



Warrior Newsletter

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Dismantling Religious Freedoms and Rights Little by Little

By Alan J. Hodak

The Religious Freedom and Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) was passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by then President Clinton. The original bill was introduced to the House of Representatives by Congressman Chuck Shumer (D), NY, and had 120 cosponsors including Rep. Maxine Waters (CA) and Bernie Sanders (I) VT. The bill was introduced into the Senate by Senator Ted Kennedy (D) MA, and passed overwhelmingly 97-3 with then Senator Joseph Biden (D) DE voting in favor of the bill.

RFRA was an effort to create a public law which protected the First Amendment Rights of individual citizens against government intrusion concerning a person's free exercise of religion. For a number of years, the law supported strict scrutiny analysis to all cases related to the free exercise of religion. Later, the Supreme Court struck down RFRA as applying to states, citing Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment and Congress responded by reinstating the law, using parliamentary procedure reenacting RFRA to federal law in the year 2000. Twenty-one states have placed RFRA laws on their books and follow it to this day (unfortunately, MN is not one of them).

There was a time, not so long ago, that everyone valued religious freedom in America (97-3!) Some of the same actors who saw great value in people's individual rights regarding religion are now the ones who seem to have changed their minds about the importance of it.

In American law, court decisions set precedent which then governs and influences future cases. As a result of dozens of cases which put an individual's religious freedom from government intrusion to the test, RFRA became increasingly important to the rights of individuals.



One simple case illustration is Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972). Wisconsin, at that time, had public laws which made education compulsory up through sixteen years of age. All states have similar or expanded requirements today. Three Amish students from three different families did not want to continue their education beyond the 8th grade. It was their deeply held religious belief that their children would continue to live a simple life and had received enough education to be able to read and write well and function in their community. The Amish community would then train these children, in the ways of the Amish, according to their biblical convictions, to work and learn a trade from their family. The state of Wisconsin argued that the state had the responsibility

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Our Mission

Fourth Baptist Christian School, as a ministry of Fourth Baptist Church, is committed to the development of a student's spiritual life in Jesus Christ, while pursuing academic excellence in a manner which honors and glorifies God, based on the only infallible Word, the Bible.

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to require additional years of education to prepare their students to function in modern society. The Court disagreed and this became a landmark case referred to as the “Yoder Case.” This case set a precedent, under certain conditions, that examined federal overreach into the religious rights of citizens.

As time went on, RFRA became the one piece of federal legislation which protected the religious rights of all Americans. Efforts have been made by liberal legislators and government officials to erode the power of that legislation. We are seeing government attempts to halt religious exemptions regarding vaccinations, eliminate of the power of RFRA relating to Civil Rights legislation, and limit the freedom of private business owners to choose to sell or not to sell to individuals or entities when they believe their religious beliefs are being compromised.

With the increase of court cases in recent years, the Trump administration “provided executive agencies with a long list of guidelines on RFRA, free exercise claims, contraception in insurance plans, and other issues. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under President Trump, granted authority for the Office of Civil Rights to conduct RFRA compliance reviews and initiate such other actions as may be necessary to facilitate and ensure compliance with RFRA” (Dorman). In essence, the Department of Health and Human Services was being held accountable by the Office of Civil Rights with regard to enforcement of the RFRA guidelines.

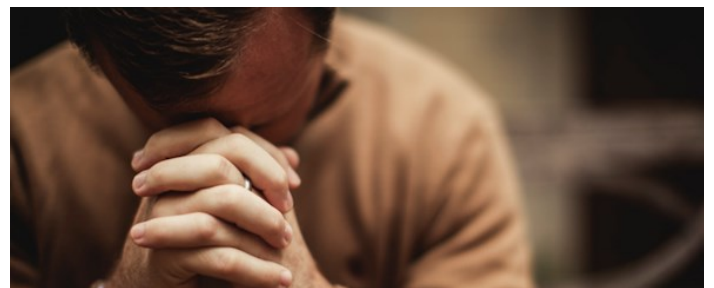
The Biden administration recently released a memo which will dismantle dedicated staff in the Office of Civil Rights who are there to investigate religious freedom complaints. “Revoking the authority of the Office of Civil Rights to enforce RFRA within the HHS is another small step in dismantling safeguards within the federal government for people of faith” (Dorman).

Do you see a plan being enacted here? Do you understand that when we elect a President, we elect an army of thousands who are hired on to enact the President’s agenda? When we elect a liberal Congress, checks and balances disappear. Little by little, we will see the erosion of the freedom of religion and the overreach of government into our lives. But what is not understood by the electorate is that religious freedom guarantees freedom even for those who are not religious.

