

Woestina Reformed Church Newsletter

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.



July 2023

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A McHeard Moment: YHWH

I was asked one day, "what do you do to relax?" The answer may surprise you! To relax I study Bible Hebrew and koine Greek. I did not always love the Biblical Languages. I took Greek in College and both Greek and Hebrew in Seminary and the truth is that I struggled in both educational environs. Therefore, it is strange that those things I struggled and disliked during my matriculation process became my greatest delight. General Synod is in session today as I write this and there was a time when the Synod was asked to remove the language requirements from the Master of Divinity credentials, but it failed. I am so glad it did. A working knowledge of the Biblical Languages for Theologians is essential! Let me just end with one example that I believe breathes life into my assertion. The incommunicable name of God given to Moses in Exodus chapter three is represented by four letters, namely, YHWH. This tetragrammaton is the Hebrew Name of transliterated in four letters. If you were to pronounce it (which we really do not know how it was pronounced), but if we were to pronounce it we would find that it is just like breathing in and out. When you breathe in it sounds like Ya,,,when you breathe out it sounds like WH (Pronounced "Way"), Every breathe is pronouncing the name of God! Think about that from the first time a baby takes a breath until the last time breathe leaves our body, we are affirming God's name!

What was happening prior to our Independence from Great Britain in 1776?

These events led up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence

- The Stamp Act (March 1765)
- The Townshend Acts (June-July 1767)
- The Boston Massacre (March 1770)
- The Boston Tea Party (December 1773)
- The Coercive Acts (March-June 1774)
- Lexington and Concord (April 1775)
- British attacks on coastal towns (October 1775-January 1776)

King George III had some support in the colonies as not all the colonists wanted to leave British rule. On April 19, 1775 the British attack the towns of Lexington and Concord, marked the start of the American Revolutionary War. On May 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress meets and appoints George Washington as Commander and Chief of the Continental Army. The Americans try to take the British held city of Boston known as the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Americans are cleared from the hill but 40% of the British army is killed. It's considered a moral victory. In January of 1776, [Thomas Paine](#)'s pamphlet **Common Sense** is published, advocating independence. Paine's 50-page pamphlet, couched in elegant direct language, sells more than 100,000 copies within a few months. It greatly strengthens the colonists' resolve. More than any other single publication, **Common Sense** paves the way for the Declaration of Independence. On June 7, 1776 Virginia delegate [Richard Henry Lee](#) formally suggests that the colonies declare independence from Britain. The Continental Congress later appoints a committee to write the formal document declaring independence. [Thomas Jefferson](#) will write the first draft. On June 28, 1776 the committee presents its final draft to the Congress, which later debates the document. The most heated debate is over the issue of [slavery](#). In the list of charges against George III, Jefferson had attacked the king for his role in the slave trade. Representatives from slaveholding Southern colonies refuse to accept the clause containing this criticism. Some New England delegates representing merchants who profit from the slave trade also object. The issue threatens to divide the colonies at a time when unity is crucial. To ensure support of all the colonies for the Declaration and the war for independence, the delegates drop the clause. On July 2, 1776 the Continental Congress votes to declare Independence from Great Britain, and on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence is signed.



SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

For our Church Family:

For 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. Those suffering in the Ukraine.

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 and Soaps

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

July 13th

Tacos
Deviled Eggs
Jello
Pudding



July 27th

Chicken Salad Sand.
Egg Salad Sandwich
Tossed Salad
Chip
Cookies

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

July Birthday's & Anniversaries

Birthdays

7/05- Besty Thelin
7/10 - Tom Sinkora
7/16 - Nancy Hughes
7/22 - Irma Skellie
7/26 - Brian Kugler
7/26 - Nathan Sebast



Anniversaries

7/1- Larry & Jackie Borne
7/3- Dale & Christine Pennings



Mission of the Month

The July Mission of the Month is Jack's Place

The goal of Jack's Place is to provide a "home" for the families of out-of-town patients of Ellis Medicine and Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital while their loved ones are rehabilitating.

