

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

FRIEDENS CHURCH OF WASHINGTON, UCC

"A Country Church with an Open Door"

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Message from the Pastor

When we recently celebrated Thanksgiving I was reminded of the words found in Psalm 100:4: **Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.** It was a year ago this month when Lori and I joined this congregation and as I look back it has been one filled with blessings. We are both delighted to be part of the "Friedens family." Thanks also go to all of you who called us here to this wonderful ministry. I believe, that as a team, God is going to richly bless our future together as we continue to embrace the outreach and mission he has entrusted to our church here in the Washington community.

Our thanksgiving carries over into the Advent Season as we turn our expectant attention to the celebration of the arrival of the Christ child. Paul writes about Jesus' presence in our lives in 2 Corinthians 9:15: **Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!** Indeed, through Christ our Savior we have much to celebrate and be thankful for.

At the close of this year I am recalling all the ways that we have seen His hands at work in our midst through the blessings that we have received in our church. I can't help but be thankful for the things which have brought us closer together as well as the things that have caused us to begin embracing an exciting new future. I can't help but give thanks for the One responsible for all of our successes this year and the One who will continue to ensure our successes in the years to come, as long as we remain faithful to His word:

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. – Joshua 1:8 –

As we prepare for our Christmas celebrations and look forward to an exciting New Year may we open our hearts to all of the blessings the Lord has ready to bestow upon us. Let us receive these blessings with joy and then be a blessing in the coming year for our community through the Love of Christ within us.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Eric

In our prayers we remember. . .

Edith Dickschat, Larry Young, Hilma Stolz, Mary Lee Lewis, Christina Holloway, Joyce Werchan, Ralph Holle, Glen Shahan, Raymond Barton, James Stolz, Cindy Miller, Allen Schwartz and Pastor Glen Schoeneberg.



News, Events and Updates. . .

We will be decorating our church for the Christmas Season on Saturday November 30th beginning at 9:00 a.m. and **"Hanging of the Greens"** will be on December 1st during worship.

Friedens will be hosting a **Piano Concert by Susan Russell** on Friday, December 13th at 6 pm similar to the one earlier this month at Christ Our Light Church.

Weekly Bible Study class is on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School Program will be December 22nd.

Christmas Eve Service will be on December 24th at 6 p.m.

Pot Luck meal after December 29th Sunday worship.

Reminder: **Choir** sings every first Sunday and holds practice every last Sunday of the month. We are always looking for new members. Come join us!!

Remember all annual reports and books to be audited are due in the church office by January 14th.

January's newsletter will not be mailed out until the first or second week of January.



Totenfest 2019 - Remembering those who have passed before us

<i>Carolyn F. Wellmann</i>	<i>DOB 02/01/55</i>	<i>DOD 03/23/19</i>
<i>Neal Bosse</i>	<i>DOB 08/30/45</i>	<i>DOD 06/20/19</i>
<i>Charles W. Wellmann</i>	<i>DOB 07/05/49</i>	<i>DOD 10/18/19</i>
<i>Lugene Lohmeyer</i>	<i>DOB 07/14/30</i>	<i>DOD 11/07/19</i>

Dedications of Memorials 2019

Reupholstering of Sanctuary Pews

Olga "Okie" Holle

Sunday School Happenings. . .

The **Sunday School Christmas Program** will be on December 22nd during worship.

Sunday School will be selling Poinsettias. Please check the bulletin board for sign-up. Thank you.

No Sunday School December 29th or January 5th. Sunday School will resume on January 12th.



Church Council Happenings. . .

We have accomplished a great deal during 2019 for the beautification of our church sanctuary that would not have been possible without the support and donations of the congregation. I mentioned during the November Congregational meeting, that my heart was full, and it was and is with heartfelt sincerity that I mention that again. My heart is full. We experience this fullness when we come together and do these deeds and projects without any desire for recognition. That is not to say, the recognition given was unwelcome. I truly was humbled by the kind words spoken, and the standing ovation that was received. I truly love this church, and those that fill the inside.

