



April 2024 Newsletter

Friedens Church of Washington

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Your Body is the Temple for the Holy Spirit

By Susan Holle

In the Old Testament, when the Israelites wandered in the desert before reaching the Promised Land, God told them to build a portable tent to be their tabernacle where they could meet and worship God as they traveled. Solomon's temple, also known as the First Temple, was built by King Solomon around 960 B.C.E., but the Babylonians destroyed it in 586 B.C.E.

In 538 B.C.E., the Great King Cyrus II of Persia and Media, who had defeated the Babylonian army, decreed that the Jews' temple in Jerusalem was to be rebuilt. The exiles might return to Judea, which had become the Persian province of Yehud. At the urging of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, Zerubbabel began the construction of the Second Temple in 521 B.C.E.

The second temple was completed around 515 B.C.E. and substantially enlarged by the Hasmonean Dynasty. Herod the Great completely refurbished and enlarged it around 20 B.C.E. However, the Romans destroyed the second temple in 70 A.D.

For the Jewish people, temples were holy, sacred, and physical dwelling places of the Lord where they could commune with God and where they could have animal sacrifices so God could forgive their sins as part of the Old Covenant.

We Christians have a New Covenant made possible by Jesus, the perfect lamb who shed His blood for everyone. After the Lord's resurrection and ascension to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of all of us who genuinely believe in Christ, the risen Savior, and let Him into our hearts. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, St. Paul wrote, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body" (N.I.V.)

After we confess that we need Jesus and repent, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us, making our bodies individual temples. He guides us on how to have pure lives and do God's will. The Holy Spirit shows us what needs to be cleansed from our bodies and gives us the strength to overcome our sinful nature. He has to be entirely in control of our lives. We must obey Him, or if we don't, Satan will have an opening to get us to defile our temple. St. Paul also wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:17, "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple" (N.I.V.). The temple is defiled or becomes impure when we return to our sinful lives.

If we give over to sin, the Holy Spirit will leave us because He can't stay in a tainted place where we continuously disobey Him. When we have the Holy Spirit, we must walk in the Spirit. We can maintain our spiritual side by reading the Bible, praying, meditating, fasting, and attending Bible study and church. We must also treat our physical bodies as sacred temples. We need proper nutrition, regular exercise, avoiding harmful substances like drugs and excessive alcohol, and getting enough rest. As for our mental and emotional well-being, we need to have positive thoughts and healthy relationships. If we do these things, the Holy Spirit will stay inside of us and be our comforter, guide, and helper, assisting us with glorifying God, growing in our faith, and spreading the Gospel.

News, Events and Updates. . .

Frieden's Women announcements:

- Friedens Women will have their meeting on April 10 at 4:30pm. Our speaker will be John Failor, park superintendent of the Washington Historic site, will present information on the progress at the historic site. We invite anyone who is interested to join us at the church fellowship hall.
- Friedens Women held their anniversary dinner on March 15th at Martha's Bloomers with dessert at the home of Flora Mason.
- Friedens Women served breakfast before the March 3rd church service and served a Lenten meal on March 6th before Lenten services.

Women's Fellowship announcements

- The next meeting will be April 18 at 2:15 pm.
- April 4th the ladies will be going out to eat for lunch.
- A Takeout Dinner will be on April 21st. A plate of chicken spaghetti with two vegetables, bread and dessert for \$15.00.
- 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.

Bible Study announcements:

We meet in the Fellowship Hall 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 currently studying the Book of Romans. 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 that helped with the Easter program.
- The Sunday school will be out for the summer starting May 26th.

Confirmation

The 2024 confirmation class convenes each Wednesday 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.

They will be confirmed on May 19, 2024.

Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

Needing Volunteers

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

Food Pantry Items Needed

- April – Dried Beans & Peas (pinto, navy, black eyed, kidney)
- May – Dry Cereal (Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, Etc.)
Peanut Butter and Jelly
- June – Canned Fruit and Vegetables



Altar Flowers

- April 7 – Roger and Sheri Finke
- April 14 -
- April 21 -
- April 28 -

First Sunday Refreshments & Fellowship prior to Worship

- April 7 – Altar Guild
- May 5 – Council
- June 2 – Women’s Fellowship

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



Liturgist

- April 7 – Mary Borgstedte
- April 14 – Ashley Wilson
- April 21 – Russell Borgstedte
- April 28 – Sandra Bosse

