



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection September 2020

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

*Remove not the ancient
landmark, which thy
fathers have set.*
Proverbs 22:28

Mark Your Calendar!

Join us for "We're Here...
For Such a Time as This!"

Thursday, Sept. 10th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Schwefel's Restaurant
Oconomowoc

Continue to Pray for...

- Revival in our churches and our country.
- Churches to be consistent and effective in their outreach to the lost.
- Marriages and families in your church.
- Our elected officials (1 Tim. 2:1-4)
- Your pastor and church staff as they serve in challenging times.
- The work of Wisconsin Family Council in our state.

Learning the Lessons of History

Author George Orwell observed that "[t]he most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history." This should give us serious pause. Are we being effectively destroyed because we have either been misled about our American history, or that history has been essentially obliterated by our educational system and our media, or both? Are the current generations prepared to pass a brightly lit torch of liberty on to those coming behind them? If not, why not?

America's history is not all good, grand and glorious. To speak faithfully and truthfully about our history we must acknowledge this reality. Slavery was an abomination. Our treatment of Native Americans was often egregiously wrong. Assassinations of presidents and other high-profile leaders, riots, and political graft and corruption in high places are vivid reminders that America hasn't always gotten it right and too often has demonstrated bad morality and ethics in our national life.



However, the negatives are not the sum total of our history. Today, too many want to define our country by the ugly parts of our national history. Revisionist historians have no qualms about misrepresenting, omitting or fabricating aspects of our history. Sadly, revisionist history is the new norm for secular school history texts. Consequently we have generations who do not know the truth about our national history. This, coupled with innate sinfulness, makes us vulnerable to destruction from within and without. We more readily succumb to those who desperately want America fundamentally changed. If the rhetoric you are hearing from some of the 2020 political candidates doesn't concern you, you need to ask yourself to what extent you have believed the revisionist history being taught in our schools and promoted by the media, especially as that history relates to the influence of Christianity.

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US History Resources for Families

- Read classic American books together such as *Johnny Tremain*, *Little Women*, etc. This can be fun and educational.
- Take family trips to historic places. Research before you go to make sure you have some background.
- Read works by David Barton of WallBuilders for a Christian perspective on America's founding and founders. See also wallbuilders.com/chw/lessons for a series of 5 lessons on the Christian heritage of the United States.
- Use national holidays as teachable moments; make them more than just a day off school and work. Talk about how the holiday came to be and why we continue to observe it. Do so from a Christian perspective.
- In the coming year, read through *In God We Still Trust, A 365 Day Devotional*, by Dr. Richard G. Lee.
- Check out wifamily-council.org/wisconsin-christian-heritage-week/ for helpful resources.

Be purposeful. What books helped you understand and appreciate our American heritage? When and how will you introduce your child to these books?

Ignorance of our history—never a good thing—is substantiated by various surveys done in recent years. Consider these:

- 53% of Americans do not know the first 10 amendments to the US Constitution are called the “Bill of Rights.”
- One third of Americans do not know who delivered the Gettysburg Address.
- 42% of Americans do not know the title of our national anthem.
- 66% can't correctly identify the document that contains the words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

We can do something to change the trajectory of this historical ignorance before things degenerate further, but we must act promptly. The best place to begin is with our families. Parents and extended family members need to look for ways to make sure the next generation knows America's true history. (For suggestions see the side bar at left.)

You may also need to carefully consider educational options for your children. Unfortunately, today there probably is not a public school that is going to give at every grade the truth about America's history. Parents can supplement—and correct where necessary—what their children are taught at school.

We believe parents are primarily responsible for directing the education of their children. In Wisconsin we have good options for parents for their children's schooling. Private schools, both secular and religious, are an option. Many of them participate in the state voucher program. Homeschooling may be a good option for some. Whatever option you decide is best for your family, become familiar with the curriculum so you know what is being taught and be prepared to supplement it as needed. Always remember that parents are primarily responsible for their children's education, even when they choose to delegate some of that responsibility to others.

Our faith is grounded in historical truth. Historical truth matters. Ignorance of our nation's history hastens our nation's decay. Let's do all we can, while we can, to equip the next generation to keep the torch of liberty brightly lit. Let's give our children the gift of learning the true lessons of history.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.