

July

Names to honor Roman dictator Julius Caesar (100 B.C. - 44 B.C.). In 46 B.C. Julius Caesar made one of his greatest contributions to history: With the help of Sosigenes, he developed the Julian calendar, the precursor to the Gregorian calendar that we use today

What is Independence Day?

On the 4th of July, the United States observes a federal holiday in honor of the Declaration of Independence. This holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by delegates from the 13 colonies.

A Brief History of Independence Day

The Declaration of Independence is America's revolutionary charter of Freedom and the document upon which the nation's founding principles were established.

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It was an official act taken by all 13 American colonies in declaring independence from British rule.

The document was originally written by Thomas Jefferson, but Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, along with Jefferson, then worked together to make changes.

Here is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence (U.S., 1776)

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

More Fourth of July History

July 4, 1776: Thomas Jefferson noted in his "Weather Memorandum Book" that the weather was cloudy, the temperature 76 degrees.

July 4, 1826: Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson – signers of the Declaration of Independence who each later became president – died on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the declaration.

July 4, 1884: The Statue of Liberty was formally presented to the United States by the people of France.

Why is the name "John Hancock" synonymous with "your signature"?

Hancock's bold signature on the Declaration of Independence dwarfed the signatures of the other signers. Legend says that Hancock wanted the king of England to see the rebellious signature without having to wear his spectacles!

How many people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th?

Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 – John Hancock, president of the congress, and Charles Thompson, secretary of the Congress.

On what day did most people sign the Declaration of Independence?

August 2, 1776

When did Independence Day become a national holiday?

The Fourth of July was not declared a federal holiday until 1938.

Is anything written on the back of the Declaration of Independence?

Yes, but not a treasure map like a certain favorite film suggests. The message "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776" is written upside down on the back of the Declaration of Independence.

Where is the Declaration of Independence document today?

Thomas Jefferson's original draft was lost and the one eventually signed is the "engrossed" document. It is kept at the national Archives in Washington, D.C., for all to see.

Of the 200 printed copies of the declaration made by John Dunlap (the Dunlap Broadides), only 27 are accounted for. One of these was found in the back of a picture frame at a tag sale and sold at auction for \$8.14 million to television producer Norman Lear in 2000. It traveled the country on display to the public for ten years.

Where was George Washington when the Declaration of Independence was written?

In July 1776, Washington was in New York with his troops. On July 9, he received his copy of the Declaration with a note from John Hancock telling Washington to share the news with his soldiers. The men were so excited that they rushed over to the Bowling Green and tore down the statue of King George III. Shortly after this, the British, as Washington expected, attacked the colonists and the American Revolution was under way. The colonists fought eight long, hard years (1775-83) for independence from Britain.

Ahhhmazing

by Christopher Kronen

Ping! My phone chimed, I swiped open Let go, an app for buying and selling used goods. Someone was interested in the car sunshade I'd posted. I coordinated a time and place to meet the buyer. Meanwhile my mind wandered to my father, Adolph – or Molly, as I used to call him. A mispronunciation of a German word for "chubby." a hardworking, practical Austrian immigrant, Dad would've been proud I was trying to sell something I no longer needed.

Dad died in 2016. He'd lived with me for the last nine years of his life. One of my favorite memories was our trip to New Mexico. That's where Dad bought the pastel drawing of parrots that hands in my entryway. He liked to say it reminded him of the three of us – my late mother, my dad and me.

On the day of the sale, the would be buyer arrived on time. To my shock, he stepped out of the car with a colorful bird perched on his shoulder. How odd to bring a parrot to meet a stranger from an app! The sunshade didn't fit the man's car, but by then I already knew the sale wasn't the real reason we'd found each other. The man's parrot looked as if it had flown straight out of my father's painting. And when I'd asked the parrot's name, the man replied, "Molly."

Celebrating our Great Nation

Dad came home from World War I service in France 5 years before I was born. As I learned in later years, his time in a foreign country changed him forever.

He became a devoted patriot.

The chance to see another world was life-changing for a farm boy who had, until then, never been outside of Whiteside County, Illinois. As the World War I song so aptly put it, "How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm after they've seen Paree?"

Well, he returned to the farm, but saw America through new eyes. During my childhood, he would tell us how lucky we were to live in America. What he had seen of France had been a huge step back in time. "You wouldn't believe it," he marveled, shaking his head. "They don't have indoor plumbing, and they don't even have outhouses." (That was in 1919, remember.)

