

# **PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER**

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**Our 98<sup>th</sup> Year**

***"The friendly little church on the Circle in Everglades City"***



**1926-2023**



Pastor Bob & Millie

**AS I SEE IT . . . THE DRESDEN BELL RUNG AT THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP** is from the **Dresden Frauenkirche** (German: *Church of Our Lady*) a Lutheran church in Dresden, the capital of the German state of Saxony. Destroyed during the Allied firebombing of Dresden towards the end of World War II, the church was reconstructed between 1994 and 2005. The bell was recovered and gifted to ECC by Mimi Bruckert. The story of the bell is an interesting one. The history of this bell is in a picture frame high above the bell in the Narthex; however, what follows is copied from that document. Read it with wonderment and gratefulness we now have the bell and it is rung three times before our 11:00 O'clock Sunday morning worship. That was suggested many years ago by Dr. Walter Burke (Stevie Burke) who suggested the three rings would be for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. What follows should help you prepare to worship on Sunday.

## **THE HISTORY OF MIMI BRUCKERT'S BELL FROM THE DRESDEN FRAUENKIRCHE**

In 1932, Mimi Bruckert recalls visiting with her grandmother in Dresden, Germany, and attending the Frauenkirche Church. During World War II, the Frauenkirche Church was destroyed by fire and has since been restored. In 1946 when the Russians controlled Dresden as part of East Germany, they removed all art, artifacts, and anything they wanted. Most of these items were sent back to Russia for their use. Anything they took from the churches, museums, that they did not want, they sold in government sponsored stores. Mimi's mother attended the Frauenkirche Church before the war and purchased the bell in 1946 as a remembrance of this church. The bell was passed down thru Mimi's family and was donated to Everglades Community Church by Mimi Bruckert. It is displayed in the church Narthex (front entrance) and is rung each Sunday at eleven o'clock before worship.



The Frauenkirche Church was a classic baroque church that was originally built 1726 and 1743. Even though the Saxony Elector was a Catholic, the name of the church (Church of Our Lady) was built as a Lutheran Cathedral Dresden city architect, George Bahr, was a Baroque master and was known for capturing the essence of the Protestant Movement by designing the altar, chancel, and baptismal font to be located within clear sight of the congregation. A famous organ master created a great organ for the church and Johann Sebastian Bach performed a recital on it. The single most mesmerizing feature of the Frauenkirche Dresden, and perhaps in the entire city, is the dome. Made of sandstone and weighing upwards of 12,000 tons, this 314-foot-tall dome is referred to as the Stone Bell. Amazingly, there are no internal supports and it proved to be quite stable. This accomplishment is often compared to Michelangelo's Dome at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.



Mimi Bruckert (1926-2013)

### **SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

**Our Sunday after-church lunches have been discontinued from May through September. If you would still like to have lunch and fellowship together you may consider meeting in one of our local restaurants. See Connie about making arrangements for this.**

### ***MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY MAY 27, 2024***



Memorial Day is an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War which took place from April 12, 1861, to May 26, 1865, and became an official federal holiday in 1971.

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history. As a result, the country established its first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, various towns and cities began holding springtime tributes to the fallen soldiers. People decorated their graves with flowers and recited prayers. The exact origin of this tradition is unclear, but 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.

In 1966, the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo is a village located in Seneca County, New York. It serves as the primary county seat of Seneca County. The population of Waterloo was 5,171 at the 2010 census, making it the most populated village in Seneca County. The village is named after Waterloo, Belgium, where Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated in battle. Notably, Waterloo, NY is recognized as the birthplace of Memorial Day. The tradition of honoring fallen soldiers began here in the aftermath of the American Civil War. On May 5, 1866, a local druggist named Henry C. Welles proposed the idea of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers. This led to the first official observance of Memorial Day in Waterloo on May 5, 1866. The village continues to commemorate Memorial Day with parades, ceremonies, and events, paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Waterloo had been celebrating the day since May 5, 1866, with community-wide events and grave decorations.

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 date chosen for Decoration Day was not tied to any specific battle anniversary.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield delivered a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there. By 1890, each Northern state had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I.

Since 1971, Memorial Day has been observed on the last Monday of May, marking the beginning of the summer season. Each year, a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. On that solemn day, remember to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

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