My prayer and my hope is that we can all work together on the beautification of our hearts and souls, and become that which Christ intends us to be.

No doubt, the Council for 2020 will have many items needing attention, and projects to work on, and I truly hope and pray that they feel and see the same willingness as we have this year. We should all support them as our leaders, and we should pray that God leads them in the endeavors ahead.

There will be change, it is inevitable, in our lives, and in the life of our church. We must change if we are to continue and grow. We should honor and remember our past, with focus on the future. I am truly excited about where God is leading us.

May God's blessings be on all you during the Christmas season, and the year ahead.

Blessings,
John

Council Work Schedule

December 1	Wesley S.	Travis E.
December 8	Kasey K.	Terry C.
December 15	John W.	
December 22	Mark D.	Jon W.
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	Jeff S.	John P.
December 29	Wesley S.	Travis E.
January to be announced		



Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

December 5 – Lou Ann Canatella & Jamie Noto
 December 12 – Betty Dickschat & Sally Stolz
 December 19 – closed
 December 26 – closed

January 2 – closed
 January 9 – Bonnie Mohr & Tammy Leiber
 January 16 – Terry Campbell & Sis Renn
 January 23 – Jim Latham & Debbie Grimes
 January 30 – Lou Ann Canatella & Jamie Noto

Food Pantry Items Needed

December – Your Choice – Bring early so pantries can distribute for Christmas.

January – Bring whatever you want.

Altar Flowers

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

December 1 – Open
 December 8 – Open
 December 15 – Open
 December 22 – Open
 December 29 – Roger and Sheri Finke – Case's 5th Birthday.

January 5 – Open
 January 12 – Open
 January 19 – Open
 January 26 – Open



Liturgist	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters
December 1 – Sandra Bosse	Lila Ray Kennedy	Roger & Sheri Finke
December 8 – Vivian Kolkhorst	Quinn Schulze	Brett & Becky Fowler
December 15 – Flora Mason	Mitchell Schlabach	BJ Fowler & Brandi Fowler
December 22 – Heather Fuller	Bailee Wilson	Joe & Heather Fuller
December 24 – Wesley Stolz	Lila Ray Kennedy	Hilbert & Lena Mae Goessler
December 29 – Jim Latham	Katie Becker	Robert & Debbie Grimes
January 5 – Becky Barton	Brooklynn Stolz	Eden Harris & Vivian Kolkhorst
January 12 – Amanda Stolz	Quinn Schulze	Derrol & Arlene Herzog
January 19 – John Walkoviak	Mitchell Schlabach	Doris Hinton & Sally Stolz
January 26 – Shelley Addison	Bailee Wilson	Ralph & Donna Holle

Births

Doctors Dane and Jamie Pawlowski are proud to announce the birth of their son Liam Neal born November 16 . He weighed 6 pounds and 3 ounces. He is welcomed home by his big brother Luke, grandparents Kathy and Steve Pawlowski and Great Grandmother Vivian Kolkhorst.

Loss of Loved Ones

Prayers for the family of **Sharon Denise Schaefer Dobbins**, 63, passed away on October 29, 2019 at home in Spring, Texas. She was born on November 29, 1955 in Houston, Texas to Ervin Schaefer and Mildred Kolkhorst Schaefer. Sharon is the sister to Terry Campbell of Navasota, Texas.

Prayers for the family of **Lugene Lohmeyer**, 89, passed away on November 7, 2019. He was born July 14, 1930 at home in Washington to Henry and Ida Renn Lohmeyer, Jr. Lugene is the husband of the late Willie Dell Holle and father to Lou Ann Canatella (husband Charlie) of Washington, Tx. and Nancy Bond (husband Rob) of Houston, Tx.

Thank You's

Dear Church Members,
 There are no words to adequately express how much we appreciate the members of this church and community. The love and compassion you showed for our dad during his decline touched our hearts. We greatly appreciate your attendance at the visitation and funeral as well as the cards, flowers, memorial, food and kind words of sympathy. Our dad loved the people of this church and community, and I know he would be overwhelmed with your love and support. Again, thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely, Lou Ann & Charlie Canatella and Nancy & Rob Bond

Missing Items

The Activity Center is missing some coolers and roasters, so if you have borrowed some, please return them by contacting the church office so we can get them back to the Activity Center.

