

JUNE & JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

FRIEDENS CHURCH OF WASHINGTON, UCC

"A Country Church with an Open Door"

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Message from the Pastor

**Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me."
- John 14:1 -**

In times of crisis we must commit ourselves to that which is a prudent course of action for all parties. Certainly there is no place where a deep and abiding concern is expressed for others more than in the church. However, to effectively be the church we have to remain faithful. It is paramount that we remember God's promises to us as His children, especially in times of crisis.

Almost all churches in our county, including ours, canceled Sunday worship services in March due to health concerns. And yet, this is a time when the people of faith need to turn to God, now more than ever. As with many other churches at this time we are currently producing a video of our outdoor worship service which is posted on the church Facebook site and webpage.

**But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.
- Joshua 24:15 -**

Lori and I both are committed to living out the words from the Book of Joshua written above. While we realize that the threat of the current pandemic is real that will not sway either of us from serving our Lord in our daily lives throughout the current crisis. Lori has not missed a day of work and my time spent at church has not diminished because this is where the Lord has called me to serve.

I realize that not everyone feels the same way about visiting our church during this crisis, and that's okay. He created us with an intellect in order to weigh our choices and make the best decision in our circumstances. We should not ignore warnings by health experts, especially if we are in a high-risk group. Each one of us has to reconcile in our minds what our response will be without fear of judgment for our decision.

By decision of the church council at the meeting on May 12 we are tentatively planning to resume indoor services on Sunday, June 7. We will be taking precautions as we gather in the sanctuary per the [Guidelines for Houses of Worship During the COVID-19 Crisis issued by the State Attorney General.](#) We ask that you practice safe social distancing and it's okay to wear a mask and gloves if you feel the need. Many of our church groups will resume meeting in June, as well. You can check out all the latest updates in the pages which follow. May God bless you and keep you during these days in which we are living.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Eric

In our prayers we remember. . .

Kay Crawford, Edith Dickschat, Christina Holloway, Ora Nell James, Mary Lee Lewis, Baby Swayzee Stolz, Ray Stolz, Will Stolz, Ellis Werchan, Linda Werchan, Joyce Werchan and Larry Young.



Note: If you have anyone to add to the prayer list or remove, please contact Denise Stolz at the church office.

News, Events and Updates. . .



- Virtual Worship

Although we could have service in the church it was so wonderful that we were able to have drive up church, which also allowed us to record the sermon and have LIVE on the church "Facebook" page as well as video the service and add to the "Friedens Website" at www.friedenschurch.com.

- Worship tentatively resumes in Sanctuary on June 7th at 10:15 a.m.

Guidelines for Houses of Worship during the Covid-19 Virus:

For the protection of our congregation and staff Friedens Church of Washington, UCC is committed to the adherence of Guidance for Houses of Worship During the COZVID-19 Crisis issued by the AG. As we move back indoors for worship on June 7 we ask for your help in compliance for everyone's welfare. The Guidelines include:

Health protocols for serving your attendees:

1. Strongly encourage the at-risk population to watch or participate in the service remotely.
 2. Designate an area inside the facility reserved for the at-risk population, or offer a service for at-risk population attendees only.
 3. Ensure proper spacing between attendees: a. Keep at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except as follows:
 - i. Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
 - ii. Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
- b. Alternate rows between attendees (every other row left empty).

Hand sanitizer will be available in the Narthex as you enter the church. Offering plates will also be left in the Narthex and will not be passed during the service. Bulletins will be available for the service if you so desire. You may wear gloves and masks during the service but are encouraged not to bunch-up to visit in the building before or after the service.

-Please notify the church office (936-878-2523), if you have any **high school and/or college graduates**.

-The **2020 Membership directory** are complete and can be picked-up in the church Narthex.

Church Council Happenings. . .

- Council met on May 12th and elected the following:
 - **Resume worship in sanctuary on June 7th** at 10:15 a.m.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in Narthex.
 - If you would like, you can wear mask and gloves.
 - Offering plates will be in the Narthex.
 - No Young disciples' message.
 - Maintain social distancing.
 - Individual wrapped communion elements (If they arrive in time bc there is a huge demand.

