

**First Baptist Church & First United Methodist Church**  
*United in Spirit - United in Worship - United in God's Love*

June 28, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.

*Prelude – “Fanfare for the Common Man”* by Aaron Copland

*Christian Greeting* Rev. Ray Howell III

*Choral Invitation to Worship”* *I Hear America Singing”*

by André J. Thomas

*Quoting the Spiritual “Walk Together Children”*

*Combined Choirs of FBC & FUMC*

*Lee Mabe, conductor - Phyllis Jones, accompanist*

*Call to Worship* Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Leader: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

People: **Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who put God first and live in God's steadfast love.**

Leader: We gather to worship God as a free people in a free land.

People: **We gather to worship God above all else, for God is our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay.**

*Gathering Prayer (unison)*

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.

Inspire the minds of all people to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world.

Give to them the visions of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations may work together.

Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,

so we may use our liberty in accordance with your will. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;

purify our hearts to see and love your truth. We pray these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise No. 418* by Katherine Lee Bates

*“America the Beautiful”*

*Litany of Prayer and Praise* Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Leader: As we remember the birth of our nation,

and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

People: **For the people who braved the long journey by sea**

**to come to this continent, we thank you Lord.**

Leader: For the people and nations who have inhabited this land for hundreds of generations, we thank you Lord.

People: **For patriots who dreamed of**

**and fought for a free nation, we thank you Lord.**

Leader: For the people who laid the foundation of our democracy, and pledged liberty and justice for all, we thank you Lord.

People: **For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town, we thank you Lord.**

Leader: For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service

and those who paid by their sacrifice, we thank you Lord.

People: **For hunters and gatherers, innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers;**

**for all who labor and provide for the common good, we thank you Lord.**

Leader: For this land, with its peaks and valleys,

coasts and deserts, fields and meadows, we thank you Lord.

People: **For our community, those who came here before us, and for our neighbors near and far, we thank you Lord.**

Leader: Lord, we pray for the United States of America, that we might always be a nation which defends

and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

People: **We pray that we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray as they see fit.**

Leader: We pray that we might be a beacon of freedom to all who live under the shadow of terror and fear.

People: **We pray for all of those who were enslaved people and for their descendants**

**that we might find ways to understand their story.**

Leader: We pray that we would be a people who repent from our sins,

and who always return to you and to your grace.

People: **God all nations, bless and defend us and our land; make us defenders and allies of all people;**

**prosper the work of our hands that we might share what we have with those in need, and increase in us your**

**grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**