

# ST. PAUL'S SCOPE

Faithful and Welcoming Church

Volume 49, Issue 5

May 2022



## From our Pastor Rev. Rick Mortimer

Oooh, my aching back! This migraine is killing me!  
How long will this impossible work load continue?!  
This new medication gives me insomnia. How long must I suffer, Lord?

There seems to be no end to the many different ways we encounter suffering. Suffer with difficult family relationships. Suffer through seasons of drought, or storms. Suffer through loneliness, singleness, fear, anxiety. Suffer financial hardship. Suffer while waiting for news, good or bad. If God really loves us, how does any of this make sense?

Suffering can be a relative thing. Thankfully, the things we suffer right now probably aren't quite as extreme as what the Ukrainian's and the Yemeni's are suffering in their respective war-torn countries. But still, the pain we endure runs deep when compared to what we see in others around us, or compared to other times in our own lives. It hurts! It is a heavy burden!

Whatever our degree of suffering, there are some important things, as followers of Jesus, we must bear in mind.

**Recognize that we live in a fallen world.** This is NOT our final destiny. Earth is not Heaven. That we encounter ANY GOOD at all is a gracious foretaste of "Glory divine".

**God is NOT "out to get us".** Quite the opposite, actually. He does not inflict us with dreaded diseases or terrible natural disasters in order to punish us. They come to reveal our great need FOR God and His love. He is stronger than any "storm". Whether He gives us what we need to get THROUGH the storm, or if He REMOVES the storm, it is a sign of His power and love.

**Don't blame God for your choices.** Admit it. Sometimes we suffer because of the poor choices we have made. And sometimes we suffer because of the terrible and destructive choices others have made. This reality is so precisely because God HAS given humans the awesome and gracious freedom to make their own moral, ethical, and legal choices.

**Good things can, and often do, come from suffering.** One can excel at piano only after suffering through lessons and endless hours of practice. Full range of motion after knee surgery happens only after the pain & suffering of physical therapy. Financial ruin can lead you to be more careful in your spending, or more compassionate for the poor. Jesus suffered on the cross for your eternal salvation.

**God DOES desire our healing.** God designed the body to mend itself, or to respond to medical interventions, or even to be miraculously restored. That happens because of nothing you did. It is the sheer grace of God to make it work that way. Even so, the more crucial healing is not physical, it is spiritual. Quadriplegic Joni Eareckson Tada has wisely said, "I would love to be healed to walk, and swim, and ride horses again. But if I had to choose between that and what I know now about Jesus and His love, even with all of my suffering, I'd choose this wheelchair and the suffering."

In our dark moments, we may not have the answer to all of our wonderings. But we can surrender ourselves into the hands of the One who DOES, who WILL faithfully walk us through any suffering.

Pastor Rick

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### Scope Deadline

The *deadline* for articles to be included in the June SCOPE is the **25th of May**.

I'D RATHER GO THROUGH THE STORM WITH JESUS THAN SAIL THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT HIM.



## Scriptures For Worship In May

DATE	THEME	SCRIPTURES
May 1	Elephants: Where is the Presence?	Exodus 33:7-17
May 8	Elephants: Where is the Power?	Acts 1:4-8, Ephesians 3:14-21
May 15	Elephants: Where is the Freedom?	John 8:31-36
May 22	Elephants: Where is the Love?	1 John 3:13-18
May 29	Memorials, and the Paradox of Freedom	Deuteronomy 8:1-5, 10-20



## Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Time/Date	Council Ushers	Lector
<b>8:00</b> May 1	Scott Weber	Scott Weber
	Stan Niemann	
May 8	Brian Rippelmeyer	Donna Smoker
	April Nail	
May 15	Stan Niemann	Jeanie Stumpf
	Debbie Ross	
May 22	Kim Borja	Mary Wandling
	April Beisiegel	
May 29	Scott Weber	Tami Hughes
	April Nail	
June 5	Brian Rippelmeyer	Lynn Gipson
	April Beisiegel	
<b>10:15</b> May 1	Dale Fiedler	Vicki Channer
	April Beisiegel	
May 8	Vicki Helms	Noella Frevert
	Julie Rickert	
May 15	Chad Lindauer	Amy Walton
	Amy Walton	
May 22	Dale Fiedler	Dale Fiedler
	Vicki Helms	
May 29	Julie Rickert	Julie Rickert
	Chad Lindauer	
June 5	Amy Walton	Amy Walton
	Debbie Ross	