Many years later, my wife and I took our three teenagers to work and travel in Europe for most of a year. Doing this had the same impact on them that Dad's adventure had on him. You can't really appreciate this country and all it offers until you leave it.

That's why the Fourth of July always has been my favorite holiday. It's the one day in the year when we properly celebrate our United States. And in the process, we renew our appreciation for what America gives us.

Perhaps it's nostalgia, but I seem to remember a time when we made more of our country's birthday that we do in our own time – especially in small town America.

Remember the grand parades? High school bands (a little short of the 76 trombones Meredith Willson celebrated in *The Music Man*) strutted proudly down the street, saving the *Stars and Stripes Forever* until they went past the reviewing stand. Up front was the drum major, usually the tallest boy in school. Following him were the drum majorettes in sparkly outfits, twirling their batons. And then came the band itself, with the conductor marching alongside.

Behind the band came, perhaps, a marching formation from the American Legion post, and another representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I even remember asking Dad about a half dozen oldsters hobbling along, with canes. "They're veterans of the Spanish-American War," he said. "There aren't many left."

Various other civic groups were represented, some riding on bunting-festooned hayracks pulled by tractors.

Then came automobiles bearing local celebrities such as the mayor and quite likely a state representative from our district. Some things never change: Politicians love the spotlight.

Oh, yes. I almost forgot the little moppets from Mrs. Peterson's Baton Twirling Academy – and the accordion band under the tutelage of her brother-in-law, Harvey.

Many of the groups carried the American flag, and as they went by, veterans saluted and other men placed their hands over their hearts.

Okay, so it sounds rather rural and quaint. But as a neighbor lady who grew up in a small North Carolina town recalls, "It was the biggest event of the year." Well, unless the circus also came to town that year.

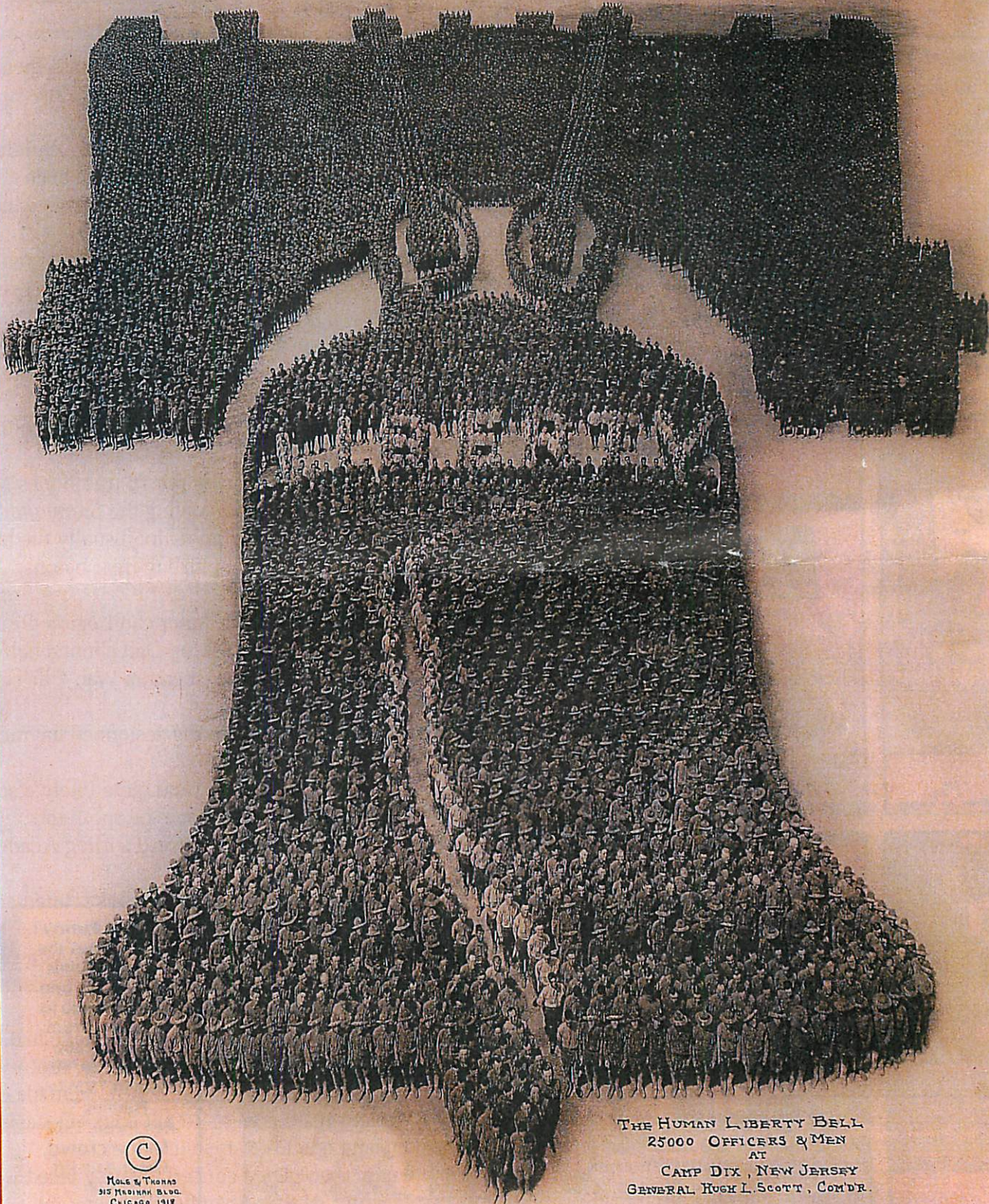
Frequently, these parades would end up in the town square or park, where a stage had been erected and festooned with red, white and blue crepe paper. That's where the patriotic oratory was delivered. Quite likely, a church group or a school PTA had put up a concession stand made of sawhorses and planks where they sold cold drinks and ice cream cones and hot dogs. Occasionally, a rambunctious kid would set off a string of firecrackers and quickly vanish into the crowd.

