

Embark Student Family,

FREEDOM!

This is what I'd triumphantly yell at the end of each school year, and it's what we celebrate here in America every Fourth of July - our freedom. But what does freedom actually mean to a follower of Jesus Christ?

For us, freedom should be about more than fireworks or a summer off from school or even the Bill of Rights. Freedom was won for us by the very blood of Christ Jesus when it ran down that cross around 2,000 years ago. Freedom not from the tyranny of government, but from the tyranny of our own sinful natures and the curse that has come from them ever since the very first man and woman failed to keep God's commands.

Freedom is the ability to say with confidence that we have been forgiven and redeemed. To declare that we are no longer defined by our past mistakes, and we won't be defined by our future mistakes, we will only be defined by the perfect life Jesus lived, and the way He freely laid down His life for us and rose again on the third day.

So as we continue to celebrate the summer as a student group, let's remember what freedom is really about, praise the only God who could ever give it to us, and put our faith in His Son Jesus to continue to guide us step by step as we live free forever in His love.

-Pastor Justin

Month in Review

Things keep moving here at Emmanuel Church. Here are some of the highlights:



Voyage Nights continues to grow as we study the life and teaching of Jesus in the book of Matthew and enjoy the summer weather. Join us every Thursday night at 7 PM!

Our big event for this month was the Summer Luau, where we celebrated the summer and invited 5th graders who will be moving up into our student program this fall. We had tons of Hawaiian Spirit on display, and there were plenty of opportunities to cool off with a nice refreshing water balloon. The evening concluded with a bonfire where we cooked S'mores and determined once and for all who was the "Best-dressed Hawaiian." Check out some of the highlights below!









Looking Forward

Check out these opportunities for students coming up in the month of July!



Fourth of July Family Sunday - 10 AM

Fourth of July falls on Sunday this year, so we want to give you a chance to celebrate with your whole family in worship! We will have **one outdoor service (weather permitting) at 10 AM**. Bring comfortable chairs and enjoy time together as we look toward Jesus who gives us freedom.



Eastern University – St. Davids, PA

July 19-24

MFUGE: Eastern University, July 19-24

Monday, July 19, we will leave from the church parking lot at 10 AM to head to Eastern University for MFUGE. It's a missions camp experience where students get to put the things they've learned into practice every day as they serve local churches and make a difference in the communities surrounding Philadelphia, PA. We will return that Saturday, July 24 at around 2 PM.

We will have a brief **Final Parents' Meeting right after the second service on July 11 (around 12:15 in the House on the Hill)** to make sure everyone is on the same page, has turned in all the required forms, and is briefed on the latest COVID guidelines for our week at camp. If you cannot make the meeting, that information

will be sent out in a special email for those who are signed up for MFUGE.

If your middle or high school student has not yet signed up for MFUGE, but wish they were, it may not be too late! Let Pastor Justin know or come to the Parent Meeting for more information.

There will be **NO VOYAGE NIGHTS on July 22** as many of our leaders and students will be away that week



Pool Party at Pastor Rick's - Friday, July 30, 6-9 PM

We're having a pool party! To celebrate coming home from MFUGE and to simply cool off in these hot summer months, we'll be taking a dip in Pastor Rick's pool. Bring a towel and dress in appropriate swimwear. RSVP [here](#) to let us know you'll be coming, hope to see you there!

New Sunday Series



This month we are in Orange Curriculum, focusing on how Jesus dealt with temptation. "He was tempted in all ways as we are, but without sin." So how can the way He dealt with temptation help us when we face a test of our faith, or keep falling into the same patterns of sin and begin to get frustrated with ourselves? We'll talk about all that and more starting July 11. You can find out more and get parent resources on our web page: emmanuelchurch.tv/students.

Closing Thoughts

As we feel the heat of summer and continue to celebrate our many freedoms, let's not lose sight of the freedom that is more important than all others, the freedom we have in Jesus. If the Son sets us free, we are free indeed.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you'd just like to talk, feel free to email me at jmanry@emmanuelchurch.tv, call/text at 443-987-1705, or stop by my office sometime. I'd love to hear from you and know any way I can serve you better.

In Christ,

-Pastor Justin and the Embark Student Team

Matthew 6:33



Justin Manry

Student Pastor

443-987-1705

jmanry@emmanuelchurch.tv

