



Friedens Church of Washington

Inside This Issue

Page

- 1 – Christmas Poem
- 2 – News, Events & Updates
- 3 – Food Pantry Information
- 3 – Refreshments & Fellowship
- 3 – Altar Flowers
- 3 – Worship Leaders
- 3 – Wreaths Across America
- 4 – Prayer List
- 4 – Thursday Matinee
- 5 – Church Council News
- 5 – Thank Yous
- 6 – Kathryn Van Der Pol/
Happenings on the way to
Heaven
- 7 – December Calendar

Friedens Church of Washington

Phone: 936-878-2523

Address:

PO Box 306

Washington, TX 77880

Email: [friedenschurchof
Washington@gmail.com](mailto:friedenschurchof
Washington@gmail.com)

Website:

www.friedenschurch.com

Christmas Poem

by Susan Holle

The Baby Who Changed the World
Mary and Joseph watched their sleeping baby boy
Though staying in a stable with livestock
Their hearts were filled with love and joy
When local shepherds came, they were in shock
The shepherds said an angel said Christ the Lord was born that day

And told them Bethlehem was where He lay
In a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes
And then a multitude of angels joined the other one and said:
“Glory to God in the highest, and peace on Earth, goodwill toward men.”
Once again, Mary and Joseph wondered why it was them God chose
Their tiny baby would become the Savior of all men.
Then wise men came, following a star

They knew the Messiah had come, and they came to worship Him
Frankincense, gold, and myrrh were the gifts they brought from afar
Mary glanced at baby Jesus, wondering what lay ahead for Him
Baby Jesus would grow up to heal the lame and make the blind to see

Raise the dead
With his hands, calm the sea
Teach about love, forgiveness, and peace
He would have a crown of thorns on His head
He would be the Prince of Peace
Dying on the cross so our sins would be paid
He would be the victor over death

After three days, walk out of the tomb where He would be laid
Show Himself to His disciples who would mourn His death
Forty days later, ascend to heaven
His followers would spread the good news all over the world
It all started when Jesus agreed to leave heaven
To be the baby who changed the world.

News, Events and Updates. . .

Frieden's Women announcements:

- Friedens Women will have their meeting December 6 at 4:30pm.
- Once again, thank you to all who filled a shoebox or donated money for shipping.
- Our Christmas luncheon will be Dec. 3 at 12:30 at The Saltgrass Steakhouse on Highway 6. Please let Linda Jurecka know by December 1st if you plan on going.
Merry Christmas!

Women's Fellowship announcements

- Birthday Calendars- it's not too late to place your order for calendars. See LaNelle Langford before Dec. 3rd. They are \$5 each.
- Women's Fellowship will be collecting Christmas cards to be delivered to the Navasota and Brenham nursing homes. A box is in the narthex with December 3rd as the deadline for bringing your cards.
- Women's Fellowship will continue to collect hygiene items for the Salvation Army, Phoebe's Home and /or the Senior Center in Brenham. Also, items for the Brenham Pregnancy Center in Brenham Collection boxes are in the narthex.
- Women's Fellowship Christmas Party will be on Dec. 7th @ 11 am. After lunch we will play games so if you are interested in joining us, please bring a \$5 gift. Christmas ornament etc. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Women's Fellowship will be providing refreshments on Saturday Dec. 16th Wreaths Across America service at 10 am.

Bible Study announcements:

We meet in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday beginning at 10:30 a.m. Come join us and bring your bible or you can use one from the church. We are currently studying the Book of Revelation. Please check the calendars for dates of no Bible Study due to holidays.

Choir announcements:

We sing during worship every first Sunday of the month and practice before worship.

Sunday School announcements:

The Sunday school will start practicing for the Christmas program on November 12 during Sunday school.

The Children's Christmas program will be Sunday December 24 at 6:00 pm.

Confirmation

The 2024 confirmation class will begin Wednesday, October 4 at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. The class will include Katie Becker, Lila Ray Kennedy, and Bailee Wilson. Stacey Becker will be on hand with Pastor Eric teaching the class.

