

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Church Mouse

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Date
May 2023

Upcoming Events

Wed., May 10th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner
at OLV Catholic Church

Sun., May 14th – Mother's Day

Fri., May 19th – 6:30 p.m. – Movie Night

Sun., May 21st – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council
Meeting

Wed., May 24th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner
at St. Mark's

Fri., May 26th – Middleburgh 4th Friday

Council Update

On Sunday, April 23rd, St. Mark's congregation received sad news when Marie Whittaker, our Council president, announced her resignation from her position on Council. Marie is a dedicated member of our church who always displays a love for her Lord and St. Mark's as she works tirelessly, professionally and efficiently in service whenever God calls her.

Marie - Words cannot begin to thank you for all you have done for St. Mark's. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him! God loves you and we love you!

Until a replacement has been named, if you have any concerns or questions about St. Mark's, please contact any member of Council. Members are: Georgia VanDyke, Lori Roney, Debbie Palmatier, Debbie Roberts, Diane France, Ron Lower

Prayer Chain Requests In Apr.

Family of Edward VanderWande

Family of Ronald ("Cha") Becker

Family of Mary Armlin Curran

Family of Edward Johnson

Family of Dave Goodrich

Ryan

Andreanna Blesser

Noelle Roney / Jackson Bywater

Vern Gordon

1st Responders/Residents of Richmondville

Brush Fire

Paul Zinsman

Dolly Miller Allen

Judy Caputo

Eric Mattson

Ramon Guerrero

Thought for the Day:

*Stare at the mountain less and at the
Mountain Mover more.*

- Max Lucado



St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck

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Composition

I was recently thinking about how things are made up or put together, their composition. Composition is defined as the nature of something's ingredients or constituents; the way in which a whole or mixture is made up. The more we have grown in our ability to look at things, to view and examine them beyond our normal visual ability, the more understanding we have of their complexity.

In the recounting of creation, God does not give the specifics of what everything is composed of. On our own we can only see the surface of things and view them with simplicity. The Bible helps me to understand more thoroughly: *1 Corinthians 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.* By God's intelligent design, everything in creation is very complex beneath the surface. The compositions of everything that God spoke into being is unique and elaborate. All creation is made up of atoms, which are composed of a proton, neutron, and electron. The proton which possesses a positive charge and the neutron which has no charge (is neutral) compose the nucleus at the center of the atom. The electrons, which have a negative charge, revolve around the nucleus. The number of protons in the nucleus, known as the "atomic number," primarily determines where that atom fits on the Periodic Table. The number of protons in the nucleus also defines in large part the characteristics of an atom. Atoms are in all of creation. Every living thing is made up of cells, which are made up of molecules, which are made up of atoms. Is it a coincidence that the first human being, Adam, is made up of these incredible components of creation known as atoms?

Let us now look at the make-up of our world and of ourselves. Both were created by God and, as in the beginning, God saw it was good. Like the atoms that we are made of, our core contains only positive thoughts and feelings and/or neutral thoughts and feelings. When God created the world, everything appeared positive. God made it so that the needs were met for all of creation. The rain and the sun nourished the vegetation, and the vegetation nourished the animals. There was perfect harmony. As in the composition of atoms there are negative particles orbiting around our world and ourselves. They are not there to create balance as in the actual atoms. These negative things are trying to throw the world and ourselves off balance. The negativity is trying to outnumber and overthrow what God created as good. When allowed to, the negativity that is floating around can enter into us. When enough enters in, the competition begins in order to see which will win out and take control of what we are made of and how it affects our actions.