“When we elect a liberal Congress, checks and balances disappear. Little by little, we will see the erosion of the freedom of religion and the overreach of government into our lives.”

We live in a country that historically allows for the freedom to believe and live as we choose. Religious freedom guarantees that by having safeguards in place for the religious, the non-religious also are protected. While this seems like a difficult concept, it is not meant to be. Because our country has religious freedom and protections in place, I can take my children to the public school or any one of ten other private schools in the Plymouth area alone. Those private schools may be Christian, Catholic, Lutheran, Jewish, Montessori, or schools founded upon the arts, language, or any multiple of philosophical charters of all kinds, whether religious or not. I can have my children educated based on any philosophy I choose. That may not be present in a society that only allows for a government-run socialistic philosophy of education where there are no religious freedoms. By eliminating any accountability with regard to religious freedom in the United States, there will be no place to go to call into question whether or not the government can overstep their authority, upon the beliefs of its citizenry.

How do we stop the madness? We must pray first of all. Pray that God will continue to protect the religious freedoms we have enjoyed and that state and federal overreach will not be imposed upon our private religious schools. Second, start becoming active in the political process. I know what you are thinking and I am thinking the same. Who has time? But the truth is that if either of the houses of Congress were not controlled by the same political party, the President’s agenda would be halted. We must make changes at the upcoming mid-term elections, and we must overturn many policies that will be passed by this Congress and President.



For now, we will continue to watch and inform you of things that we become aware of. May God continue to protect and provide for what we have here at FBCS. We are so blessed.

Please don’t take your religious liberties for granted. We may wake up one day and find that they are gone...

Sam Dorman, Fox News article published November 17, 2021, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hhs-ocr-rfra-trump-religious-liberty>.

Back on Campus: Grandparents & Parents Day 2021

It was a delight to once again hold our Grandparents & Parents Day on campus after holding a virtual event last year.

It seemed as though we were bursting at the seams in our classrooms and lunchroom! It was quite apparent that our grandparents and parents were so happy to be able to come back onsite and spend this day with their grandchildren and children. The main floor of the auditorium was filled for the special 10:00am program, with overflow seating up in the balcony as well. Our atrium was full for every lunch period, and Mrs. Hodak's final count was just about 280 turkey sub sandwich meals ordered!

Program Highlights: the 1st graders dressed up as crayons and combined to sing "The Crayon Box Song" and recite Scripture verses to go along with the colors they represented. The 3rd grade class recited names of God throughout Scripture, and sang, "Jesus, Strong and Kind." A parent remarked to me afterwards that song brought tears to their eyes. The 6th grade class skit was fun and memorable as the students dressed up in

costumes and gave humorous memories of interacting with their grandparents. Our school choirs are getting so large in number, they filled the platform and the sound was glorious.

Kudos to all of our elementary teachers and of course, Mr. Kolwinski and Miss Harmon for their hard work putting this program together. And thanks to Mrs. Hodak for coordinating the morning refreshments and meal times!. ~ A. French



Meet Our New Teachers!



Mrs. Sheila McLeish (Sixth Grade)

I heard, believed, and put my faith in Jesus Christ at age 9 after the salvation message was taught at a Bible camp I attended. I am married to the most wonderful man, Evan, going on 18 years. I have 3 amazing children: Tava, Bryna, and Rhys who all attend FBCS. Teaching has always been a part of me. I remember as a little girl playing school with my sisters. Then at age 10, I decided I was going to be a

teacher just like my 4th grade teacher. In middle school and high school, I helped teachers every chance I got: correcting papers, filing papers, copying, even overseeing a few "Around the World" games. In college, I pursued an elementary education degree where I student taught in a 6th grade classroom. After college, I was a substitute for 2 years before taking a job at a learning center. Two years ago, a position opened up to aide and be a substitute here at FBCS; the love for teaching was reignited.



Mrs. Colleen McQueary (Third Grade)

Growing up in a pastor's home in Wyoming, the gospel was often shared with me. When I was 14 years old, the Holy Spirit unveiled my eyes to the truth of the gospel and my need for a Savior. I realized for the first time there was a God who truly loved me and gave His Son to die for me. I

turned from my sin, trusted Christ alone for my salvation, and plan to walk His way and serve Him for the rest of my life! I attended and graduated from Northland International University (B.S. in Education) where I met my husband. I also have two children attending FBCS this year.



