



January 2024 Newsletter

Friedens Church of Washington

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Get Closer to God in This New Year

by Susan Holle

Every New Year's Eve, people make resolutions, such as losing weight, stopping smoking or vaping, spending more time with family, or keeping the house clean. All those things are good, but one never hears someone say they want to get closer to God by reading the Bible, praying, meditating, and listening to the Holy Spirit speak to them. Many Christians push our heavenly Father aside because we're busy and only attend church on Sundays. However, He desires to have close personal relationships with all of us.

Here are four ways to get closer to God:

1. Make the Lord your first priority: It says in Proverbs 3:6, "In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success." Every morning, dedicate ten minutes for reading and meditating on a Bible passage. Pray for guidance and purpose to glorify your heavenly Father that day. Also, by putting Him first and having a stronger relationship with Him, you'll get closer with your family and friends because you'll emulate Christ by being patient, understanding, and kind.
2. Join a Bible study: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 states, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." Join a Bible study either at your church or a Christian group in your community. This way, you can discuss what you read with other believers and help each other understand the meaning. Being in a Bible study will draw you nearer to God and one another as the body of Christ.
3. Keep a blessing journal: Write either in an actual book or on a laptop and record every blessing the Lord sends you and prayer He answers throughout the year. By writing down these things, you'll be more aware of how God works in your life and feel Him walking with you. Jesus said in Matthew 21:22, "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."
4. Seek to serve and invest in others: Our Savior set for us the model of servanthood. When He shocked the disciples by washing their feet before what would be the last supper, Jesus said in John 13:15, "For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done to you." In Matthew 20:28, He said, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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News, Events and Updates. . .

Frieden's Women announcements:

- Friedens Women will have their meeting January 3 at 4:30pm.
- Friedens Women have elected 3 new officers for 2024. President: Sandra Antill, V. President: Becky Barton and Treasurer: Betty Dickschat. All offices are for 2 years. Becky Barton is filling in as V President for Dianne Latham who moved back to Houston. Lou Ann Canatella is remaining as secretary for one more year Becky Barton is stepping down as president and Betsy Bosse as treasurer. Thank you ladies for all your hard work. We certainly miss Dianne but we see her on the first Sunday of the month when she leads the choir. Most of the choir members are also Friedens Women members.
- We have happily added two new members to our group. They are Katherine Van Der Pol and Linda Jureka. New members are always welcome.
On Dec. 3, we enjoyed a Christmas lunch at The Saltgrass Steakhouse restaurant in College Station.
We are looking forward to another successful year under the leadership of Sandra Antill.

Women's Fellowship announcements

- Women Fellowship elected new officers for 2024: President Lou Ann Canatella, Vice President Tammy Leiber, Treasurer Joy Dickschat and Secretary Mary Borgstedte.
- 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.
Womens Fellowship will have their next meeting January 18.

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 Daniel. 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:

Thank you to all the parents of the Sunday School children that helped out with the Christmas program on December 24th.

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.

Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

Needing Volunteers

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

Food Pantry Items Needed

Jan. – Canned Soup and Canned Chili
Feb. – Hot Cereals Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Cream of Rice, Grits
March – Canned Meat (Spam) Tuna, Chicken

Altar Flowers

Jan 7- Open
Jan 14 - Open
Jan 21- Open
Jan - 28- Open

First Sunday Refreshments & Fellowship prior to Worship

Jan. 7 – Council
Feb 4 – Women’s Fellowship
March – Frieden’s Women

Note: If you are unable to serve on the dates

below, please contact the church office.



Liturgist

January 7 – Jim Burke
January 14 – John Walkoviak
January 21 – Mary Borgstedte
January 28 – Russell Borgstedte

Acolytes

Quinn Schulze
Bailee Wilson
Brooks Parson
Beau Becker

Ushers/Greeters

Jim and Dianne Latham
Ray and Carson Lauter
Hollis & Elizabeth Lehrmann
Charles & Tammy Leiber

Wreaths Across America

This year’s observance was held on Saturday, December 16 at 11 am in the sanctuary. Wreaths were placed in honor of each branch of service to our country and wreaths were laid in the cemetery on the graves of those who served in the military.



The Prayers and Concerns of Our Church

Larry and Laura Hargrave, Rose Lee Lohmeyer, Judy Burke, Joey Helms, Ralph and David Holle, Shelli James, Dorothy Hughes, Mary Lee Lewis, Madeline Almquist, Pat Beirut, 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, Daniel M Willis, Troy Weigand, Robin Dutton, Beverly Schlabach, Bill Pentecost and Jose (Thresia Schlabach Brother- In- Law).

Note: If you have anyone to add to the prayer list or remove, please contact the church office or email the church @ friedenschurchofWashington@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.



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Get Closer to God in This New Year continued from pg 1

When we step outside ourselves to serve and invest in others, it'll draw us to Christ more deeply. Go and find ways to serve people. You can start with your family and friends. Help them by praying and encouraging them. Then, if the Holy Spirit inspires you to do more, you could be on your church's council or an outreach program. Don't only reach out to potential new church members but current members who don't or can't come. For those who can, encourage them to come back to church, and for people who are disabled or can't drive, volunteer to take them to church.

As we make our New Year's resolutions to be healthier in body, we need to make one to reenergize our spirit our spirit and grow closer to God.

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Activity Center Rent
No Activity Rentals for January

Please call the church office for rentals or Cindy Walkoviak (C) 979-229-6710

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Thank you:

Thank you to all of my family and friends for the prayers, cards and calls during my recent surgery. To Pastor Eric for his visits and prayers. I missed all of you. God bless to each and every one.