Council Members and duties:

Charlie Canatella, President (2020-2021)
 Travis Eckert, Vice President (2019-2020)
 Jon Wellmann, Treasurer (2019-2020)
 Kathy Kennedy, Secretary (2020-2021)
 Sandra Bosse, Church Clerk (2020-2021)
 Terry Campbell, Envelope Clerk (2019-2020)
 John Parsons, (2019-2020)
 Betsy Bosse (2020-2021)
 Flora Mason (2020-2021)
 Jim Stolz (2020)

Easter Lilies 2020

▪ Kay Finke	<i>In Memory of Loved Ones</i>
▪ Arthur & Mary Steele (3)	<i>In Memory of Loved Ones</i>
▪ John & Cindy Walkoviak	<i>In Memory of Loved Ones</i>
▪ Raymond & Joy Dickschat	<i>In Memory of Loved Ones</i>
▪ Raymond & Joy Dickschat	<i>In Honor of Loved Ones</i>
▪ The remaining lilies	<i>To the Glory of God</i>

Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

*Pantry is closed until further notice.
We will let you all know something as soon as we hear anything.*

Food Pantry Items Needed

June – Drink Mixes, Boxed Juice Drinks
 July – Dry Beans
 August – Canned Meat
 September - Canned Fruit
 October – Rice & Pasta
 November – Cornbread, Biscuit Mixes
 December – Your Choice – bring early so the food 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.

- June 7 – Open
- June 14 – Open
- June 21 – Open
- June 28 – Open

- July 5 – Open
- July 12 – Open
- July 19 – Open
- July 26 – Open



Note: If you are unable to serve on the dates below please contact the church office.

Liturgist	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters
June 7 – Wesley Stolz June 14 – Jim Latham June 21 – Becky Barton June 28 – Amanda Stolz	Katie Becker Brooklynn Stolz Quinn Schulze Mitchell Schlabach	Glenda Maxson & Raelynn Maxson Tex & Stephanie Maxson Neil & Susan McLaurin Dan & Bonnie Mohr
July 5 – John Walkoviak July 12 – Ashley Wilson July 19 – Russell Borgstedte July 26 – Mary Borgstedte	Lila Ray Kennedy Bailee Wilson Katie Becker Brooklynn Stolz	Britney & Guado Moreno Marsha & Wesley Murrell Lauren & Matt Nettles Linda Oberhoff & Thresia Schlabach

Sunday School Happenings. . .

Sunday school is out for the summer.

Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for July 26 through 30th.



New Arrivals

Swayzee Marie Stolz was born on April 11, 2020 to Brittany Diane and Jim Stolz of Washington, Texas. Grandparents are Linda and James Stolz of Washington and Sara Roberts of Vaiden, Mississippi.

Ivy Margaret Buck was born May 16, 2020 in Knoxville, Tennessee. She was welcomed home by parents Bryan and Laura Buck and big sisters Eleanor and Alice. Grandparent is Nelda Buck, Aunt Sarah Shelnutz and cousin Brooke.

Loss of Loved Ones

Edith Dickschat, 94 of Washington passed away on May 17th at the Brenham Nursing and Rehab home. She was born May 25, 1925. A private graveside service will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 10 am, at Friedens Church of Washington, UCC Cemetery with Pastor Eric Dehmer officiating. A visitation was scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, from 7 am to 8 pm at Memorial Oaks Chapel. Her late husband was Frank W. Dickschat.

Lydia Rust, 96, of Brenham passed away on March 1, 2020. She was born September 14, 1923 Lydia was the sister to May Dell Lanham, Virginia (G.V.) Layton; Dan (Bonnie) and Jerry Mohr.

Arthur Holle Jr. passed away Monday, March 30 at about 10 am. Arthur Jr. was proceed in death by parents, Arthur & Lil Holle Sr., brother David Holle, and sister Lois Holle Keiser. He was the nephew of Hilma Stolz and Willie Dell Lohmeyer

Margaret Holle passed away Friday morning at her home in Friendswood. Margaret was proceed in death by her husband David Holle and in-laws Arthur & Lil Holle. She had a graveside service for immediate family on Wednesday, April 1.

Upcoming Events are marked on your calendars (see attached June and July).

Note: Only Events will be added here, **please check the attached calendars** for all other information.

-Weekly Bible Study class is on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall beginning June 4th.

-**June 3 - UCC Womens** meeting at 6:00 pm. – UCC Women meet every first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm beginning June 3rd. We invite anyone who would like to join us to come to our meetings.

June 18 – Women’s Fellowship meeting at 2:15 p.m. - **Women’s Fellowship** – Meet every third Thursday at 2:15 pm beginning June 18th. We invite anyone who would like to join us to come to our meetings.

-Reminder: **Choir** sings every first Sunday during worship and holds practice every 4th Sunday of the month after worship. We are always looking for new members. Come join us!!

July 1 – UCC Women’s Meeting at 6:00 pm.

July 17 – Salad Supper at 6:30 please bring your favorite salad and a guest.
ALL are welcome!!!

July 26 through 30 – (Tentatively) **Vacation Bible School** from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Reminder: see attached June and July calendar.