Where I grew up, the local municipal band would then play a concert, heavily laced with John Philip Sousa's grand march compositions, topped off with The Star-Spangled Banner.

AS YOU WERE

★★★ Where fond military memories fall in ★★★

A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: There is a time to let things happen and a time to make things happen.



©
HALL & THOMAS
315 N. DEAN ST.
CHICAGO 1918

THE HUMAN LIBERTY BELL
25000 OFFICERS & MEN
AT
CAMP DIX, NEW JERSEY
GENERAL RICH L. SCOTT, COM'D.

Yes, in most towns, there were fireworks, too. Compared with the intricate, awesome dazzlers we see these days, it was fairly basic stuff. But it still elicited oohs and aahs as the shells exploded overhead.

The final act of this celebration for our family was a return home, where we sat on the front porch, drank lemonade, doled out sparklers for the kids to wave as they ran around the yard, and watched fireflies.

Huh? Yup. July was when the oats crop ripened and turned to gold. And in those days before there were pesticides, the fields would positively glow with thousands and thousands of fireflies...nature's own fireworks.

So from early morning, when we kids would begin banging away with cap guns and firecrackers until well after dark, we – the whole community- had an entire day of celebration.

As my neighbor lady says, it was the biggest day of the year for man of us. Fun, yes. But also a day when we celebrated living in the country that Dad rediscovered when he came home from what was optimistically called “the war to end all wars.”

I know...I was there.

Clancy Strock

Seven Ways To Keep Your Brain Cells Working

1.
Play complex puzzles and games such as Scrabble or chess.
2.
Learn a foreign language
3.
Study music.
4.
Solve math problems without using a calculator.
5.
Write letters or poetry.
6.
Engage in thought-provoking discussions.
7.
Study and memorize Scripture.

A Living Symbol of Liberty

HOW MANY MEN does it take to create a human Liberty Bell? Photographers Arthur S. Mole and John D. Thomas found that it was about 25,000 soldiers when they took this picture (left) at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in 1918.

“I consider the picture to be a real treasure,” writes Renee Gerlach of Phoenix, Arizona, who shares the photograph with us. “My stepfather, Charles E. Van Gordon, is easily located, as he is standing at the bottom of the v-shaped portion of the letter Y.

“My stepfather told of the long

hours it took for all of the men to get into place and the picture to be taken. He told of how hot it was, as the men’s uniforms were made of wool.”