*If you are scheduled to serve, please remember that we are counting on you! If you cannot attend, switch with another volunteer and let the office know. Thank you!*

# Worship With Us

## Attendance for the month of April

Date	8:00am	10:15am	Sunday School
April 3	59	42	28C, 25A
April 10	59	66	29C, 30A
April 17	114	102	29C, 26A
April 24	42	44	14C, 13A

BUT YOU WILL  
RECEIVE POWER WHEN  
THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS  
COME UPON YOU, AND  
YOU WILL BE MY  
WITNESSES IN  
JERUSALEM AND IN ALL  
JUDEA AND SAMARIA,  
AND TO THE END OF  
THE EARTH

Acts 1:8

# PASTOR

search committee

The committee would like to thank Terry Groth, Karen Neff and Mark Vernier for their many hours of work and devotion to the search for a new pastor. The Church Council appointed Donna Asbridge, Sarah Harms and Chad Lindauer to fill the empty positions. They join Karen Forcade, Sandi Haege, Eugene Kramer, Debbie Ross, Amy Walton and Scott Weber to form the new committee.

The focus of the last two meetings was to reorganize and bring the new members up to date. Donna is the new chairperson and Karen the secretary. The committee has received 144 pastor profiles since January 2021 and we will do a review to see if anyone was overlooked.

As we continue to meet regularly, please pray that God leads the committee to a pastor that is right for St. Paul's.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Forcade



I am always so inspired by the creative ways the Lord is working in our Congregation! This month it

was reported to the Council that the youth have been participating in periodic "senior sunrise" services where the youth gather before sunrise for prayer, devotion, and breakfast. This has been occurring for quite a while. For those of us in the Congregation who do not have youth connections anymore, this activity is simply "mind blowing"! The youth also provided a special service project for one of our member families in need. It appears that they are on track to meet their fundraising goal for the Alaska mission trip.

The Christian Education Committee provided several unique Easter learning experiences for Sunday School kids which included a table set up as the Last Supper, a visit to the tomb (underneath the sanctuary past the furnaces) where an angel appeared! Other experiential learning activities were also provided. Vacation Bible School will be held on three Fridays in June from 10 AM until 12 PM.

Reverend Rick reported that confirmation was completed, the prayer vigil was a success, recon is starting again on Thursday evening, studying Acts, and Memorial Hospital has opened for pastoral visits again.

The Mission Committee has recently held a "baby shower" for Kindercottage between church services and watch for announcements for a tasty May fundraiser! While many of you know Kindercottage as a preschool / day care, you may not be aware that they provide subsidized child care so that low-income families can go to work or go to school to better their financial situation and work their way out of poverty. Participants at Kindercottage continuously provide documentation related to employment or school. Our contributions help it survive.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that the furnaces will be replaced soon, and that painting is nearly completed on the parsonage. Tree trimming is also beginning around the parsonage.

The Council approved the revised Faith Community Nurse position and funding. Recruitment has started. If you have an interest or know someone who is a nurse and might be interested in working 10 hours per week as our Faith Community Nurse, please contact the office. Training for Council members on the AED machine and CPR is being scheduled.

The Council will also begin the development of Memorial Fund policies because it was noted that we do not have any specific policies on it.

Blessings to You,  
Dale Fiedler  
Council Chair



Please join us for a Special Mother's Day celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:05am on Sunday, May 8th.

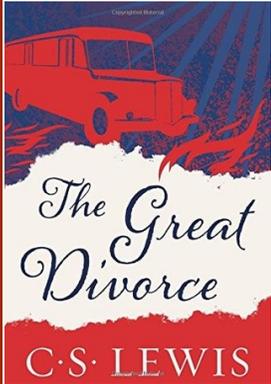
All ladies of the church are invited!