I cannot say there is a surefire way to keep the negativity out of us but I do believe that we can influence which will control us. As the lyrics of a song written by Johnny Mercer in 1944 reveal to us: *You've got to accentuate the positive, Eliminate the negative, Latch on to the affirmative, Don't mess with Mister In-Between; You've got to spread joy up to the maximum, Bring gloom down to the minimum, Have faith or a pandemonium, Liable to walk up on the scene; To illustrate my last remark, Jonah in the Whale, Noah in the ark, What did they do, Just when everything looked so dark; They said we better, Accentuate the positive, Eliminate the negative, Latch on to the affirmative, Don't mess with Mister In-Between.*

What is our true composition? Have we let too much of what is circulating in the world enter in and strive for dominance? As the song goes, if we mess with mister in-between and think that negative thoughts and feelings can dwell with the positive thoughts and feelings within us, we are welcoming a pandemonium beyond our control.

May God richly bless you my friends, Pastor Dave

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Servers for May

May 7th:

Reader – Lori
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Dennis / Diane
Counter – Diane

May 14th:

Reader – Bonnie
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Bill / Bonnie
Counter – Carrie

May 21st:

Reader – Marie
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Tom / Dylan
Counter – Deb P.

May 28th:

Reader – Sharon
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Denise / Ron
Counter – Sharon

Coffee Hour

Every Sunday we enjoy a time of fellowship with one another following our worship service. Unfortunately, we need people to furnish our refreshments. Please prayerfully consider signing up to provide the snack for a future coffee hour.



May Birthdays:

Gloria Falcone	May 2
Helen Thomas	May 3
Mary Schaffer	May 8
Dennis France	May 11
Debbie Brigadier	May 13
Sharon Nesbitt	May 22

May Anniversaries:

N/A

St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Here is the summary of income and expenses for the month of **March 2023:**

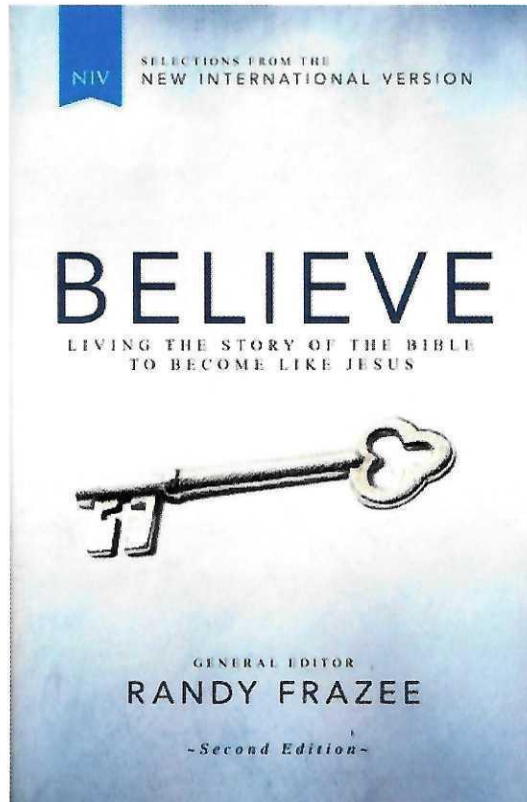
Income	\$4578.00
Expenses	4233.01
Balance	\$344.99

Fuel Fund	\$990.00
Fuel Expenditure	350.00
Balance	\$640.00

Year-to-Date

Fuel Fund	\$1769.00
Fuel Expenditure	1648.15
Balance	\$120.85

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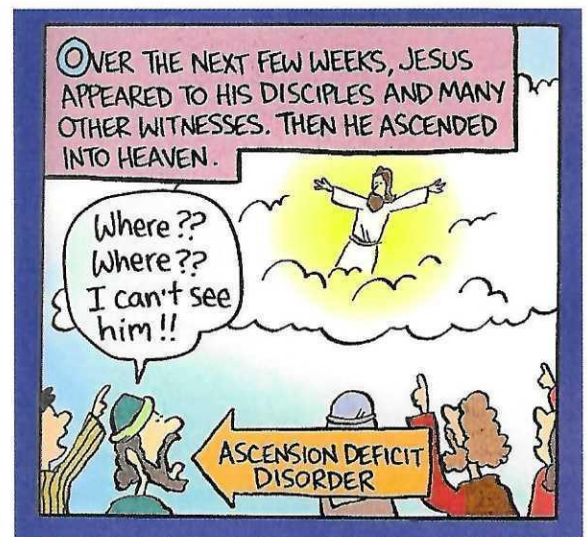
“Believe” Bible Study

Pastor Dave is planning to lead a new Bible study based on the book “Believe”. This is a spiritual growth experience for all ages, taking each person on a journey, revealing the key beliefs, practices, and virtues of a Christ-follower.