Mole and Thomas posed many thousands of soldiers at numerous military camps, forming gigantic symbols of patriotism such as Uncle Sam, a U.S. flag, the Statue of Liberty, a portrait of President Woodrow Wilson, the U.S. Marine Corps emblem and a shield featuring the stars and stripes of the U.S.

The photographers, who worked out of Chicago, would spend a week or more preparing for their unique pictures, which were taken from a tower 70 to 80 feet high with a camera that had an 11- by 14-inch viewer.

It’s been reported that Mole and Thomas and other photographers who duplicated their efforts donated the entire income generated from such pictures to the returning soldiers and the country’s efforts to rebuild lives in the soldiers’ reentry process. ❊

Safe Deposit

Who would ever suspect what he was carrying?

By L. Curtis Miller

I had a Roadmaster bike with balloon tires that had no inner tubes. I was 7 years old along about 1942, when we lived at West Avenue 28 in the Lincoln Park area of Los Angeles, Calif. A long block away was a gas station owned by Einar Johnson, a jovial Swede. Now and again, my balloon tires would need a shot of air, and I would put air in at Einar's station.

Usually his air hose had a pressure gauge, but one day it did not. I began inflating it but failed to keep a sharp eye on how much air was going in. Suddenly I saw a great bulge in the tire, then pow! The tire exploded.



Curtis was more than happy to play the role of banker.

It was during World War II and many things were rationed. Everyone was issued a book of ration coupons. I had one and was allotted one pair of leather shoes a year. One pair was not sufficient for me, but the weather was usually warm in the L.A. area, and kids often went barefoot.

Rubber tires were rationed or just hard to come by because they were needed for military vehicles to fight the war.

I burst into tears at the sight of that exploded tire. Einar heard me and came running, asking, "What's wrong, Curtis?" He didn't need my explanation, for he saw the shredded tire. Einar ran across the street to a bike shop where he found a tire just the right size. He paid for

it and put it on my bike, and I rejoiced to have wheels again.

I was so thankful that the next day, I went to Einar's gas station to ask, "Do you have any work I can do to pay you back for the tire?" He had a brilliant idea and offered me a job! Every Tuesday and Friday, Einar, who worked alone at his station, was challenged to deposit the monies earned by his station and withdraw money he needed to make change for purchases made at the gas pumps. Often his wife was inconvenienced by having to drive several miles to make the deposit for him. Einar's idea was ingenious: "Who would ever suspect a little 7-year-old kid would be carrying a bag full of money to the Bank of America a half mile away?"

"No one," he surmised. Thereafter, every Tuesday and Friday afternoon, when my school was dismissed at 2:30 p.m., I would ride my bike as fast as I could to the station, arriving by 2:40. Then I would grab the money bag to be secreted inside my shirt, and I would pedal as fast as I could to the Bank of America before it closed at 3 p.m. Never did I fail to reach the bank on time, though often I was the last customer through the door before it was locked.

Once inside, I would proceed to the window where Nicole, one of the most beautiful ladies I have ever seen, was the teller. She would process Einar's deposit and cash withdrawal to make change. I would be back at Einar's by 3:25, and he would pay me 25 cents for my services rendered. That added up to 50 cents per week. I filled my piggy bank because of Einar's brilliant idea that no one would suspect that a 7-year-old kid would be carrying a bag full of money to the Bank of America! ♦

The mysterious, connectional act of prayer

When Linda Douty's friend died from a brain tumor, the event sent the lifelong United Methodist on a spiritual spiral as she sought to understand why the prayers of many failed to result in her friend's healing.

"She was fit, successful, all of the plusses in life you can imagine," Douty shares about her 50something-year-old friend. "Every prayer group I knew was praying for her. And she died."

"Wait a minute," she remembers thinking, "This doesn't add up to what I've been taught."

When she shared her confused anguish with her pastor, he counseled, "'When I feel like you feel right now, I pray, because Jesus prayed.'"

At the time, Douty thought the answer was "glib," she recalls. Thirty years later, Douty, who is a spiritual director in Memphis, Tennessee, doesn't have a better response.