The Freeburg Food & Clothing Pantry's "Meal a Month", a "Needs Menu" (donations) will be collected on the second Sunday of each month "Monthly Collection Sunday."

Needs for the month of May are cake mix, Hamburger Helper, potato mixes, macaroni & cheese, syrup, and cereal.

Food Collection Sunday is **May 8**. The Pantry appreciates your donations and support!!!



## C.S. Lewis Reading Group

The C.S. Lewis reading group will begin a new title, *The Great Divorce*, starting Monday evening, May 9th.

We invite you to join us as we read and discuss this classic Christian allegory about a bus ride from Hell to Heaven.

If you think you may be interested, or if you have any questions about the C.S. Lewis reading group, please call or text Nanette Wiesen at 618-401-3302 or email [gnaaa74@yahoo.com](mailto:gnaaa74@yahoo.com).

## Faith Community Nurse

St. Paul's is excited to announce that we are recruiting for a part time Faith Community Nurse to reactivate our Faith Community Nurse program! If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, please have them contact the church office at 539-3262.



### With Deepest Sympathy

Carol Brueggemann

September 10, 1936—April 21, 2022

Mother of the late Lisa Salvatore  
Grandmother of Holly and Abby

## KINDERCOTTAGE MISSIONS FUNDRAISER **BAKELESS BAKE SALE** DONATION CANS EVERY SUNDAY IN MAY



- **HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SPEND BAKING AND ICING A CAKE TO DONATE?**
- **IF YOU BOUGHT A BAKED GOOD AT A BAKE SALE, HOW MUCH WOULD YOU DONATE?**
- **DONATIONS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE WELCOME!**

## Second Mile Benevolence Offering

The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our **March** offering for **Eden Theological Seminary** was **\$175.00. Thank You!!!**



## The Benevolence for May is Family Care Ministries

Family Care Ministries provides low and no cost Christian-based counseling both locally in Freeburg, as well as through offices of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.

The Family Care group works closely with Hoyleton Youth and Family to offer counseling services. Professionals on the Hoyleton staff are available who specialize in child and adolescent psychology, substance abuse, marriage counseling, and a number of other areas.

Through Hoyleton, the Family Care group is able to offer the "Kids Rebound" program in area school districts, including New Athens. "Kids Rebound" helps young people who are coping with the divorce, separation, or even death of their parents

The Family Care ministry also sponsors a number of different workshops and seminars. Some have dealt with the issues adolescents and their parents face. Others looked at the challenges of parenting toddlers.



## May Sunday School Offering is Christian Activity Center

*Be strong  
and Courageous.  
Do not be afraid,  
do not be discouraged,  
for the  
Lord your God  
will be with you  
Wherever you go.  
—Joshua 1:9*



## Women's Guild

The Freeburg Women's Guild met on Tuesday April 12, 2022 in the church basement with 18 members and 4 guests present. Pastor was asked to give the prayer and after that we asked our special guest, Barbara Kay, to lead the food line. Our hostesses were Barbara Joseph and Debbie Ross. Our tables were decorated with colorful table coverings and had Easter Baskets with Stuffed Bunnies and plastic eggs filled with candy. Our meal consisted of Chicken Pot Pie, applesauce and rolls. Our hostesses furnished desserts of delicious Carrot Cake and cream puffs. Very tasty! After our lunch, Barbara Kay did her very interesting portrayal of Katie Luther (wife of Martin Luther). Everyone enjoyed the program and suggested we invite her back again in the future.

Our meeting was called to order by President Rita Baker. Linda Adams was asked to do her Devotional message which were readings about Palm Sunday and Good Friday. We had many people to pray for such as Kathy Kromat, Karen Forcade, Randy Neff and Dean & Theresa Huston, and others.

Peggy gave the financial report showing a balance of \$1,654.27.

Treasurer Mary Endsley made her report showing a new balance of \$2,009.27.

