

# CHURCH CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2023



## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE!

National Marriage week is celebrated February 7-14. This is a week in which the benefits of marriage for society and for the individuals in a marriage are highlighted.

Marriage comes with many inherent benefits because marriage is God's idea (Mt. 19:3-6), and as such it is for His glory and for humankind's good. As our Creator, God designed this relationship understanding the uniqueness of men and women and their unique procreative ability. Marriage, by God's design, brings one man and one woman together in a mutual lifelong, monogamous relationship, generally with the ability to create new life without outside help.

Sadly, as we are well aware, God's plan for marriage and family is under vicious and continuous attack.

- The President has signed into law the legal redefinition of marriage to include two persons of the same sex. We expect the redefinition of marriage will not stop there.
- Recent surveys claim the majority of Americans don't believe marriage and childbearing are priorities today. The average age of marriage continues to climb, which inevitably means couples are having fewer children. And some married couples are choosing not to have children.
- Wisconsin's divorce laws are some of the worst in the country. We have no-fault, no-contest divorce, which means a spouse doesn't have to prove any "cause" and no spouse can contest a requested divorce. These laws allow marriages to be easily dissolved if one spouse claims "unhappiness" or "irreconcilable differences."

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STRENGTHENING,  
PRESERVING & PROMOTING  
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### February 7-14, National Marriage Week

We encourage churches and couples to do something special this week to honor marriage.

**Wed., Feb. 15, WFC's "Lunch With a Purpose" webinar with Katy Faust, author of *Them Before Us***

For details or to register, visit [wifamilycouncil.org/events/lunchwithapurpose](http://wifamilycouncil.org/events/lunchwithapurpose)

**Mon., Feb. 20, Nominations/applications for WFC's Marriage Hall of Fame due**

See back page for details.

**Tues., Feb. 21, Spring Primary**

Local offices & one state-wide race: a seat on the WI Supreme Court  
[myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

*"And He answered and said unto them, 'Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?'"*

Matt. 19:4-5

Divorce is hard on the man and the woman and is especially hard on children, putting them at great risk for academic difficulties, poor health, trouble with the law, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, and much more.

Beyond all this, we know cohabitation rates are rising as people decide they don't need the commitment of marriage to live together, and in many cases to raise children together.

But the important message today is that we are not doomed to have marriage relegated to the ash heap of American history.



Christians should really be the best champions for God's plan for marriage and family. Our churches and families should show God's goodness in giving us this institution. Every marriage should be recognized and celebrated—new ones and long-lasting ones in particular. Churches need to provide strong

premarital counseling for engaged couples and should establish a marriage mentoring program for newly married couples in particular. Ongoing marriage enrichment activities and programs should be part of every Bible-believing church.

Families should talk positively about marriage, modeling before the next generation the beauty of this earthly picture of Christ's relationship with His bride, the Church. One of the best ways for the next generation to want to marry and to have children is to see marriage done well in their own families.

Marriage is the foundational institution of every church, community, state, and nation. It is the institution that allows us to be self-governing, well-ordered, prosperous, and free. When marriage as God designed it is strong and vibrant, our churches, communities, states, and nation are strong and vibrant. Celebrating the beauty and benefits of marriage is altogether appropriate not just this month, but throughout the year.

## MARRIAGE HALL OF FAME

Wisconsin Family Council believes honoring marriages that go the distance is appropriate and helpful. That's why we launched the Marriage Hall of Fame in 2022. Our goal is to recognize and honor couples in Wisconsin who have been married the longest, those who have "gone the distance" through good times and hard. We want to hear the stories of these couples and get their best marriage advice. To be considered for or to nominate a couple for WFC's Marriage Hall of Fame, visit [wifamilycouncil.org](http://wifamilycouncil.org). There's a slide on the home page that will take you to the application form. Applications are due by Monday, February 20. Inductees into WFC's Marriage Hall of Fame will be announced in late February or early March.

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) 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 they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

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

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