"It was an unsatisfactory answer at the time," she shared. "But I call myself a Christian, a follower of Jesus. And what did Jesus do? He prayed in every circumstance. He prayed when he was happy, when he was sad, when he was bewildered, in the Garden of Gethsemane, even on the cross. So whatever this mystery is, Jesus thought it was important. "

The acts of asking for prayer, praying for others, reciting prayers together are built into our faith tradition. Jesus modeled it, we repeat it. But do we understand it? United Methodist spiritual leaders offer help unraveling the complexity of prayer, and, perhaps in doing so, leading us to accept the mystery and seek a deeper connection with God.

Unanswered prayers

Like Douty, many people struggle with prayers that aren't answered in the ways we want.

"When people say, 'God didn't answer my prayer,' I always say, 'You're in good company and I point to the lament in the Psalms,'" shares the Rev. Claire McNulty-Drewes, a United Methodist pastor in the Mountain Sky Conference.

"I do pray for miracles and I believe in miracles. And I've seen miracles. But I also know the human body is an insidious thing. I don't know why a child gets cancer. It seems unfair. I don't know why car accidents happen to some people but not to me," McNulty-Drewes shares. "The lament psalms remind me I'm not the only one who may be questioning if there really is a God."

To make a specific request when praying to God is common. Our church services are filled with prayer times where we share "joys and concerns" – and mainly, concerns – with one another, asking God for healings, jobs, safety, positive outcomes.

"Viewing prayers as merely requests is transactional," explains Sally Sharpe, a United Methodist and spiritual director in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. "I'm coming to you because I want something. If my prayer is successful, I'll get what I want. And I think a prevalent understanding of prayer is transactional. But I believe it's experiential, it's relationship."

"Prayer is an opportunity to ground me in that which is holy rather than that which is earthly."

Rev. Claire McNulty-Drewes

"I've learned not to tie my prayer to the result of getting what I want," says Douty. "I long ago threw away my prayer notebook where I would write, 'Here's the day I prayed for XYZ and here's the day God answered it.' That makes it about my agenda and this has no room for mystery."

Of course, there are situations, usually times of crisis, when we plead and beg with God for a certain answer to our desperate prayers. It is in these times, says McNulty-Drewes, when reframing our understanding of prayer may help, regardless of how the situation unfolds.

"Instead of being about changing God's mind or getting what we want from God, it's about changing our mind," she says, referencing a book she read titled "The Meaning of Prayer," published more than 100 years ago by Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

"I'm less inclined these days to give God direction," Douty admits. "If I have a friend with a tumor, rather than pray to make that tumor go away, I'm more apt to envision that person completely enclosed in the love and mercy of God."

Prayer is more about relationship than results, Sharpe offers.

"When we are being transparent, authentic and real with God, that's where we are experiencing God's love and God's presence," she points out. "So in our prayers, if we don't get the answer we are asking for, but we feel safe, seen and known by God, that enables us to trust God even when things aren't going as we would like."

Nonstop connection

The Apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:16, commends us to "pray without ceasing." What may seem an impossible task of around the clock praying becomes attainable when redefining prayer from a single act to a way of being.

Sharpe likens her prayer life to a cell phone conversation on which she never presses "end."

"We may not have words for a couple of hours, but we're still together," Sharpe says, expounding on the analogy. "The connection is there even if the conversation pauses. I'm always in the background waiting and listening for God to break in again and speak to me, and vice versa. God is attentive and right there. And it goes both ways."

Failsafe praying

If you've ever thought, "I don't know how to pray," there's good news.

"There is no way to get prayer wrong," Sharpe offers. "If you are seeking God and calling out to God, you're seeking connection and that's a win. Prayer is turning to God. You can't mess it up. *Just be you.* God is always open to that, delighted with that."

"Everybody is *different*. So why would we think there is one method to connect to God?," she asks, then recommends, "Find the language that suits your soul."

"Prayer becomes an opportunity to reframe my day to day posture," McNulty-Drewes explains, "to ground me in that which is holy, rather than grounding me in that which is earthly."

Water to Your Health by Marissa Laliberte and Lindsay Tigar

Hydration isn't just vital when it's hot. Drink enough every day and your whole body will benefit. (Your brain too.)

If you've ever been pummeled by the gut-wrenching pain that comes with a kidney stone, your doctor probably handed you a surprisingly benign prescription to avoid another one: water. Stones often form when urine doesn't have enough fluid in it to dissolve calcium and other substances the body regularly processes. When the body tries to move them along the conveyor belt of the excretion process, they get stuck – and it hurts. Doctors sometimes prescribe medication to keep stones from forming, but for many people, proper hydration is the first line of defense. As some urologists say to those patients, water is your medicine.