Mr. Clayton Morrison (HS Bible, Career, Speech)

I grew up in a fundamental Baptist home and church. At a young age, I said a sinner's prayer with my older sister after school. Unfortunately, at that age, I did not know what I was saying or who I was saying the prayer to. I went on living life unchanged for the next 15 years. While attending Maranatha Baptist University, I got in trouble

and was forced to meet with the dean on a weekly basis. In the meetings, it was pointed out to me that my relationship with God was nonexistent. At that point, I was challenged to read the Gospel story for myself. It was at that time that I finally realized who Jesus was and what he had done for me. He finally became my personal Savior. Because of this, Christ has given me a passion to teach teenagers the Bible in hopes that He becomes their personal Savior as well.

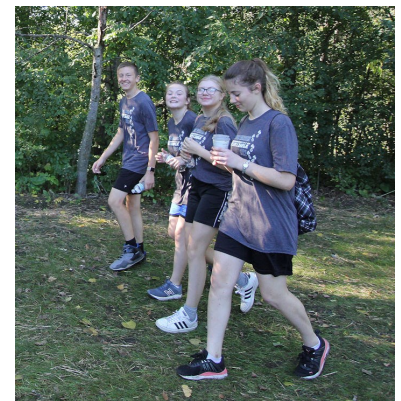
Sportswalk 2021

Our Sportswalk worked well as an on-campus event last year, and we opted to do the same this year. All students in 6th—12th grade were invited to participate in the walk. This is our main Warrior Athletics fundraiser each year. Each walker needed a minimum donation/sponsorship of \$50 to participate, and \$75 to earn a Sportswalk t-shirt. At levels above that, the students could earn scrip gift cards.

The trail was expanded and we got rid of the wasps that plagued us last year! The students enjoyed walking the 3/4 mile trail through the woods and around campus, and received snacks and beverages throughout the morning as they walked. Other activities such as 9-square were available for those who completed their walking.

During the special chapels, Mr. Hodak challenged our students in the areas of appropriate biblical treatment of one another: guys respecting girls and vice versa, how the guys should be considering the girls as their sisters and looking out for them, and just general appropriate behavior and speech towards and about each other. Mr. Hodak used Ephesians 5 as his text.

Sportswalk funds (approx. \$12,000) received will be used primarily for lodging for away tournaments and covering the cost for our athletic trainer at Varsity games. With the extra funds, we're hoping to purchase more bleachers for the soccer field and add additional fencing for the soccer field and surrounding areas. Thank you for support of Warrior Athletics! ~ A. French



Varsity Volleyball Team Ends Near-Perfect Season With MACS State Championship!



We had such a fun season in Varsity volleyball this year! We had a talented team, but also a coachable, hard-working, others-focused team, which was evident in the season results. We ended the season 25-1 with three first-place finishes in the three tournaments we attended (including the MACS State Championship!) We also had five different girls honored with all-tournament or all-conference team awards.

One of my favorite parts of the season though, was our discussions in Philippians. The girls spent time on their own studying the passage for the week, and then we would come together to discuss it each Monday. It was so fun to hear what the Lord had shown the girls and how He was growing all of us! I'm so thankful for these girls and the hard work they put in to make this season such a sweet one!
~ Coach Becky Johnson

Pictured at right are Seniors: Gabriela Mendoza (#11), Kayla Stephens (#5), Anna Morrell (#4), Lucy Litkey (#8), Chloe Emslie (#6), Emily Combs (#3)



2021 Volleyball Captains:

Gabriela Mendoza & Kayla Stephens

MACS Volleyball Honors:

- 1st Team All-Conference: Gabriela Mendoza, Kayla Stephens
- 2nd Team All-Conference: Clara & JoJo Rieschl
- Honorable Mention: Nevaeh Carlson
- All-Tournament Team: Kayla Stephens (MVP), Nevaeh Carlson, Clara Rieschl

Varsity Soccer: A Season of Growth

Fourth Baptist had a good soccer season this fall, there was lots of growth in both player development and soccer knowledge. With a large group of starting seniors, Fourth soccer had great team unity and many exciting games throughout the year. Team possession time improved tremendously from the 2020 to 2021 season. Many players grew into new roles and several players earned new starting spots.