The class will be held at 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday beginning June 7th in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Pastor will be ordering study books so if you are interested in participating in the classes, please let us know no later than May 17th so the correct number of books will be purchased.

“Sweeping the Sunshine into the Dark Corners” by Pastor Carol Coltrain

In recent worship service messages given to us by Pastor Dave, he referred to a book written by Pastor Carol Coltrain titled “Sweeping the Sunshine into the Dark Corners.” Thanks to her son, Matt, we have an opportunity to receive reproductions of Pastor Carol's book. Unfortunately, at this time we do not know what the cost will be so if you would like to take a step of faith and receive a copy of her book, please let us know as soon as possible.



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Operation Christmas Child

Did you know....

- Operation Christmas Child began as "GO" boxes?
- That "GO" means Gospel Opportunity?
- That it was created for children who never knew Jesus loves them?
- That there are children who never received a gift until they received a shoebox filled with gifts?
- That you can fill a box with what is most important -- prayer and love?



May is "scrub a mug" month when we will be collecting bar soap and wash cloths. Please drop your donation in a basket located in the back of the sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please call our coordinator, Ruth, at 910-829-5252. Thank you for all you do for OCC!

NET Dinner

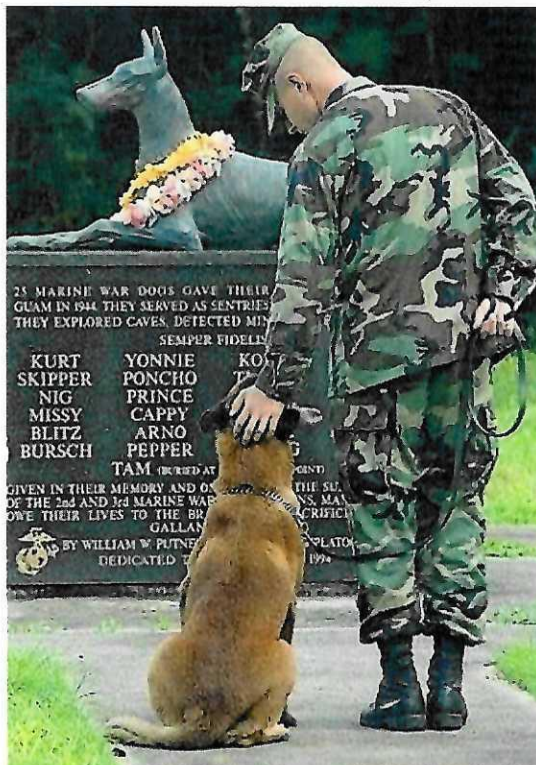


Wednesday, April 26th, St. Mark's fellowship hall was filled with warmth, good conversation and laughter as we served our monthly NET dinner. As Cheryl Cater described it at our April 23rd worship service...we served hot dogs, chips, baked beans, chips, tossed salad, chips, variety of desserts, and chips. Guess we know who likes chips! 😊 Our last NET dinner until fall will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24th.



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Please remember our armed forces and those who sacrificed so much for our beloved country, especially on this Memorial Day!



A Mother's Love



*No gift on earth is greater,
No treasure held above,
The joy that comes from knowing
A Mother's endless love.*

*In spite of how it's tested,
It grows from year to year,
Providing strength and comfort...
It "gently" draws us near.*

*It warms and it protects us,
And guides us from afar,
Shedding light upon us,
Like a bright and shining star.*

*And when all things are measured,
Not one shall rise above,
Or be compared in value,
To a Mother's endless love!*

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Happy Mother's Day!!