Upcoming Events are marked on your calendars

Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

Needing Volunteers

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

Food Pantry Items Needed

Dec. – Coffee, tea, cocoa, bottled fruit juice
Jan. – Canned Soup and Canned Chili
Feb. – Hot Cereals Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Cream of Rice, Grits

Altar Flowers

Dec 3- Open
Dec 10- Dale Borgstedte
Dec 17- Open
Dec 24- Open
Dec 31- Roger and Sheri Finke

First Sunday Refreshments & Fellowship prior to Worship

Dec. 3 – Altar Guild
Jan. 7 - Council
Feb 4 – Women’s Fellowship

Note: If you are unable to serve on the dates

below, please contact the church office.



Liturgist

December 3 – Jim Latham
December 10 – Flora Mason
December 17 – Heather Mason
December 24 – Dale Borgstedte
December 31 – Becky Barton

Acolytes

Beau Becker
Teagyn Wilson
Katie Becker
Lila Ray Kennedy
Brody Parsons

Ushers/Greeters

Harry & Barbara Kolkhorst
Jim & Lois Kolkhorst
Mark & Jane Krause
LaNell Langford & Rose L Lohmeyer
Charlie & Kelli Lara

Wreaths Across America

This year’s observance will be held on Saturday, December 16 at 10 am under the pavilion unless there is inclement weather in which case it will take place in the sanctuary. Wreaths will be placed in honor of each branch of service to our country and volunteers who served are encouraged to contact Linda Jurecka to do so. Wreaths can also be ordered by Linda and the cost is \$17 for one but if you buy two, you get the third one free. We are asking that you submit one picture of each of your family members living or deceased who have served or are currently serving in the military. Do not send your photo by text or a picture you have taken with your cell phone. lcandatella55@gmail.com or lindajurecka@att.net

Larry Hargrave, Rose Lee Lohmeyer, Judy Burke, Joey Helms, Ralph and David Holle, Shelli James, Dorothy Hughes, Mary Lee Lewis, Madeline Almquist, Pat Beirute, Sylvia Budraitis, Francis Ramsey, Joy & John Adkins, Ruth and Kenzie Garrett, Herb Kammel, Erin Schwamy, Shirley Finke, Jenny Fritz, Rachel Brieno, Jackie Wood, Cindy Wellmaker, Bill Newsom, Leah Weld, David and Kenney McAlpine, Taylor Willis, Nichole Brooks, Troy Weigand, Robin Dutton and Beverly Schlabach.

Note: If you have anyone to add to the prayer list or remove, please contact the church office or email the church @ friedenschurchhofWashington@gmail.com. Numerous concerns have been raised by congregational members about the unknown names remaining on the prayer list for months. Please review the list above and contact the church with updates of any of the names listed above. Thank you.



+++++

Totenfest 2023

Nancy Holle 10/03/1939 – 02/05/2023
 Terry Humphreys 05/04/1949 – 02/16/2023
 Franklin Roes 09/04/1934 – 05/21/2023
 Ethlynda Hensley 11/20/1927 – 10/10/2023

TV/DVD Player/ Adult Sunday School - Ruby Meekins
 Landscaping in prayer garden – Inez Fugua
 Landscaping in Cemetery – Wayne Bosse, Ben Allen Bosse and Jon Anastasiades
 Activity Center Renovation – Raymond Barton
 Activity Center Stage Curtain – Rob Bond, Ora Nell James and Frances Roes
 Podium Fellowship Hall – Hilbert Goessler

+++++

Activity Center Rentals

December 10 – Rose L Lohmeyer
 December 16 – Thresia Schlabach
 December 25 – John Walkoviak

Please call the church office for rentals or Cindy Walkoviak (C) 979-229-6710
 (H) 936- 878-1875.

+++++

Thursday Matinee

Bring your brown bag lunch and join us after Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall for a Christian movie matinee. We have already enjoyed *Monumental* and *Paul, Apostle of Christ* and the *Left Behind Trilogy* and will be viewing *Heaven is for Real*, *The Shack*, and many more following. Come join us on Thursdays at noon and enjoy the popcorn at the movie with us.