Though the season did not end as everyone had hoped, great strides were made in player development. This season included several close matches and the team made good memories of hard-fought games in both the mud and the wind. (But no snow this year!) Even with many seniors departing, the future of Fourth soccer is bright, as the team continues improving! We are grateful for a full and eventful soccer season and look forward to the future.
~ Coach Aaron Jones



2021 Soccer Captains:

Sam Roman &
James Webster

MACS Soccer Honors:

- 1st Team All-Conference: Landon Broere
- 2nd Team All-Conference: Sam Roman
- All-Conference Honorable Mention: Isaac Caasi

Pictured at right are Seniors:

James Webster (#20), Stephen French (#9), Samuel Roman (#10), Samuel Caasi (#3), Isaac Brombacher (#2), Joseph Okafo (#19), Cole McQueary (#6)



JV Volleyball

The 2021 JV volleyball season began mid-August as the girls began two weeks of pre-season workouts and drills. Our team was made up of two new athletes, several returning sophomores and new freshmen. As these ladies worked together to learn the rotation and get to know one another, I was impressed with their work ethic, determination and kindness to each other. They truly were a team that cared about each other and pushed each other to do their best! We had a total of ten matches and finished with 7 wins and 3 losses. We finished the season with three solid wins in a row and in those final games, I saw the team play more confidently and with great success! I hope the confidence and success the team had will help encourage these girls next season when



they are a year older and have grown in their volleyball knowledge and skill. Parents, I also want to say thank you for supporting our volleyball program. Coach Johnson and I asked the JV and Varsity girls to help out this season with various match day tasks. The girls did a great job and I'm thankful for their sweet attitudes to help. Many of you helped this season by line-judging, running the clock and sitting at the admission table. Your support in these areas means more than you probably realize. To God be the glory! ~ Coach Sarah Stephens

JH Soccer

This year was one of the most successful junior high soccer seasons Fourth has had in many years. The team's regular season record was 9 – 3 with one tie. The team then went on to finish third place in the NSPSL tournament going 2 -1. One of the main ideas the team centered itself around this season was playing to our potential. This led us to continue to work on our

individual soccer skills as well as how to best work as a team on the field. On game days, we learned to communicate with each other as well as how to space the field. This was an incredible soccer season and I am very proud of how this team handled success as well as adversity throughout the season. ~ Coach Erik Fredericksen



JH Volleyball

Coaching the 8th grade JH Volleyball team was a privilege. This year the girls gained playing experience. The players were stretched out of their comfort zone, and they all grew in their abilities. We played 8 games and won 4. A huge thank you to Grace Ruegemer for jumping in to help coach. I loved coaching! Thank you girls!
~ Coach Claire Peterson



JH Team WHITE: 8th grade team

I am thankful for the opportunity to coach and a great group of girls to be my first team. At the beginning of the season, I told my girls that I would be hard on the fundamentals, and then we could progress to more complicated skills. Near the end of the season, we could introduce hitting and setting. By the end of the season, the girls were accustomed to being in different positions with different teammates. We ended the season with a record of 5 wins and 4 losses, and placed 2nd in the NSPSL Tournament. All the girls became well-rounded volleyball players. Beyond the sport, these girls learned how to work together as a team and calm their nerves on the court. We also learned the importance of prayer and how we can talk directly to Christ. Again, I want to thank my girls for working so hard this season, and I look forward to watching them grow in this sport!
~ Coach Erika Infantas



JH Team RED: 6th & 7th grade team

See You at the Pole '21

Our "See You at the Pole" event was held before school on Wednesday, Sept. 22. This takes place every year on the National "See You at the Pole" day. While prayer is a normal activity here at Fourth, the senior class annually sponsors the "See You at the Pole" event. It is an opportunity for parents, staff, and students to take some time to pray for our nation, community and school. The senior class did a nice job putting the program together this year and we had an excellent turnout. Also attending the event was Mr. Neil Pursley from CCX Media, and our school appeared on their news report that evening. *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* 1 Thess. 5:16-18. ~A. Hodak



