

Lakeside Christian Fellowship Ripples



JULY 2026

Volume XIV, NUMBER 7



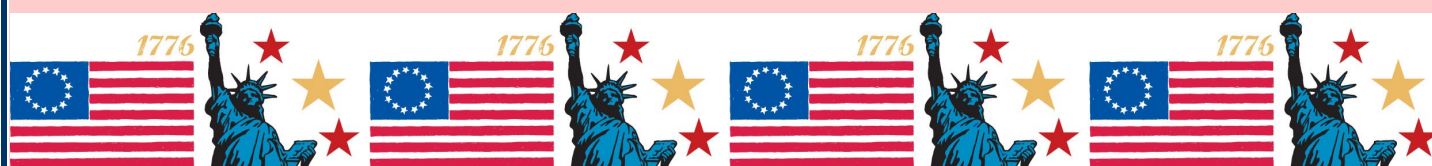
This month, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States – a remarkable milestone in the life of a nation. Two and a half centuries ago, a bold experiment in liberty and self-governance began, rooted in the conviction that all people are created equal and endowed with unalienable rights. Through triumphs and trials, failures and reforms, that experiment has endured.

For generations, the United States has been regarded as a beacon of democracy – a place where freedom of speech, religious liberty, representative government, and the rule of law are not merely ideals, but lived realities. People from every corner of the globe have looked to this nation as a symbol of opportunity and hope. Many have crossed oceans and borders believing that here they might build a better life for their children.

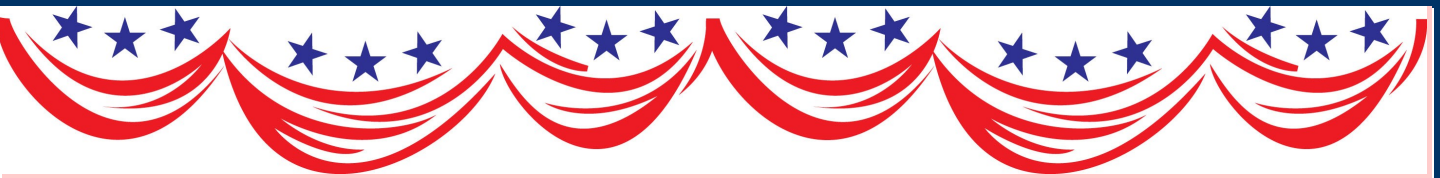
Yet with such a legacy comes responsibility. The world does not only watch our declarations; it watches our conduct. Other nations observe how we navigate our most challenging moments, how we respond to division, how we protect the vulnerable, how we balance security with compassion, and perhaps most visibly, how we handle immigration.

Immigration has always been woven into the American story. From the earliest settlers to those arriving today, newcomers have shaped our culture, economy, faith communities, and civic life. At the same time, every generation has wrestled with questions of law, identity, and belonging. How we answer those questions in our time speaks volumes about who we are, and who we aspire to be.

I believe that a Christ-centered response begins not with policy prescriptions, but with posture. It asks:



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- Do we see immigrants first as problems to solve or as people to love?
 - Are our convictions shaped more by cable news or by Scripture?
- Are we willing to hold both compassion and conviction in faithful tension?

The early church itself was shaped by migration, exile, and displacement. Jesus was a refugee in Egypt as a child (Matthew 2:13–15). The people of Israel were repeatedly reminded that they were once strangers in Egypt. The gospel transcends national borders, creating a new family in Christ that includes “every nation, tribe, people and language” (Revelation 7:9).

This does not mean Christians will agree on every policy detail. Faithful believers may differ on the best practical solutions – border enforcement, asylum reform, work visas, or pathways to legal status. Yet unity in Christ calls us to engage the issue with humility, charity, and courage.

A Christ-Centered Response includes but not limited to prayer and discernment, empathy and compassion, advocacy for just laws, practical help and welcoming a stranger.

Immigration is not simply a political or economic debate; it is a profound human reality that intersects with faith, identity, and moral responsibility. For Christians, the question is not merely, “What policy do I support?” but “How do I reflect Christ in this?”

As we commemorate 250 years of independence, we are invited not only to celebrate our history, but to reflect on our character. Will we respond to complex challenges with wisdom and unity? Will we demonstrate that democracy is resilient enough to handle disagreement with civility? Will we show that strength and compassion are not opposites, but partners?