Heart of Texas Association News

As announced earlier, the Heart of Texas Association will be meeting via Zoom on Saturday morning, May 16th. Sign-in begins at 10 am, the meeting begins at 10:30, and we intend to be done at noon or a little after. We will have some extra security in place with a way to sign up to attend through a website link in order to prevent “Zoom bombing” harassment. You will need to sign up to attend in advance so we have the list of people coming, and then you will get the meeting Zoom link. (Sounds complicated but it is easy.) If you do not know how to use Zoom, please email me (lizknash@gmail.com) before the meeting date so we can help you know what to do or have a friend walk you through it. As primary agenda items, we will be having the Ecclesiastical Councils of Kerry Kirtley and Arlene Turner whose ordination papers are already available on our Association website, <http://hotaucc.org/>. We believe it will be more important than ever to for our churches to speak about their lives together in this challenging time as we share ideas and lift one another up. We will be posting all of the documents for the meeting, including the agenda, financial report, past minutes, and any other written reports on the Association website, and we ask that you download those and read through them before the meeting. (It is harder to read them during the meeting while you are on Zoom.)

The South Central Conference Annual meeting will happen online on Saturday, June 13th in order to do the business of the Conference. The SCC will be sending out information on how this will work. Major items on the agenda will include voting on bylaw changes (posted on our Association website); meeting our new Consulting Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Campbell Lovett; elections; budget approval; and perhaps more that I am not presently aware of. Campbell Lovett has already been working with many of us with his wise and caring counsel, helping bring resources on applying for CARES Act money and fundraising to our churches, as well as beginning to be a pastor to us, in this difficult time.

Our Committee on Ministry met by Zoom for the first time during March. The Committee interviewed Kerry Kirtley and Arlene Turner, recommending them for ordination and, as it turns out, giving them a good rehearsal for their online Ecclesiastical Councils. The Committee also voted to license Brett Hart, who is a member of St. Peter’s Coupland and is serving as their minister while Martin Garrison is on sabbatical. Brett has come to the UCC with about 30 years of ministry experience and a similar amount of experience as a high school science teacher. He left his last church position to begin the Serene Disciple Project at the home he shares with his wife at Egret Isle Farm near Coupland. The Serene Disciple project continues, and you can learn about this unique ministry at <https://egretislefarm.com/about-us/>. We welcome Brett!

As I close, I lift up our churches, ministers, and all who are working in creative and challenging ways to do ministry now. Let’s continue to pray for each other and support each other. I also lift up a giving opportunity. The Christmas Fund, run by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, is now responding to many requests for emergency help for pastors and church staff. If you would like to know more or donate, go to <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/art-ma-landing/opportunities-for-giving>.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister

June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3 UCC Women's Mtg 6:00 pm	4 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.	5	6
7 No Refreshments & Fellowship prior Worship Choir to sing during worship today. L- Wesley Stolz A- Katie Becker G- Glenda Maxson & Raelynn Maxson	8	9 <i>Tentative</i> Council Meeting at 7:00 pm	10	11 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.	12	13
14 Happy Father's Day L- Jim Latham A- Brooklynn Stolz G- Tex & Stephanie Maxson Pastor Eric's Vacation	15 Pastor Eric's Vacation	16 Pastor Eric's Vacation	17 Pastor Eric's Vacation	18 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship 2:15pm Pastor Eric's Vacation	19 Pastor Eric's Vacation	20 Pastor Eric's Vacation
21 L- Becky Barton A- Quinn Schulze G- Neil & Susan McLaurin	22	23	24	25 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.	26	27 Emmaus Reunion Group resumes at 9 am in Fellowship Hall
28 Choir Practice L- Amanda Stolz A- Mitchell Schlabach G- Dan & Bonnie Mohr	29	30				

2020

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 UCC Women's Mtg 6:00 pm	2 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.	3	4
5 NO Refreshments & Fellowship prior to worship. Choir to sing during worship. L- John Walkoviak A- Lila Ray Kennedy G- Britney & Guada Moreno	6	7	8	9 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.	10	11
12 L-Ashley Wilson A- Bailee Wilson G-Marsha & Wesley Murrell	13	14 <i>Tentative</i> Trustee Mtg 6:30 pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm	15	16 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. ~~~~~ Women's Fellowship 2:15pm	17 Salad Supper at 6:30 please bring your favorite salad and a guest. ALL are welcome!!!	18
19 L- Russell Borgstedte A- Katie Becker G- Lauren & Matt Nettles	20	21	22 <i>Tentative</i> Fun & Fellowship @ 2 pm	23 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.	24	25 Emmaus Reunion Group at 9 am in Fellowship Hall
26 Choir Practice L-Mary Borgstedte A- Brooklynn Stolz G-Linda Oberhoff & Thresia Schlabach ~~~~~ <i>Tentative</i> Vacation Bible School 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm	27 <i>Tentative</i> Vacation Bible School 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm	28 <i>Tentative</i> Vacation Bible School 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm	29 <i>Tentative</i> Vacation Bible School 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm	30 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. <i>Tentative</i> Vacation Bible School 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm	31	

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