



March 2024 Newsletter

Friedens Church of Washington

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In the Footsteps of the Savior

30 years ago I re-entered church membership after a 20 year hiatus and was almost immediately drafted to portray Jesus in our Maundy Thursday dramatization “The Living Last Supper.” For someone who had been away from church for so long, the prospect of being asked to portray the One Most Holy was overwhelming. I kept asking myself “Why did they on pick me for this role???”* As we came to church in the evenings during Lent for practice I discovered that it wasn’t just me, but the entire cast was sobered by the roles they portrayed. For one night of the year our ensemble of 13 men felt like we were walking in the footsteps of the Master and His disciples. The Lenten Season has never been the same for me since.

“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” - 1 Peter 2:21 –

Each year I engage in a Lenten fast, not so that I might share in Christ’s suffering but more of a cleansing of all the stuff I probably shouldn’t have been eating anyway. Doing this gives me greater clarity of mind to focus on what the Lord is revealing to me during this season. Lent is a time when we can reflect on the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness without food, enduring the temptations of Satan and use that example as a model for how we might deal with some of the issues in our own life.

“Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” – 1 John 2:6 –

Lent can be a time of self-evaluation, when we look inwardly at our lives and ask Jesus to reveal to us in prayer what we need to do to grow more like Him in spirit and in love. One way that we can engage in the Lenten experience at church is through participation in our Lenten meals and study each Wednesday night at 5:30 pm through 40 days of the season. This year’s video study is by Max Lucado entitled appropriately enough: “In the Footsteps of the Savior.”

Lent ends on Good Friday, the day when Jesus went to the cross and took all our sins with Him in death. Easter morning marks the day of His resurrection and for all those who believe in Him they can claim the title of “Resurrection Christians” through His triumph. Let us embrace this season and reap the benefits that come from “just a closer walk with Thee.”

In His love,
Pastor Eric

*Answer: Because the median age of the church was 67; I was the only one the age of Christ when he died.

News, Events and Updates. . .

Frieden's Women announcements:

- Friedens Women will have their meeting March 6 at 4:30pm.
- Thank you to all the people that bought meal tickets for our take out meal on February 18th. It was a great success.
- The Anniversary Lunch will be at Martha's Bloomers in Navasota on March 15th at 11:30. Please contact Flora Mason if you are able to attend.

Women's Fellowship announcements

- Easter Lilies can be purchased from Mary Borgstedte or LaNell Langford for \$13.
- No meeting this month due to March 28 Maundy Thursday Breakfast at 8:30 am. Everyone is welcome.
- April 4 luncheon will be at Sea Land @ 11 am.
- April 18 will be a game day @ 2:15 pm
- Takeout lunch will be on April 21st or 28th; date to be announced.
- Graduate and Confirmand luncheon upcoming in May- If you have or know of a student that is graduating from high school or college, please contact Lou Ann Canatella at 281-639-5044 or lcanatella55@gmail.com.
- 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:

- There will not be any Sunday School on March 10 and 17th because of Spring Break.
- The Easter Progran will have practice at 10:30 on March 30th and the Easter Egg hunt will follow after the practice. The Easter Program will be on Sunday March 31st.

Confirmation

The 2024 confirmation class convenes each Wednesday at 5:00 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

March – Canned Meat (Spam) Tuna, Chicken
April – Dried Beans & Peas (pinto, navy, black eyed, kidney)
May – Dry Cereal (Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, Etc.)
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Altar Flowers

March 3 – Open
March 10 – Open
March 17 – Open
March 24 – Clint and Sandra Bosse
March 31 – Open

First Sunday Refreshments & Fellowship prior to Worship

March 3– Frieden's Women
April 7 – Altar Guild
May 5 - Council

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



Liturgist

March 3 – Jim Latham
March 10 – Dale Borgstedte
March 17 – Becky Barton
March 24 – Jim Burke
March 31 – John Walkoviak

Acolytes

Quinn Schulze
Bailee Wilson
Brooks Parsons
Beau Becker
Teagyn Wilson

Ushers/Greeters

T J & Lindsey Marek
Flora & Heather Mason
Glenda & Kylie Maxson
Tex & Stephanie Maxson
Wesley & Marsha Murrell

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, and Ricky Borgstedte.

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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Lewis Pelley is collecting blankets to be distributed to homeless veterans. If you have gently used blankets that you'd like to donate to keep homeless veterans warm this winter please leave them on the chair in the pastor's study. Thank you for your support.

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The Bible Study group would like to say thank you to everyone that so generously supported the annual chili/stew supper. It was a huge success again this year and it was because of everyone that stepped forward to help serve/work by cooking, prepping the veggies, contributing chicken, pies and/or monetary donations. It is because of your generosity that we can put this event on every year and it being a successful. Again, thank you!!!

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Thank you:

Thank you so much for the donation of \$500 to Bread Partners of Washington County. Your generosity means so very much to us and the community we serve. We know you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating, and we are so grateful that you chose to donate to our cause. We promise to be responsible stewards of both your donation and you trust.