If the notion of simply hydrating yourself to health seems like magical thinking, consider the research that produced the claim. Study after study shows that drinking enough water fends off problems from head to toe. "Water is a basic need for cellular health," says Ronald Navarro, MD, an orthopedic and sports medicine surgeon at Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center in Harbor City, California.

How much water depends on many factors: your weight, the climate where you live, how often you exercise. The old rule of thumb of eight 8-ounce glasses a day is not a bad place to start, but the Institute of Medicine actually recommends more for most people living in temperate climates. The clearest sign that you're well hydrated is pale yellow urine. If yours is dark yellow, down more H₂O.

An even better gauge may be how you feel overall. In fact, water can be a potent elixir for your mind and body. So pour yourself a nice big glass, sit back, and take a look at the many ways being well hydrated can help your health.

YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF ENERGY

Water helps keep up a steady flow of nutrients into your cells, which boosts your energy. When you're dehydrated, cell membranes become less permeable and hamper this flow, affecting your physical and mental performance and making you feel sluggish, according to a review of hydration research conducted by scientists at the University of North Carolina and Tufts University.

YOU'LL WORK UP A SWEAT

A damp forehead during physical activity shows that your body is doing its job of maintaining a normal temperature, and water is key to that task.

YOU MIGHT LOSE WEIGHT

A new study from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign involving more than 18,000 adults found that when people increased their daily water intake by one to three 8-ounce cups (on top of the four they already drank on average), they are less. Their food intake dropped by as much as 205 calories a day.

YOUR MEMORY MAY IMPROVE

Your brain is hugely dependent on fluid – all those synapses and neurons need liquid to fire properly. According to a review published in the journal *Nutrients*, studies have consistently found that memory and attention improve in children after they take a drink of water. The research is less clear on whether this pattern holds true for adults.

YOUR SKIN WILL GLOW

According to research, skin is at least 30 percent water. If your skin cells don't get the water they need, they'll start to wither and shrink. But if you drink enough water, your skin cells will plump up, minimizing the appearance of wrinkles.

YOU'LL MORE EASILY KICK COLD SYMPTOMS

There's a reason your doctor tells you to drink more when you're coming down with something. Your body has to launch an attack against germs when you're sick – your runny nose, for instance, is your body's way of flushing out pathogens. That means your cells need more fluid to keep up with the demands. Drinking water also helps loosen mucus and keep your nose and throat moist.

YOU'LL BE IN A BETTER MOOD

When women in a small study from the University of Connecticut lost just 1.36 percent of their body mass through sweat (and they didn't drink enough water to replace it), their moods soured and they were more likely to experience headaches and fatigue.

YOU'LL FEEL STRONG WHEN YOU WORK OUT

Water helps your muscles keep the right balance of electrolytes, such as sodium, potassium, and magnesium, to function properly. Without water, muscles can be more prone to cramping. Research suggests that even low levels of dehydration may impair physical performance.

TRICKS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE GETTING THE WATER YOU NEED

- *set alerts on your phone to remind you to drink.

- *Use a permanent marker to draw water levels and specific deadlines on your water bottle.

- *Refrigerate it. Although temperature preferences vary from person to person, you're likely to drink more water if it's cold, according to Joanne Larsen, MS, RD, LD, a Denver-based dietitian and creator of the nutrition website Ask the Dietitian (dietitian.com).

- *Drink a glass before you eat anything.

If you get tired of good old-fashioned H₂O, consider upping your hydration game by making your "brew" sparkling or flavored. Water with bubbles offers the same benefits as regular water, and fruit adds taste. (But steer clear of tonic water, which has added sodium and sugar.) You can also munch on fruits and vegetables with high water content, such as watermelon, cucumbers, tomatoes, grapes, and cherries.

Herbal teas, milk, and sports drinks can help you stay hydrated as long as they're not overly caffeinated or sugary. Caffeine may have a mild diuretic effect, stimulating your kidneys to excrete water, while sugary soda, explains Larsen, "will pull water from your surrounding tissue to dilute the concentrated sugar in soda, thereby reducing your hydration."