Anniversaries are moments of gratitude, but also of self-examination. If we are to remain a bastion of democracy, our actions must align with our highest ideals. The way we treat the stranger, uphold justice, and preserve human dignity will continue to shape how the world sees us and how future generations remember us.

Two hundred fifty years on, the American story is still being written. How we handle the difficult questions before us, especially immigration, will help determine the next chapter.

Blessings,

Rev. Chuck Smith



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LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Leadership Council Report for June 8, 2026

The Leadership Council Meeting was called to order at 9:28AM by Moderator Bill Bush. Members present were Bill Bush, Nancy Meierhoff, Russell Reese, Judy Guthrie, Wilma Sanders, Laurie Glass, Gene Glass, Ginger Halsted, Warwick Andrews and Fred Pontesso. A quorum was present. Pastor Chuck Smith and Regina Holmes were present for this meeting.

Invocation: Pastor Chuck opened with a prayer.

Thoughts to Ponder: Bill quoted a scripture from Jeremiah 17 about trusting in the Lord. He talked about what this scripture means. Bill also read a card from Elizabeth Lucking with the Lago Vista Players thanking us for the use of our facility to practice their plays.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 4, 2026 Council meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Outreach: Pastor Chuck stated that the Ministerial Alliance meet every month. He invited them to come to LCF and use our facilities for their June and July meetings. This is on the third Thursday of the month. They need to have at least 12 meetings. They bring their own lunch and could hold their meeting in the Fellowship Hall. He will work with Laurie on this. Regina saw on Facebook that we are sponsors for this meeting and said Ken Lowry organized this.

Promotions & Marketing: Warwick stated that the Painted Churches trip did not work out for now and maybe we could try again later in the year. He talked about the July 4th parade and that we are looking for someone with a pontoon boat/trailer and a truck to pull it for this event. There was a long discussion regarding having a pontoon boat versus a flatbed trailer. Regina suggested that maybe Jamie Cole might pull Rob's boat if he is agreeable. She will get with Jamie on this idea. Gene said that Larry Thyssen has a flatbed trailer and truck. Warwick stated he will talk with Larry about possibly using

his equipment.

Faith in Action: Warwick asked about the Community Closet Exchange that we had a while back. There was a discussion about maybe doing this in the October or November timeframe. Gene relayed that Carolyn and Lance Bass organized this event last time. Laurie commented about not using the Fellowship Hall for this fundraiser while the Lago Vista Players are practicing in that room. Russell relayed that he is trying to market the Free Food Drive, as they are having trouble getting people in need to this event. There was a discussion regarding the possibility that HCCM could discontinue to have this drive in Lago Vista, if the numbers do not improve. Russell will check if this event is being promoted on the City sign board. Regina relayed that Jamie Cole does our BBQ for the Holy Cow Fundraiser for LCF.

Pastor Search Committee: Nancy commented that we had a Guest Pastor Ben Langley yesterday at church. She is getting the Search Committee together for a meeting on Friday afternoon. However, there was a discussion regarding the timeliness of this meeting. She will send out an email for Wednesday afternoon instead. There is another candidate, Marshall Almarodi, to consider at the next church meeting. The Council discussed his qualifications. Nancy relayed that our job listing has expired and asked if we want to renew it. She stated they will have their next meeting directly following this meeting today.

Pastoral Relations: Nancy discussed the need to have TV screens in the sanctuary for some presentations. Fred stated that he has a projector the Lion's Group and will bring it here to try out. There was a discussion regarding the need for screens. This will be an open item for the future. Nancy relayed that Pastor Dale Hill will be preaching on July 9, Pastor Rick Waters on July 21, Pastor Chuck Smith on July 14 & 28, Pastor Dale Hill on August 23 and Septem-

CHURCH



COUNCIL

LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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ber 13.

Since the choir takes a break for July and August, she relayed that Elizabeth Lucking will sing on July 12 and Nancy Moore will sing on July 19. She has some ideas for July 26, which would involve the congregation. She will get with Pastor Chuck to discuss this more. Warwick suggested having someone say "God Bless" at the end of our service. Nancy said the next Pastoral Relations Committee meeting will be June 23.

Worship Commission: Fred stated that when Pastor Dale Hill preaches here, we have an increase in attendance and need more bulletins for that day. He will get with Debbie on his issue. Judy commented that in the past when the choir is out, the congregation can request their favorite hymns. Pastor Chuck will take care of this.

