

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

FRIEDENS CHURCH OF WASHINGTON, UCC

"A Country Church with an Open Door"

Message from the Pastor

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Since coming to Friedens and reading some of the rich history of the church I have wanted to get in touch with the Washington Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), largely because the history of both organizations are intertwined. So, I showed up for their monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of February and was warmly greeted by all even though I really didn't know but two people there. Then, we enjoyed a wonderful dinner together before the business meeting began.

I'm sharing all this with you because as we moved into the various reports during the meeting it became very apparent to me that these folks who are sacrificing their time and energy to potentially save your property or mine exemplified what it truly means to be a Christian. To me, when there are those who are willing to volunteer their lives for the sake of you and me this is a true example of agape, the Greek word for sacrificial love expressed to another.

As I continued to observe the events of the meeting I began to realize that the Washington VFD and Friedens Church are intertwined in other ways beyond their shared history. Just like the volunteer firefighters risk their lives for the sake of others that may not even know, we the members of our church are also called to give our lives toward sharing the Gospel with others and making disciples.

When a volunteer firefighter receives the call, he or she is expected to drop everything and show up at the scene to battle a blaze to prevent property loss. Likewise, when a Christian receives the call from the Holy Spirit to share the Good News with someone it is to prevent the loss of that person in finding their salvation in Christ. The question is: do we Christians respond to our call with the same sense of urgency as the volunteer firefighter?

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Eric

In our prayers we remember. . .

Larry Young, Sharon Dobbins, Mary Lee Lewis, Christina Holloway, Sheryl Vasek, Carolyn Wellmann, Charles Wellmann, Bo Goodson, Sue Kiel Schwartz, Jesus Maldonado, Rudy Rusnak, Bobby Burke, Joy Dickschat, Betsy & Neal Bosse, Joyce Werchan, Minnie & Frank Crouch, Vivian Kolkhorst, Alma Kenjura, Melvin Loesch Jr., Lee Borgstedte and Hilma Stolz.

News, Events and Updates. . .



A **Big Thank** you to all that supported the Chili Stew Supper. Especially, **Thank You** to all the workers that provided your time and expertise to support this annual event.

As a reminder, Pastor Eric started a Wednesday night Bible Study and we have good fellowship, good food and good study. The Bible study will continue every Wednesday; however, during Lent there will be a special Lenten study with the exception of Ash Wednesday when we will all be in church. See you on Wednesdays.

Walk to Emmaus. The dates for the next men's walk is April 12 – 14 and the next women's walk is April 26 -28. If you are interested in going to the Walk to Emmaus, please contact Pastor Eric Dehmer.

Choir practice is scheduled at church on every 4th Sunday and choir will sing in church on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to join the church choir, please contact Flo Mason.
Confirmation Class News

Confirmation Class

Our nine confirmands are all eagerly engaged in their studies despite some scheduling conflicts with youth athletics on Monday nights. They are actively pursuing the completion of their statements of faith (some have already turned theirs in!) and will be participating during our Sunday morning worship services in new roles. It's an awesome thing to witness our young folks ready to "step up" in service to the church. Please remember them in your prayers in your support of our up-and-coming future leadership of the church.

New Member

Please welcome **Jana Lee Dehmer** (Pastor Eric Dehmer's sister) to Friedens Church. Jana joined on February 17th during worship. Jana lives in Brenham, Texas and she is so excited to be a part of Friedens Church.

Loss of Loved Ones

Prayers for the family & friends of Francis Roese. Francis passed away on Thursday, January 24 at her home. Funeral Services were held at Nobles Funeral Chapel on Thursday, January 31st at 2:00 pm with interment following in Friedens Church Cemetery. Francis is the sister-in-law of Henry and Pearl Roese of Washington.

Sunday School Happenings. . .

The Sunday school has planned their **Annual Pancake Supper** on March 5th at **6:30 pm**. Come join us in the Fellowship hall for a pan caking good time. Please note that they have moved the time from 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm.

The Sunday school has **CANCELLED** the **Drive Thru Meal Fundraiser** on March 24th due to caterer unavailable that date.

Church Council Happenings. . .

Council approved the wiring installation and new heater/AC in the Activity Center back room. This work was completed on Monday, February 11th.

