

# JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## FRIEDENS CHURCH OF WASHINGTON, UCC

"A Country Church with an Open Door"

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### Message from the Pastor

Happy New Year! After everything that happened in 2020, a number of us are making that declaration with some trepidation as we certainly don't want a repeat of last year's events in 2021. In many of my conversations with others I have encountered quite a few who are fearful of future events, especially after what we experienced last year. In every discussion I always point out that while we may not be in control of the events unfolding around us we should never stop placing our trust in the One who has absolute control over all things.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? - Psalm 27:1 -**

As I look back over the past year I can't help but give the Lord praises for walking with us as a congregation and delivering us through some serious trials. When we curtailed indoor services in March it gave us the opportunity to think outside of the box and offer outdoor services instead. As a result our attendance was good with many first-time visitors showing up. When we later moved back into the sanctuary we geared up to use media resources to broadcast our services on the world-wide web.

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7 -**

When the church sustained substantial storm damage in the May, we saw members of the congregation and volunteers from community come together to perform a massive clean-up effort. Afterwards, members of the church performed many of the repairs which took place. Through it all we prayed for the Lord's help and maintained a "can-do" attitude, persevering in spite of what initially appeared to be serious setbacks.

No doubt we will face even more challenges in 2021. However, I am confident that if we remain faithful the Lord will not only deliver us through any adversity we might face but also bring new prosperity to our church. As result, I am truly excited about what the Lord will do in our midst in 2021. There is no reason to fear what may come when the Lord is at our side.

**When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. - Psalm 56:3 -**

In His love, Pastor Eric

## In our prayers we remember. . .

Christina Holloway, Mary Lee Lewis, Larry Young, Cory DeAeth, Todd Kolkhorst, Ora Nell James, Gene Benker, Shirley Finke, Kay Crawford, Virginia Layton, Jim Latham, Arthur Steele, Lexi Nesloney, Angie Harville Singleton, Larry Deramus, the family of Earl Stegemoller, the family of Hildagarde Lorenz, the family of Robert Boenker.



## News, Events and Updates. . .



- **Annual reports and books** (to be audited) need to be delivered to the church office by January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Due to Covid, the **Chili/Stew Supper** will be a **Drive-Thru only on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30 pm**. This year's Chili/Stew Supper will be organized by Sunday School/Bible Study Group. There will be no pies this year; however, if you would like to donate chicken and broth or provide a donation toward chili, please contact the church office 936-878-2523. More details will be announced.
- A Big **THANK YOU** to everyone buying, selling the **quilt tickets**, Please see below more detailed information on the Women's Fellowship Quilt raffle.
- A Big **THANK YOU** to everyone that donated to our **Brenham State School Ornament gifts**.
- A Big **THANK YOU** to everyone that **brought cards for the nursing home**. Christmas cards have been delivered but we are still asking for general "Thinking of you" cards for all those shut-in at the nursing homes due to Covid-19.
- **A Big THANK YOU** to Travis Eckert, Jon Wellmann, Terry Campbell, John Parsons and Jim Stolz for serving on council in 2020. We appreciate your dedication to Friedens Church. We want to welcome Ron Werchan, Cindy Walkoviak, Jim Latham, Monica Martin and Don Kolkhorst as the **new members** to council. Please see full council list under **Church Council Happenings**.
- We will be removing **Christmas decorations from the church on January 10th** after worship. Please stay and help if you can.
- Installations of Officers and other organizations has been scheduled for **January 10<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Congregational meeting** is scheduled for **January 31<sup>st</sup>**.
- **UCC Women** will have a meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- **Women's Fellowship** will have a meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:15 p.m.
- Bible Study every Thursday beginning at 10:00 a.m. Come join us and bring your bible or you can use one from the church. We are studying the Old Testament on Isaiah. Please check the calendars for dates of no Bible Study due to holidays.

## Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

### *Needing Volunteers*

*If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please contact Lou Ann Canatella.*

## Food Pantry Items Needed

- January – Bring whatever you want.
- February – Hot or cold cereal
- March - Sugar
- April - Flour
- May – Canned Vegetables
- June – Drink Mixes, Boxed Juice Drinks
- July – Dry Beans
- August – Canned Meat
- September - Canned Fruit

## 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.**

- January 3 – Open
- January 10 – Open
- January 17 – Open
- January 24 – Open
- January 31 – Open

- February 7 – Open
- February 14 – Open
- February 21 – Open
- February 28 – Open



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

Liturgist	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters
January 3 – Becky Barton	Brooklynn Stolz	No Greeters at this time.
January 10 – Amanda Stolz	Quinn Schulze	“ “ “ “
January 17 – John Walkoviak	Mitchell Schlabach	“ “ “ “
January 24 – Ashley Wilson	Bailee Wilson	“ “ “ “
January 31 – Russell Borgstedte	Lila Ray Kennedy	“ “ “ “
February 7 - Sandra Bosse	Katie Becker	No Greeters at this time.
February 14 – Vivian Kolkhorst	Brooklynn Stolz	“ “ “ “
February 21 – Flora Mason	Quinn Schulze	“ “ “ “
February 28 – Heather Fuller	Mitchell Schlabach	“ “ “ “

## Sunday School Happenings. . .

**Sunday school** is out for the holidays and will return to Sunday School class on January 10, 2021.



## Births

**Dusty and Kacey Kennedy** are proud to announce the birth of their son, **Hayes Crow Kennedy** born October 27, 2020 . He weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces. He is welcomed home by his big sisters Kaden and Lila Ray, grandparents Bill and Kathy Kennedy. His baptism is planned for January 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, he played baby Jesus, in his first Sunday School program on December 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Loss of Loved Ones . . .

**Earl "Skipper" Stegamoller**, 91, passed away on November 26 peacefully in his sleep. Skipper was born on October 4, 1929. Visitation was held at Memorial Oaks Chapel on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services were held at Friedens Church of Washington, on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Skipper is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Alverne; children and their spouses, Lauren Bush, Ellen Wells (husband Brent), April Duch (husband Ray), Mike Stegemoller (wife Candie) and many grandchildren.

**Hildagarde B. Lorenz**, 97, passed away on November 30, 2020. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brenham, Tx . Visitation was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Oaks Chapel in Brenham, Tx. Hildagarde is the sister to Rose Lee Lohmeyer of Washington, Texas.

**Robert Edward Boenker**, 87, passed away on December 10, 2020 in Conroe, Texas. Memorial Visitation was held on December 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm at Cashner Funeral Home, 801 Teas Rd, Conroe, Texas. Funeral Service was held on December 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm at Friedens Church of Washington, Washington, Texas. Robert is the husband of Ode Boenker of Conroe, Texas.

## Church Council Happenings. . .

### Council Members and duties:

Charlie Canatella, President (2020-2021)  
 Flora Mason, Vice President (2020-2021)  
 Cindy Walkoviak, Treasurer (2021-2022)  
 Kathy Kennedy, Secretary (2020-2021)  
 Sandra Bosse, Church Clerk (2020-2021)  
 Ron Werchen, Envelope Clerk (2021-2022)  
 Betsy Bosse (2020-2021)  
 Jim Latham (2021-2022)  
 Monica Martin (2021-2022)  
 Don Kolkhorst (2021-2022)

### Women's Fellowship Fundraiser

Congratulations to **Cheryl Gaskamp** for winning the Women's Fellowship Chicken Scratch Quilt. The raffle was a huge success with processes reaching \$2,000., which includes donations.

Thank you to **ALL** sold tickets and to ALL that supported our quilt raffle.

***Thank you for your support!***

The Women's Fellowship Group

### Did YOU KNOW?

The difference of **Alleluia** vs **Hallelujah**.

Hallelujah is considered a joyful word of praise of God.

Alleluia refers to a traditional chant combining the word from Psalms or some other scripture. No you will not find hallelujah in the Holy Bible, however, you will find a two part word phrase: Hallelu and Jah, used together to make the one English expression found from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Also spelled allelula from the Latin Vulgate.

Also, hallelujah, 1530s from Latin, alleluia, from Greek alleluia, from Hebrew hallalu-yah "praise the Jehovah," from hallalu.

I hope this is a question you have had along with me.

