and pick up an empty Green Bag at the same time. The Deacons will deliver them according to the schedule. Want more info? See Deacon, Nancy Graig.

**Community Giving Tree:** You can help by donating warm practical coats, jackets, socks, clothes, etc. Want more info? See Deacon, Guy DeChellis.

Caring Ministry: You can help by offering to send greeting cards or make phone calls on behalf of Caring Ministries & our E & M Committee. Want more info? See Sharon Reinhardt.

Foundation for Senior Living: We budget and contribute dollars regularly to The (.A.P. Office, aka "Community Action Program".

**Wickenburg Christian Academy:** We support WCA by contributing in their Community Prayer Event, Rally Around the Flag, to pray our kids and staff back to school. We also help in supporting WCA in buying and or selling, tickets to their Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Want more info? See Debbie Wright.

**Worn Out American Flags:** You can help by donating worn out American flags to prep them for a second life according to American Legion standards. Only flags with sewn stars made in USA can be taken. Bring them to church, intact and the American Legion will take it from there. Want more info? Please ask Shirley Oney, Facilitator.

Operation Christmas Child: The amazing journey of a simple shoebox gift begins with you! Sooner that we'd like, we'll be heading into Christmas, and you can help by filling the specially printed boxes (when we get them) with gifts for a special child. Samaritans Purse will deliver those boxes to children in need all over the world. The kids also receive Gospel booklets called "The Greatest Gift" to help them learn about God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. Samaritans Purse also continues with "The Greatest Journey", the follow-up discipleship program designed especially for shoebox recipients where they can learn and grow in Christ and proclaim the Gospel with others. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed. Want more info? Ask Judy Taylor with our Missions Committee.

Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale: Our Presbyterian Women (PW) put on our Christmas Bazaar every year which includes handmade holiday gifts, a Courtyard Cafe that serves donuts & coffee in the morning, and a soup lunch in the afternoon. You can help by volunteering your time, baking goodies for our bake sale, donating items, shopping at the Bazaar, and by telling all your friends! Want more info? Please see Sharen Mourn, Sharon Horn, or Arleen Younkman.

Tuesday's Nifty Needlers: You can help by joining them and sewing, baking, donating vintage items. No clothing, furniture, or appliances. Want more info? Ask Sharen Mourn.

**Deacons:** They budget funds for local homelessness and those with financial struggles by channeling funds to Redeemer Lutheran (hurch and St Anthony of Padua (hurch which runs a St. Vincent de Paul chapter. Want more info? See Deacon (hair, Deborah Pinnell

First Presbyterian Welcome Bags: You can help our [ & M (ommittee create Welcome Bags. Want more info? Ask Marsha North

# **Independence Day**

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M	T	Ι	R	Ι	N	Ι	A	T	Ι	R	В	Ι	A
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Ε	N	D	R	P	P	Ι	P	A	C	Ε	T	A	Ι
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Ι	M	P	A	E	G	L	0	R	γ	T	D	U	C
D	0	N	R	E	A	P	T	C	L	Ι	W	T	Ι
D	F	0	U	R	T	Н	J	U	L	Y	L	C	R

AMERICAN
DECLARATION
FOURTH JULY
PARADES
BRITAIN
PATRIOT
MINUTEMEN
FREEDOM
INDEPENDENCE
FIREWORKS
REDCOATS
GLORY

Play this puzzle online at : http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2219/

#### JUNE & JULY WITNESS NEWSLETTER

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