A Spring clean-up day is scheduled for April 6th beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Council Work Schedule

Mar 3	Jeff S.	John P.
Mar 6 –Ash Wed	Wesley S.	Travis E.
Mar 10	Kasey K.	Terry C.
Mar 17	John W.	Dan M.
Mar 24	Mark D.	Jon W.
Mar 31	Jeff S.	John P.
April 7	Wesley S.	Travis E.
April 14 –Palm Sunday	Kasey K.	Terry C.
April 18 – Maundy Thursday	John W.	Dan M.
April 21 - Easter	Mark D.	Jon W.
April 28	Jeff S.	John P.

Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

March 7 – Terry Campbell & Sis Renn
 March 14 – Jim Latham & Debbie Grimes
 March 21 – Lou Ann Canatella & Jamie Noto
 March 28 – Betty Dickschat & Sally Stolz
 April 4 – Bonnie Mohr & Tammy Leiber
 April 11 – Terry Campbell & Sis Renn
 April 18 – Jim Latham & Debbie Grimes
 April 25 – Lou Ann Canatella & Jamie Noto

Food Pantry Items Needed

March – Sugar
 April – Flour
 May – Canned Vegetables
 June – Drink Mixes, Boxed juice Drinks
 July – Dry Beans
 August – Canned Meat
 Sept – Canned Fruit
 October – Rice & Pasta
 November – Cornbread, Biscuit Mixes
 December – Your Choice – Bring early so
 pantries can distribute for
 Christmas.

Altar Flowers

Flowers can be placed in church in memory/honor of loved one(s) or special occasions. See signup sheet on the hall bulletin board.

March 3 – Open
 March 10 – In memory of Anne & Arnold Weghorst
 March 17 – Open
 March 24 – Open
 March 31 – Open
 April 7 – In honor of Cindy & John Walkoviak's 32nd Wedding Anniversary
 April 14 – Open
 April 21 – Open
 April 28 – Open



