

FAITH OF OUR FOUNDERS

Celebration of 250th Anniversary of the U.S.A.

Father's Day, June 21, 2026

Heritage Church, Van Buren, AR

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as **His heritage!**" Psalm 33:12 (ESV)*

Big Idea: HONOR the Biblical FAITH of America's founders.

INTRO: BACKGROUND: THE SEEDS OF FAITH (1620–1740)

A. The Pilgrims and the Mayflower Compact (1620)

Purpose--the glory of God, the advancement of the Christian faith

B. John Winthrop -- "A City on a Hill" (1630)

C. The First Great Awakening (1730s–1740s) Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, "The spiritual revolution that preceded the political revolution."

FOUR CALLS TO ACTION

1. RETURN TO PRAYER

2 Chronicles 7:14 *"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* The founders understood this.

A. George Washington at Valley Forge (1777–1778)

B. The Constitutional Convention (1787), Benjamin Franklin
What should we do?

2. STAND ON GOD-GIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS

Romans 13:1 *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."*

Acts 5:29 ESV *"But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'"*

A. The Declaration of Independence (1776) – Samuel Adams

B. The Black Robe Regiment – British General Cornwallis

Pastor/Major-General Peter Muhlenberg, Alexander Hamilton

Your response:

3. PASS THE FAITH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (The Shema) *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."*

Founders' obsession with education ... inseparable from faith.

Washington on Religion and Education: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, **religion and morality** are indispensable supports..."

The Northwest Ordinance (1787) Article 3: "**Religion, morality, and knowledge**, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." **What should we do?**

4. STEWARD FREEDOM WITH VIRTUE

— Freedom is a gift that demands responsibility.

Galatians 5:1, 13 *"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."*

¹³*"For you were called to freedom, ... Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*

The Cost of Freedom: John Adams to Abigail Adams, 7/3/1776.

The Role of Christian Virtue in Sustaining the Republic

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Patrick Henry's Warning: "When a people forget God, tyrants forge their chains. A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom."

CONCLUSION: THE TORCH PASSES TO US/YOU

George Whitefield -- *"God forbid that I should travel with anybody a quarter of an hour without speaking of Christ to them."*

Will you carry it?