Church Council News

- The Search Committee continues their work regarding prospective ministerial candidates.
- The Congratonal Meeting will be held December 3 following Church Service. The agenda will be approving budget, election of new council members and voting on repairs to parsonage and the changes to the By-Laws and Constitution.
- Please see enclosed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Propose changes are in parentheses and in italics. Proposed deletions are stricken through. If you have any questions on the proposed changes, feel free to contact a Council member or call Rodney at 979-421-3670.

<u>Church Council Work Schedule For July 2023</u>		
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Council 2023</u>	<u>Council 2022</u>
12/3/2023	Denise Stolz	John Barton
12/10/2023	Jim Burke	Marsha Wellmann
12/17/23	Laura Hargrave	Rodney Dickschat
12/24/23	Linda Werchan	Russell Borgstedte
12/31/23	Sheri Finke	Sandra Antill

Thank you:

Thank you to Joyce and Lewis Pelley and their grandchildren Dylan, Bonnie and Sam for Volunteering and assisting putting new flags on Veterans grave sites.

Thank you:

Lou Ann Canatella and Linda Jurecka wish to thank those who have volunteered pictures of our church's veterans for posting on our bulletin boards in preparation for our Veterans Day Observance during the worship service on Sunday November 12. We thank Lou Ann and Linda for their dedication in compiling, copying, and plating all the pictures on our bulletin boards in a most attractive manner – don't they look great? The next time that you see Lou Ann or Linda please make sure to compliment them on a job well done!

Some of you know that for a year I wrote an opinion column for the Banner Press every Sunday. It was titled Happenings on the Way to Heaven.

Thank you, Pastor Eric, for offering me an opportunity to write for Frieden's Church. Readers, you may not always agree with me, but I hope you will always find my column interesting. So, let's begin.

Once I heard a Jewish Rabbi say of the Old Testament, "The Bible is not man's book about God. It's God's book about man. What Rabbi Lapin meant was that the Bible contains all the principles we need to live life well, that is, if we follow its teachings! The Old Testament is not just a history book, or a book of laws, or a poetry book, or a book of prophecies, although it's all those things. It's a practical book, too, as is the New Testament. We can read and learn God's word what is true for all people for all time.

How the Bible teaches us to live life as individuals contrasts with what the secular world might call the "Collective" view. This is the idea that the state controls family life, health, education, and the economy, especially through technology. Some might call this socialism, fascism, or communism. They're all the same in the sense that they're authoritarian systems.

Whenever the word "the Collective," sounds, my mind recalls the Borg of Star Trek days. The Borg were mortal enemies of humanity. The "hive-minded" Borg people had no individuality and worked purely for the good of the state. To them, the state became the highest good. This belief is an arch enemy to the biblical principle that God gave us free will.

So, today, let's look at one Biblical economic principle that applies to our real everyday lives.

This first principle is that having meaningful work is good for human beings. That goes for whether you are a child, a young adult, or a very mature, dare I say, elderly adult?

One of my favorite sayings is, "There's no word in the Bible for retire." So, yes, all of us may not earn money, but all of us should find something meaningful to do. Nor am I advocating placing children in the workforce. Quintilian, an ancient Roman philosopher, once wrote, "A child's work is to learn. For little children, let their work be play." So, yes, children's work is learning and playing.

So, why does the Bible say we should work? Genesis answers that.

We learn in the third chapter that God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. Some say that God condemned Adam to work, but I prefer to think God gave man the gift of work because the ground was cursed by Adam's actions, not God's actions. "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:17-19 New Living Translation).

Who of us that live on land in Washington County have not contended with sticker grass, thistles, and poison ivy? All these things were here before we were. In fact, the entire world was here before we were. The world doesn't owe us anything and could care less whether we're here or not. It's up to us to make what we have worthwhile.

In Ephesians, Paul writes, "If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need," (Ephesians 4:28 NLT). Paul affirms the dignity of work and says work is good. Stealing is bad. I will have more to say on this in the future.