Lena Mae Goessler

We would like to thank everyone that contributed pictures and information for our Veterans Pictorial Display. We were able to post 73 pictures. The display will be up for several more weeks so if you did not get to see all the pictures, check it out the next time you are at church. If you find any errors in the bios please let us know. Again thank you for helping to make our Wreaths Across America ceremony a success. Lou Anne Canatella and Linda Jureka

Church Council News

Message from the 2024 Council President:

First, I would like to thank last year's council for everything they accomplished. The past year has seen some significant happenings in our church, from leaving UCC, to Constitution and By-Laws being amended, which took a mighty effort from a committee working diligently to make the changes and our church members voting to approve, to Pastor Eric retiring, and the formation of a Pastoral Search Committee, to having up-grades to the Activity Center lady's room, and the beginnings of the parsonage remodel which has seen new windows and the process of sheetrock, paint, flooring and new bathroom fixtures and the replacement of the air conditioner that handles the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School rooms.

The coming year, the 2024 council will have big shoes to fill, but I believe we are eager and up to the challenge as we should see the final completion for some on-going projects. The Pastor Search committee continues to prayerfully look for our next full-time pastor, and with God's grace, select and present to Council for consideration, and finally present to you, our members to vote to call our new Pastor who will shepherd us into the future. May God's blessings be on you all in the coming year.

Blessings,

John Walkoviak

President – John Walkoviak

Vice President – Mark Dickschat

Treasurer – Amy Stolz

Secretary – Linda Werchan

Church Clerk – Sheri Finke

Envelope Clerk- LaNell Langford

Denise Stolz, Jim Burke, Tanya Parsons

Church Council Work Schedule For July 2023

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Council 2024</u>	<u>Council 2023</u>
01/07/2024	John Walkoviak	Sheri Finke
01/14/2024	Amy Stolz	Denise Stolz
01/21/2024	Mark Dickschat	Linda Werchan
01/28/2024	Tanya Parsons	Jim Burke

Happenings on the Way to Heaven by Kathryn van der Pol

What the Bible teaches us about Economic Principles, Part II

In last month's column, I discussed the Bible's teaching on the value of work. The bottom line was that meaningful work was necessary for men and women to feel productive and useful. God designed us in this way.

In Genesis 1:28, it says, "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Our Lord gave us "dominion" over the earth and everything in it. Notice that God did not say that he gave dominion to rulers or to national governments or to political parties. He gave dominion or stewardship specifically to men and women alike (Genesis 2:27).

And that is what I want to write about today.

The word "steward" adds insight to what God meant by dominion. Steward's original definition means to guard, to protect, and to preserve. So, God wasn't giving ownership. He was putting human beings in charge (dominion) to care (stewardship) for what he created. He expects us to use our talents and abilities in a way that brings honor and glory to Him. He demands our faithfulness and obedience in exchange for the gift of stewardship. Think of the parable of the talents (Matthew 25) and how the Master punished the man who did nothing with what he was given, but richly rewarded those who invested with what they had been entrusted.

Stewarding earthly possessions involves a process of discovery. Since to take care of plants, animals, and people, i.e., every living thing, this requires us to develop skills and knowledge to help others as well as ourselves. We are born to become entrepreneurs, explorers, farmers, ranchers, adventurers, and creators. Gathering more skills, abilities, and wisdom from our experience will help us to serve more people and perform better work. Our labor and personal development becomes in one sense our primary or capital investment.

This is so different from the way that "collectivists" think about individuals. In my last column, I compared the biblical view to the "collectivist" view. Collectivists known as totalitarians, socialists, authoritarians, globalists, communists, and fascists share one common belief: the government is in total control of the population and believes it can replace God. People are tools of the state.

Think back to Ninevah in the Old Testament when Nimrod's people built the palace and tower of Babel. They wanted a great central city that dominated the realm and a tower that touched the heavens.. When the tower got to a certain height, God came and looked. He then destroyed it, scattered the people, and confused their language. Why? Because Nimrod believed he could replace God and take charge. God's action revealed this was faulty thinking on Nimrod's part. He, like all of us, needed to humble himself before God and realize that whatever success he enjoyed was due to God's grace and not purely his own efforts. The fact that the tower was made of bricks, that is, manmade, increased Nimrod's folly. He turned men into slaves and dehumanized them to build his tower to heaven and "city of greatness."

When we see a stone made building, we should pause and acknowledge God's hand in its creation. We should always endeavor to find ways to acknowledge Him in our work and in our projects. We are stewards.

Frieden's Church of Washington

January

Sun *Mon* *Tue* *Wed* *Thu* *Fri* *Sat*

1	2	3 Friedens Women meeting at 4:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Communion, Fellowship Breakfast (Council), Install Officers Take decorations down L-Jim Burke A-Quinn Schulze G-Jim and Dianne Latham	9 Council Meeting @ 7 pm	10 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm	11 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	12 Food Pantry	13
14 Reports are due L-John Walkowiak A-Bailee Wilson G-Ray and Carson Lauter	16	17 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm	18 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 2:15 pm	19	20
21 L-Mary Borgstedte A-Brooks Parsons G-Hollis & Elizabeth Lehrmann	23 Bread Partners	24 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm	25 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	26 Food Pantry	27
28 L-Russell Borgstedte A-Beau Becker G-Charles & Tammy Lieber	30	31 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm			

2024

Food Pantry item for January is Canned Soup (Chicken Noodle, Vegetable, Beef) Canned Chili
The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your current calendar when you receive your current newsletter.

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