



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

DOM– Bro. Bobby Sellers (bobsellers60@gmail.com)

Moderator– Bro. Nicholas Clark (pastorclark@gmail.com)

Ministry Assistant– Shari Littlejohn (lrbasec@bellsouth.net)

www.littleriverbaptistassociation.com

149 Old Dover Road, Cadiz, KY 42211 (270) 522-7066

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"One Nation Under God"

The phrase **"one Nation under God"** is a deeply ingrained part of American identity and patriotism, prominently featured in the Pledge of Allegiance. Its inclusion marks a significant evolution in the country's cultural and legal history. Understanding how this phrase became a defining element of American national identity requires a journey through the country's political and religious landscape.

Early Foundations

America's foundation was heavily influenced by religious motivations. The earliest European settlers, particularly the Pilgrims and Puritans, sought religious freedom and established colonies with strong religious foundations. The Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, made reference to a "Creator" and "Nature's God," reflecting the Enlightenment ideals that merged belief in a higher power with rational governance.

The Rise of Civil Religion

The concept of civil religion in America began to take shape in the early 19th century. Civil religion is the implicit religious values of a nation, as expressed through public rituals, symbols, and ceremonies. The Founding Fathers advocated for the separation of church and state, as enshrined in the First Amendment, yet they also recognized the importance of religion in the moral fabric of the nation.

The Civil War and National Identity

The Civil War (1861-1865) was a pivotal moment for national identity. President Abraham Lincoln frequently invoked divine guidance and purpose in his speeches, including the Gettysburg Address, which referred to the nation being *"under God."* This language helped to frame the struggle as a moral crusade and began to solidify the notion of America being under divine providence.

The Cold War and "Under God" in the Pledge

The phrase *"under God"* was officially added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954, during the Cold War. This period was marked by intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, with the latter promoting atheistic communism. In 1952, President Harry Truman established the National Day of Prayer, and in 1956, *"In God We Trust"* was adopted as the national motto.

The addition of *"under God"* to the Pledge was driven by a desire to differentiate the U.S. from the Soviet Union. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a key figure in this movement, declared that the phrase would reaffirm the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future. On Flag Day, June 14, 1954, Eisenhower signed the bill into law, and the phrase became an official part of the Pledge.

Legal and Cultural Debates

The inclusion of *"under God"* in the Pledge has not been without controversy. Legal challenges have been raised, arguing that it violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. However, the courts have generally upheld its constitutionality, viewing it as a reflection of civil religion rather than an endorsement of a specific religious doctrine.

President Ronald Reagan said, *"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."*

Bro. Bobby

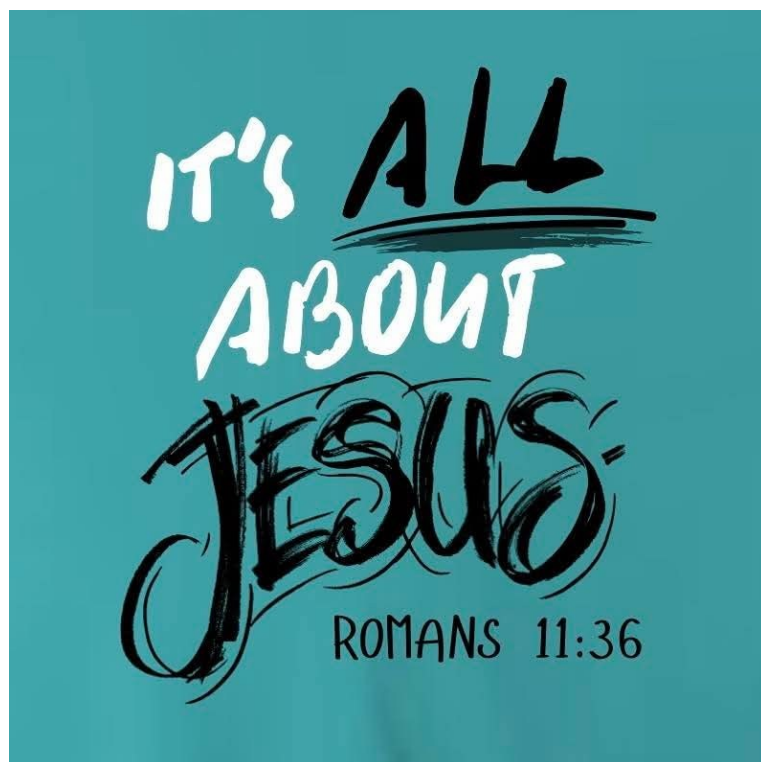




JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3– Office Closed in observance of Independence Day
- 4– Independence Day
- 6-9– Revival Services Wallonia BC
- 7– Mission Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7-11– VBS, Liberty Point BC
- 13-16– VBS, Locust Grove BC
- 17– Executive Team Budget & Calendar Planning, 6:00 p.m.

Thank you to all who helped to make the 15th
Camp Cadiz Ministry a success!



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	0	
Blue Spring	2,902.09	975.00
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	812.10	
Canton	878.56	325.00
Cerulean	502.00	
Crossroads	283.33	
Delmont	258.60	
Donaldson Creek	745.68	
East Cadiz	629.46	553.00
Hurricane	400.00	2,400.00
Liberty Point	971.53	
Locust Grove	921.00	1,400.00
Maple Grove	450.00	
New Hope	220.71	
New Jerusalem	100.00	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	280.05	
Ponderosa	508.16	654.00
Rock Front	0	
Rocky Ridge	317.00	42.51
South Union	296.90	
Wallonia	0	1,500.00
Misc. Income		8,560.00
Total	11,527.17	16,409.51
		27,936.68
Interest NOW Acc.	2.06	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mev Fredenburg Mission Fund		16,159.51
Bust Maintenance Fund		0

Subtotals	11,529.23	16,409.51
Total income		\$27,938.74
Monthly expense		\$24,057.81

Regular Fund	
Beginning Balance	18,816.55
Interest Received	2.06
Gifts	11,586.77
Trans– Contingency Fund	(100.00)
Trans– Van Replacement Fund	
Trans– Building Maintenance Fund	(100.00)
Trans– Mev Fredenburg Fund	
Expense Checks Written	(10,823.17)
Ending Balance	\$19,382.21
Treasurer: Louise Fuller 6/25/25	