Poinsettia signup sheet posted on the hall bulletin board.

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendar!!

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



December 1 – Refreshments/Fellowship prior to worship service (Sunday School will provide) and drawing of the baskets by UCC Women. Hanging of the Greens in church. Also, Choir to sing during worship. UCC luncheon at Beavers.

December 5 – Bible Study at 10:00 am

December 5 – Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon at 11:00 am.

December 10 – Trustee Meeting 6:30 and Council Meeting 7:00 pm

December 12 – Bible Study at 10:00 am

December 13 – Susan Russell's Piano Concert at Friedens Church at 6 pm.

December 13-15 - Recycle at the Park

December 19 – Bible Study at 10:00 am

December 19 – No Women's Fellowship Meeting

December 22 – Sunday School Christmas Program during church.

and deadline for newsletter articles for the church newsletter.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm

December 28 – Emmaus Reunion Group meeting at 8:00 am. in Fellowship Hall

December 29 – Worship at 10:15 am & Pot Luck after Worship and Choir Practice after worship.



January 3 – Bible Study at 10:00 am and UCC Women's Meeting at 6 pm

January 5 – Refreshments/Fellowship prior to worship service (Council will provide.)

Also, Choir to sing during worship.

Also, Remove Christmas decorations from church.

January 9 – Bible Study at 10:00 am

January 10 – 12 – Recycle at the Park

January 12 – Installation of Officers and individuals of various church organizations.

January 13 - ***All reports and books are due in the church office for audit.**

January 14 – Council Meeting 7 pm

January 16 – Bible Study at 10 am and Women's Fellowship meeting 2:15 pm

January 22 – Fun and Fellowship at 2:00 pm

January 23 – Bible Study at 10:00 am

January 26 – **Congregational Meeting after worship.**

January 30 – Bible Study at 10:00 am

At our Heart of Texas Association Meeting on Saturday, November 16th, we held two Ecclesiastical Councils, voting to approve the ordination of Cam Burton and to grant Privilege of Call to Rev. Billie Watts. I wrote about Cam and his chaplaincy at St. David's South Medical Center, Austin last month. Billie was recommended for Privilege of Call at our Heart of Texas Committee on Ministry meeting on November 5th, so her good news is more recent. Billie and Kerry Kirtley, who is in our Member in Discernment Process, are the founding pastors of Touchstone Community Church in Boerne, a UCC new church start that now has gone through the process with our denomination to become a UCC Church in Formation. Billie comes to us as an ordained United Methodist minister (an ordained United Methodist Elder), who took a leave of absence from active ministry to allow herself time to make the decision to change denominations. It is wonderful to welcome these very fine and gifted ministers as colleagues in ministry in the UCC.

After our meeting in a service that began at 3 pm, Cam was ordained at Trinity Church of Austin. Several who attended the meeting were able to stay for the service, and many of his friends in ministry came to be part of it. It was a great joy to affirm his call and to be part of supporting his years of work as a hospital chaplain.

Privilege of Call, which we granted to Billie at the end of her Ecclesiastical Council, allows a minister from another denomination to move into full standing in the United Church of Christ when that minister has a call to a UCC church. It is a full move into the UCC, with the minister giving up the other denomination as a place of ministerial standing. Billie's call is to ministry at Touchstone Community Church, which means she now has full standing in ministry in the UCC.

We also had another great joy to share at our meeting: that Touchstone Community Church has just received a \$40000 New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grant from the national UCC, using funds from the Strengthen the Church offering that many of our churches support. This is an enormous "leg up" to Touchstone, and involves finding matching funds for part of the award. Both Touchstone and Open Cathedral have now been recipients of substantial grant money from the UCC. The enthusiasm and hard work of these new communities among us is an inspiration as they seek to give an extravagant welcome to all who come to be among them.