None of our success would be possible without generous donors like you. Thank you again for your commitment and kindness.

With deepest gratitude, and warmest wishes,

Bread Partners of Washington County

Church Council News

Message from the 2024 Council President:

The amended church Constitution and By-Laws is now completed, and we will soon go to print. The spring clean- up day will be March 16th at 9:00 am. This is the time we come together to make everything fresh for Easter. There will be plenty of work inside and outside. So please come and help beautify our church.

We are now in the Lenten season, and a lot of people talk about fasting, so here is something to do that is worthwhile, not only during lent, but each and every day. If you wish to fast; Fast to forgive; Fast to smile; Fast to understand, Fast to love and most importantly, Fast to pray.

Blessings in Christ

John Walkoviak

<u>Church Council Work Schedule For February 2024</u>		
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Council 2024</u>	<u>Council 2023</u>
03/03/2024	LaNell Langford	Linda Werchan
03/10/2024	John Walkoviak	Sheri Finke
03/17/2024	Amy Stolz	Denise Stolz
03/24/2024	Mark Dickschat	Jim Burke
03/31/2024	LaNell Langford	Linda Werchan

Don't Be a Lukewarm Christian

by Susan Holle

As Easter approaches, and we remember how Jesus rose from the dead, just three days after giving His life as an atonement for our sins, we should be on fire for the Lord and not be lukewarm. It's terrible to be indifferent in our faith and relationship with God. In Revelation 3:14-22, the Savior warned the Laodicean church, saying, "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." Jesus' warning is relevant to many of the modern-day churches. Lukewarm churches gave an opening to Satan without even knowing it. Now, they worry about adapting to today's culture instead of preaching and reading what the Holy Bible says. God wants those churches to repent, to focus on Him and His word, and wants us to stop being lukewarm Christians. He desires for us to be wholeheartedly dedicated to Him and His kingdom.

Here are eight ways to avoid being a lukewarm Christian:

1. **Devotion:** Make time for daily prayer, Bible study, and reflection to strengthen your relationship with God.
2. **Be Active:** Engage actively in your church community through attending services, joining small groups, and serving in ministries.
3. **Spiritual Growth:** Continuously seek growth in your faith through reading Christian literature, attending seminars or conferences, and seeking mentorship from mature believers.
4. **Submit to God:** This is hard, but you surrender your life entirely to God, allowing Him to guide your decisions, actions, and priorities. You'll feel carefree by casting all your worries and burdens to the Lord.
5. **Accountability:** Surround yourself with fellow believers who can hold you accountable and encourage you in your journey.
6. **Seek Repentance and Forgiveness:** Regularly confess sins, repent, and ask forgiveness from God, allowing His grace to transform your heart and actions. When you do, you'll find yourself sinning less and less. People will see the Holy Spirit working inside of you and be drawn to you.
7. **Praying and Fasting:** These practices deepen your spiritual discipline and reliance on God. Start fasting for just a couple of hours or a single day if you've never fasted before. Refrain from eating during the fast and only consume water or juice. Pray and read scripture during your fast. Break your fast slowly by gradually introducing foods like fruit into your diet.
8. **Spread the Gospel:** You can share the good news in many ways. Before you begin sharing the gospel with someone; it's essential to take a moment to pray for guidance, build a relationship with people, share your journey to Christ, share the gospel message, pray with them, and invite them to church. If you adopt these steps and apply them daily, you'll be passionate for Lord, more Christ-like, and you'll seek to please and glorify God.

March

	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 Fishermen of Friedens at Food Pantry	2
3 COMMUNION Choir Sings Refreshments L- Jim Latham A- Quinn Schultz G- T J & Lindsey Marek	4 Fishermen of Friedens at Bread Partners	5	6 <i>Confirmation 5:30</i> <i>Lenten Meal 5:30</i>	7 Bible Study 10:00	8		9
10 Daylight Savings Time L-Dale Borgstedte A- Balle Wilson G- Flora & Heather Masson	11	12 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	13 <i>Confirmation 5:30</i> <i>Lenten Meal 5:30</i>	14 Bible Study 10:00	15 Fishermen of Friedens at Food Pantry		16 Church Work Day 9:00
17 Henry de la Garza L- Becky Barton A- Brooks Parsons G- Glenda & Kylie Maxson	18	19	20 <i>Confirmation 5:30</i> <i>Lenten Meal 5:30</i>	21 Bible Study 10:00	22		23
24 Palm Sunday L- Jim Burke A- Beau Becker G- Tex & Stephanie Maxson	25 Fishermen of Friedens at Bread Partners	26	27 <i>Confirmation 5:30</i>	28 Maundy Thursday Breakfast 8:30 Bible Study 10:00 Service 7:00	29 Good Friday Service 6:00		30 Sunday School Program Practice & Easter Egg Hunt 10:30
31 Easter L- John Walkoviak A- Teagyn Wilson G- Wesley & Marsha Murrell							

2024

Food Pantry Item for March Canned Meat (Spam), Tuna and Chicken
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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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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