Acolytes

- Katie Becker
- Lila R Kennedy
- Brody Parsons
- Quinn Schulze

Ushers/Greeters

- Linda Oberhoff & Mitchell Schlabach
- John and Kaylee Parsons
- Logan and Shelley Parsons
- Tanya Parsons and Ollie J Walker

Church Council Work Schedule For April 2024

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Council 2024</u>	<u>Council 2023</u>
04/07/2024	John Walkoviak	Sheri Finke
04/14/2024	Amy Stolz	Denise Stolz
04/21/2024	Mark Dickschat	Jim Burke
04/28/2024	Tanya Parsons	Dale Borgstedte

The Prayers and Concerns of Our Church

Larry and Laura Hargrave, 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 Schwamyer, Shirley Finke, Jenny Fritz, Cindy Wellmaker, Bill Newsom, Leah Weld, David and Kenney McAlpine, Troy Weigand, Robin Dutton, Beverly Schlabach, Bill Pentecost, Cyril Burke, Jimmy Shimshack and Bonnie Mohr.

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.



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Christian Community Services Food Pantry in Navasota is in need of 2 volunteers to work the first Thursday of each month. There is training involved:

* About 2 hours with the director of the pantry probably on Friday.

* There are 2 other trainings required by the federal government. Each of these are done online in your own home and I am available to assist. These 2 take about an hour.

If you are not ready to serve as a full volunteer, we are in need of people willing to serve as subs. Acting as a sub requires the training as well. If interested contact Lou Ann Canatella 281-639-5044.

Matthew 25:32-46 I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was homeless and you took me in. I was cold and you gave me clothing. I was ill and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me. Whenever you do these things for someone in need you do them for the Lord.

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Church Council News

Message from the 2024 Council President:

On March 17 we had a candidate for our open pastor position conduct the service and deliver the message. As a congregation, we came together, voiced our questions and made our choice. There were not enough votes to call our next pastor. There was even a case of missing ballots, which have been found, although the vote tally did not change the outcome. What happens next, you may be wondering. The search committee has been charged with continuing their work to find a candidate to present to church council, and eventually to you, the congregation to once again listen to the message and cast your vote.

We should all be in prayer that God makes known to us the person He wants to lead our church, for it is by God's will that our next pastor will come to us. If we simply disregard this fact, and make it Man's will (humanly will), we may hire them, but it would be to the detriment of our church. After all, our will is not divine.

A quote from Elisabeth Elliot

“To pray, thy will be done, I must be willing, if the answer requires it, that my will be undone.”

On other news from council, We are looking for 3 people to volunteer to be on a maintenance team. They will be responsible for various items involving our campus and they will have the authority to make repairs and spend funds up to \$800.00 without council approval. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to a council member.

Blessings in Christ,

John C Walkoviak

Happenings on the Way to Heaven

By Kathryn van der Pol

“This country has less than a year,” Eric says

“What are you talking about?” I ask.

“I say, this country doesn’t even have a year until we lose the power and ability to stop the worldwide communist authoritarian movement.”

“How do you know?” I persist.

“Look at history. In the early 1930s in Germany, most pastors had no idea where Hitler was headed. Until 1934, German pastors were a powerful cultural force who could have spoken up and united people against him and his Nazi agenda. The church as an institution was powerful enough to influence people, but they didn’t use their influence.

“About a third spoke in favor of Hitler but a majority, about 11,000, wanted to be neutral. These pastors turned inward and refused to speak about politics. By not taking a stand, those in the middle insured that The Minority who did speak against Hitler were removed from their offices. If those in the middle had spoken up, this would not have happened. After 1934, the window closed.”

“What do you mean?”

“The authoritarian control of Hitler became so strong that people no longer had a choice. In Hitler’s first few months, the Church, God’s people, did not speak up when they saw evil actions around them and could do something to stop it. There came a point where it was too late. People saw what happened to those that protested. They saw neighbors, friends, and family members disappear. There were widespread rumors of arrests and executions. These turned out to be true.

Your neighbors became your enemies. People in power were promoted for arresting dissenters. They gained high rank if they executed people. If you supported the Nazi regime, you got ahead. You were rewarded. You got better food, special privileges.

I asked, “Didn’t these pastors think about God?”

“Yes, but not until later. They were caught up in the moment. Years after World War II ended, many German pastors bitterly regretted their inaction for the rest of their lives. Some even committed suicide.”

“What were some of the early things that Hitler did?”

