

Woestina Reformed Church Newsletter

MEMORIAL DAY



May 2023

VISIT US ONLINE @ WOESTINAREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG

A McHeard Moment:

I had a fear of dead bodies that came from what I was told as a kid. Some of you know that I was an orphan that was reared in an abusive foster home. The father of that foster home, who did not like us, died when I was young and back in those days the dead bodies would rest in the living room of the house until the funeral. I vividly remember seeing him lay in his coffin with a net spread over the lid. One of his children (who likewise did not like the foster kids) told me that the net was there to keep him in the coffin and if I got too close, he would reach up and take me where he was! Sadly, I believed that for the longest time. I never shall forget the fear I had conducting funerals where the remains were behind me where I could not see them...every noise made me jump. I am over that fear now and have been for a few years now.

The thing that helped me get over that fear was being with people as they died and staying hours with the body until the funeral people could take possession of the remains. Many times, I would sit and read my Bible and pray. Those quiet moments were filled with opportunities to touch the brow of God through the vale of sorrows. The things we say to children matter and really affect them for years to come. God's grace of healing and affirming is more than able to soothe the fears and foreboding of others. Thanks be to God. Psalm 23.

Rev. Kent Andrew Mc Heard

Do you know how Decoration Day/Memorial Day Started?

Brought to you by Linda and Craig Foote

Decoration Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2023 will occur on Monday, May 29. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971.

On May 5 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I.

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

Memorial Day

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. And some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemorations was organized by a group of formerly enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

On this Memorial Day let us remember our fallen brothers and sisters. All gave some, but some gave all.



SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

For our Church Family:

For Don Brooks Sr. & members who are ill or in need, or who have recently lost loved ones.

For our Community, Nation, & World Peace:

Those serving in the Armed Forces and their families, and Christians throughout the World. For victims of multiple mass shootings throughout the U.S.

Please give your prayer requests to Pastor Kent

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY



Sunday's @ 9:30 a.m. (see bulletin board for occasional changes)

The food pantry is always taking donations. If you or someone you know in our community has any needs, please call Karin Carr or Linda Young (contact information below) and they will be happy to assist. The pantry is currently open every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from **9:00am - 11:00am**. Any emergent needs can be met by scheduling a pick-up appointment by calling either Linda or Karin. Current items needed are Laundry & Dish Detergent, Shampoo & Conditioner, Shaving Products, Deodorants, Feminine Products, Paper Towels, and Napkins

Karin Carr - (518) 256-5640

Linda Young - (518) 952-4310

Ginny's Lunch

Westina Reformed Church welcomes you to Ginny's Lunch, a free lunch held on second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Doors open at 10AM Lunch served at Noon

May 11th

*Beef Stew
Chicken Soup
Italian Bread
Rice Pudding*



May 25th

*Macaroni Goulash
Chicken Soup
Rolls or Bread
Cake in Memory of
Ginny Neff*

If you plan on attending, please call Nancy MacLea at 518-355-0543

or email her at nmaclea@nycap.rr.com

Please leave a message with your name and phone number if needed. Bible Study Afterwards

May Birthday's & Anniversaries



Birthdays

5/01 - Kathleen (Herrick) VanDetta

5/04 - Craig Foote

5/05 - Donald Brooks Sr.

5/06 - Elaine Baker

5/09 - Suzanne Havlik

5/12 - Dale Pennings

5/15 - Karin Carr

5/16 - Jack Thelin

5/22 - Alan Decker

5/23 - John Koegler

Anniversaries

5/29 - Seth & Maryann Bunker



Mission of the Month

The May Mission of the Month is the Schenectady City Mission

City Mission of Schenectady, founded in 1906, is dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Our ministries are seeking to comprehensively meet the needs of the poor in a manner that dignifies and strengthens the individual, the family, and the community. Located at 425 Hamilton Street, Schenectady, NY, 12305
(518) 346- 2275 | Fax (518) 346- 2470





Save the Dates:

*May 28, 2023- Flag
Ceremony after Church*

*June 11, 2023 – Sunday
School leads our church
service.*

*July 24-28 – Vacation Bible
School 6-8 PM*



Sunday School News

Just a reminder that we will be placing flags on the Veteran graves for Memorial Day in the cemetery on May 28 at 11:45 am after church.

Also, the Sunday school will be doing the service on June 11 for Youth Sunday.

VBS which will be from July 24 – 28 from 6 to 8 pm. If you would like to volunteer let me know. Also let me know if you need a registration form. Remember its only 2 hours an evening for 1 week!

We are also still collecting empty soda & water bottles. You can drop off at Southside Beverage at 1451 State Highway 5S, Amsterdam, NY 12010 or leave them by the garage in the ed center. Make sure you tell them they are for the Woestina Church Youth Group.