We made two other significant decisions at our Fall Meeting. First, we voted to give \$8750 from our Association funds in travel scholarships to the UCC National Youth Event next summer, using money that we set aside each year for youth events. This money will be divided up and distributed equally to all who register by the NYE deadline. If our numbers are similar to those in the past (approximately 70 from this Association), we expect to give travel funds of about \$125 per person. Second, we voted to continue our support and practice of Licensed Ministry as the other South Central Conference Associations have done. The new Manual on Ministry for the United Church of Christ moves away from supporting Licensed Ministry, but we have a strong and faithful group of Licensed Ministers who have served our churches well and have offered great vitality to our Association. We appreciate them and want to continue to support their work.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Refreshments & Fellowship prior to worship (Women's Fellowship to provide) . "Hanging of the Greens" *UCC luncheon at Beavers & the drawing during church. Choir to sing during worship today. L- Sandra Bosse A- Brooklynn Stolz G- Roger & Sherri Finke	2	3	4 Bible Study at 6:00 pm	5 UCC Women's no mtg. Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon at 11 pm <i>Food Pantry Workers:</i> Lou Ann Canatella Jamie Noto	6	7
8 L- Vivian Kolkhorst A- Quinn Schulze G-Brett & Becky Fowler	9	10 Trustee Mtg 6:30 pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm	11 Bible Study & 6:00 pm	12 <i>Food Pantry Workers:</i> Betty Dickschat Sally Stolz	13 Recycle at the Park 13 th - 15 th ~~~~~ Piano Concert by Susan Russell at 6pm at Friedens Church	14 Recycle at the Park 13 th - 15 th  ~~~~~
15 L- Flora Mason A- Mitchell Schlabach G-BJ Fowler & Brandi Fowler	16	17	18 Bible Study at 6:00 pm	19 Women's Fellowship no regular mtg.	20	21
22 <i>Sunday School Christmas Program during church.</i> L- Heather Fuller A- Bailee Wilson G-Joe & Heather Fuller	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 pm A- Lila Ray Kennedy G-Hilbert & Lena Mae Goessler	25 Merry Christmas! No Bible Study Class No Fun & Fellowship	26	27	28 Emmaus ReUnion Group Mtg at Fellowship Hall at 8 am
29 Pot Luck after worship. Choir Practice after worship. L- Jim Latham A- Katie Becker G-Robert & Debbie Grimes	30	31 New Year's Eve				

2019

Food Pantry item for December is your choice.
 The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your calendar each month when you receive your current newsletter.

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 UCC Women's Meeting at 6 pm Bible Study 10 a.m. Food Pantry closed.	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Refreshments & Fellowship prior to worship provided by Council. Removal of Christmas decorations after worship. Choir to sing during worship today. L-Becky Barton A- Brooklynn Stolz G-Eden Harris & Vivian Kolkhorst	6	7	8	9 Bible Study 10 a.m. Food Pantry Workers: Bonnie Mohr Tammy Leiber	10	11
12 Installation of Officers & various church organizations L-Amanda Stolz A- Quinn Schulze G-Derrol & Arlene Herzog	13 *Annual Reports and Books are due in the church office for Audit.	14 Council Mtg 7 pm	15	16 Women's Fellowship Mtg 2:15 pm Bible Study 10 a.m. Food Pantry Workers: Terry Campbell Sis Renn	17	18
19 L-John Walkoviak A- Mitchell Schlabach G-Doris Hinton & Sally Stolz	20	21	22 Fun & Fellowship at 2 pm	23 Bible Study 10 a.m. Food Pantry Workers: Jim Latham & Debbie Grimes	24	25
26 Congregational Meeting after worship. L-Shelley Addison A- Bailee Wilson G-Ralph & Donna Holle	27	28	29	30 Bible Study 10 a.m. Food Pantry Workers: Lou Ann Canatella Jamie Noto	31	

2020

Food Pantry item for January is "bring whatever you would like".
The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your calendar each month when you receive your current newsletter.