Their Mission is:

- Sustained FAITH in community benevolence
- Maintain HOPE in the healing power and well-being of family members in patient care while
- Ensuring a safe, serene, and LOVE-filled environment

They are located at 17 Rosa Road in Schenectady. Phone # 518-952-7648



Save the dates:

July 1, 2023, Clean up and Workday at the Church at 8:00 AM

July 2, 2023 Sunday Morning Service starts at 9:30 AM

July 24-28, 2023 6-8 pm Vacation Bible School

Viewings of "The Chosen" are suspended over the Summer. They will return in the Fall





Sunday School News

Just wanted to thank the kids that did the service on June 11, you did a great job! Also, a thank you to Elaine Baker for helping teach the kids and to the parents, grandparents who took the time to bring their kids to Sunday school. Have a great summer and see you next September.

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.

*Nancy Gore
Sunday School Committee*



Sunday School and Congregation placing flags on Veteran's graves for Memorial Day

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



The Candle

We see candles in three's representing Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but many times we see a single candle. God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. In [John 8:12](#), Jesus says: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." During his [Sermon on the Mount](#), Jesus urges us all to shine our God-given lights into the world through good deeds, saying in [Matthew 5:14-16](#): You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

SPECIAL DAYS CELEBRATED IN JULY

2023						
JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JULY 4TH – INDEPENDENCE DAY

E



Sunday
School
Choir

KIDS PAGE

The Story of Samson and Delilah

Can you answer these riddles?

What gets wetter as it dries?

*What must be broken before
You can use it?*

*What has a face, two hands
But no legs?*

*Check the last age for the
Answers*

Gideon led Israel before Samson was born, but after he died, Israel again forgot about God and began to worship idols. This time God allowed the Philistines to take over Israel for 40 years! But God had a plan to rescue His people from their enemies. One day the angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Manoah and his wife. The angel promised that they would have a son named Samson and he would rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. Samson was to be set apart for God so the angel told Manoah and his wife that they were never to cut his hair. God blessed Samson and made him really strong! God was going to use Samson to save His people!

When Samson grew up he fell in love with a Philistine woman and told his parents he wanted to marry her. His parents traveled with him to meet her and on the way a lion jumped out and was about to attack them. But Samson used his great strength and killed the lion with his bare hands! Woah! Later, when they were returning on that same road for Samson's wedding he saw the dead lion and noticed that some bees had made honey in its body. Samson took some of the honey and ate it. Samson and the Philistine woman were married and at their wedding feast he told a riddle to some of the Philistine men. Here is what he said, "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." The Philistine men couldn't figure out Samson's riddle, so they asked his wife to find out the answer. Samson told her and she told the men. When the men guessed the answer to the riddle and Samson found out he had been tricked by his own wife he became very angry. So angry in fact that he left his wife! A while later Samson returned for his wife, but she had married someone else. This made Samson so furious that he burned the Philistines fields of crops! Samson escaped to another town and there he fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines went to Delilah in secret and offered her money if she would find out where Samson's power came from and how he could be defeated. Delilah accepted the bribe and asked Samson what made him so strong. Three times she asked Samson and three times he gave her false answers. He first told her that if he was bound with 7 fresh cords his strength would leave him. Second he told her that if he was tied up with new ropes that had never been used he would become weak. Third he told her that if the braids of his head were woven together he would become weak. None of those answers were true! Delilah finally wore Samson down, so he told her the truth. That night Delilah sent word to the Philistines, and while Samson was sleeping, she cut his hair! When the Philistines rushed in to capture Samson, he tried to fight them off, but his strength was gone. The Philistines blinded Samson and threw him in prison. It sounds like everything is going all wrong with God's rescue plan! While Samson was in prison his hair began to grow back. One day while the Philistines were worshipping their false god in the temple they brought Samson out and stood him between two pillars. Samson prayed to God saying, "O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might and down came the temple of the rulers and all the people in it."



Jesus is called by many names. So many he is mentioned in every book of the Bible

