

## Infestation



It's about the size of a grain of rice. It's iridescent green. An exotic beetle called the emerald ash borer (EAB) has voraciously devoured over twenty-five million ash trees throughout eastern and midwestern America, plus several Canadian provinces.

The adult beetles do little damage, just nibbling on a tree's leaves. It's the young ones, the larvae, that are insidious. They feed on the inner bark and disrupt the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. The emerald ash borer's beastly appetite can kill large, healthy trees within one to three years. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on the EAB's eradication and the saving of trees, but its infestation and devastation continue to spread.

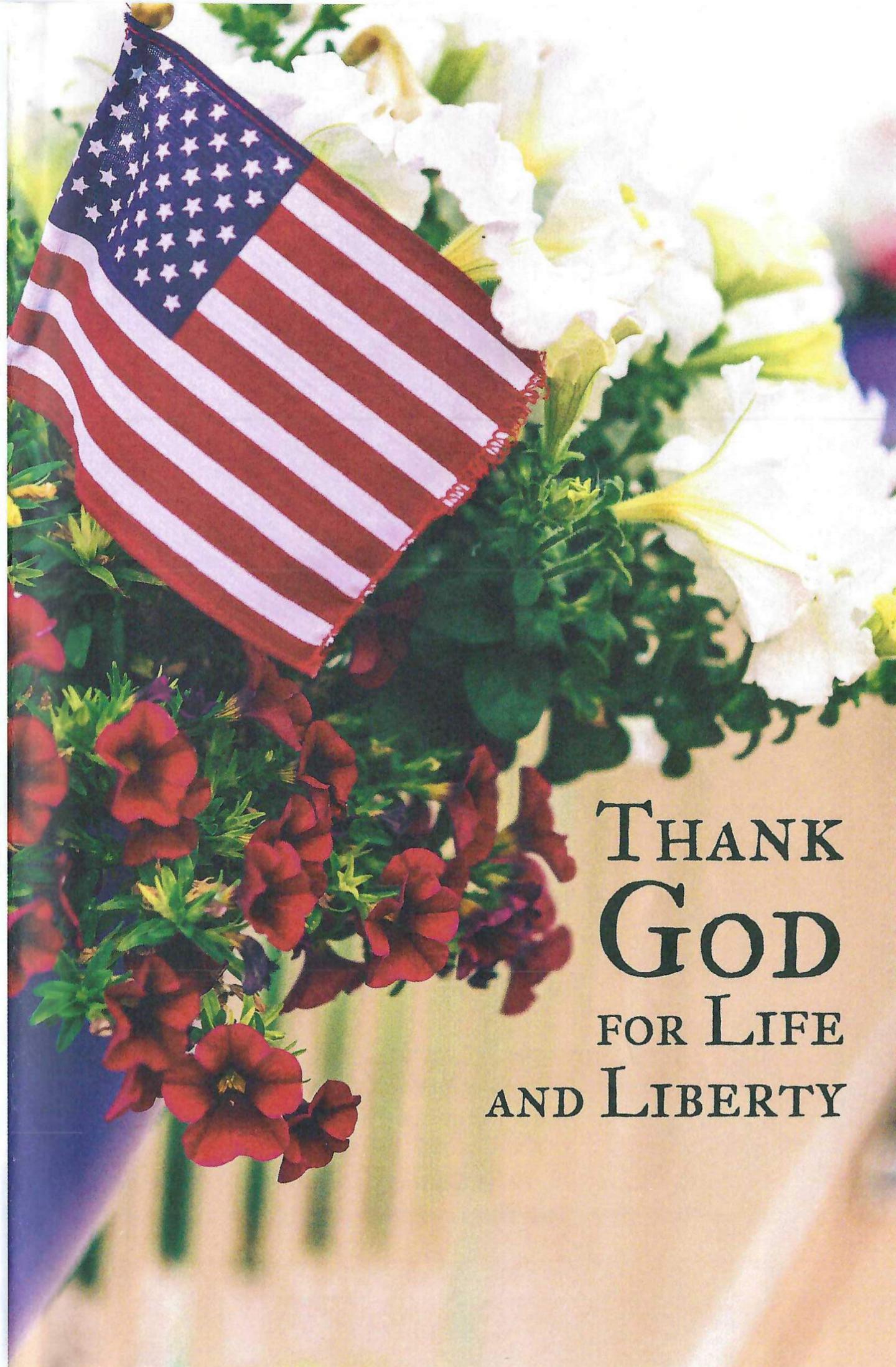
We don't have to look too closely to find our own EABs—Earnestly Attacking Beasties. Even little sins disrupt our ability to have a right relationship with God. They disturb the transport of spiritual nourishment to our hearts and souls as well. Individuals, families and countries are being devastated.

President Abraham Lincoln said, "It is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." [March 30, 1863]

Second Chronicles 7:14 is still true. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Amen.

*Lucinda J. Rollings*

Patriotic floral arrangement ©Cat Lane, courtesy iStock · Printed in USA



THANK  
GOD  
FOR LIFE  
AND LIBERTY



**Covenant Church**  
**July 4, 2021**

Call to Worship  
*Sounds of Hope Part 2*

Pledge of Allegiance

Song of Worship  
Hymn # 799 America the Beautiful

Invocation  
Announcements, Recognition of Guests and  
Greeting Time

Songs of Praise  
Hymn #807 My Country Tis' of Thee

Offertory Prayer

Offertory  
Rose Morgan

Special Music  
*Sounds of Hope Part 2*

Scripture 1 Timothy 2:1-4  
Sermon: "Keeping America Great"  
Tina Pinkoson

Benediction  
God Bless America

## Covenant News

### JULY 4TH HISTORY TEST

**1. When were fireworks first used in an official Fourth of July celebration?**

1777    1812    1878    1901

**2. What historical event do Americans celebrate on the Fourth of July?**

Official signing of the Declaration of Independence  
Formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence

**3. Which president first held a Fourth of July celebration at the White House?**

George Washington    John Adams    Thomas Jefferson  
James Madison

**4. Which U.S. president was born on Independence Day?**

Calvin Coolidge    James Buchanan    Lyndon B. Johnson

**5. Which of the following was not one of the original 13 American Colonies?**

Vermont    Georgia    Massachusetts    North Carolina

**6. When did the Fourth of July become a federal holiday?**

1777    1870    1876