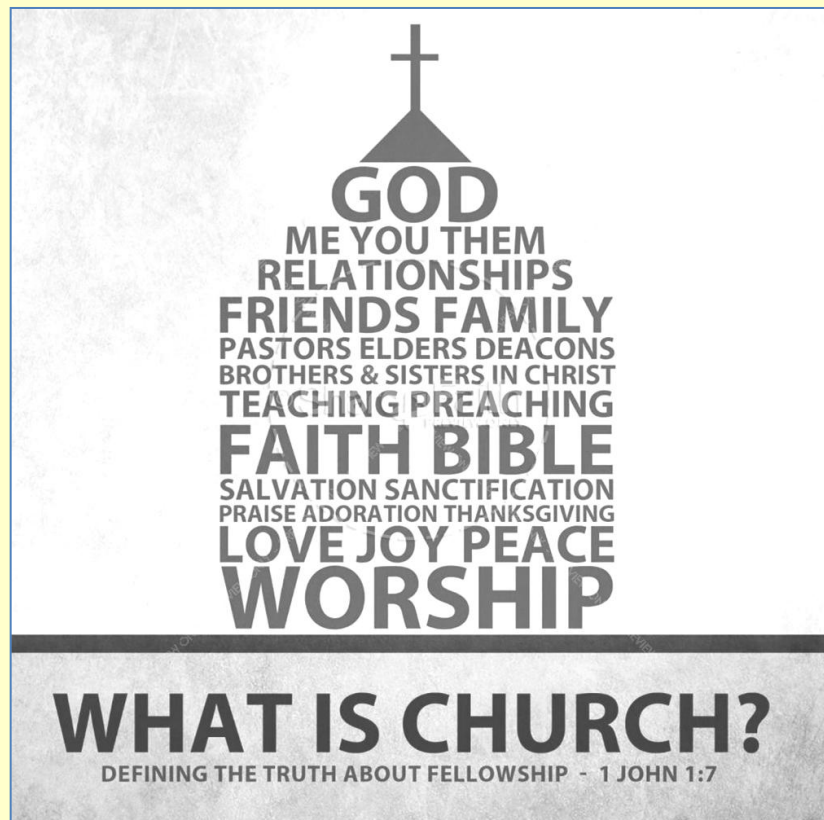
Worship Leaders

<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Ushers/Greeters</u>
March 3 – Amanda Stolz (Wesley)	Hunter Schlabach	James & Jackie Schroeder
March 10 – Jim Latham	Kameron Stolz	Bridgette & Kevin Schulze
March 17 – Becky Barton	Reece Collins	Ginger Scott & Sally Stolz
March 24 – John Walkoviak	Jace Easley	Kristyn & Brian Smith
March 31 – Shelley Addison	Brooklynn Stolz	Arthur & Mary Helen Steele
April 7 – Ashley Wilson	Kayci Robinson	Elroy & Denise Stolz
April 14 – Russell Borgstedte	Kaden Kennedy	Herbert (Skeeter) & Dorothy Stolz
April 21 – Mary Borgstedte	Kylie Maxson	Jeff & Amanda Stolz
April 28 – Sandra Bosse	Mitchell Schlabach	Jim & Brittany Stolz

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendar!!

Events will be added here, please check calendar for all other meetings, etc.

- March 3 – Refreshments/Fellowship prior to worship service (Women's Fellowship to provide)
 March 5 – Sunday School Pancake Supper 6:30 pm. Also, UCC Women's Anniversary Dinner @6pm
 March 6 – Ash Wednesday (**NO Meal** and Worship Service at 7 pm)
 March 11 – No Confirmation Class due to Spring break.
 March 13 – Lenten Service (UCC Women to provide the meal at 6pm).
 March 20 – Lenten Service (Council to provide the meal at 6pm)
 March 23 – Emmaus Reunion Group Meeting at 8 a.m.
 March 27 – Lenten Service at 7 pm (Women's Fellowship providing meal at 6pm)
 March 31 – Praise Service and Pot Luck after worship. Bring a dish and join us for lunch.
- April 3 – Lenten Service (Sunday School to provide meal at 6 pm)
 April 6 – Spring Clean-up day at Friedens beginning at 9 a.m.
 April 7 – Refreshments/Fellowship prior to worship service (UCC Women to provide)
 April 10 – Lenten Service (Pot Luck Meal at 6 pm) Bring a dish and join us)
 April 18 – Maundy Thursday Breakfast at 9 a.m. and Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service at 7 pm
 April 19 – Good Friday
 April 21– Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.
 April 21 – Easter Service at 10:15 a.m.
 April 27 – Emmaus Reunion Group meeting at 8 a.m.



Heart of Texas Association News

Every other month, several of our Heart of Texas ministers gather at St. John's UCC in Burton for "Jam and Bread." Our ministers have been doing this for years, well before I began serving as the Brazos Association Minister in 2006. In 2015, the Brazos and South Texas Associations merged to form the Heart of Texas Association, and our Jam and Bread group has been enriched by a carload from New Braunfels ever since. The group spends most of the time going around the table sharing from our personal lives and about the lives of our churches, ending with a program that is a discussion or presentation on a topic. The programs have ranged from sharing with Filipino ministers visiting the US for a meeting at Slumber Falls Camp to goodbye reflections for ministers who are leaving or retiring to discussions of skills and practices related to ministry to how to give through KIVA -- and many other topics over the years. After the sharing and program are done, the group goes to lunch together and continues having fellowship.

The Jam and Bread programs are often filled with thoughtful discussion and helpful information. However, the most important part of the morning is the sharing. Good ministry thrives on time with trusted colleagues, where ministers can have a sanctuary to share highs and lows. Ministry is supported when pastors and chaplains can have friends who know the work and be a confidential sounding board for ideas, joys, and struggles. In the UCC, the glue that holds our church together and binds us in our walk in faith is covenant. To keep faithful covenant among us, we need to find time and space to be together and support one another. An important part of that covenant is for our ministers to spend time together to lift each other up as often as possible -- a challenge with our long distances.

Our pastors also had a marvelous opportunity recently to be enriched and spend good time together at the annual South Central Conference Clergy Retreat at Slumber Falls Camp in early February. Once again, this was a time to support each other and be enriched. The program was led by Ron Buford, the UCC "Still Speaking" campaign leader who is now a local church pastor -- a gracious, warm-hearted, and articulate man. He led us in a 12 step way of examining racism and other tendencies to judge people by their outer traits. Most of our local church pastors were there to benefit from Ron's "food for the spirit," his challenges to us, our worship together, and our time of building community.