In II Thessalonians, Paul again writes, "We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: Those unwilling to work will not get to eat. Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living," (II Thessalonians 3:10-14 NLT). The Bible seems clear that work is necessary; work is good because we can take care of ourselves and be generous to those in need.

Collectivism in contrast teaches the opposite. It teaches that we are entitled. There have been presidential candidates who have campaigned on "free" college tuition.

Along those lines, collectivists argue we're entitled to health care, elective surgeries, and housing for the homeless. Some go so far as to advocate for a universal basic income. Even worse, some claim entering our country illegally entitles one to food, housing, and free travel.

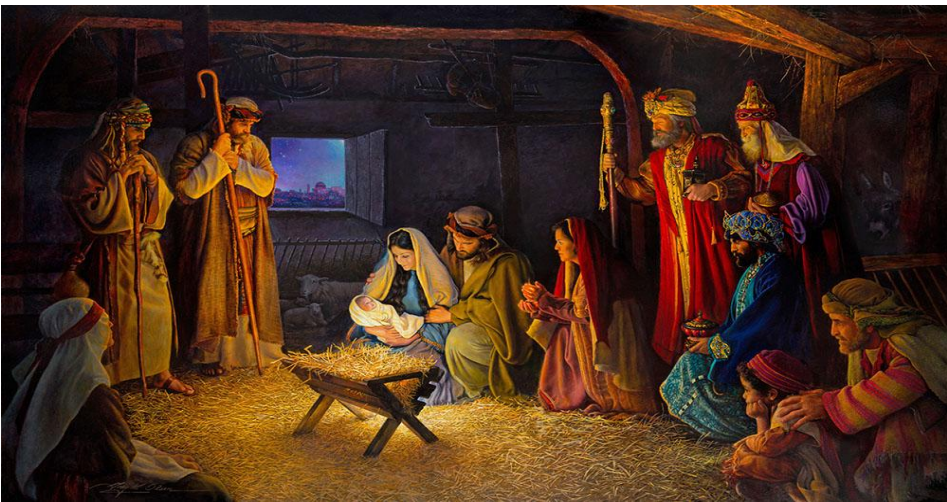
This is a lie. The truth is the rest of us pay for it because God's creation operates on biblical principles whether we know them or not.

Collectivism falsely lures us into a belief of entitlement, that the state should take care of us. This pie-in-the-sky thinking is unbiblical. We read in Proverbs, "A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things," (Proverbs 18:9 NLT). Collective systems encourage laziness. Further, such faulty thinking resorts to fear and force to control people."

So, it's important to honor work and those who work. Let's remember that working hard and helping others ourselves is biblically sound.

Friedens Church of Washington
P.O. Box 306
Washington, Tx 77880

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 3



December 2023

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 COMUNION Choir Sings Refreshments L- Jim Latham A- Beau Becker G- Harry & Barbara Kolkhorst	4	5	6 <i>Friedens Women 4:30</i> <i>Confirmation 5:30</i>	7 Bible Study 10:30(?) Women's Fellowship Party 11:00	8	9
10 L-Flora Mason A-Teagyn Wilson G- Jim & Lois Kolkhorst	11 Fishermen of Friedens deliver for Bread Partners @ 6 am.	12 Council Mtg. @ 7 pm.	13 <i>Confirmation 5:30</i>	14 Bible Study 10:30	15	16 Wreaths Across America 10:00
17 Choir Concert L-Heather Mason A-Katie Becker G-Mark & Jane Krause	18	19	20 <i>Confirmation 5:30</i>	21 Bible Study 10:30	22	23
24 Children's Program 6:00 L-Dale Borgstede A- Lila R. Kennedy G-LaNell Langford Rose L. Lohmeyer	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 <i>Confirmation 5:30</i>	28 Bible Study 10:30	29	30
31 L-Becky Barton A- Brody Parsons G-Charlie & Kelli Lara	2023					

Food Pantry item for December: Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Bottled Fruit Juice
The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your current calendar when you receive your current newsletter.