Rita read an invite from Zion Church in Millstadt for a luncheon at noon on Thursday, May 19th. Paper was passed around for anyone interested in going to sign up. You can still add your name at our May meeting on Tuesday, May 10th. Cost is \$12 for a fried chicken dinner.

A thank you note from Karen Neff was read by Rita Baker.

New Business: Marilyn Borger made a motion to give a \$100 donation to Baby shower at Kinder Cottage; this was seconded by Gloria Niebruegge. All voted in favor of the donation.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Carol Jean Stumpf and Cheryl Emge will be the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Emery



## The New Thing

Each spring brings beautiful new beginnings. Not just the flowers blooming or the budding of the trees, but the world itself awakes as the chill of winter thaws. During this spring season, the wonder of Easter calls us from our spiritual hibernation to rise anew by leaving our sins at the cross. Drop the weight that has held us down and step out into a fresh season of our lives.

With Jesus Christ we are all risen to new life, although some of us tend to stay as ‘sleepers’ in our sin. As I contemplate scripture from Isaiah 43, I can’t help but beat myself up for dozing through my own redemption. I have at times spiritually hibernated, and like a grizzly bear depend on the ‘religious fats’ to get me through a lean season. Almost like daydreaming, I call on the memory of past retreats, think of spiritual highs, replay favorite sermons...but I need to stop calling on the past and embrace that New Thing that is in front of me. Maybe the same is true for you.

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18-20) After reading that scripture I can’t help but awaken and let my heart shout: Thank you Lord for your renewal of my spirit!

So as change comes, whether it be the blooms outside your window, in your workplace, within your retirement, with a student graduating high school, or with our church seeking a new Pastor, I pray you don’t live in regret or remembrance, but awaken to see that God is doing a new thing and it’s going to be greater than we could have ever imagined in our dreams.

Love & Light,  
Virginia “VA” Lugge  
Youth Minister

(For more inspiration listen to “Wake Up Sleeper” by Austin French and read the entire BOOK of Isaiah, not just chapter 43)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
**YOUTH LED**



**Church Family Luncheon**

<b>SUNDAY, MAY 22</b> IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10:15 SERVICE	<b>FELLOWSHIP HALL</b> (BASEMENT)
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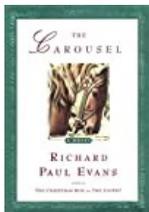
*Our youth are nearly to their mission trip goal, just \$1,000 left to go. Help them reach their mark by enjoying a meal together.*



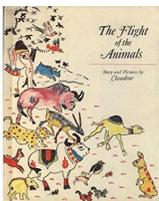
## FEATURED BOOKS FOR MAY



**Christian Fiction:** *Covenant Child* by Terri Blackstock — Amanda's heart broke as she watched them drive her beloved twins away. She resolved to hope . . . and to fight for them to her last breath. Kara and Lizzie are heiresses to one of the largest fortunes in the country. But when their father dies suddenly, the toddlers are taken from the arms of Amanda, their loving stepmother, and given to relatives who only want the children's fortune for themselves. Kara and Lizzie grow up questioning their worth . . . until the day when they learn the truth. Intensely involving, emotionally charged, and infused with hope, *Covenant Child* is an inspiring story that challenges us to embrace the life God holds out to us.



**Fiction:** *The Carousel* by Richard Paul Evans — This is the love story of Michael Keddington and Faye Murrow, a love story that takes place not in seclusion, but in the real world, with the challenges that all lovers must face. No relationship is an island: there are threads that bind us all and pull at our lives: the demands of family, friends, work, and social obligation. And there are times that the pull of those threads becomes greater than the strength of the relationship. In these times, no matter how much two people love each other, a relationship must grow strong or be torn apart. *The Carousel* is about what happens when life doesn't turn out the way that we planned. More than a love story, it is about faith, loyalty, and sacrifice. My hope is that you, and those with whom you share this audiobook, might find the message of this story meaningful and applicable to your own life. And that in some way you might feel changed.



**Children/Young Adult:** *The Flight of the Animals* by Claudine — Fearing the earth is caving in behind him, the timid rabbit races through the jungle spreading the word and leading other animals toward disaster.