FIRST QUARTER 2021-22	All "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
First Grade 	Blake Coulson Aria Felt Aubrey Finley Eva Jenkins Elise Liu Emmaline Macalus Rhys McLeish Drake Ogbourne Micah Rolling Shirah Rose Lucia Skurat Michael Totimeh Jason Ureke Shaela Zeah	Aaron Achtor Matthew Aleckson Daniel Chuprin Vanessa Diaz Avonlea Laumann Isaac Leanger Boone Lee Calvin Levang Lincoln Loch Michael Olaru John Strong Jason Ureke	Leyla Blazosky Emma Damyan Jo'Andri Merchant
Second Grade	Isabella Agness Ava Blazosky Brielle Faithfull Lauren Goshgarian Kate Kovalchuk Gabriel Nieson Ella Overcash Jaxsyn Rennie Ammiel Rylka Isaiah Shrader Robinson Smith Thomas Wheaton	Benjamin Brutskiy Leah Damyan Samuel Damyan Zachary Demchenko Harrison Kappel Michelle Olaru Vanessa Tkach Jace Wicklund Eden Woods Laila Zderchuk	Janna Bystrov Dan Damyan
Third Grade	Ian Achtor Belinda Aleckson Trey Johnson Roman Kachula Margot Levang Viviana Skurat	Jacob Damyan Eliana Krasnopivtsev Sofia Lipinskiy Reuben Totimeh	Zlata Belokon Roman Burlak Garrett Coulson Daniel Damyan Alexavier Hanson Colin McCulloch Elijah Rudolph Anna Strong Victoria Woods Eric Zhao
Fourth Grade	Ashley Blazosky Elias Brombacher David Caasi Liesl Campbell Jacob Demchenko Madelynn Jahnke Chloe Johnson Katelyn Kolwinska Allison Kovalchuk Alexis LaVasseur Bryna McLeish Alessandra Mendoza-Tamayo Pierce Ogbourne Arima Okafo Autumn Overcash Elise Pacencu Naomi Pacencu Ella Petrashov Viviana Pullis Alexander Tkach	Sofia Harmon	Ezekiel Leanger Connor Miezwia Morgan Nixon Benjamin Villar 
Fifth Grade 	Liam Broere Dima Brutskiy Rilyn Faithfull Ziqian (Isaac) Gao Sarah Goshgarian David Jacob Lincoln Johnson Jeremiah Komonash Allison Leanger Gabriel Liu Clara Morrell Aubrey Nieson Sean Okafo Carson Payne Gabriel Shrader Tiegna Treptau	Isabelle Chuprin Mark Damyan Nathan Kauffman David Krasnopivtsev Alexandra Lipinskiy Alessandr Petrashov	Henry Baranyuk Vita Belokon Levi Damyan Rosalee Lesnau Julianna Strong

FIRST QUARTER 2021-22	ALL "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
Sixth Grade	Isaiah Caasi Ava Fure Christian Hoffman Timothy Petrashov Lauren Stephens Claire Vikander	Ella Burlak Anna Damyan Rebeka Damyan Lily Goshgarian 	Christian Kolwinska Lukyn Williams
Seventh Grade	Josiah Combs John Goshgarian Joseph Litkey Mark Manoila Adelaisa Pullis		Gretchen Campbell Ethan Coulson Israel Keyser Nikita Lipinskiy Brianna Treptau Asher Zderchuk
Eighth Grade	Anja Brombacher Anastasia Lipinskiy Tava McLeish Charles Okafo J. Jaidyn Rennie Grant Vikander Lillian Williams	Benjamin Jahnke McKenzie Johnson	Joseph Goshgarian Brandt Johnson Giselle Legoff Ethan Markgraf Megan Page Tyler Stephens Eli Villar
Ninth Grade	Evan Harvath Jamie Hoese Nelly Petrashov	Cole Chenoweth Adelynn Farish Jack Fure Jonathan Kolacz Noah Lease Sophia Morrell Lexi Owens Allison Tkach	Julia Bodnar Nevaeh Carlson Nevin Maasa Cody Mercado Emma Payne Joseph Sundberg
Tenth Grade	Josiah Brombacher Isaac Caasi Nathan French Melissa Kauffman Shaun Larson Joy Okafo Clara Rieschl Johannah Rieschl	Lillian Broere Jace Cheek Emily Chuprin Grace Goshgarian Mark Goshgarian Sage McQueary	Jacob Combs Matthew Herrick Henry Litkey Carsten Markgraf Julia Muhr Evelina Sayko Alyssa Stephens
Eleventh Grade	Karina Mendoza	Ha (Vivian) Bui Adriel Ng Abbie Page Evelyn Williams	Landon Broere Danielle Komonash
Twelfth Grade 	Emily Combs Isabel Guillen Felicia Harmon Cole McQueary Anna Morrell	Isaac Brombacher Samuel Caasi Jocelyn Devanesan Alyza Dunn Stephen French Jack Hoese Kathryn Kauffman Lucy Litkey Gabriela Mendoza Joseph Okafo	Allison Goshgarian Samuel Roman Andrew Sisterson