“Many of the same things that are happening today. Hitler first crushed all dissent in to carry out his agenda. He outlawed radios. You could only own a government issued radio that had one “official” propaganda station. It was essential to his success that he crush freedom of conscience which is the root of religious liberty.

“If people genuinely believe they answer to God, they won’t obey the state if the state becomes tyrannical and evil. Their faith gives them courage and hope. They know that it’s wrong for the state to control all our actions, our thoughts, our conscience, our soul.”

“Why does it matter if you don’t believe in God?”

If people don’t believe in God, they become malleable because they don’t believe in external truth. They won’t believe in good and evil, right and wrong. So, without principles, they bend and surrender. They value material things, like their possessions. They value their opinions, as the Bible says, “what is right in their own mind.” These Germans thought if they go along with Hitler, they would be safe and survive, even if they privately disagreed.

“Did Hitler want to destroy the Church?”

Hitler planned to put himself as the head of the Church. He thought of himself as Germany’s savior. He understood that the Christian message of individual salvation through faith in Jesus Christ put him at odds with his agenda. He used pastors who supported him to advance his propaganda and punished any who criticized him.

Happenings on the Way to Heaven

By Kathryn van der Pol

- continued -

“So, what about Romans 13 where Paul instructs us to be obedient to the authorities?”

“God calls us to be Christians seven days a week, not just on Sundays. He calls us to be Christians in all our activities, not just our church activities. That includes our political life. If we see evil and do nothing, God will judge us for that, even if that evil comes from the Government.

“If the government does evil, it’s evil. When Paul wrote that passage, he wasn’t saying we should obey a government that would murder six million of its own citizens! If a government violates God’s laws, it is our Christian duty to resist. Think about the Hebrew midwives who were ordered to murder Hebrew babies. God said it was good that they resisted their Pharaoh. So, it is still true we must resist evil wherever it comes from.

What should Pastors do?

Pastors should preach about what is going on in this culture without fear, without regard to the unconstitutional Johnson Amendment. They should teach the Bible and how it applies to our lives in our culture and under our government system. They should point out what is biblical and what is not biblical. The Bible has far more to say about government, money and families than it does about heaven. Pastors should fear God, not the IRS. They need to wake people up. The window is going to close again.

Can we reach everyone?

No. We need to reach the people in the middle. We need to reach the pastors and their people in the middle. The radical churches have already sold their soul to the [Zeit Geist](#).

What is the Zeit Geist?

It’s cultural Marxism. This movement permeates our institutions from academia to the media to Hollywood. Cultural Marxism create divisions within society between races, between men and women, between children and parents, the Woke Church versus the traditional Church, et al. This is the soft preparation of destroying our society before the hard actions of invasion.

What does God want us to do?

God is less interested in our singing for Him and more interested in our carrying out his Great commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you.” If we are not bearing fruit, we are not a healthy branch. Like the fig tree that Jesus cursed when it failed to produce, our tree will wither, and we will die unhappy and unsaved. We must get involved. If you see evil, speak up. Resist. Do not look the other way. The Church is the last institution that the Marxists do not completely control.

What’s the next step?

Preach your Bible like your life depends on it because it does.

Watch the movie as a church, “A Letter to the American Church.”

Wake up somebody else.

The Red Coats are here.

I’m awake. Are you?

April

Frieden's Church of Washington

	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1		2	3 Friedens Women meeting at 4:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Communion, Refreshments by Altar Guild	8		9 Council Meeting @ 7 pm	10 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm	11 Bible Study @ 10:00 am.	12	13
L-Mary Borgstedte A-Katle Becker G-Linda Oberhoff & Mitchell Schlabach							
14 L-Ashley Wilson A-Lila R Kennedy G- John & Kaylee Parsons	15 Bread Partners	16	17 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm	18 Bible Study @ 10:00 am. Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 2:15 pm	19		20
21 Womens Fellowship Take Out	22	23	24 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm	25 Bible Study @ 10:00 am.	26		27
L-Russell Borgstedte A-Brody Parsons G-Logan & Shelley Parsons							
28 L-Sandra Bosse A-Quinn Schultze G-Tanya Parsons & Olle J Walker	29	30	31 Confirmation @ 5:30 pm				

2024

Food Pantry item for April is Dried Beans and Peas (pinto, navy, blacked eye, split green and kidney)
The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your current calendar when you receive your current newsletter.

Friedens Church of Washington
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