A restaurant posts a sign that says "We'll give you \$500 if we fail to fill your order." A cocky customer decides to put the policy to the test by ordering elephant ears on rye. The waitress takes his order to the kitchen. Seconds later, the owner storms out of the kitchen, goes to the customer's table, and slams down five hundred-dollar bills.

"You got me," he tells the customer. "But I want you to know that this is the first time we've been out of rye bread."

During a conference, my high school principal insulted my immigrant mother's English. Mom didn't get upset. Instead, she smiled politely as she delivered this punch to the gut: "I'm sorry. Sometimes I get English mixed up with the other six languages I speak."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 16 – Bonnie Runge

July 21 – Barb Madsen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 1 – Penny & Verne Wagenaar

Jean Devore, Duane and Nancy Young

Marde Morris, Rene Finley,

Dean Barnes, Loretta Barnes. Pam Roberts,
Evan Stewart (Laurel's grandson), Nathaniel
(Kae's grandson), Gals Flack Family,

Weir family in Colstrip, Carl Burns family,
Families who lost their crops from the hair,
Families who lost their homes in the floods,

July 3

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

Galatians 6:(1-6, 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10

Amos 7:7-17

Psalms 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 17

Amos 8:1-12

Psalms 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

July 24

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalms 85

Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

July 31

Hosea 11:1-11

Psalms 107:1-9, 43

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Land of Opportunity

Some people believe that America, as the "Land of Opportunity," is a thing of the past. They claim that it's too late in our history for anyone to start his or her own business – that every good idea has already been used. They claim it should be easy to be successful. They want instant gratification, to which the products of the marketplace bear witness, from fast food to pain relief to video games with their quick outcomes. When they find out that they have to pay their dues – that success takes time, education, hard work and perseverance – they back off clamoring for quotas and government subsidy. Everybody wants to succeed, but very few of us are willing to prepare to succeed.

Samuel Salter II was different. He didn't dwell on what he didn't have. He didn't harbor angry feelings resulting from the past history of his people and use those feelings as excuses to fail. Samuel saw obstacles not as stumbling blocks, but as stepping stones. He didn't dwell on his character deficits or on the material things that he didn't have, but rather on the strengths and assets that he did have. He knew that God didn't make "no junk" and didn't respect prisons. Samuel knew God could bless him the same as anybody else. Samuel knew he had a bright mind, enthusiasm and a desire to help others. He studied economics, opportunity cost, scarcity and the fluctuating value of money. He even dabbled in real estate and began to offer his services to others. They were reluctant at first, but the word of his ability spread. Before Samuel knew it, he had an investment firm worth tens of thousands of dollars.

Amazingly, Samuel Salter II was only in high school when he began his firm. He was also an African-American in an industry predominantly run by white men. We all should learn a valuable lesson from Samuel. Instead of waiting for opportunity to knock, we should make things happen. Regardless of our age, gender, race or creed, America is still the "Land of Opportunity." We see people from all walks of life succeeding in business, the arts, entertainment, and sports on a daily basis. Those who sit around whining, "Poor me," have nobody to blame but themselves.

The doors to success are never locked – if they are closed we need only turn the knob to open them and walk through. With enough preparation, education and hard work, anybody in America can still get the job of his or her dreams instead of settling for second best. Remember that American's promise is not one of guaranteed security and success, but of life, liberty and the opportunity to pursue happiness.



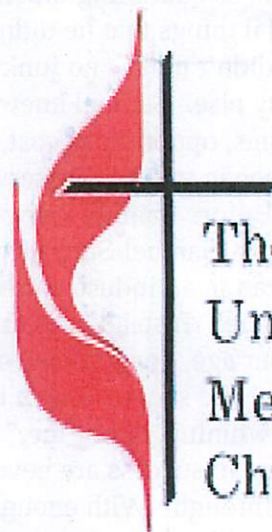
Friends in Faith
First Congregational Church
635 West Second, Hardin Montana 59034
First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 444, Hardin, MT 59034

Mt. No. Wy. Conference
2016 Alderson Ave.
Billings, MT 59102

Clinic Clink will be held on the first Sunday of the month.
Worship Service at the Methodist Church.
Listen to Pastor Briggs on Sunday morning at 10:05 on KRWS FM 100.7 or 94.5
The Food Bank needs noodles.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



The
United
Methodist
Church