*I have children with four
legs and fur. I am their
parent. I feed and shelter
them. I take them to the
doctor and care for them
when ill. I buy them treats
and toys. I take pictures
and include them in family
gatherings. I protect them
from danger and comfort
them when scared. I worry
about them. I hug, kiss,
and love them unconditionally.
I am proud to be a pet parent.*



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City Mission Banquet

Sunday, April 30th, 24 members of St. Mark's attended City Mission's 117th anniversary celebration banquet. Held at Glen Sanders Mansion, this annual fundraiser brings people from all over the area. Mike Saccocio, Executive Director and CEO, gave an update of the exciting ways City Mission as been serving the community.

This year the new Legacy Café was constructed with the work being done internally by volunteers and those residing at the Mission.

And...if you want to enjoy a Christmas tree lighting event, you don't have to travel to New York City. They hold a tree lighting event in their courtyard and our own Alyssa Coons was one of the people who helped turn the lights on. They also gave away new Christmas toys to 990 children.

Their Ambassador program has grown and this year when the weather gets cold, they had a van that travels around the city, locating people on the street who may be reluctant to go the shelter, to give them food, clothing and items to keep them warm.

They are continuing to provide more nutritious meals and have been able to do so through growing lettuce in their Freight Farm and have now added a greenhouse in Rotterdam where vegetables are grown.

Thanks to all the clothing donations, City Mission has 10 clothing rooms for children at various Schenectady City schools. Their goals is that no child should miss school because they have clothes that don't fit right or have nothing to wear.

We are especially proud of Alyssa Coons, who received the City Mission Service Award for the work she has done at City Mission.



Congratulations, Alyssa!

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City Mission Banquet Attendees



And if you are wondering where Marie Whittaker is... she is our photographer. Thank you, Marie! 😊

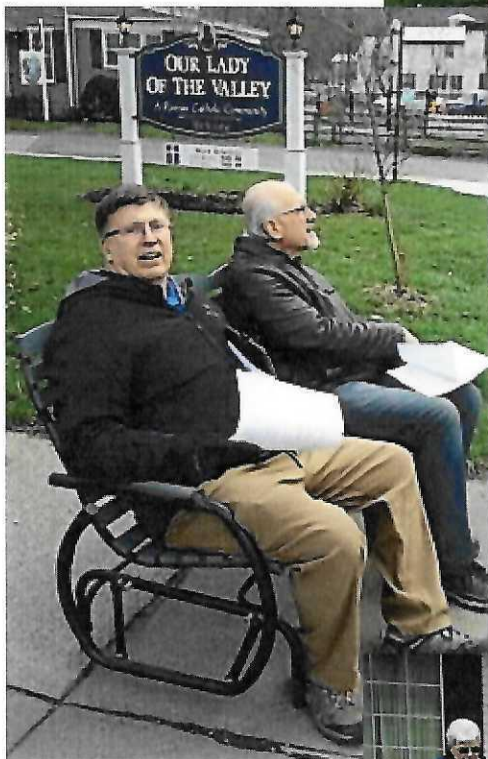
Thank you to all who prayerfully support City Mission and all their endeavors!

Movie Night

St. Mark's movie night is being held on Friday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. It will be a mystery movie... the mystery is we don't know yet what one will be shown. So... if you like a good mystery, be sure to join us for the showing of a Christian movie.