**Non-Fiction:** *Ideals Mother's Day - 1991 Mother's Day* edition which includes poems and inspirational Mother's Day stories



**Prayer/Devotional:** *Better Together: What on Earth are We Here For?* by Rick Warren — In this six-session group study, pastor and bestselling author Warren shows how God planned for Christians to fulfill His purposes in community within the church family, small groups, & in the world.



**Religion/Spirituality:** *Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody* by Allen R. Hunt — The lesson is simple: Give forgiveness and you will unleash a flood of grace on yourself and on those around you. When you clench your fists and grit your teeth in anger toward someone, you have no room in your heart for God to place His hand in yours. Replace your clenched fist with an open hand and watch as God fills your soul to overflowing. This little book, and the twelve real-life stories in it, will help you capture the power of forgiveness in your life. Because everybody needs to forgive somebody.



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## Freeburg Community Calendar

- May 7 - St. Joseph Dinner Auction 5pm
  - May 15 - Freeburg High School Graduation @ 2pm
  - May 17 - St. Joseph Graduation @ 6:30pm
  - May 20 - Freeburg Elementary Graduation @ 7pm
  - May 21 - Freeburg Police & Public Safety Golf Tourn.
  - May 28 - Freeburg Pool Opens
  - May 31-June 11 - Freeburg Library Summer Reading
  - June 3 - Rules of the Road 1:30-3:30pm @ Township
-



# May Birthdays

05/01	Bill Hughes	05/16	Michael Adamson	05/26	Gregg Haege
05/03	Tabitha Amann		Matthew Wilke		Sierra Harding
05/06	Joseph Pruett	05/17	Dennis Ahlers	05/27	Kim Borja
05/07	Virginia Capone		Carol Young		Michael Butrovich
	Duane Forcade		Anna Neff		Lydia Lindauer
	Zoe Rhutasel	05/20	Malissa Weber	05/28	David Favre
	Bennie Schafale	05/22	Tim Pruett	05/31	Adam Dickens
05/10	Mary Wandling		Ryan Tewell		
	Nicole Clossen		Nolan Green		
05/11	Jim Kaiser	05/23	Samantha Borger		
05/12	Jennifer Homann	05/24	James Harms		
05/13	Johanna Crecelius		Vicki Walker		
	John Whitmore		Claire Walker		
05/14	Jacey Trentman	05/25	Jessica Burkhart		
	Raegen Trentman		Jenny Furtak		
05/15	Billie Louthan		Julie Rickert		

Happy  
Birthday

## Building & Grounds

The new landscaping around the Sanctuary, Baltz Parlor, Ministry Center, and Parsonage has been completed, thanks to the Julie Heberer Memorial. Photos of the project can be found on pages 10 and 11.

Plastering of the “Pastor’s Study” in the Parsonage will be completed next week. Martin Glass will place a large mirror above the sink in the bathroom which has just been repainted.

We are getting bids for trimming the 2 large trees on the Parsonage property. We’ve accepted the bid from Funk Heating and Cooling to replace 2 of our furnaces. Bel-O replaced the old gas lines coming into the church. A leak had occurred last month. Midwest Duct Cleaning was hired to clean our furnace pipes and cold air returns.

Leaves and sticks were clogging the downspouts on the office building and were cleared on our “Spring Cleaning Work Day” on the 9th of April. Thanks to the six women and four men who worked to refresh our church. The garage was also cleaned of it’s contents that day.

Germantown Guttering will place screens on the existing gutters on the education building. Alpha Sewer will place new “P” traps beneath the kitchen sinks and correct a leaking drain pipe.

Gloria Niebruegge is stepping down as our chairperson. She has worked tirelessly these past two years overseeing the remodeling of St. Paul’s Center and the numerous changes and improvements of our church as a whole. Jim Jacobs has graciously accepted the responsibilities of this position.