Ministries Committee: Laurie stated that for the New Members Luncheon on June 14 so far we have 11 members coming and 7 others have not been in touch yet. She has sent out emails and phone calls with no results. The Council members have been invited to come talk about their committee jobs and what they do on this Council. This is so the new members might become involved, too. We have 10 Council members, so each needs to get with a new member and talk with them and get to know them. She said the menu for this luncheon is pulled pork sliders, banana pudding by Nancy, peach dump cake and ice cream. She will check into the gluten free items. Regina stated that we need donations of water bottles for the Narthex.

Building and Grounds: Gene said that Larry Thyssen has taken care of the lights that were disconnected and explained how they were fixed. He talked about the painting of the WOW Room, the cleaning and power washing outside areas, and painting that needs to be done. He said eventually he will get to painting the stairs. He relayed that the project to get the outside front of the church painted

has been done. He has replaced all the faucets in the building. There was a discussion about the condition of the red chair behind the pulpit and maybe just replace it with another red or blue chair. Bill stated that the cushion can be removed and exchanged with another chair cushion. Gene will take care of this. There was a discussion about replacing the flooring upstairs. Laurie will get an estimate for this flooring. Warwick commented that we need to check out what's underneath this flooring first as the floor has a bounce in it. There was a round table discussion about this flooring. Bill asked if we have an exterminator for the building and Gene says he does this.

Stewardship Commission: Ginger stated that she will be moving to Maple Ridge Senior Center on June 25. She would like to donate her spinet piano to the church, but she needs someone to move it for her. Fred and Bill will organize this and will find some people from the church to help with this. Ginger says it needs to be done before June 26.

Financial Update (April 2026): Judy passed out the 2027 Budget packets to everyone asking them to update their amounts as needed for the upcoming year. She stated the packets need to be turned into Debbie by the middle of July. Judy will present the budget for 2027 to the Council for review and approval at the August Council meeting. Once approved it will be included in the Stewardship books for parishioners to review. There was a discussion about the CD at PNC Bank coming up for renewal. Judy made a **Motion (2)** that if the renewal rate on this CD is less than the current rate, she will search other banks for a higher rate. Fred seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion was approved. There was a discussion about the pledge matching fund and its current status. Judy stated that there is a place for members to donate shares of stocks to the church, if they like. She would like to make an announcement to the congregation regard-

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COUNCIL

LAKE SIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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ing this donation at next Sunday's service. There was a lengthy discussion about how this stock donation works and possibly investing in stocks. There was a question when Sue Thompson does her audit of our books, does she compare the bank deposit slips with the offering donations received. Fred said that Sue says she does do random checks for this.

Old Business:

1. Recommendations on the Scatter Garden (Dimensions, Location(s), Markings): Bill passed out a picture proposing where the scatter garden would be and all the dimensions. There was a discussion about having a plaque for the loved one's ashes. It would be put on the church wall to the left of the garden. There was a discussion about having a fence around the garden. Gene talked about having limestone blocks, which would cost about \$200 to cover this area. Russell suggested an iron fence around the front of the garden and be 36" high with 4" in the ground. He said you could get this from Amazon for about \$300. Regina suggested that if you are a church member, the cost for use of this garden would be free, and non-members will pay maybe \$25 or so. Gene made a **Motion (3)** that we put a fence around the Scatter Garden not to exceed \$500, which would come out of the Memorial Fund. Russell seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion was passed.

2. Details and Action Regarding Membership in Guidestone: Bill stated that there was no information on Guidestone at this time. This is an open item.

3. Deployment of New Church Logo: Warwick relayed that Bill has a copy of the digital logo. Bill passed around a copy of the two versions of this logo to the Council for a selection. Gene made a **Motion (1)** to adopt this logo as our official church logo. Laurie seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion was approved. There was a discussion about having a sticker of the logo to put

on cars. Bill has an action item to get a quotation for the stickers.

4. Decision on the July Meeting: The Council agreed to move the August meeting to August 6, 2026. Whether or not to have the July meeting and, if so, its date is TBD.

5. Tree In Memory of Debbie Reed's Father: Bill relayed that he had gone to Moon Valley Nursery regarding a tree for Debbie to plant in honor of her late father. The gentleman there was very helpful and also donated \$20 for this tree. She will be getting a lemon tree in her father's memory. Ken has indicated he might need some help with this tree.