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

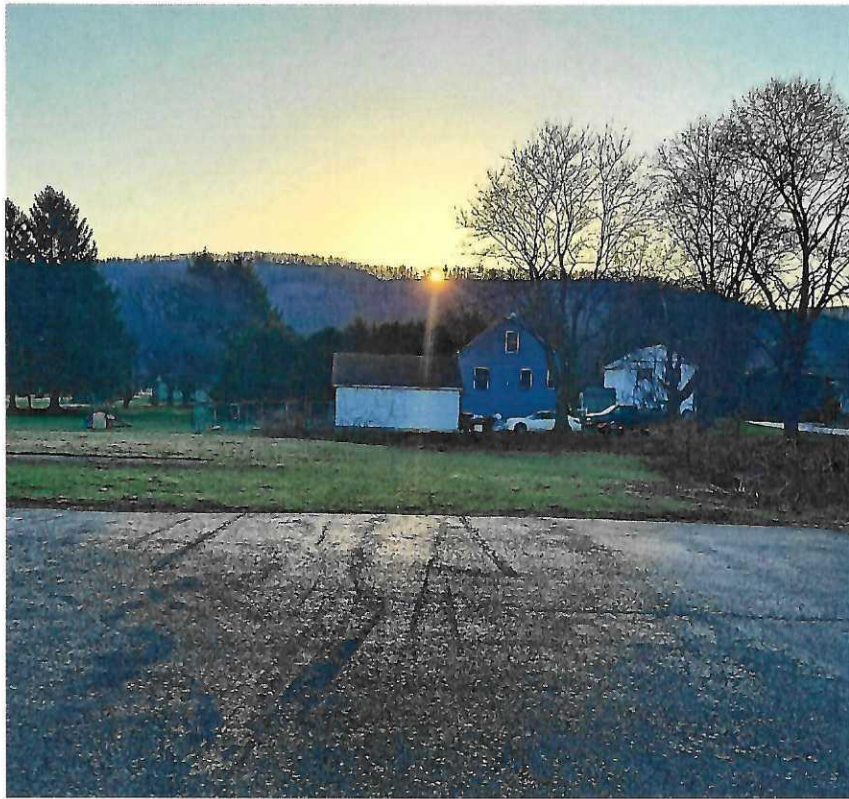




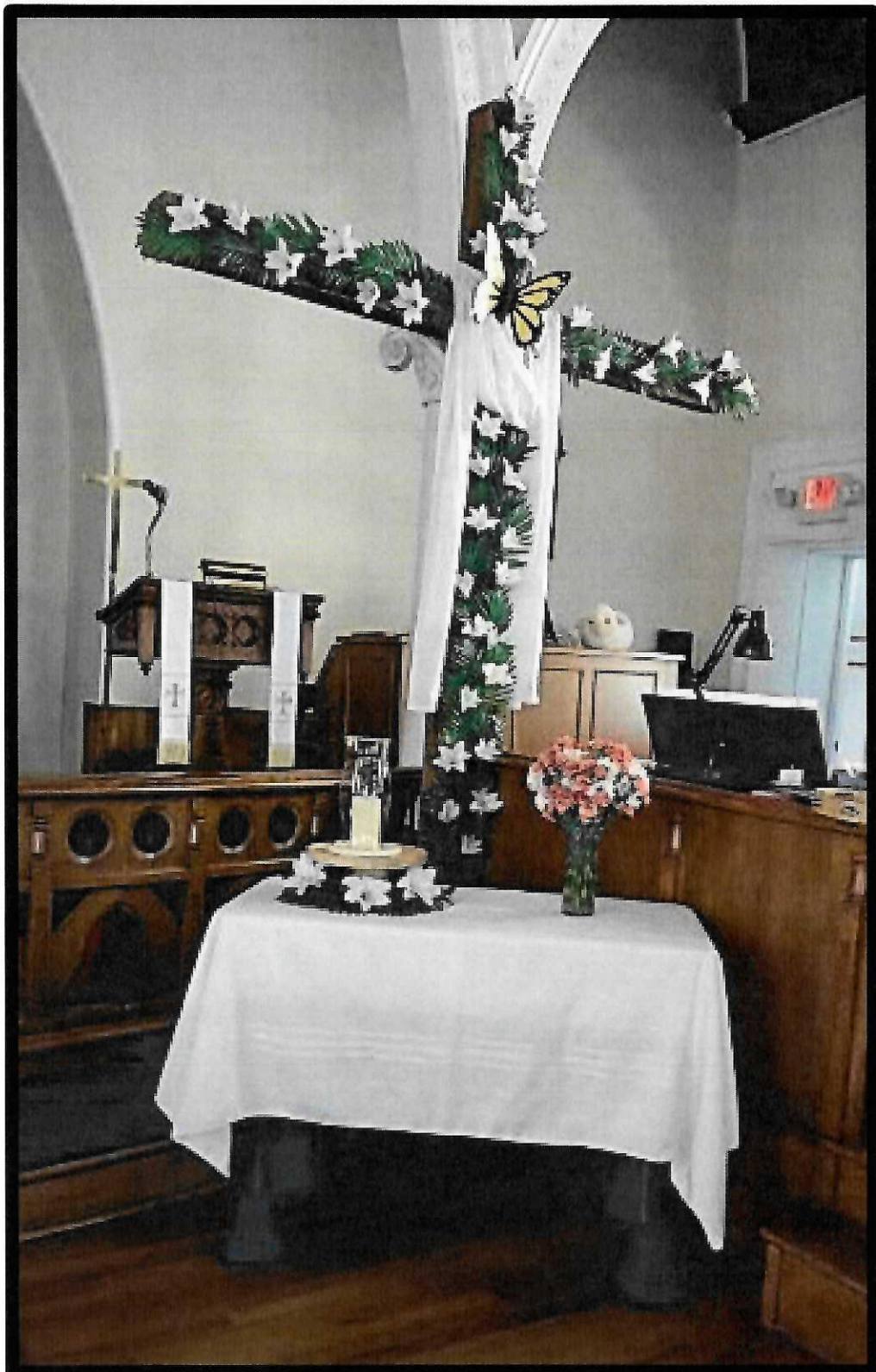
*Good Friday
Stations of the Cross*



Easter Sunrise Service



Easter



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

"All Faiths Prayer Breakfast"

On Thursday morning, April 20th, over 30 people from different faiths and backgrounds gathered together for prayer and fellowship. Acknowledging that prayer is an essential part of worship both individual and corporate, all main stream faiths pray to a divine being regardless of the name or title given that deity. Along with readings and prayers from members of different faith groups, our guest speaker this year was Mrs. Kimberly Witkowski. Kim Witkowski is the Executive Director of the Schoharie County Council of Senior Citizens. The council supports and oversees many programs and functions that bless our seniors including senior clubs in the individual towns, the Everything Shoppes, The Gathering Place, and much more.

The "All Faiths Prayer Breakfast" in Schoharie County began in 2018 and is modeled after the 'National Prayer Breakfast' which is held annually in Washington D.C. on the first Thursday in February. The breakfasts, which began in 1953, brought together members of the House of Representatives and Senate to pray for our nation and the work they were entrusted to do. President Dwight D. Eisenhower attended the first prayer breakfast, which was initially called the Presidential Prayer Breakfast, however, the name was changed in 1970 to the National Prayer Breakfast.



Every American president since Dwight D. Eisenhower has participated in the annual event and is one of the two speakers at the event each year. The first breakfast had 400 attendees and has grown to over 3500 in recent years. It has also grown to include the the President, Members of the U.S. Congress, of the U.S. Cabinet, and of the diplomatic corps. Invitations are also sent to the Heads of State and members of other governments in over 100 nations, along with religious leaders, missionaries working in various countries, U.S. and foreign business leaders, and students. Since the inception of the National Prayer Breakfast, several U.S. states and cities and other countries have established their own annual prayer breakfast events. These breakfasts are separate from the established National Day of Prayer.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. The modern law formalizing its annual observance was enacted in 1952 as part of the public reaction to the threats perceived in the Korean War. The constitutionality of the National Day of Prayer was unsuccessfully challenged in court by the Freedom from Religion Foundation after their attempt was unanimously dismissed by a panel of a federal appellate court in April 2011.

On May 4th, please take a moment to pray for our country and our world on this year's National Day of Prayer.