Submitted by,  
Jeanie Stumpf



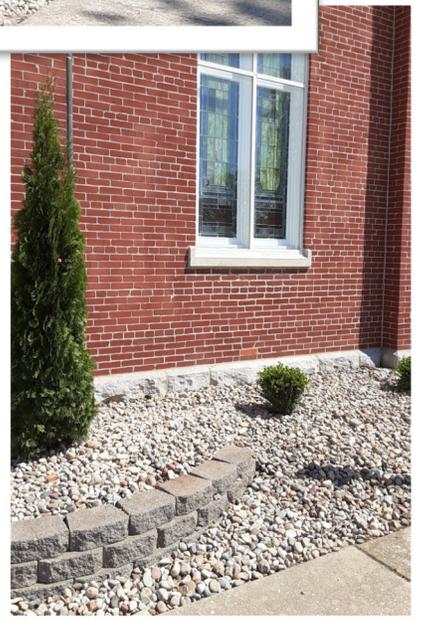
Rite of Confirmation  
 St. Paul's UCC - Freeburg  
 April 10, 2022



Cameron Harms - Olivia Joseph - Aiden Kuhn



# Recent Landscaping Project at St. Paul's



## The Church Calendar—May 2022

**Normal Sunday Schedule**  
 8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship  
 9:05 am Sunday School for all ages

<p>May 1 - Sun.: Communion Sunday</p> <p>May 2 - Mon.: E &amp; O Meeting 6:15pm B &amp; G Meeting 7pm</p> <p>May 3 - Tues.: Svc. &amp; Communion Cedar Trails 1pm Food Pantry 2-4pm Pastor Search Comm. 7pm</p> <p>May 5 - Thurs.: Painting 9am</p> <p>May 8 - Sun.: Mother's Day Blood Pressure Checks Food Collection Sunday</p> <p>May 10 - Tues.: Women's Guild 12 noon Food Pantry 2-4pm Stephen Ministries 6:30pm F &amp; C Bank Board Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>May 16 - Mon.: Pastor Search Comm. 7pm</p> <p>May 17 - Tues.: Freeburg Care Center Svc. 3:15pm Council Meeting 7pm</p> <p>May 19 - Thurs.: Painting 9am Food Pantry 5-7pm</p> <p>May 22 - Sun.: Church Family Luncheon 11:15am</p> <p>May 24 - Tues.: Stephen Ministries 6:30pm</p> <p>May 25 - Wed.: SCOPE deadline</p> <p>May 27 - Fri.: Teeny Tot Graduation 8:30am F &amp; C Clothing Sale 9-11am</p> <p>May 30 - Mon.: Memorial Day - OFFICE CLOSED</p>
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**C.S. Lewis Bible Study:** Monday 7:15 pm  
**Bible Study:** Tuesday at 9:30 am, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Zoom)  
**Quilting:** Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 am, Thursday 6:00 pm (Ministry Building)  
**Boy Scouts:** Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)  
**Choir:** Wednesday 6:00 pm  
**The Outlet:** Wednesday 6:30-8:00 pm (Youth Room)  
**Faith Journey:** Wednesday 7:00 pm  
**Reconfirmation/Adult Bible Class:** Thursday 7:00 pm (Ministry Building)

### Recent Landscaping Project at St. Paul's



**ST. PAUL'S SCOPE** published by  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
210 West White Street  
Freeburg, IL 62243

## St. Paul's SCOPE ~ May 2022

**Faithful and Welcoming  
Church**

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
7 North Belleville Street  
Freeburg, Illinois 62243

(Mailing address: 210 W. White St.)



Rev. Rick Mortimer, Interim Pastor  
Office Phone: 618-539-3262  
Church Phone; 618-539-3962  
Email address: [churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org)  
Web address: [www.stpaulsfreeburg.org](http://www.stpaulsfreeburg.org)

**Worship Services:**  
Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM  
Sunday School 9:05 AM

### MEMORIAL DAY...

...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET  
ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH  
GRATITUDE AND PRIDE  
ALL THOSE WHO SERVED  
AND DIED FOR OUR  
COUNTRY AND OUR  
FREEDOM.

MAY YOUR DAY BE  
FILLED WITH  
MEMORIES AND  
PEACE.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