The ministries of all of our churches are strengthened when our pastors have strong and healthy collegial relationships. I encourage all of us to understand and support our ministers as they take time to spend with others, whether it is in a local lectionary Bible study group (to share about the week's scriptures), Jam and Bread, and/or another intentional group. I also hope you will support our ministers in maintaining their covenantal ties to the wider UCC. As we need the community of our church, our ministers need each other. When they can have that support and encouragement, the ministry of all of our churches will be enriched.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 Refreshments & Fellowship prior Worship- Womens Fellowship providing. Choir will sing today. L- Amanda Stolz A- Hunter Schlabach G-James & Jackie Schroeder	4 Confirmation Class 6 pm	5 Sunday School Pancake Supper 6:30 pm UCC Women Anniversary Dinner at Volares at 6:00pm	6 Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm No Meal	7 No Mtg for UCC Women Terry Campbell & Sis Renn	8 Recycle at the Park	9 Recycle at the Park Thru Monday
10 Recycle at the Park L- Jim Latham A- Kameron Stolz G-Bridgette & Kevin Schulze	11 No Confirmation Class due to Spring Break.	12 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	13 Lenten Service at 7 pm (UCC Women serving meal at 6 pm)	14 Jim Latham & Debbie Grimes	15	16
17 L- Becky Barton A- Reece Collins G-Ginger Scott & Sally Stolz	18 Confirmation Class 6 pm	19	20 Lenten Service at 7 pm (Council serving meal at 6 pm)	21 Women's Fellowship 2:15 pm Lou Ann Cantalla & Jamie Noto	22	23 Emmaus Reunion Group Mtg at Fellowship Hall at 8 am
24 SS Drive Thru Meal has been cancelled. L- John Walkoviak A- Jace Easley G-Kristyn & Brian Smith	25 Confirmation Class 6 pm	26	27 Lenten Service at 7 pm (Women's Fellowship serving meal at 6 pm) Fun & Fellowship 2:15	28 Betty Dickschat & Sally Stolz	29	30
31 Praise Service Pot Luck after. L- Shelley Addison A- Brooklynn Stolz G-Arthur & Mary Helen Steele						

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*Food Pantry item for March is Sugar.

*The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your calendar each month when you receive your current newsletter.

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Confirmation Class 6 pm	2	3 Lenten Service @ 7pm (Sunday School serving meal at 6pm)	4 UCC Women's Mtg 6 pm Bonnie Mohr Tammy Leiber	5	6 Spring Clean- up day at Friedens beginning at 9 am
7 Refreshments & Fellshp prior Worship- UCC Women to provide. Choir will sing today. L- Ashley Wilson A- Kayci Robinson G-Elroy & Denise Stolz	8 Confirmation Class 6 pm	9 Trustees Mtg 6:30pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm	10 Lenten Service @ 7pm (Pot Luck Meal @ 6pm so bring a dish to share)	11 Terry Campbell & Sis Renn	12 Recycle at the Park 12 th – 14th	13 Recycle at the Park 12 th – 14th
14 Recycle at the Park L- Russell Borgstedte A- Kaden Kennedy G- Herbert & Dorothy Stolz	15 Confirmation Class 6 pm	16	17 No Bible Study. Come for the Tenebrae service on Thursday instead.	18 Maundy Thursday Breakfast @9am Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Serv at 7 pm <u>No Women's Fellshp mtg.</u> Jim Latham & Debbie Grimes		20
21 Sunrise Serv 7 am EASTER Serv @ 10:15 am L- Mary Borgstedte A- Kylie Maxson G-Jeff & Amanda Stolz	22 Confirmation Class 6 pm	23	24 Bible Study at 7:30 pm (meal at 6:30). Fun & Fellowship 2:15	25 Lou Ann Canatella Jamie Noto	26	27 Emmaus Reunion Group Mtg at Fellowship Hall at 8 am
28 L- Sandra Bosse A- Mitchell Schlabach G-Jim & Brittany Stolz	29 Confirmation Class 6 pm	30				

*Food Pantry item for April is Flour.

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