New Business: None.

Future Topics: Next meeting: Possibly July, date TBD; otherwise, the next regular Council meeting will be on August 6, 2026.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.



LAKE SIDE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP
HAS A
NEW LOGO!

CHURCH



COUNCIL



**The LCF Choir
is taking a
“summer break”.**

**They will return in
September.**

LCF is taking hymn requests

**If you have a favorite hymn/
hymns that you would like for
LCF to sing this summer,
fill out a hymn request form
located at the back of the
church and turn it in to the
church office.**

**We look forward to
hearing what your favorite
hymns are!**



I would like to express
my thanks and gratitude
to all of the
LCF Church Council and
congregation.



On Sunday, June 7,
Moderator William Bush
presented me with a tree to be planted in
memory of my father, Paul Wiesner, whom
passed away on May 17.

I cannot think of a more thoughtful gift or
better way to memorialize my father. I am so
blessed to be a part of this thoughtful, kind and
generous church family!

I ended up getting a pecan tree, which is
scheduled to be planted on July 7.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
Deborah Reed



GEMS
(God Empowered Men)

Join us on Tuesday Mornings at
9:30 a.m. in Classroom # 5
downstairs in the
Fellowship Hall.



The WOW Bible Study Group is studying the book,
"It's Good to be Queen",
by popular author, Liz Curtis Higgs.

Come and join us as we learn about the
queens of the Bible, both good and bad.

The WOW Group meets every Wednesday at
10:00 am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall
in the WOW Room. (Room #5)



If you are looking for a fun committee to
participate in, contact Laurie Glass
at laurie@nerdybrew.com,
the chair of
Lakeside Christian Fellowship's
Ministries Commissions
and she will put you to work where
"Socializing is our specialty!"

There are 4 different types of ministries.

1. **New Member Care Ministry:** Deals with catering to the new members and visitors by getting them involved, and getting all of their pertinent information. Dana Zink heads up this ministry.
2. **Congregational Care Ministry:** This part of the committee focuses on meals and refreshments for any gathering where the whole church is invited, including helping with funerals. Sara Bush and Tanya Reese are in charge of this committee.
3. **Hospitality/Fellowship:** This mainly deals with the socializing of the church. We do pot lucks, funerals, receptions and Meet and Greet. Regina Holmes is the chief organizer.
4. **Volunteer Resources:** If there is a job that needs to be filled by a member of the church, this is the person we go to. June Freeman is the keeper of the list of volunteers.

These wonderful ladies make my job easy! *Laurie*

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Donna Nash
and
June Freeman
attended a
musical
performance
Of
"Jesus Christ
Superstar"
In
Georgetown,
Texas!



On May 31, 2026, a baby deer was born
on the front walkway right before
church began
at
Lakeside Christian Fellowship!
We Love Our Deer!



We Want Your Opinion

On Sunday, June 7, 2026

LCF had guest speaker, Rev. Benjamin Langley
preach the sermon.

Rev. Langley is being considered for the
full time Pastor position, so if you were able to
hear him preach, please share your thoughts
with the Pastor Search Committee.

Your opinion matters!



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On Sunday, May 31, 2026
A Patriotic Themed 5th Sunday Potluck was held
after a special worship service given by our
Minister of Music, Dr. Jim Christie.
As usual there was a great turn out and fantastic
variety of foods!



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New Member Luncheon



**A New Member Luncheon was held on
June 14, immediately following
the Worship Service.**

**A delicious lunch was served as the board met with
new members to help inform them on how to get
involved with the church.**