• In Genesis, Jesus Christ is the Seed of the woman • In Exodus, He is the Passover Lamb. • In Leviticus, He is our High Priest. • In Numbers, He is the Pillar of cloud by day and the Pillar of fire by night • In Deuteronomy, He is the Prophet like unto Moses. • In Joshua, He is the Commander of the Lord's army. • In Judges, He is our Judge and Lawgiver. • In Ruth, He is our Kinsman Redeemer. • In 1st and 2nd Samuel, He is the Seed of David. • In Kings and Chronicles, He is our reigning King. • In Ezra, He is our faithful Scribe • In Nehemiah, He is the Rebuilder of everything broken • In Esther, He is our Mordecai, our Advocate. • In Job, He is our ever-living Redeemer. • In Psalms, He is our Shepherd. • In Proverbs, He is our Wisdom. • In Ecclesiastes, He is our meaning for life. • In the Song of Solomon, He is the loving Bridegroom. • In Isaiah, He is the Prince of peace • In Jeremiah and Lamentations, He is our weeping Prophet. • In Ezekiel, the Glorious Lord • In Daniel, He is the fourth Man in the "fiery furnace." • In Hosea, He is the faithful Husband • In Joel, He is the Outpourer of the Holy Spirit. • In Amos, He is our Burden-bearer. • In Obadiah, He is our Judge and Savior. • In Jonah, He is the risen Prophet. • In Micah, He is the Ruler of the world from Bethlehem. • In Nahum, He is our Stronghold. • In Habakkuk, he is the Watchman • In Zephaniah, He is the Mighty to save • In Haggai, He is the Restorer • In Zechariah, He is the branch of David; the One pierced for us • In Malachi, He is the Son of Righteousness • In Matthew, He is King of the Jews. the Messiah. the Christ, the Son of the living God. • In Mark, He is the Servant. Miracle Worker • In Luke, He is the Baby in the manger. The Son of Man. • In John, He is the Son of God; the Living Word; the way, truth, and life • In Acts, He is the Savior of the world; Ascended Lord • In Romans, He is the Justifier. • In I Corinthians, He is the Resurrection • In II Corinthians, He is our Comfort. • In Galatians, He is our Liberty; • In Ephesians, He is Head of the Church. • In Philippians, He is our Joy. • In Colossians, He is our Completeness and the glue that holds our world together • In 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, He is the Coming King. • In I & II Timothy, He is our Mediator. • In Philemon, He is our Benefactor. • In Titus, He is the Blessed Hope. • In Hebrews, He is our Perfection • In James, he is the Power behind our faith. • In I, II Peter, He is our Chief Shepherd and Chief Cornerstone • In I, II, III John, He is our Truth and Everlasting Life • In Jude, He is the Foundation of our faith. Our security • In Revelation, He is The King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

From the Congregation

My Choice

*I refuse to be discouraged
I refused to be distressed
I choose to lean on my Jehovah-God
I choose to be bountifully blessed!
I refuse to be sad and troubled
I refuse to drown in despair
I choose to live happily with my Father
I choose to stay near him in prayer*

Port of Heaven

*When I look back to yesterday,
Where it seemed I'd never die,
Then heaven seemed so far away
A distance promise in the sky.*

*Now, the years have dulled my hearing,
Age has sapped my might,
Time has numbed my fingers,
And dimmed my youthful sight.*

*But I can see the distant shoreline,
See the glow of harbor lights,
I can just make out the lighthouse,
Guiding me out of the night.*

*I feel the wind of heaven,
Playing softly in my hair,
I strain the distant melodies
Angel choirs singing there.*

*I can taste the pungent briny air,
Coming of the blessed shore,
Blowing through the holy city,
Where I'll taste death no more.*

*I smell the balm of Gilead,
Love removing every care,
And I can just make out the outline,
Of my Savior standing there.*

The Cracked Water Pot

A water bearer had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his shoulders. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For two full years, this went on daily with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to the house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made, but the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

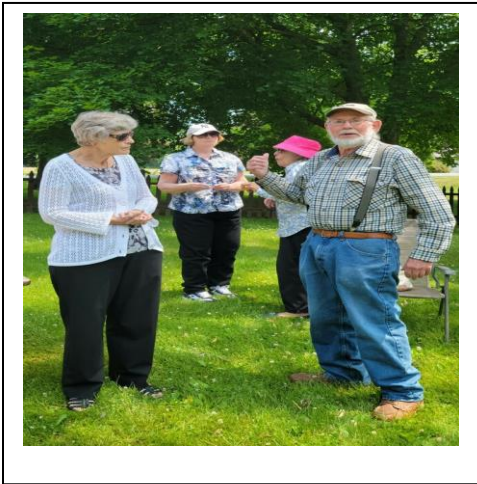
After two years of what is perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all the work and you don't get full value from your efforts" said the pot.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw and I planted a few flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back you watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace this house".

Moral: Each of us has his or her own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots but it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

*** Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.*

Woestina Church Picnic 2023



Answer to the Riddles

A towel

An egg

A clock

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Hello March! In like a Lion, out like a Lamb?