Blessings,  
 Jim Latham

## Heart of Texas Association News

On the fourth Sunday of November, I watched the Facebook link to the worship service at the Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Angels Camp, California. The church is a small congregation in a rural town in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. My dear friend and mentor, Rev. Dr. Sally Smith, was being honored in celebration of the 50th anniversary of her ordination -- an extraordinary milestone for anyone but even more so for a woman ordained in 1970. I could not be there in person because of the distance and difficulty traveling now. I also could not be there because I live in an area where the COVID counts are extremely high and would be bringing that risk into an area with far lower case counts and, in the process, endangering a 90 year friend along with the congregation honoring her. But the blessing was that I actually could be part of the congregation that day. In this week of Thanksgiving as I write, I am so very grateful.

I share my experience for two reasons. First, to highlight the creative ways we have learned to bring people together in worship during this difficult year, and second, to encourage us to understand some of our differences.

In our Association, our urban churches are meeting almost completely by Zoom, on YouTube, by Webex, or using a similar online platform. These churches are all currently in high danger COVID areas. A few of these who have a good space for an outdoor service have taken the opportunity to worship once or twice in that way, while also putting up the cameras and microphones to include those who could not be present -- quite a feat. A few of our churches have worshipped in person for a short time, and then stopped when the COVID counts locally went up. Several of our more rural churches have been meeting in person for quite a while. These are in areas where the pandemic has not hit as hard or not much at all. We have one church who broadcasts to cars outside via the car radio, and has met inside on and off as the local case counts went down and then back up. Other churches did drive-up services before beginning to meet in person.

Our circumstances are different right now. From listening to those I know and care about, I know sometimes these varying circumstances are hard to understand. For those of us living in a large city, COVID is very present and gathering in a group is dangerous. For those of us living in rural areas, COVID is not as present. We are a diverse church in many ways, and this difference now in how we worship is part of that diversity. For me, I found a lifegiving and creative bridge between two ways of doing church as my friend was honored last Sunday. Thanks be to God for that bridge. In this time of polarization in our society, I invite us to choose to appreciate each other.

Our friends at Hope United in Georgetown have welcomed Rev. Remington Johnson as their designated pastor at this time of change for them. Rev. Johnson is a Presbyterian minister with substantial experience in hospice care and chaplaincy in the Austin area. We offer our prayers and hope that her ministry with Hope United will be a faithful and enriching time.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash, Association Minister

## Upcoming Events are marked on your calendars

(see attached January and February).


# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	2
3 Children's SS out. *Communion *Choir to sing during worship. L-Becky Barton A-Brooklyn Stolz	4	5	6 <b>Epiphany</b> UCC Mtg 6:00 pm	7 Bible Study 10 a.m.	8	9
10 <b>Installation of Officers &amp; various church organizations</b> *Take Christmas decorations down after worship. Children's Sunday School starts back today. L-Amanda Stolz A-Quinn Schulze	11	12 Council Mtg 7 p.m.	13	14* <b>Annual Reports and Books are due in the church office for Audit.</b> Bible Study 10 a.m.	15	16
17 <b>Baptism</b> L-John Walkoviak A-Mitchell Schlabach	18	19	20	21 Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Fellowship Mtg 2:15	22	23
24 L-Ashley Wilson A-Bailee Wilson	25	26	27	28 Bible Study 10 a.m.	29	30
31 <b>Congregational Meeting after worship.</b> Choir to practice after worship. L-Russell Borgstedte A- Lila Ray Kennedy						

2021

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

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 UCC Mtg. 6 pm	4 Bible Study 10 a.m	5 Chili Stew Supper 4:30-6:30 pm. Drive Thru only	6	
7 * Communion *Choir to sing during worship. L-Sandra Bossé A-Katie Becker	9 Trustees Mtg 6:30 Council Mtg 7 pm	10	11 Bible Study 10 a.m	12	13	
14 Valentines Day SS Valentines Party  L-Vivian Kolkhorst A-Brooklynn Stolz	16	17 Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.	18 Bible Study 10 a.m ----- Women's Fellowship Mtg. 2.5 pm	19	20	
21 - UCC Take-out Meal L-Flora Mason A-Quinn Schulze	23	24	25 Bible Study 10 a.m	26	27	
28 L-Heather Fuller A-Mitchell Schlabach						

2021

Food Pantry item for February is "Hot or cold cereal".  
The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your current calendar when you receive your current newsletter.