Once again, I encourage you to invite a child in your neighborhood to come to Sunday School, it may be their only opportunity to hear about God's word. Today's youth need to know that God is there for them. Also offer a ride they may need one.

*Nancy Gore
Sunday School Committee*

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



Fire

The focus of **Pentecost** is enlightenment through the Holy Spirit and inner fire, which led the disciples to proclaim the Good News with enthusiasm, **depicted by tongues of fire above their heads**. But fire also occurs in other biblical passages. Thus, Moses recognizes God in the burning bush and John the Baptist proclaims at the Jordan River: "He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Mt 3:11)

SPECIAL DAYS CELEBRATED IN MAY



MAY 14TH – MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 20TH – ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 28TH – PENTECOST
MAY 29TH – MEMORIAL DAY



Easter
Sunday
2023

KIDS PAGE

Answers to the April Kid's Quiz

- 1) B.. No
- 2) B.. They symbol new life
- 3) D.. Easter Egg Hunt
- 4) B.. Bonnet
- 5) C.. Lent
- 6) D.. Hot Cross Buns
- 7) C.. 95 Countries
- 8) True. Easter Island a Chilean territory, is a remote volcanic island in Polynesia. Its native name is Rapa Nui.
- 9) C.. Simmel Cake
- 10) A.. Chick
- 11) C.. Mourning Saturday
- 12) A.. Donkey
- 13) C.. The Last Supper
- 14) A.. The Annual White House Easter Egg Roll
- 15) C.. 4500 eggs

Bible Trivia Quiz!

What is the first Book of the Bible?

What is the last Book of the Bible?

True or False? The Bible is the most popular book ever written?

What four books tell of Jesus' life on Earth?

What is the longest book of the Bible?

What is the shortest book of the Bible?

What human author wrote the most books of the Bible?

What human author wrote the most words in the Bible?

True or False? The first Bible was written in the English language?



History of Woestina Church

Have you seen this NYS Historical Marker? You may ask what does this have to do with me? If you attend Woestina Reformed this marker is describing our church. The Woestina Reformed congregation was formed in 1784 on Wolf Hollow Road in Hoffmans on the other side of the Mohawk River. It is the second oldest Dutch church in Schenectady County. In 1814 the original building was taken apart and transported over the river to its new location in Rotterdam Junction, and in 1935 that church was destroyed in a fire. The current building was dedicated on Dec. 10, 1936.



From the Congregation

If There Had Been No Calvary

*It there had been no Calvary,
no Savior on the cross-
How grim would be our future,
How great would be our loss!
How difficult our lives would be,
Without a shred of hope,
For without our Lord's redemption,
How could we ever cope?*

*How awesome is God's love for us,
How great must be the pain,
He felt when Christ was crucified
Although he'd rise again!
Sin's debt was paid forevermore
For all who would believe
And accept him as their Savior
And the blessing to receive.*

*His passion was remarkable
There in Gethsemane
Where he prayed, "Thy will be done"
Then died for you and me.
Our lives would have no purpose,
Our living would be loss
If there had been no Calvary,
No Savior on the Cross!*

Clay Harrison- Williamsburg, VA

Goodnight, Dear God

*The sun has gone down from the sky
And peace of night is drawing nigh.
I pray, Dear God, my soul You'll keep
While in Your loving arms I sleep.*

*Forgive the things I did today
When from Your glorious path I did stray.
And as I slumber through the night
Please take my hand and hold it tight.*

*And when I wake to a bright new morn,
Restored, refreshed, renewed, reborn,
I'll try again. Dear God to be
The person you hope of me.*

Woestina Church Cemetery

A special thank you to all those that came out to clean up the Cemetery after the last big storm. A lot of branches and large limbs fell and were broken. The chainsaws were in full action cutting down and sawing up the wood into to manageable pieces. Future clean up days are being scheduled. If interested, please see Jim Baker for details.

Story time Hour at the Woestina Reformed Church (in the Ed center - house next to church)



*Saturday mornings from 10:30 to 11 :30 am
starting May 6,2023
for additional information
email - woestina.ss@ptcconnect.net*

Vacation Bible School
at the
Woestina Reformed Church
July 24 thru July 28, 2023
From 6:00 pm till 8:00 pm

For more information and to register

Email – woestina.ss@ptcconnect.net



Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers

Do you know how it came about?

The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children. These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Another precursor to Mother's Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated every June 2. Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the father of Mothers' Day."

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood. By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Who God Uses

The next time you feel like God can't use you, Just remember...

*Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a daydreamer
Leah was ugly
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid
Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
Rahab was a prostitute
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
David had an affair and was a murderer
Elijah was suicidal
Isaiah preached naked
Jonah ran from God
Naomi was a widow
Job went bankrupt
John the Baptist ate bugs
Peter denied Christ
The Disciples fell asleep while praying
Martha worried about everything
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
Zacchaeus was too small
Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer... AND
Lazarus was dead!*

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