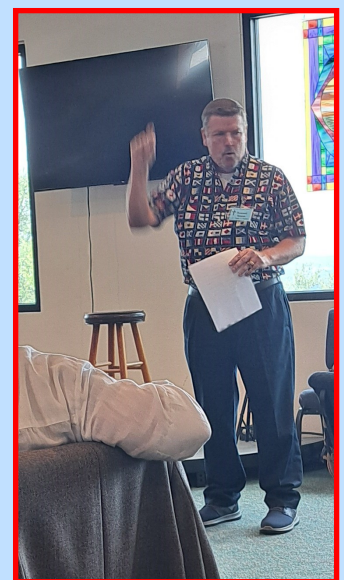
Moderator, William Bush



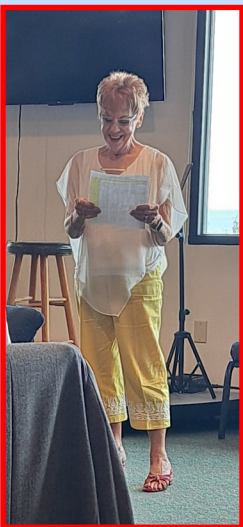
Treasurer, Judy Guthrie



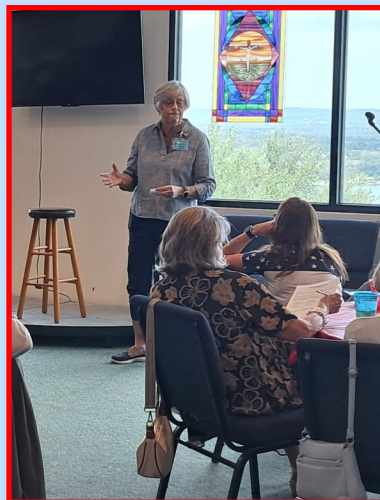
**Building and Grounds,
Gene Glass**



**New Member and
Faith in Action Chair,
Russell Reese**



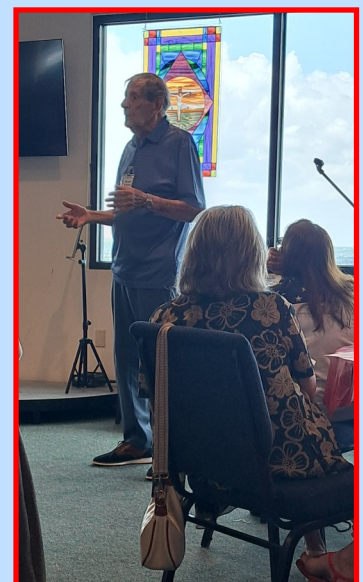
**Pastoral Relations,
Nancy Meierhoff**



**Ministries,
Laurie Glass**



**New Member and head of
Usher and Greeters,
Pamela Thyssen**



**Promotions and Marketing,
Warwick Andrews**

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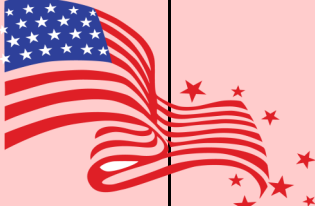


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Church
Office
Hours:
Wednesday and
Thursday from 9:30
am to 3:30 pm.



Please remember
that all church
activities should be
scheduled on the
master calendar in the
church office.
Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		30 Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Downstairs in the WOW Room	1 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Downstairs in the WOW Room	2	3	4 
5 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming	6	7 Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Downstairs in the WOW Room	8 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Downstairs in the WOW Room	9	10	11
12 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming	13 NO COUNCIL MEETING	14 Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Downstairs in the WOW Room	15 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Downstairs in the WOW Room	16 Alzheimer Group 10:30 AM @LV Library	17	18
19 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming	20	21 Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Downstairs in the WOW Room	22 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Downstairs in the WOW Room	23 BUDGET SHEETS NEED TO BE RETURNED TO <u>CHURCH OFFICE!</u>	24	25
26 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming	27	28 Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Downstairs in the WOW Room	29 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Downstairs in the WOW Room	30	31	
				For more information visit the LCF website at www.lakesidechristians.org		



Sara Bush	2
Deborah Reed	7
Genie Carroll	10
Dick Sanders	14
Gloria Hammonds	16
Rob Sebesta	18
Marilyn Hamblin	19



Russell and Tanya Reese
July 2

Larry and Pamela Thyssen
July 15

Dick & Wilma Sanders
July 23

If you would like your dates to be included,
Please send your information to:
lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com

Prayer Corner

Source: Google Search

"Loving God, we greet this Fourth of July with grateful hearts as we call to mind the vision of freedom and justice for our country.

We give thanks for those who imagined this vision, and we are grateful to those who continue to pursue a land of peace, liberty, and equity.

Help us never to take for granted the freedoms we enjoy, and may we live our lives in a way that glorifies You.

Amen."

June 25, 2026

YTD Offerings.....\$110,089.92

YTD Expenses \$91,944.88

Lakeside Christian Fellowship

Worship and Office Location:
3305 Pinnacle Cove, Lago Vista, TX

512-267-1700, lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com

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P. O. Box 4874, Lago Vista, TX 78645

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